

UNCLE SAM'S NEW VAULTS.

Larger Treasure Boxes to Hold his Borrowed Money.

News and Courier.

WASHINGTON, September 8.—Uncle Sam's treasure boxes are undergoing some important alterations. They are not at all up to date in the mode of their construction, nor burglar-proof by any means, and it might be a good thing if they were torn out altogether and replaced with vaults of the proper kind, such as the safe deposit companies have nowadays.

Away back in 1892 this question was agitated and Congress went so far as to appoint a special committee, with an appropriation of \$3,000 to make an examination of the vaults in the treasury and report on their condition. The report was decidedly unfavorable, condemning the arrangements as practically obsolete, but nothing was attempted in the way of substantial improvements.

Seventy-five thousand dollars have been appropriated for the present alterations, which consist in part of a new vestibule and strong doors for the great silver storage vault. This vault cost \$30,000 originally and extends under the terrace at the south end of the treasury building.

This lattice-work receptacle holds \$101,000,000 in silver, which is packed in wooden boxes, two bags of standard dollars to a box, and each box weighing 120 pounds. Formerly the coin was simply stacked up in bags, but, notwithstanding the walls of steel, dampness rotted the bags and the money ran out of them.

The bond vault is to be enlarged greatly, doubling its capacity—a change made necessary by the increasing number of national banks which deposit bonds in the treasury. Many private and State banks, taking advantage of the recent Act of Congress, are coming in as national banks. A new and thoroughly modern strong room is to be built for the register's office, to hold cancelled paper money that is awaiting destruction in the maceator.

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At the present time the sub-treasury has on hand \$170,000,000 in gold coin and \$58,000,000 in silver coin. There are now 153,000,000 silver dollars in the treasury at Washington, but only \$6,000,000 in gold coin. The treasury never keeps much gold on hand here, the great stock of the yellow metal being held in New York and at the mint in Philadelphia.

Notwithstanding the fact that the treasury vaults compare so poorly with the impregnable steel-clad structures now used by great private concerns that have valuables to protect, the Government feels fairly secure as to the safety of its stored wealth. The best safeguard for coin is its weight. Just to illustrate this point it may be mentioned that the \$162,000,000 in silver now held in the strong rooms at Washington weighs nearly 5,000 tons. A million dollars gold coin weighs about two tons, and it would take a very strong man to carry off \$50,000 worth of the yellow stuff. Though a gold brick the shape and size of an ordinary building brick represents \$3,000, its "heft" is something astonishing. Suggestions have

been made that it might be practicable to burrow beneath the treasury by tunnel and thus pillage Uncle Sam's coffers by a sort of rat hole method, but even were this accomplished it is difficult to imagine how it would be practicable to remove much of the coin.

There was quite a scare a few years ago, when Gilfillan was Treasurer, because the vault in the cash room, where the ready money is kept, refused to open. It is always set for 8.30 a. m. with a time-lock, but on this occasion something seemed to be wrong with the mechanism, and the steel doors remained obstinately closed. Nine o'clock arrived and still the money was locked up. For once Uncle Sam's bank was obliged to suspend payments. Experts were sent for and came with their tools to break open the vault, but before they got there the big safe had opened of its own accord. It turned out that the time-lock had been set by an accident for 9.30.

In this vault not only gold and silver, but many millions in paper money, are always kept. If thieves could obtain access to it they might easily walk away with an enormous sum, the notes and certificates being done up in packages and neatly labelled with the sums they contain in large red figures. Each parcel holds 4,000 notes and is in size just about a foot cube. If the denomination is \$500, a single such package represents \$2,000,000. However, if anybody did succeed in getting away with cash in this shape he could hardly fail to be caught, inasmuch as the numbers of the bills would be advertised immediately and every bank in the country would be on the lookout for them.

Burglars may be practically excluded, but the treasury does not claim to be theft-proof. On an unlucky day in 1870 a visitor came into the Treasurer's room with a large Panama hat in his hand. The Treasurer's attention was distracted by some other people who were trying to talk to him and the man dropped his hat carelessly over a package which contained 3,000 \$10 notes lying on the desk. It was one of several such packages and the loss of it was not noticed until some hours later. Of course the notes were advertised and some time afterwards a part of them were deposited in a New York bank. The depositor was arrested, but nobody was punished for the crime.

A singular immunity from punishment seemed to have attended thieves who have robbed the treasury in such ways. In 1875 a clerk named Benjamin Hallock passed a package of \$500 notes, representing \$47,000, out of a window in the cash room to a saloon-keeper named Ottman. For some time the robbery remained a mystery, but later on one Theodore Brown was caught betting on the races at Saratoga with some of the missing \$500 notes. He was arrested, and implicated Ottman and Hallock, but Brown was never tried and the other two were not finally convicted. Of the stolen money \$20,000 was recovered.

It has been said that no trust company would accept the responsibility of the Treasurer of the United States for the \$6,000 a year salary which he gets. He is responsible for all moneys that may be stolen, and on more than one occasion Congress has been obliged to relieve by formal Act an official in that position, who would otherwise have been liable for the repayment of large losses. On one occasion two men named Marden and Johnson, the latter an assistant paying teller, took \$62,000 by collusion. The Government got back \$12,700 of this money and the offenders escaped with a year in prison for each. There have been a good many thefts in the redemption division, where the temptations are exceptionally great, the most famous of them being that perpetrated by a woman who invented a method for making nine notes out of eight, incidentally to the process of putting together scraps of torn bills sent in to be redeemed. Nobody ever knew how much she stole, though it was probably a very large amount, but she gave up a portion of her ill-gotten gains and was not prosecuted.

In 1885 there was much excitement over the loss of \$1,000,000 in paper money, which had been shipped from Washington to the assistant Treasurer in San Francisco. The shipment was made by a sailing vessel called the Golden Rule and consisted of one thousand \$1,000 notes. Unfortunately the ship was wrecked on Rensador Reef and the safe that contained the cash was lost with it. Nevertheless a conspiracy was suggested and a theory was formed to the effect that

the vessel had been deliberately cast away for the sake of stealing the money. If this had been true some of the notes would certainly have turned up later; but, as a matter of fact, none of them has ever been seen since and it may therefore be taken for granted that the missing wealth still lies at the bottom of the sea. Of course, being only paper money, it was no loss to Uncle Sam.

Immense quantities of gold are shipped nowadays across the ocean and the danger of loss is so small that the precious stuff may be insured at so low a rate as one-tenth of 1 per cent. It is insured just like so much grain and the documents, written in old style legal phrases, guarantee its safety against all perils of the seas, including "men-of-war, fires, enemies, pirates, rovers, thieves, jettisons, letters of marque, reprisals, takings at sea, arrests and detentions of all kings, princes," etc. Every large transatlantic steamship has on board a treasure room, which is a great steel box built much like a vault on land.

Shipments of gold coin from this country to Europe have been extraordinarily large recently. The banker in New York buys it from the sub-treasury there, receiving it in sacks of \$10,000 each. It is carefully weighed, because Europe will accept our gold only by weight, though the quality of the coin—its purity and degree of fineness—is guaranteed by Uncle Sam's stamp. Usually it is packed in casks that are much like herring casks, ten sacks to each cask, which weighs 180 pounds when thus filled. Thefts on the voyage are practically unknown, but in 1894 a cask of gold coin was lost on its way to Paris, being finally located on the platform of a railroad station between Havre and Paris. The station agent had thought it contained white lead.

RENE BACHE.

Moving Train.

"The 'moving train' illusion is something the cyclorama experts have been at work on for years," said an old showman, talking about tricks of the trade. "The idea is to present the same effect one gets in looking out of the window of a passenger car moving at full speed, and the thing suggested itself almost as soon as the modern cyclorama was invented. In the abstract it seems very simple—merely the matter of seating the spectators in a dummy car and then-reeling a long panorama of landscape past the windows. Nine people out of ten would say such a contrivance would produce an illusion of motion; but it doesn't do anything of the kind. If you will stop to think about it you will remember that a real landscape, seen through a car window, appears to be moving past you at different rates of speed. The foreground, nearest the train, whizzes by like lightning; the middle distance glides away less rapidly, and the horizon line recedes very gradually from view. In order to secure the same illusion it is necessary to observe the same gradations in speed, and that was apparently such a complicated problem that most of the cyclorama people gave it up in despair. But I hear that it has finally been solved in Paris, in the big Siberian Railroad panorama, and people who have seen the thing, tell me that the effect is so realistic that it is almost impossible to believe that one is not actually on a moving train. The landscape is represented by three long rolls of canvases of different heights, the first and lowest showing the rocks and bushes of the foreground, the second the middle distance and sky. They move at speeds of 30, 84 and 3 miles an hour, and the spectators are seated in ordinary parlor cars, which are given a slight rocking motion by machinery underneath the trucks. The result is the best illusion in the history of cycloramas up to the present day. I understand the show will be brought to this country after the Exposition is over.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Free Blood Cure—An Offer Proving Faith to Sufferers.

Is your blood pure? Are you sure of it? Do you get scratches heal slowly? Does your skin itch or burn? Have you pimples, eruptions, aching bones or back, eczema, old sores, boils, scurf, rheumatism, foul breath, catarrh? Are you pale? If so purify your blood at once with B. B. B. (Bottanic Blood Balm.) It makes the blood pure and rich, heals every sore and gives a clear, smooth, healthy skin. Deep-seated cases like ulcers, cancer, eating sores, painful swellings, blood poison are quickly cured by B. B. B., made especially for all obstinate blood and skin troubles. B. B. B. is different from other remedies because B. B. B. drains the poison and humors out of the blood and entire system and cannot return. Intelligent readers are advised to give B. B. B. a trial. It cures when all else fails. Thoroughly tested for 30 years. Sold at drug stores and Hill-Or Drug Co. Wilbitz & Wilbitz and Evans Pharmacy at one dollar (\$1.00) per large bottle, \$6 large bottles (full treatment) \$5. So sufferers may test it a trial bottle given away absolutely free. Write for it. Address Blood Balm Co., 380 Mitchell St., Atlanta, Ga. Write to-day. Describe the trouble and free medical advice given.

—The tick of a watch is inside, and that of a bed is outside.

The Growth of Animals.

It is not generally known that the human baby is smaller at birth in proportion to the size it ultimately attains than most other animals.

The size of the young of any animal varies in proportion to the size of the brain, and is significant in many ways. The average height of a baby at birth is about 12 inches, and as the average height of a man is generally put down at 5 feet 10 inches, the proportion is as 1 to 5.3. The young rhinoceros is 2 feet long when he is born, but when he grows up he is 7 feet in length. Thus the proportion is 1 to 3.5. The very same measurements apply to young master elephant, though the pachyderm in question is always measured by the height of his back from the ground. However, the young one is about 2 feet high, and the average height of a mature elephant is 7 feet, so the proportions remain the same. The same relative measurements hold good in the case of the young hippopotamus.

In a case of the deer we find that the young are 2 1/2 feet in height, while the full-grown deer is no more than 4 1/2 feet, or a proportion of 1 to 1.8. The giraffe's proportions are those of 1 to 3.3, for it is 1 1/2 feet tall at birth, and 6 feet when full grown.

A lion cub at birth is about 8 inches long; while the grown-up Leo measures about 5 feet, or the enormous proportion of 1 to 7.5. The tiger's measurements are about the same, and so are those of Brer Bear.

The rapidity of growth of animals also varies greatly. In general, the larger the animal at maturity the slower its growth. A man is not fully grown until he is 25 years old, though he attains his height sooner.

So with animals. A colt or calf gets his height at 3 years, but thereafter slowly gains in power until his 5th year—the man's development being five times as slow.

An elephant matures very slowly, and lives as long as a man. There are fables telling of the extremely long life of crows and eagles, but in few cases have these been fully verified.—London Express.

Cured of Chronic Diarrhoea after Thirty Years of Suffering.

"I suffered for thirty years with diarrhoea and thought I was past being cured," says John S. Halloway, of French Camp, Miss. "I had spent so much time and money and suffered so much that I had given up all hopes of recovery. I was so feeble from the effects of the diarrhoea that I could do no kind of labor, could not even travel, but by accident I was permitted to find a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, and after taking several bottles I am entirely cured of that trouble. I am so pleased with the result that I am anxious that it be in reach of all who suffer as I have." For sale by Hill-Or Drug Co.

"Dear that your husband is very sick, Aunt Dinah." "Ye'm," "Nothing serious, I hope. His condition is not critical." "Critical! I should say he was! He ain't satisfied with nothin'!" Write Dr. C. J. Moffet, St. Louis, Mo., for his valuable Little Teething Wash-List Book, free.

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Thought Himself to Death.

The startling fulfillment of the prediction of Mrs. Elizabeth Horstman, of Mishawaka, Ind., made last July, when she was apparently in the best of health, that she would die on Aug. 15, has set the press once more to discussing the probability of premonition of death. Mrs. Horstman, who was related by marriage to Bishop Horstman, of Cleveland, is said to have been a person of great piety. It is not known that she was melancholy or a superstitious disposition. Neither is anything known as to the motive that prompted her to make the gloomy prediction. It is known positively, however, that she made it, and it was fulfilled to the letter.

There are, of course, numerous interpretations of this event. One of the commonest is that founded on the fatalist theory. Her day had been appointed and she was informed of the time by some occult or supernatural agency. The spiritualist view, in the broadest sense, is hardly less common. She was advised by some departed near and dear one as to the time when she should die. The rational belief is that advanced by the Pittsburg Dispatch. Her death is clearly an example of the remarkable power which the mind exercises over the body.

It is known that fatal results followed the experiment of making a man believe that he had been lanced and was slowly bleeding to death. The story of the practical joke played by a lot of young French medical students on the janitor of their college is familiar. They accused him of some fictitious offense, gave him a mock trial and sentenced him to death by decapitation. He was led to a block. Beside it was an axe. His upper body was bared and his eyes were bandaged. His head was forced down to the block. One of the the students smote him across the neck with a wet towel and—he was dead. It was held that it was not the ill-usage or the shock that killed him, but his firm conviction that his time had come.

There are many cases recorded in which people have predicted the time of their death. The time is the case where a man predicted the very hour at which he would give up the ghost. A few minutes before the hour struck he was told that he had been deceived; that the clock had been set back three hours, and that the appointed time was long past. He at once recovered and remained in good health for many years. It is held that if Mrs. Horstman had been misled in regard to the calendar she would still be living.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

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