

# Passing of the Good Old American Silver Dollar

It is Probable That No More of Them Will Ever be Coined by the Government

HAT ponderous and more or less troubling coin, the silver dollar, has in its day, according to Mr. George T. Roberts, director of the United States mint. Mr. Roberts says the supply of silver bullion purchased under the Sherman act is exhausted, and that in all probability no more new silver dollars will be turned out by the government mint plants. Which, for old association's sake, seems regrettable.

Although the silver dollar has led to much heated 16 to 1 controversy, we should give it the respect due its long service. In a report of the United States monetary commission the following tribute is paid it: "The silver dollar has been



THE FRANKLIN COPPER. First coin issued by the United States Mint.

longer known, is more widely used, and is more familiar to mankind than any other coin of either metal." The coin was in common use in 1786 when the American congress adopted it as the unit of account. To our great financier, Robert Morris, belongs the credit of our decimal money, but it was Thomas Jefferson that proposed the dollar as unit of account, reasoning that the Spanish silver dollar was "familiar to the minds of the people, and already as much referred to as a measure of value as the respective provincial pounds" the provincial pounds of the recent ruling English.

Spain borrowed the dollar from Austria during her union with that country under Charles V, and as the "thaler" the dollar was coined from Bohemian silver mines. The Spaniards with their wonderful wealth of American mines supplied the world for centuries with silver, and made the silver dollar become very widely known. Being close neighbor to Spanish-America and carrying on with her much trade, we early be-

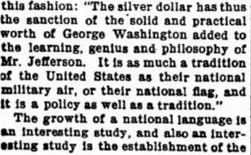


THE FIRST UNITED STATES DOLLAR.

came familiar with the silver dollar, and easily adopted it as the national coin when it became necessary to establish a currency of our own. And it was not only that we liked the British coin, but also that we disliked the British to the extent of desiring to cut loose from all that savored of dependence on the enemy.

Gen. Washington indorsed Thomas Jefferson's memoir which led to the adoption of the silver dollar unit, and secured his final approval by his signature to the mint act of 1792. An enthusiast writes of the doughty coin in this fashion: "The silver dollar has thus the sanction of the solid and practical worth of George Washington added to the learning, genius and philosophy of Mr. Jefferson. It is as much a tradition of the United States as their national military air, or their national flag, and it is a policy as well as a tradition."

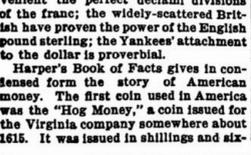
The growth of a national language is an interesting study, and also an interesting study is the establishment of the



THE WASHINGTON HALF DOLLAR.

currency of the country. Efforts have been made toward a universal system of coinage, but there seems small prospect that the nations will agree upon common coins. France finds most convenient the perfect decimal divisions of the franc; the widely-scattered British have proven the power of the English pound sterling; the Yankees' attachment to the dollar is proverbial.

Harper's Book of Facts gives in condensed form the story of American money. The first coin used in America was the "Hog Money," a coin issued for the Virginia company somewhere about 1615. It was issued in shillings and six-



THE ROSA AMERICANA PENNY.

to portraits of the Father of his Country. In 1783 there were issued four varieties of the Washington Independence tokens, and following the European custom of placing a representation of the head of the country upon the nation's coins, the bust of Washington was used on the American mintage. There were coined the famous Washington cents and the Washington half-dollars and a great many less known coins. In 1786 congress decided upon the following coins: the gold eagle, the half-eagle and quarter-eagle; the silver dollar, half-dollar, quarter-dollar, dime and half-dime; the copper cent and half-cent. The first United States mint was established in 1792, and 1793 is the date of the first United States coinage. The first issue from the national mint was the cent which bears the admonitory words "Mind Your Own Business," and, perhaps because of the advice, called the Franklin cent. The first silver coins of the American series were issued in 1794; a dollar, half-dollar and half dime.

One of the rare United States coins is the silver dollar of 1804. That the 1804 dollar should be so rare is something of a mystery, as 19,570 were coined. Two explanations are given: that part of this large issue was included in the mintage of 1805; that a vessel bound for China with almost the entire 1804 mintage, was lost at sea.

KATHERINE POPE.

## GOSSIP FROM SKANDINAVIA

FINLAND.

It is not known at this writing where the Russian government is going to establish the Finnish university professors who were suddenly taken to St. Petersburg. The president of the university went to St. Petersburg shortly after the professors were taken there. It is not known whether he went of his own choice or was summoned by the Russian authorities. One of the professors was guarded on the journey to St. Petersburg as though he had been a very dangerous criminal.

**DENMARK.**  
Copenhagen, July 23.—Professor Schou, body surgeon to King Christian, was summoned this morning to Scherwin, where the king is staying. Professor Schou left before noon.

A silver seal which is 500 years old was found in a beet field in Hvalso. The finder is a married woman, and she gave what she took to be a worthless trinket to her children to play with, but a minister happened to see it, and he soon ascertained that it once belonged to Bishop Peder Jensen Lodehat, who was a confidential friend of Queen Margareta.

Copenhagen, July 25.—King Christian arrived here today from his visit to Scherwin, capital of the grand duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. He was recovered from his temporary indisposition and looks remarkably well.

The maritime court of Copenhagen has passed the remarkable resolution that the trial of the parties responsible for the wrecking of the steamer Norge is to be a secret affair. Many newspapers express their indignation at this arbitrary ruling.

**SWEDEN.**  
The National Good Templars of Sweden held their annual meeting in Malmö. The total membership was 25,369, besides 5,545 members of juvenile lodges.

Rev. K. M. Lindh, formerly pastor of the Methodist congregation in Malmö, was recently consecrated as bishop. The ministry of the state church of Sweden.

Axel Eliasson, a Stockholm dealer in picture cards, was assessed on an income of \$31,500 for the past year. Five hundred acres of timber was ruined by fire at Rod, Bohus lan, and it took 500 men to put it out.

The iron and metal workers' union has raised its reserve fund to \$30,000.

The general staff has published the first volume of Dr. Sven Hedlin's "Scientific Results of a Journey in Central Asia, 1899-1902." It is written in English, and the author and the Swedish people may justly be proud of the publication. It will require five additional volumes to complete the work.

Miss Hanna Roos of Hjelmsäter, who died in 1901, bequeathed \$6,750 to charitable institutions the name of which the executors of her will are unable to find, except in her will. The alleged institutions are said to be in Stockholm. The executors have asked a notary public to find some party or parties that are entitled to the money.

The farmers of Skane are organizing themselves into labor unions. The movement is only a few weeks old; but the local union at Marvinsholm has already threatened its employers with a strike unless higher wages are paid. The result of this new departure in the farm life of Sweden is not known at this writing.

The enthusiasm for tree planting has come to stay in Norway. Not only the school children but the soldiers are to be employed in planting trees on an extensive scale.

Tonsberg, July 7.—One end of the viking ship has been uncovered. It is adorned with pictures of animals in high relief on both sides. The gunwale also seems to be adorned.

Ragnvald Koht has accepted a position as judge in Congo, and he intends to spend some time in Belgium to prepare for his new duties.

An impending lockout in the iron industry has been avoided for the time being, representatives from the unions and the employer's association having agreed on a plan for settling the differences between the two parties.

A complete account of the landslide in Beverdal is given in the papers just received from Norway. The people living on the Nyhus homestead were aroused from their sleep shortly after midnight by a fearful rumbling. Tore Skramstolen, the head of the family, rushed out of bed to see what was the matter. He had scarcely reached the door when a piece of rock shot straight through the house, hurling him against the stove and killing him instantly. The next moment another rock passed through the second story of the building, where a boy was crushed to death in bed. The three other persons living in the house crawled out through a hole in the roof, and the people of the settlement were called to the scene by telephone. Another house close by was also damaged, and an ox was killed in the stable. The crops were almost completely destroyed. Nyhus has always been looked upon as a dangerous place.

So many Norwegians have been lost on Danish steamers during the past 20 years that the Norwegians begin to wonder whether they themselves can take their emigrants to America. A steamship company at Skien is mentioned as a possible competitor of the existing transatlantic lines.

The city council of Trondheim voted a contribution of \$67.50 to a sort of lecture bureau at that place. But a rider was attached to the resolution, providing that Kristofer Janzen should not be permitted to speak at the institution any more. The reason for singling him out was that he had given offense on several occasions while lecturing at Trondheim.

A communication dated Kristiania, July 9, states that the crop looking poor in the southeastern part of Norway, while an average yield is a possibility in the northern and western parts of the country.

The "hard times" furnish a fruitful soil for the Socialistic propaganda. Serge, a member of the starting, is lecturing throughout Nordland; Rev. Erikson and Rev. Ege, of Mjølhus, are conducting the work in Froso and Finnmarken, and a number of speakers are at work in the southern part of the country. The Socialists claim to be gaining ground everywhere.

Former Minister of State Oram died at Stenkirke, aged 70. He played a very prominent part in Norwegian politics for more than a quarter of a century.

## MINNESOTA NEWS.

Low Rates.

The department commander of the G. A. R. has secured the low rate of \$23.75 from the Twin Cities for the round trip to the national encampment to be held at Boston during the week of August 15. This official headquarters train will leave Minneapolis Saturday, August 13, at 9 a. m., and St. Paul at 9:35 a. m. The train will be made up of Pullman standard and tourist cars, and go through to Boston without change, via the Chicago & Northwestern, Michigan Central, New York Central and Boston & Albany roads. At Niagara Falls a stop of three hours will be made Sunday afternoon. The train is scheduled to reach Boston at 7 a. m. Monday morning, August 15.

**Found on a Log.**  
Men employed on the Shevlin-Carpenter boom, Minneapolis, were surprised when they started to work, to discover a woman desperately hanging to a log. She was immediately rescued and removed to the city hospital. Further than volunteering the information that her name is Jessie Shorely, the woman refused to explain.

It was learned from different persons living on Plymouth avenue that a woman answering to her description was seen to walk out on Plymouth avenue bridge at about 11 o'clock, but the workmen employed on the east end of the bridge ever no woman crossed at such an early hour of the morning.

**Smugglers.**  
Special agents of the treasury department have unearthed a systematic scheme of smuggling along the Northern Minnesota border near Rainy lake and Victoria.

While nothing official is given out, it is learned that Canadian manufactured articles, including hardware, clothing and other wearing apparel, have been smuggled into Minnesota and sold to country people at prices much less than they can purchase the same class of articles on this side of the border.

It is claimed that two or three professional smugglers from New York and several Canadian brokers promoted the enterprise and they are soon to be taken up to justice.

**An Old Relic.**  
A relic of the fifteenth century in the shape of a pony cannon has become one of the valuable possessions of the University of Minnesota through the generosity of Captain J. A. Snelling and Major George H. Morgan, commandant of the University Cadet corps.

The fieldpiece was brought from the Philippines by Captain Tracy. He presented it to Major Morgan, who in turn decided to make it a part of the university museum. It weighs 250 pounds and was in all probability used in the early days of Castilian conquest and settlement of the island.

**State Wins Suit.**  
The State of Minnesota has won the final appeal in the contest for title to the thirty-seven-acre tract of mineral land on the Mesabe range, which the state auditor estimates has at least 2,000,000 tons of iron ore on which the state will receive a royalty of 25 cents per ton. The state auditor claims that the tract is situated on the Mesabe range, which the state auditor estimates has at least 2,000,000 tons of iron ore on which the state will receive a royalty of 25 cents per ton. The state auditor claims that the tract is situated on the Mesabe range, which the state auditor estimates has at least 2,000,000 tons of iron ore on which the state will receive a royalty of 25 cents per ton.

**Shorthorns at the Fair.**  
R. Q. Cowan, secretary of the American Shorthorn Breeder's association, has just completed a trip of several weeks during which he has visited many breeders in the Northwest and finds that conditions are exceptionally good this year for the best cattle exhibits at the state fair ever seen in Minnesota. His trip was made with special reference to the auction sale, which takes place at the state fair, it being the custom to examine all animals before they are accepted for sale.

The fair opens Aug. 29 and closes Sept. 3.

**Burglars at Fire.**  
The general store of S. H. Blake, at Long Lake, was burned early in the morning.

It is believed that the store was fired by burglars who entered the place, blew the safe and then fired the store. The Minneapolis fire department was telephoned for assistance but deemed it unwise to send apparatus because of the distance and delay in loading.

The whole village was greatly excited as it feared that the whole village would burn down.

**News Notes.**  
E. A. Nelson of St. Paul drowns while bathing at Forest Lake.

St. Paul's Salvation Army gives 1,100 children an outing at Como Park.

The Red Men's carnival and grand council will be held in St. Cloud.

The congregation of Wesley M. E. chapel will erect a church at St. Paul.

Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce memberships jumped up \$300 over night.

George Godbout, one of the South St. Paul strikers, dies from carbolic acid poisoning.

A Crookston man pulled a 30-pound mud turtle out of the river the other day, and turtle soup was on the bill of fare that day.

Albert Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. August Johnson of Crookston, was drowned in the river Sunday evening. He was a good swimmer and strong for his eleven years.

During the storm of Sunday evening, lightning struck the large barn of Nels H. Olson, near Rushford, and set it on fire, totally destroying it, together with seventy tons of hay and all his farm machinery. Loss over \$2,500; insurance, \$900.

John Haley, married, aged 45, of W. Acker street, St. Paul, was killed by a Great Northern passenger train from Duluth.

Judge Sanborn of the United States circuit court of appeals affirmed a circuit court verdict for \$10,650 obtained by John J. Roddy against the Chicago Great Western railway.

The United States bureau of fisheries is conducting a series of investigations along the north shore of Lake Superior to ascertain the number of fish taken in order that an intelligent report of the work of propagation may be reached.

## ROUND ABOUT THE STATE.

There is talk of a coffin factory at Minneapolis.

Many places in St. Paul are struck by lightning. The hot spell breaks the record at Harriet Island.

Joshua Howell, an old soldier living at St. Boniface at the far end of Lake Minnetonka, dropped dead.

J. L. D. Morrison wins first place in the amateur tournament of the St. Paul Rod and Gun club.

Nestor Heinenon, a 16-year-old son of Mike Heinenon, of Detroit, was drowned in Bass Lake Sunday.

Joseph Werland, sixteen years old, residing at 648 Lawson street, St. Paul, was drowned at Lake Phalen.

Fred N. Dickson of St. Paul succeeds Charles W. Somerby of Minneapolis as first assistant attorney-general.

While swimming with two companions in the Mississippi river near dam No. 2, Ellsworth Johnson was drowned.

The proposition to issue \$10,000 additional village bonds at Perham for the extension of waterworks was lost by one vote.

At the meeting of the Dakota county commissioners a tax levy amounting to \$34,940 for the ensuing year was adopted.

More than 800 delegates to the eighth convention of the Ladies' Catholic Benevolent Association arrived in St. Paul.

A sneak thief entered the store of Kolden & Thompson at Blackduck and carried off a lot of guns and other valuable hardware.

A crew of men is endeavoring to remove the accumulation of sand and debris at the dams near Dresbach, as it impedes navigation.

Joseph Higgins, 5 years old, living at Minneapolis, had two of his fingers cut off by a switch engine in the Great Northern yards.

The farmers of the township of Traverse, Nicollet county, have formed an organization and will hereafter do their own threshing.

Samuel Silver, of St. Paul, twelve years of age, was stabbed by a boy playmate. He was taken to Bethesda hospital. It is feared that he will die.

A spark from a gasoline engine started a fire which destroyed the residence of E. S. Bardwell, one mile south of Excelsior, entailing a loss of \$7,000.

The village council of Kasson has let the contract for the extension of the village water mains to W. I. Gray & Co. of Minneapolis. Consideration, \$3,357.

Gov. Van Sant has authorized the offer of a reward of \$500 for information concerning the whereabouts of N. O. Dahl of Crookston and his daughter.

The attempt to prevent the paving of four of the principal streets of Mankato with asphalt has failed, Judge Gray dismissing the injunction proceedings.

The 2-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Ross Russell, of Stillwater, died very suddenly of phosphorus poisoning, caused by eating the heads off from parlor matches.

Clement Martin of Willow City, N. D., kidnapped his little 3-year-old daughter from the home of her grandparents. Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Lehman of Tracy.

A. M. Lindsay and W. S. McGreggor of the Minneapolis Dry Goods company expect to start on an automobile tour to Rochester, N. Y., Mr. Lindsay's former home.

Owen Mulgrew, a special watchman employed by the Great Northern Railway Company, was found dead under the Rice street bridge over the company's tracks, St. Paul.

Rev. John E. Dallam, of Minneapolis, has passed the physical examination and is now a regular commissioned chaplain in the army. He has not yet been assigned.

According to the decisions made from the number of names in the new city directory, which will be issued next month, Minneapolis has a population of 275,000 persons.

A box of crappies from Bald Eagle lake consigned to a St. Paul dealer, was seized at the depot yesterday by the game warden. The law forbids the sale of fish caught in the lakes in this county.

Harry Nelson, a 17-year-old lad, living on a farm near Forest Lake, was arrested and taken to the Stillwater county jail, charged with a double attempt at wrecking a Northern Pacific train.

With a bundle of bank checks in his pocket, H. A. Gowen, who is believed by the police to have passed a number of forged checks in Minneapolis, was arrested by Detectives Stavlo and Morrissey.

Articles of incorporation have been filed by the Foreman Mercantile and Live Stock Company, of Foreston, Mille Lacs county, and by the Johnson Mercantile Company, of Grand Marais, Cook county.

## When Old Father Neptune Pays His Visit to a Ship

His Presence May Be Expected When the Vessel Crosses the Equator

WANGO PANGO, Island of Tutuila—We crossed the equator in the Pacific about three o'clock on a perfect cloudless day. Early in the morning untoward sounds gave evidence of approaching demonstrations.

"It's me to the galley!" was the cry that met my ears as I ventured along the after deck.

Here was the prospective victim, evidently a young sailor had doubts on the first long voyage. Apparently the older salts were enjoying to the full a highly colored description of the ceremony appropriate to crossing the line.

Father Neptune was expected to board the ship and take part in the initiation.

Flour paste-tomato catsup and splashing baths with the full power of the fire hose turned upon one, are a trifle rigid for the taste of the gilded youth.

Below stairs, however, the fun lost nothing of its flavor, and when in previous accident the man in charge of the hose would turn a flood across the upper deck the laughter was all the louder and but few looked askance.

But now the simple deck hand or the unwary passenger is not enough—in gone one of the under officers, uniforms, brass buttons and all. That was going it a little strong, however, and a reprimand was sent below.

Suddenly there appeared, walking sedately forward, a young man well known to all.

He was traveling around the world as a finish to his education and, although accompanied by a tutor who filled the double duty of friend and mentor, he was always anxious to investigate everything for himself.

This inquiring turn of mind had already led him into disaster in the smoking room where he had insisted upon learning to play bridge and poker.

As soon as his mild, pleasant countenance appeared at the turn of the passage, the same thought struck every one. It was a pity, but it was too good a chance to miss.

Mr. Everham, for that was his name, had been taking his afternoon nap, and was as regular as a baby about his hours, and had just come out.

Father Neptune walked gravely up to the astonished youth and taking him by the hand led him forward and onto the platform. As he turned to face the deck he saw the laughter-stricken crowd looking down upon him and woke to

the sense that something was about to happen. It was in vain, however, that he struggled, the hoary monarch held him with a grip of steel.

"Young man," the hoarse voice sternly said, "prepare to meet thy fate."

The man fairly blanched, he had not seen the previous performances and had no idea as to what was taking place.

With heavy tread the barber advanced and pulling a large handkerchief from his pocket started to blindfold. Everham. This was too much, with a roar of rage he broke from his persecutors and dashed for the stairway, the burly queen was directly in his path, however, and there was no escaping those outstretched arms.

Holding the struggling man tight to her breast she carried him, swaying gently, as if embracing a huge baby. Advancing amid hysterical shouts of laughter she placed him, head down, in the tank.

A madder man was never seen than this erstwhile lamb as he clambered dripping from the water and made his way below.

Micro-Neptune stood for a moment by the tank after disposing of her victim, but it was a moment too long—an opportunity was not to be lost, and in she went; a shattered illusion, curls went floating in one direction, the splendid crown in another, while from the depths rose a close cropped head and a heavy and alas unmanly masculine voice shouted anathemas upon the tormentors.

"Down with the tyrant, in with the old man of the sea!" a perfect tumult of voices now and gales of laughter as several sturdy fellows rushed at Father Neptune. But with a long run and a high jump, into the tank he went to join his leige lady.

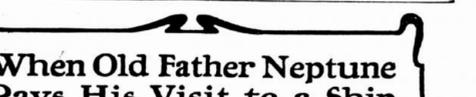
Bedlam had let loose, all were in now, the barber diving from the bulky head, razor in hand, splashed into their midst and showered all those still standing by, with sousing sent "accidentally" across the decks, one after another made his way below.

Not often does it fall to the lot of common mortals to be entertained at the court of a reigning king, and it is safe to say that none of those present on this jovial occasion will ever forget their sojourn with the king of the waters—old Father Neptune.

ANNA H. CLARK.

**Good Jewel Gone Wrong.**  
Floesie—Do you consider an opal ring unlucky?

Lulu—Of course; when the other girl gets it—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

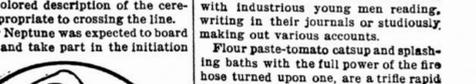


FATHER NEPTUNE.

neck and her streaming curls were crowned with a diadem no less gorgeous than that of her lord. The lady was about six feet tall and correspondingly broad and had, somewhat thoughtlessly, I thought, donned a huge pair of men's boots for this occasion. She also appeared to be somewhat awkward in managing her train, but on the whole Mottar Neptune is a specimen of the popular strenuous woman.

Here also came the timekeeper, dressed in black with a large clock hanging from his neck.

East and curious the fun began, a whimpering cabin boy was ejected from the stairway. The barber caught him, threw him on the bench and began his horrid work. First his head and face were lathered well with the flour and water mixture in the pail, then over his head was poured the red bottled stuff—tomato catsup, it appeared to be. The poor wretch gasping and struggling was



THE BARBER.

of all those who had never paid this tribute to his kingdom.

About half-past two all the passengers assembled as far forward as possible on the upper deck, ready for the fun, though some of the boys and men appeared to be somewhat nervous.

It was the first time for a grand many and the tales which had been bandied about during several preceding days did not tend to reassure the spirit of the timid.

A huge canvas tank was placed in the bow of the boat on the lower deck and billing forward there to see the fun were most of the second-class passengers.

Directly three o'clock, or six bells, was sounded, out of the narrow stairway leading down below came a strange and motley crew.

One huge fellow, dressed in a suit of white, with an immense gingham apron and a great cap on his head, came out brandishing a razor, but such a razor, each part must have been fully three feet long, the blade was broad and gory and a more fearful looking weapon I never saw.

With him were two assistants. One carried a large pail and a long handed brush. The pail was filled with some white mixture.

The other assistant had a mammoth bottle of some fiery red fluid.

These three went quickly to work to prepare for operations, an old bench was placed on one side of the tank and a small platform erected near it.

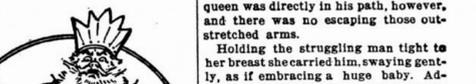
Suddenly arose a shout and with a bound Father Neptune was before us. I would have known him anywhere. A great long beard of what appeared to be tangled seaweed, a flowing mop of reddish hair surmounted by a glittering crown that surely stood a good foot high.

He wore a long black slicker and high boots and in his hand a great pair of binoculars.

These he used a great deal and seemed to be quite proud of, though to the critical eye they strangely resembled a couple of wine bottles lashed together.

Upon this trip he was accompanied by Mrs. Neptune, or rather Neptune, I suppose she should be called.

This august dame was most coquetishly garbed in a flowing robe of light blue muslin, great chains hung round her



CARRIED HIM LIKE A BABY.

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