

COIN IS NECESSARY

Retirement of Five-Cent Piece Would Shock Financiers.

Nickel Stands for More Fixed Values Than Any Other Single Denomination, and More of Them Are Required by Public.

Washington.—Officials of the treasury department sometimes discuss the nation's somewhat cumbersome coinage and make suggestions to one another that this or that change might bring relief to the working forces of the department.

Recently, however, the fact leaked out that the five-cent piece or nickel had been under discussion and that the government might ask congress to pass a law eliminating it from the national coinage.

The fact is the government could afford to dispense with almost any coin rather than the five-cent piece. It stands for more stable prices than any other.

It has been said that its universal use as the price of a fare on the street cars is the cause of its retention, but that can hardly be so, as it enters very largely into the price of so many other things that it could not be dispensed with if the price of the car were changed.

The nickel is extensively used in telephone calls. It was formerly more than now the open sesame of the popular slot machine, for which it still does extensive duty.

The most prominent feature of decoration in the reading room is a handsome picture of Sir Galahad, placed there as an inspiration to the boys. In this room there is a library of sufficient size to whet the interest of the members for more volumes.

Most smokers would have to quit were it not for the nickel, obnoxious as the domestic cigar is to many of them. The cigarette would cease to be the popular smoke if it were not for the nickel.

Turn which way one will, the five-cent piece bobs up at every turn as the most necessary coin of the realm. Its discontinuance would inevitably increase the cost of a thousand things of every day life.

WILD DOGS OF MONTANA AWE

Savage Pack of Dangerous Brutes Kill Domestic Animals and Attack a Rancher.

Columbus, Mont.—Ranging up and down the Stillwater valley, a band of wild dogs has for the last month been working havoc among the flocks of the ranchers, who have lost hundreds of domestic animals.

The pack numbers possibly 100, and is led by a giant gray brute fully as large as the average St. Bernard, only not so heavy.

He reached his ranch just ahead of the pursuing pack, and his calls for help brought out the men on the place, who, with rifles, drove the brutes away.

Baby Weighs 19 Pounds.

Columbia City, Ind.—The largest baby ever born in Whitley county and believed to be the largest ever born in the state, arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Moore, of Ormas, a few days ago.

BOYS' CLUB CIGARS

Pastor of Pennsylvania Episcopal Church Institutes Novelty.

Starts Church Organization Which He Believes Will Draw Young Men from Saloons—Pool Playing Among Amusements.

York, Pa.—St. John's Boys' club, founded a little more than a year ago by St. John's Episcopal church of this city, is probably unique.

The first purpose of the club, which was made possible through the generosity of A. B. Farquhar, a York manufacturer, in fitting out a building on the church property, was to reach the boys of the street beyond the influence of Young Men's Christian associations and other organizations which might provide entertainment to attract them from evil associations.

Permission for the juvenile members to smoke was a thing over which Rev. Dr. A. R. Taylor and other promoters of the club hesitated not a little, but it was determined that any narrowness here might defeat the entire purpose.

On cards and on the establishment of a couple of fine pool tables the rector and his associates had no doubts. As it was from these diversions at cigar stores and saloons that the youths were to be attracted, it was quickly determined to give them sway in the clear atmosphere of the club.

The club, with its membership limit of 350, has this roster filled and a good-sized list in waiting. There are two classes of boys—the employed and unemployed.

On its lower floor the clubhouse has a spacious reading room, a game room and a compartment with lockers and shower baths.

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RIP VAN WINKLE WEDS MANY

Half a Dozen Women Write to Wife to Whom He Returned After 21 Years' Absence.

Bloomsburg, Pa.—Rev. John Taggart, former Methodist clergyman, who recently appeared at the home of his wife and disappeared again after a stay of two days, was married to at least half a dozen other women during the 21 years of his wandering, according to letters received from all parts of the country.

Since Taggart's second disappearance his wife has received letters from women at Fredonia, N. Y.; Buffalo, N. Y.; Asheville, N. C.; Washington, D. C.; Pittsburg and Philadelphia, all claiming Taggart as their husband.

In every case Taggart deserted them, the letters say, as soon as he obtained whatever money they could raise.

In all instances where he engaged in matrimonial ventures he seems to have given his own name. In some places he posed as a minister and in others followed the trade of a painter and paperhanger.

His wife knows nothing of his present whereabouts.

Gotham is Very Wicked.

New York.—New York city has wickedness enough for the whole country according to ex-Gov. Glenn of North Carolina, who has just returned to this city after an anti-saloon campaign throughout the state.

"The problem of reforming wicked New York is a colossal one," said Mr. Glenn at the monthly meeting of Methodist preachers here.

"You ministers haven't big enough visions. The churches spend too much time taking care of the consequences of evil, and too little time in prevention."

Find English Gold Treasure.

Brussels.—A police officer has learned by chance that in September, 1908, during the execution of some work in a building in the Rue Assaut, the workmen discovered a copper casket containing several thousand pieces of money of the thirteenth century.

REINDEER AS A WORLD FOOD

Dr. Grenfell, American Enthusiast, Plans to Raise Million Venison Animals in Labrador.

Sydney, N. S.—That Labrador may soon become an important source of food supply, exporting large quantities of meat and cereals, as well as fish, is the opinion of Dr. Willfred Grenfell, missionary, author and lecturer.

Dr. Grenfell and his bride, formerly Miss Clanchan of Chicago, are on the way from the United States to Labrador. The doctor is enthusiastic over the prospect of extending his herds of reindeer, imported from Lapland, to all parts of Labrador.

"We have estimated that Labrador can very easily support 1,000,000 reindeer without artificial feeding either summer or winter, and there are excellent prospects of this developing into a most profitable industry. Their flesh makes splendid food, the flavor being similar to that of any other venison, and I look forward to the time when large quantities will be exported to supply the meat markets of the world."

"We are also taking steps to encourage the growth of hardy food plants suitable to the country."

"I do not expect that we will be able to raise wheat, but barley, oats and other hardy cereals will flourish. The season opens late in the year, but growth is very rapid when it does get a start. I have sent to Labrador some of the most suitable specimens of the exhibits shown at the Alaskan exposition and I expect that we will be able to rival their products in some lines."

"We are trying to develop the country along scientific lines, which is the only practical way."

"Why, even the pilgrim fathers nearly starved when they landed in New England, and if it were not for intelligent methods of cultivation much of this country would still be a wilderness."

"Lumbering offers another big field for developments in Labrador. Several timber grants have already been made, and some of them were surveyed during the past summer."

GET GIRL'S CONSENT FIRST

Maryland Man Roundly Trouped Because He Came Unexpectedly with Marriage License.

Baltimore, Md.—The moral of this true tale is that before getting a marriage license you should get the consent of the young woman whom you hope to marry.

Thomas Mooney, 1205 Chesapeake street, learned this fact. He got a license to marry Miss Annie Lightman, but without consulting her. As happy as if the wedding bells were sounding, Mooney took the license to her home and showed it to Mrs. Lightman, saying joyously:

"See, see what I have. I'm going to marry Annie."

Mrs. Lightman, fainted, recovered and sent for Annie, who was paying a visit. Returning, Miss Lightman herself says, her rage at Mooney was unbounded. She grabbed the unlicensed marriage license and tore it in bits and threw the pieces in a stove.

Then Miss Lightman, according to her married sister, belabored Mooney until he fled, explaining breathlessly that the marriage license was only the anticipatory expression of his hope.

"I would no more wed Mooney than I would jump over the moon," said Miss Lightman afterward.

MAY SPIN TO OBERAMMERGAU

Ordinance Prohibiting Use of Automobiles During Season of "Passion Play" Rescinded.

New York.—As a special concession to Americans motor cars will be permitted in Oberammergau during the season of the "Passion Play," which is from May to October, according to advices received from the North German Lloyd Company, the official representatives of the "Passion Play" committee in the United States.

Many persons who contemplated visiting the play this year were much worried because of the ordinance of Oberammergau forbidding the use of power cars in the village territory. The ordinance has been rescinded during May, June, July, August and September of this year to please the Americans.

Visitors will have a variety of ways in which to reach the play. Already arrangements have been made for a dirigible balloon to make daily trips between Munich and Oberammergau, while those who do not care for the balloon route may go by automobile, train and trolley, train and stage coach, or may drive there from Munich, a distance of 43 miles.

Photograph Heart Beat.

London.—Photographs of a beating heart have been made possible by an invention enabling X-ray snapshots to be taken. The long exposure—hitherto the greatest difficulty in radiographic work—is now unnecessary, as the "anionic screen," as the new invention is called, reduces the exposure to a twentieth of what it would otherwise be. A three-second exposure instead of a minute will be used in ordinary work, while instantaneous snapshots are easily obtainable with powerful modern X-ray apparatus.

ROYAL STOCK BIRDS

Wood Pigeons Coming to This Country from Great Britain.

American Robins Imported into British Isles Last Year Thought to Have Disappeared, but Few Are Discovered.

London.—Among emigrants who will presently embark for New York are to be a dozen members of a community which has multiplied extremely if not excessively in London. Any wanderer in St. James' park may still see in the bare trees a number of the thin stick platform which serve the wood pigeons for nests and at night some favorite trees are dark with the dim shapes of pigeons that have flourished beyond all other London birds in physique and in numbers.

These pigeons are of royal stock, sprung from some birds set free from Buckingham palace, and when the authorities of the New York zoological gardens, which in surrounding and equipment are the best in the world, desired to naturalize in the Bronx park some of these wood pigeons, it was decided that the St. James' park birds would make the most docile and worthy pioneer settlement. So a number are to be sent out this spring.

In lieu of the pigeons visitors to St. James' park will probably see an increase in the number and variety of the curious and fantastic ducks of which America is the favorite breeding ground.

Some members of a previous immigration from America are at a crisis of their lives. Several American robins—birds of the thrush tribe, finely marked with deep blue and tawny red—were brought over last year, and a number were bred under thrushes and blackbirds. The birds were everywhere to be seen in the vicinity of their breeding grounds till December; then they became hard to find, and it was once thought that all had disappeared.

But two were seen and heard recently in a Surrey copse, and naturalists, especially in the south, should keep their eyes open for a bird which is not a fieldfare or a redwing or a thrush, but has a suggestion of the fieldfare's chuckle and is much the size of the English thrushes, flying with a buoyant but undulating flight which is quite its own. What these birds will do in England, whether they will migrate with the fieldfares or remember their first home—some pairs themselves nested and bred last summer—is a question of immense interest to students of migration.

The whole question of bird exchanges and naturalization is to be discussed this year at a quincentennial international meeting of bird lovers in Berlin. It is interesting to know that the Americans are sending an emissary to study the pheasant, which has been more successfully naturalized in England than any other bird.

Heretofore, says the report, the general belief prevailed that all horse meat prepared in Chicago was sent to Copenhagen, Denmark, and the fact that it is being put up for home consumption is looked upon as necessitating a new state law to regulate the killing of horses.

All the horse killing establishments, it was reported, were small slaughterhouses in obscure parts of the city. In one place 15 horses a week were killed. The product of this place went to points in Wisconsin and Illinois. At another place castings for sausages were found, but the proprietor declared they were for shipment to Denmark.

"Most of our meat goes there," he said. "Denmark is the best horse meat market in the world."

Inquiry in a cheap boarding house district showed that "meat" was purchased at six cents a pound, when the butchers in the neighborhood were asking nine cents for their cheapest meat.

A rigid investigation of conditions is recommended in the inspector's report.

AMERICAN ART IS BORROWED?

German Authority Writes Pamphlet Saying America Has No Fundamental Aesthetic Taste.

Berlin.—The views of the art critics here on the American art exhibition may be summarized in the words of introduction of a catalogue written by Christian Brinton and translated by Dr. Kuno Francke of Harvard:

"America is a country without art consciousness common to the whole people. The fundamental aesthetic principles never have been recognized here. There is no national American art; no development can be traced in the history of art in the new world. There is no aesthetic tradition."

"The Indians had no art to offer, and had no influence on early American art. Instead of growing out of the soil it had to be brought over the sea from foreign countries as new as a new pin or like ready-made garments. It was imported from European workshops instead of developing through the centuries of lonely mountain valleys and in peasant cottages to full, distinctive life."

"Only with the approach of the American people to a really homogeneous nation is American art nearing more and more an obviously national type."

London.—The new Whitehead torpedo, which has satisfactorily passed its trials and will form part of the armament of new battleships and cruisers, is a formidable weapon. It measures 18 feet 6 inches in length and 21 inches in diameter, and weighs nearly a ton. Its extreme range exceeds 7,000 yards, at a speed of 40 knots, and owing to improvements in the controlling mechanism its accuracy leaves nothing to be desired.

New Twenty-One Inch Torpedo.

FINDS ESKIMO A MOONSHINER

U. S. Revenue Service Raids "Hootch" Still in Arctic and Sends Native to Prison.

Seattle, Wash.—Discovering after a long hunt the solitary hut where native Eskimos were making "hootch"—an intoxicating liquor—in a homemade still, officers of the revenue cutter, Thetis, now at Nome, descended on the place and captured a unique and demoralizing distillery. It was on Little Diomeded Island in Bering strait, between the Pacific and the Arctic oceans. The hootch was seized and the moonshiners, one of whom was a woman, were arrested for violating the federal laws.

The inhabitants of Little Diomeded consist of a handful of natives, who pass the summer fishing or whaling and exist through the winter on the fruits of the summer's work.

Hearing of wild orgies among the natives and of a strange liquor which made the person imbibing crazy for many days, Capt. Henderson of the Thetis made a special visit to the island and succeeded in obtaining the still and some of the hootch, which is kept as a curiosity.

The apparatus consisted of a copper boiler with a gun barrel leading from it. This took the place of the worm, passing through a rum keg, which was kept full of ice. A fire was kept burning beneath the copper kettle, and when enough of the distilled liquor had collected in the idle barrel the plug at the other end was removed and the natives thus obtained a drink every few hours.

The liquor was made of a mixture of four, tobacco, molasses and water, and was reputed to be the most powerful hootch in the far north.

HORSE MEAT AS FREE LUNCH

Also Sent to Farming and Mining Districts, Says Illinois State Food Commission.

Chicago.—In an official report to the Illinois state food commission, made public to-day, State Inspector Hoey declares that horses are being slaughtered by the wholesale in Chicago and the meat is being sold and distributed for human consumption.

The meat, he says, is being cut into roasts, steaks and sausages and supplied to free lunch vendors in Chicago, as well as to some farming districts and mining camps, where foreigners are employed.

Heretofore, says the report, the general belief prevailed that all horse meat prepared in Chicago was sent to Copenhagen, Denmark, and the fact that it is being put up for home consumption is looked upon as necessitating a new state law to regulate the killing of horses.

All the horse killing establishments, it was reported, were small slaughterhouses in obscure parts of the city. In one place 15 horses a week were killed. The product of this place went to points in Wisconsin and Illinois. At another place castings for sausages were found, but the proprietor declared they were for shipment to Denmark.

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SOUTH SEA ISLANDS

Prof. Crampton of Columbia University Returns from Trip.

Spent Seven Months in Society, Cook, Tonga, Samoa, Fiji and Hawaiian Groups and New Zealand—Many Biology Specimens.

New York.—Prof. Henry F. Crampton, curator of invertebrate zoology, of the American Museum of Natural History and professor of zoology at Barnard college, Columbia university, has just returned to New York from a seven months' trip to the Society, Cook, Tonga, Samoan, Fiji and Hawaiian groups of islands and New Zealand. This is the fourth trip made by Prof. Crampton to the South seas, and during his recent journey he traversed more than 22,000 miles. Prof. Crampton was accompanied by his wife and daughter, who visited all of the islands scheduled on the maps of the traveler. He went abroad for the Carnegie institution and during his tour of exploration gathered about 100,000 biological specimens. The Carnegie institution will publish the results of the work of research and study accomplished by Prof. Crampton.

"We first went to the Society islands, of which Tahiti is best known," said Prof. Crampton, in speaking of his trip. "There I was adopted into a Papara clan, or tribe, of the Tahitians, which aided me greatly in my research, as my work involved the study of the volcanic islands. I explored two hundred valleys in the Society Islands alone."

"We arrived there at the time of the annual feast or festival, which on account of French control is usually celebrated July 14, the anniversary of the fall of the Bastille."

"We were much interested in the dances of the festival and saw many performers competing for honors and rendering native chants, songs and dances peculiar to the islanders. I took a photograph with me and secured three or four dozen records of native chants. From the Society Islands we continued on our travels through to the Cook Islands, where the natives are somewhat similar because of remote common ancestry. Then we journeyed to New Zealand, where I visited the district of Roturua, the village from which the Maoris now performing at the hippodrome come."

"We were royally entertained by the Governor, Lord Plunkett, whose wife is a daughter of Lord Dufferin, and enjoyed our stay there exceedingly."

"Another steamer took us through the Tonga islands, where I visited the scenes described in Mariner's famous account of his life among the cannibal inhabitants of the islands in the early part of the nineteenth century. Then we continued on to Samoa, where we made our headquarters at Apia, the seat of the German government. The former home of Robert Louis Stevenson, Valima, is the present government official residence, and there we were entertained. While there we made a trip to Tutuila, the big American island in the group, of which Capt. Parker is governor."

"The governor offered me every facility for the continuance of my studies and research. His wife is a niece of the late President Harrison."

"At Apia Gov. Soff placed a steamer at my disposal to give me an opportunity to make a brief survey of a volcano on the large island of Savaii, which is the largest active volcano known at present. I secured numerous photographs, including some taken at night, of the famous Lake of Fire. The great light from this volcano is reflected clearly 70 miles at sea."

"Suva is the main town in the Fiji Islands, and there I found the native culture had almost entirely disappeared. From Fiji we went to Hawaii, where I spent three weeks, devoting considerable time to the collections of early explorers, and incidentally visited Kilauea, another volcano on the island of Hawaii. The Bishop museum, you know," said Prof. Crampton, "is at Honolulu."

"How about cannibalism, professor? Does the practice exist in the islands visited on your tour?"

"Cannibalism is practically extinct," he replied. "An cyclone struck Polynesia in 1906, and in many of the outer low Isles all food and fruit was swept away, and some of the natives were forced to kill each other or starve. But this trace of cannibalism was only of temporary duration."

"Prof. Crampton made a study of terrestrial small life in the course of his travels, and found the process of evolution going on among land snails. He has numerous specimens of his trip in his rooms at the museum of natural history, and on the walls are hung maps and charts of the Pacific Islands. The work of classifying and arranging the biological specimens gathered will occupy several years."

Octogenarian Letter Carrier.

Beverly, N. J.—Daniel Horner, the veteran mail carrier of this city, celebrated his eighty-second birthday by putting in a good day's work. "Uncle Dan," as he is familiarly known, is on the job from 8:30 o'clock in the morning until 7:40 o'clock in the evening. He has held the position for 15 years, and makes nine round trips a day, covering eight miles. In all he has walked enough miles to make a circumfererence and a half of the globe. For this work Uncle Dan pays him only \$235 per annum.