

Edgefield Advertiser.

THOS. J. ADAMS, PROPRIETOR.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

The number of cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants is exactly the same—twenty-seven—in Germany and the United States.

The statistician of the Horsemasters Protective Association shows that, despite the bicycle craze, there are more horses in the country than ever.

Agriculture furnished sixty-three per cent of total United States exports in eight months ended August 31, a slightly smaller proportion than a year before.

The total number of failures for the first nine months of 1896 was the largest on record and exceeded the number of the worst nine months of the same year, 1893.

The anniversary of the coronation of the Sultan of Turkey was celebrated the other day. From signs in the air it may be the last, predicts the New Orleans Picayune.

The Legislature of Vermont is composed of 126 farmers, forty storekeepers, fourteen lawyers and the rest "scattering"—a notable preponderance of farmers and scarcity of lawyers.

A great many students live in New Haven, Conn., and take the full college course at Yale on three hundred dollars per annum, which includes board and room for forty weeks and free tuition.

Is there a conspiracy against the pupils of the Indian schools? asks the Chicago Record. The Government has just ordered for them 68,000 pounds of dried peaches, 75,000 pounds of dried apples and 89,000 pounds of prunes!

If all the heavy hauling wagons in all parts of the country districts were fitted with tires four inches wide the roads would be twenty-five per cent better, expert road-makers claim, than they are at present. France has fine roads, and in that country four inch tires are required by law.

That much discussed animal the "American hog" has been found at least, its fossil remains. It has been recently discovered "bad lands" by an expert, State Geologist of South Dakota, and are said to prove that the animal must have been as large as a medium sized elephant.

Henceforth horseshoeing must be treated among the professions, announces the New York Tribune. At any rate no one is to be permitted to engage in this vocation without having submitted to an examination before a board of experts representing the State. The shoeing of a horse is a nice job, and many a fine animal has been ruined by a bungler. The appointment of State examiners smacks of paternal government, but the enactment of the new law seems to be viewed with considerable favor by owners of horses.

Commenting on the recent launch of a heavily-armed United States "torpedo cutter" for use on the great lakes, the Montreal Gazette says that in this matter the English and the American Governments "are in about the same position. They have both gone as far as the limitations of the treaty will allow, and it is evident that in the case of Gresham the United States Government is sailing very close to the wind. It is, of course, perfectly fair and right that each Government should make adequate arrangements for the protection of the fisheries and kindred purposes; but whoever goes a step further is no friend either of the Dominion of Canada or of the United States."

In the Postmaster General's report for the last fiscal year a number of interesting figures are given, showing the cost of our enormous mail system. The total expenditures for the year aggregated \$90,626,269, against receipts amounting to only \$82,499,208. These figures reveal a deficit of \$8,127,068, which, however, is less than the shortage for the year preceding by \$1,679,956. The report further shows that 4,184,327 special delivery letters passed through the mails during the year. The average time required for the delivery of these letters was only seventeen minutes. The net profit of the system for the year was somewhere in the neighborhood of \$100,000. The number of postage stamps, stamped envelopes and postal cards issued during the year reached the enormous sum of 4,195,665,528, showing an increase of seven per cent over the preceding year. The value of this entire supply is fixed at \$79,178,101, or \$740,000 less than actual sales. The increase of second class mail matter was nearly twelve per cent during the year. The total weight of all the bundles was 349,000,000 pounds. The total number of registered packages sent through the mails was 15,106,836. Some idea of the vast proportions of our postal system may be derived from the foregoing figures.

Civis virtus is a good thing for the preacher always, but a better thing for every citizen to guard in his daily life.

ROBBING THE MINTS.

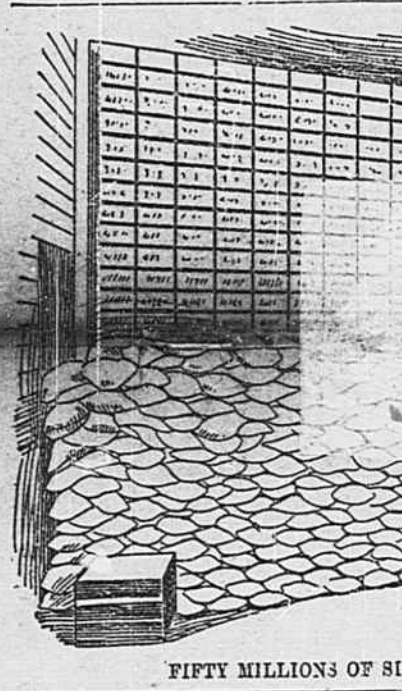
DIRECTOR PRESTON CHATS ABOUT SOME BIG THIEVES.

Fortune in Gold Dust and Nuggets—Trusted Employees Who Did Not Resist Temptation—Some Curious Stories.

I VISITED the mint at Philadelphia last week, writes Frank G. Carpenter in the Washington Star. It now contains more than \$200,000,000, and it has 50,000,000 standard silver dollars in a single vault. The San Francisco mint has, I am told, more than \$50,000,000 worth of precious metal stored away, and in the vaults of the mint at New Orleans there are now something like \$20,000,000 worth of gold and silver. During my stay in our Philadelphia treasure house I was shown the different methods by which Uncle Sam guards his hoard. Every atom of gold and silver is watched and, although the mint has handled more than a billion and a half dollars worth of bullion since it was founded, only a small part has been lost. Still the temptation to theft is great, and every now and then the Treasury Department finds a shortage in some of the mints or in the Government assay offices in different parts of the West. The true details of such thefts seldom get into the newspapers. They are filed away in the records of the Treasury Department and in the minds of the detectives and officials who have aided in exposing the crimes. During the past week I have heard the stories of a number of such robberies, and in my study of them, I have had access to the records of the treasury, in connection with R. E. Preston, the director of the mint. Mr. Preston has charge of all the mints in the United States.

He is the chief "watch dog" of Uncle Sam's treasures of gold and silver, and he knows more about the mint, perhaps, than any other man connected with the Government. He has been in the employ of the United States Treasury for the past forty years, and he is to-day one of its most efficient officers. You remember how, about two years ago, Henry C. Cochran, the weigh clerk at the Philadelphia mint, stole bars to the value of \$113,000 from the gold vault, stealing it bar by bar from a stack of sixteen million dollars' worth of gold bullion, which was there stored away. Mr. Preston was one of the officials who superintended the putting away of that bullion, and he was acting director of the mint at the time that Cochran's theft was discovered. The first steal in the Philadelphia mint occurred forty-three years ago, just before Mr. Preston entered the Government service, and, curiously enough, this theft was detected by Cochran, who was an under clerk of the robber, and who by exposing his superior got the place of weigh clerk, which he held for forty years, and in which he was at the time his own great robbery occurred. During the investigation at Philadelphia the thief, Cochran, told Mr. Preston the story, and Mr. Preston repeated it to me to-day.

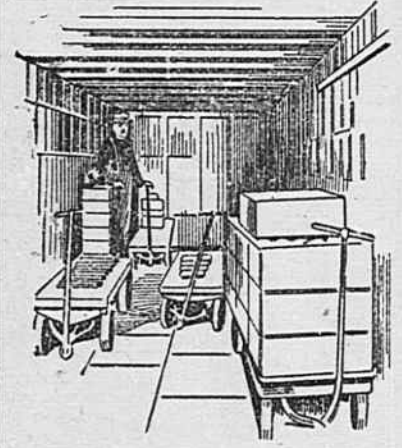
"It was away back in 1853," said the director of the mint, "when a vast amount of gold was coming from California that the first big robbery occurred. The culprit was James E. Negus, and he was the weigh clerk of the mint. There was at this time no assay office at New York, and all of the gold dust and nuggets were sent by the banks of the different cities to Philadelphia to be reduced to bullion. Negus had the handling of this treasure, and he for a long time carried on a systematic stealing from the different deposits sent in. It was his business to take charge of them, weigh them and put them into the vault until they could be melted. By taking a nugget or a pinch of dust from each deposit he was able to steal thousands of dollars, and he probably carried on his stealings during the whole of the four years that he was in the employ of the mint. Cochran was at this time a boy working in the mint. He acted as Negus's assistant. He was led to



FIFTY MILLIONS OF SILVER BAGS AND BOXES.

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THE GOLD VAULT, PHILADELPHIA MINT.

suspect that Negus was taking out gold dust and substituting black sand for it in some of the deposits. He took occasion to reweigh several deposits when Negus was not present, and found that they were from five to ten ounces short. He went to the superintendent of the mint and charged

Negus with the theft. Negus was called up. He confessed, and stated that he had stolen \$100,000 worth of gold bars. As you may see from the letters here in the records of the department, the treasury officials believed his confession, but they did not think he should be arrested, as he had made restitution. He was allowed to go free. Within a few weeks he sailed for Europe, and that was the last that was ever heard of him. There was no cable in those days, and the probability is that he carried a goodly amount of gold away with him. The robbery was not from the treasury, but from the banks who sent in the gold, and there was no way of telling just how much he stole.

"It was in this way that Henry S. Cochran became weigh clerk of the mint," Director Preston went on. "He took the place of a thief, and there is no telling how soon he became a thief himself. He told me that he did not steal anything from the mint until after the deposit of that \$16,000,000 in gold bars; but his connection with the mint lasted for more than forty years and his position was the same as that of Negus. During his whole term of employment he had the confidence of every one. I have a letter here, signed by Daniel Sturgeon, who was treasurer of the United States when he was appointed. It is he who advises the appointment, and he describes Henry S. Cochran as honest, able and courteous. Cochran seemed to be crazy for gold. He fell in love with the precious metal, and when we found that he had robbed the mint of \$113,000 he hated to give up his stealings and he complained bitterly when the money found in his house was taken away. When he was appointed weigh clerk he was about twenty-three years old. When his robbery was discovered he was sixty-three. He was then a deacon in the Presbyterian Church, and was organizing a campaign for the Salvation Army in the neighborhood in which he lived. He had been married and divorced. He had a grown-up daughter. He was a respectable man and still he had been stealing for years."

"How did you come to suspect him of the robbery?" I asked. "It was through his own actions," replied the director of the mint. "He had, you know, the charge of the vaults which contained the gold bullion. Much of this bullion had been untouched for years. In the vault

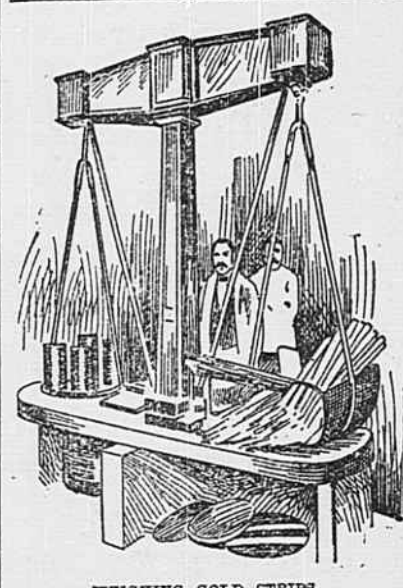
"He sold it right back to the mint from which he had stolen it," replied Mr. Preston. "He did not dare to do this without something, as the gold was so fine that it would be sure to create suspicion. He had at his home a crucible and he remelted the gold, mixing it with silver and lead. This last product he sent us through the express company, and was able to do so without suspicion. We found one bar of gold in Cochran's house the day after the deposit, and we also found \$5000 in gold eagles. It was a curious house. It was honeycombed with secret closets, and it was in these that the money was found. Cochran kept up his stealing to the last. The day the weighing was completed Cochran came down early. He was there before any of the other employes of the mint. We had weighed part of the gold. The vault was open, and there was a trunk in it loaded with bars of bullion. Cochran, finding no one about, picked up twenty of these bars, and, one at a time, threw them into the ventilator shaft of the vault, so that they fell in between the roof of the vault and the floor above. When he confessed he told where this gold was and we got it back. The remainder was partially covered by that which we found at the house, and we received something from Cochran's property and his bondsman. Uncle Sam is, however, still \$12,000 or \$13,000 short from that."

"What did they do with Cochran?" I asked. "He was tried and sent to the penitentiary for a term of six years and seven months. He is now in prison. He weighed 250 pounds when he was arrested. He does not weigh 150 now, and has lost 100 pounds since his theft was discovered."

"Do you think he was insane?" "That is a question," replied the director of the mint. "He seemed to be a monomaniac on the subject of gold. He claimed that he had saved the United States millions of dollars by guarding its treasures, and he was indignant when the gold was taken from him. Since that time we have not kept gold bullion in vaults of this nature, and there will probably never be a robbery of that kind again."

"Has Uncle Sam ever lost as much as this in the past?" "There was little loss in Cochran's case," replied Director Preston. "The money was nearly all recovered. There have, however, been big losses in the past. In 1855, just about the time that I entered the Treasury Department, Uncle Sam lost \$150,000 at the San Francisco mint. When one of the settlements was made it was found that this much was short. The smelter and refiner claimed that this was waste, that it had been lost in refining or had escaped up the smoke

Henry Smith, the night watchman, had been selling bullion. They arrested him and charged him with taking it from the mint. He denied the crime. They then went to his house and thoroughly investigated it. They took up the floors and broke the furniture, but could find nothing. They next attacked the yard. They dug the soil over with spades, and found a little furnace in which gold had evidently at some time been melted. This was shown to the watchman, but he said he knew nothing about it. They then went back and dug up a flower bed,



WEIGHING GOLD STRIPS.

which they had not touched on account of its beauty. It was filled with pansies, and the ground about it was covered with rose bushes and geraniums. They had dug about two feet down to this bed when they found a big earthen pot which was covered at the top with a saucer. Breaking this, they discovered a saucer beneath it, and they found there were seven ounces of yellow gold, worth, all told, about \$6000. They took this to Smith, and he at once confessed. He had stolen about \$20,000 in less than three years. He had taken the gold from the separating tanks by means of a spoon. The bullion was placed in such tanks and treated with acid and water to remove the silver. By the action of the acid, the gold fell to the bottom of the tank and was covered at the top with a layer of a fine black precipitate, and the silver solution was washed away. The tanks were covered and locked at night, but there was a hole in the bottom of them in which a hose was inserted for the washing of the precipitate. The watchman unscrewed the hose, and then, by means of a spoon, ladled out a few spoonfuls a day and took them home. Each spoonful was worth about \$20, and he had the precipitate aside and could buy a pound of black powder in yellow gold by melting it, and he sold the product to the bullion dealers of San Francisco."

"What was done with this man?" I asked. "He was arrested, tried and sent to prison," replied Mr. Preston; "but his fate was rather an exception to that of the mint robbers of the past. Many of them have escaped punishment and are still at large. I do not know where they are all. I think they should be prosecuted and punished to the full extent of the law."

CALF WITH THREE LEGS.

He Has Only One Front Leg, and Was Born That Way.

There is a three-legged calf at Shicklesbury, Penn. The triped belongs to S. C. McDaniels. Five months ago his faithful family cow presented him with Ben. Ben is the name of the calf that has become famous for being not like other calves. His right leg is entirely missing. Both hind legs are perfectly formed



THE CALF BORN WITH THREE LEGS.

and placed. His left fore leg is also just as perfect as any calf's, but it is almost in the middle of his body. All the ribs are naturally formed, reaching all the way to the neck. There is not even the trace of a shoulder blade on the right side.

The calf weighs 250 pounds, and can run and play as lively as any calf with a full set of legs. Store piles and ditches are not obstacles to him—he frisks over them, tall high in the air, using his fore leg on the principle of a jumping pole. He has been much petted, and follows the members of the McDaniels family about like a dog.

At the tender age of four weeks Ben left his mother and went with his master on a jaunt about the surrounding country, attracting considerable attention and earning considerably more than his living expenses, thanks to the willingness of Americans to pay to see a freak. He has not missed a meal in his life, and is unusually strong and healthy.—New York Journal.

Care of Driving Horses.

A livery man who has been in the business many years, has this advice to give people who have only one horse: "The man who keeps a horse for his own use occasionally, and for the use of his family whenever they feel like driving, must remember that such an animal is more liable to catch cold than one which works steadily. Whenever the horse is driven any distance at the

is so arranged upon a deep band as to provide the fashionable flare. The one-seamed gilet sleeves are of moderate but fashionable fullness, and are completed at the wrists by flaring cuffs of velvet to match the collar. Prettily shaped pocket laps cover inserted pockets. Molton, covert, whipcord and all regulation plain or mixed cloakings may be employed in making this stylish coat with decorations of fur, Astrakhan, braid, or plainly finished by machine stitching.

To make this jacket in the medium size it will require two and three-fourths yards of fifty-four-inch wide material.

LADIES' FRENCH MODEL BASQUE.

Striped beige cloth made the exquisite basque that closes in centre-front with small buttons and button-holes, as shown in the second large engraving. The waist, of becoming length, is rendered glove-fitting by double bust darts, under-arm and side-back gorges with a curved centre-back. A smooth standing collar of velvet fits the neck closely. The one-seamed gilet sleeve of fashionable fullness is arranged over coat-shaped linings and finished at the wrists with flaring velvet cuffs. When cut with "v" shaped neck and embellished with trimming, the waist is suitable to complete a dinner toilette, while the circular or square neck will be appropriate for an evening bodice.

To make this basque for a lady having a thirty-six-inch bust measure, it

Food of Moles.

Little is known of the habits and food of our native moles. Professor H. Garman has examined the stomachs of fourteen moles in Kentucky, where it sometimes becomes troublesome—in gardens and lawns by loosening the soil about newly set plants or marring the appearance of the sward. While strongly accused of eating seed corn after planting, it appears that the bulk of its food consists of earthworms and insects, especially the former. It is especially fond of the May beetle, the parent of the white grub, so destructive at times to lawns, and appears not to eat corn or vegetables of any sort.—New York Independent.

A Rash Admission.

On one occasion a much-respected but dry old friend of the family called on James Harper, and, after a time, asked him how he and his brothers distributed the work between them. "John," Mr. Harper said, good-humoredly, "attends to the finances; Wesley to the correspondence, Fletcher to the bargaining with authors and other, and—don't you tell anybody," he said, drawing his chair still closer and lowering the tone of his voice—"I entertain the bore."

Big Yield of an Apple Tree.

Forty-one bushels of apples were gathered this season from a century old tree, which is known to have borne fruit for eighty-six years, in the orchard of R. H. Williams, of West Corveth, Va. The circumference of the trunk near the ground is twelve feet four inches.—New York Sun.

Extinguishing Burning Oil.

Never throw water on burning oil—it only spreads the flame. Dry sand will quickly put out the burning flame by smothering it. If sand is not at hand in such emergency throw some heavy woolen substance, as a rug, a carpet or a damp towel or sheet, over it. Excluding the air is the great secret of extinguishing all fires.

Saved.

Here—"Well, that was a bare-breadth escape!"—Truth.

COAT AND BASQUE.

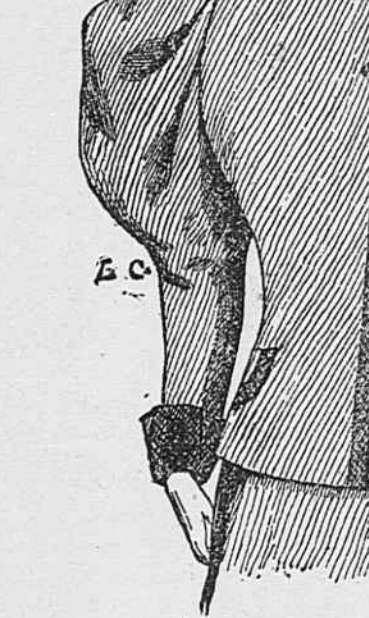
SOME NEW ATTRACTIONS IN WOMAN'S APPAREL.

Stylish and Attractive Coat With Slashed Collar—An Exquisite French Model Basque of Striped Beige Cloth.

TOBACCO—brown cloth, velvet braid and smoked pear, buttons are stylishly combined in the smart top garment depicted in the first large illustration. The picturesque hat of brown felt, writes May Manton, is trimmed with

NEWEST MODES IN WAISTS. Peacock blue and green shot silk made this stylish waist, which is one of the newest modes. The rolling collar and cuffs of white linen are adjustable and can be removed to have laundered when necessary, or when made to match the waist they can be permanently secured. A handsome stock collar of satin ribbon is tied under the collar in a large bow at the

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COAT WITH SLASHED COLLAR AND PICTURESQUE HAT OF BROWN FELT.

velvet-edged ribbon and brown ostrich centres back. Belt to match closed plumes.

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dress, this circular comb is surmounted by a small wreath of roses, which also holds back the pompadour roll in front and encircles an airy-looking structure of curls and puffs, the wreath being finished by a high white aigrette on the left side.

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