

## PENNIES AS MONEY

Peregrinations From the Time They are Stamped and Leave the Mint

All the pennies in the United States are stamped at the Philadelphia Mint but they are not, as most people suppose, made there. The government buys the blank coppers on which the design is stamped from a Western firm, each thousand cents costing \$1.25. So 100 cents, with a face value of \$1, cost the government less than one-fifth of that sum.

As a result of all this, Uncle Sam makes a big profit on his pennies. This would not be true if all the pennies that are coined were presented for redemption. They never are, however, for fully one-fifth of them seemingly go out of existence in mysterious ways. All the ways in which the pennies are lost are as multitudinous as the sins of the usurer. If the lost pennies were weighed, it is estimated that they would tip the scales at 2,500 pounds.

When the blanks with which the cents are made reach the mint they are first run through a stamping machine which cuts them out, imprints the design and drops them into boxes.

Then they are run through a sorting machine, which throws out any that are imperfectly made and the rest pass on to a broad table, where they are counted, not by hand, but by means of a grooved case into which they fall 500 at a time. Then they are tied up in canvas bags ready to be shipped away as they are called for.

One would think that the penny would be the last coin to be counterfeited, but as a matter of fact there are more spurious cents than there are of dollars or dimes. A pound of copper, enough to make 100 cents, can be bought for 11 cents, so that the counterfeiters can make a good profit if they are skilful enough. So many bad pennies come to the United States Treasury that some of the Secret Service men are at work all the time looking for the men who make them.

The hard worked member of the whole coin family is the penny, said Superintendent Mulhman of the New York Pork Sub-Treasury the other day, as he watched the unloading of an express wagon piled high with canvas bags of the copper coins. It is the errand boy of the money world, and a remarkably spry youngster, too, who covers a lot of ground in the course of a year. It is also pre-eminently the children's coin though I dare say there are a lot of interesting things about it that those whose sticky fingers help to keep it under motion do not know.

For instance cents often come to us at the rate of a million a day. The Sub-Treasury is the clearing house of these coins for the metropolitan district, and we handle an immense number of them in the course of the year. That lot just coming in contains \$5,000 worth and represents a day's collections from a single big slot machine company.

Perhaps before the day is over a delivery truck from one of the great department stores will be down here after \$10,000 worth—1,000,000 pieces. That often happens, and it shows the way they come and go. Here, leading the way to the room occupied by what is known as the minor coin division, you see the way we handle them.

The part of the room which held the money was protected by a railing of heavy iron bars, and behind these bars clerks were busily at work. In one corner, piled as high as the men's heads, were the canvas bags, each with its 1,000 coins, just as they were brought in. On the opposite side were three clerks busily counting off from a great heap of loose pennies.

Perhaps there are 50,000,000 one cent pieces here now, continued the Superintendent, possibly more. The stock is growing now, has been since the beginning of the year. That is to say, there are more people who have pennies which they want to exchange for bills than there are who bring us large denominations and get cents for them. The pennies are as good as calendars for us.

For several weeks before Christmas we didn't take in many; the children were saving them up to buy presents. All those that passed into the hands of the candy man, toy dealers and other shopkeepers about Dec. 15 are coming back to us now. But they will go out again by and by. Every fall when school opens the pennies begin to come in fast. The children are spending more for candy and such things. During the summer months they accumulate on our hands, for then the youngsters are not spending so many. Whenever there is a storm, a spell of bad weather, or anything that keeps the penny-spending population at home, we can see the difference in the numbers that come to us.

The craze for 49-cent and 99-cent bargains requires a great many pennies in the way of change, and it is no unusual thing for the big department stores to take \$10,000 worth at a time. Most of these come back to us by the way of the slot machines, which have come to be wonderful in number and variety.

There are kinetoscope views, phono-

graphs automatic music boxes, candy and chewing gum sellers, weighing machines, lifting machines, and a hundred and one others standing at every hand and coaxing the pennies from their owners' pockets. The result of all this has been that the government has had hard work some of the time in maintaining the supply, and can't barely make pennies fast enough to keep up with the growth in demand for them.

## Tried by Time

A soup of which you can't swallow the second spoonful is very bad soup; and a letter that won't bear being read twice isn't worth the postage. Why you don't begin to get the flavor of a really good dish until you have got to the second helping; and as to songs, for instance what should you think of a song that fell flat as a flounder after it was first sung? And as to books, I have several hundreds of them, and not one in the lot that I haven't read half a dozen times.

Now a business letter, which by its very nature in some way touches the question of money—why, that ought to be read twice to make sure you precisely understand what the writer means; and when it comes to a letter full of friendship and loving kindness, certainly that sort are not so plentiful—we can afford to skim the contents and light the fire with them.

But, after all, the best letters are not the letters that entertain us or the letters that stir up our feelings, but the letters that give us a lift. The men who shout out cheerily when we meet, and hopes we are all right, is of course an agreeable chap; but the man who puts his shoulder under our cart wheel when we are stuck in the mud is the fellow for our vote if he stands for parliament.

It is on this principle that we re-publish the following letter. On my table there are scores of others—all excellent and of recent dates—but somehow this one chimes in with my mood, and accords with my judgment as the proper lesson of the day. It is from a woman, who has the rare knack of putting things short, straight, and plain.

"When I was a young girl," she says, "I was subject to frequent attacks of sick headache, and heaving, and retching after meals. I got along fairly well up to the autumn of 1884 when I broke down altogether. I had a foul taste in the mouth, my skin was sallow, and I had no appetite or relish for food. After eating the least morsel I had a sense of pain, weight, and oppression at the chest, with a feeling of tightness around the sides. B sides these things there was much pain between and under the shoulder blades, and so much pain and weight at the back of the neck I could hardly hold my head up. Then, too, my treatment got to be so short and difficult I was unable to lie down in the bed. It seemed as if I must suffocate."

"Night after night I walked the floor all night long, anxious for daylight. I wanted to be moving about in the house, as though to escape from myself. I had no rest night or day, saving an occasional dose in the armchair by the fire. I was very weak, and what the end would be I scarcely dared to think."

"I took many medicines and consulted two doctors, but was little or none the better for anything that was done. The second doctor said that my trouble all came from indigestion and the liver, and the result proved he was right; but it is one to know what to do and another to be able to do. For two years I suffered agonies and feared I should never be well again."

"Back in December, 1888, my husband had heard what wonderful cures had been done throughout the country by Mother Seigel's Syrup, and, now that other medicines had failed, he suggested that I should try it. Then he got me a bottle from Mr. Wand, chemist, at Leicester, and I began taking it, although I must confess with out a particle of faith."

"Yet behold! in less than a fortnight I was a new and another woman; free from pain and able to eat and digest nourishing food. This was so encouraging and surprising that I kept on with the Syrup, and after I had used three bottles I was in better health than I had been for years. Since then I have grown strong, and am in the best of health. You are welcome to publish my letter, and I will gladly answer any inquiries. (Signed) Mrs. Elizabeth Farmer, the Common, Barwell, near Hinkley, Leicestershire November 6th, 1894."

So far as we can learn Mrs. Farmer has had no illness since, which shows how real and complete the cure was. Surely so helpful a letter as hers ought by rights to be printed once a month in every paper in the land.

## Drowning.

If you are in danger of drowning throw yourself on your back in the water, clasp your hands together on your back, and throw your head back so that the nose

## WELL BEGUN IS HALF DONE

Start wash day with good soap, pure soap; that's half the battle won.

**SURPRISE SOAP** is made especially for washing clothes, makes them clean and fresh and sweet, with little rubbing. It's best for this and every use.

Don't forget the name **SURPRISE.**



and mouth may be above water. You cannot sink in that position, and may float for hours.—Young People's Paper.

## DELAY NO LONGER.

Your health is getting worse every day, this cough threatens you with consumption. Throw it out without respect. Don't you stand this Bronchitis either, this Asthma or this Catarrh; they are dangerous guests. To get rid of them immediately take Morin's Creso-Phates Wine.

Smallpox is ravaging eastern Africa in both the British and German protectorates. The epidemic started five months ago in Zanzibar.

## STRENGTH CAME BACK.

The Anvil once more rings with the strokes of his hammer.

Mr. Thos. Porteous, the well known blacksmith of Goderich, Ont., tells how sickness and weakness gave way to health and strength. "For the past four years my



nerve have been very weak, my sleep fitful and disturbed by dreams, consequently I arose in the morning unrested. I was frequently very dizzy and was much troubled with a mist that came before my eyes, my memory was often defective and I had fluttering of the heart, together with a sharp pain through it at times. In this condition I was easily worried and felt enervated and exhausted. Two months ago I began taking Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills, since that time I have been gaining in health and strength daily. They have restored my nerves to a healthy condition, removed all dizziness and heart trouble, and now I sleep well and derive comfort and rest from it. That Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills are a good remedy for Nervousness, Weakness, Heart Trouble and similar complaints goes without saying." Price 50 cts. a box at all druggists or T. Milburn & Co., Toronto, Ont.

Laxa-Liver Pills cure Dyspepsia.

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plasters which some unscrupulous druggists offer as being "the same" or "just as good as" the genuine. Do not be deceived. These worthless substitutes are totally unlike the genuine and will disappoint all who are betrayed into buying and using them. BENSON'S is the only strictly medicinal article and never fails to relieve Muscular, Neuralgic, Lung and Chest Pains and Aches, Sprains, Joint and Kidney Affections, etc. Look for the Three Seals Trademark across face-cloth of the genuine Benson. Price 25 cts.

## SNAKES IN COSTA RICA.

The Culebra de Sangre the Most Deadly of Them all!

Costa Rica means the Rich Coast, and in most respects it is rich, particularly in the snake family, the most deadly of which is the terrible Culebra de Sangre (or blood snake).

This variety of reptile does not grow to a large size, and perhaps for that very reason is most to be dreaded, as it is not easily seen. It is red, and resembles a large, swollen vein, ready to burst with blood.

A short time ago I stepped on one of these snakes, and like a flash he struck at me, but as I had a pair of leather leggings no harm was done, though it was a close call. Not so fortunate was a poor day laborer who was bitten by the same variety of snake. The man was working for a neighbor of mine, and I did not see him until the day after he was bitten. The moment I heard about it I went over to see the poor fellow, taking with me a remedy for snake bite, thinking it would do no harm to try it, anyway. When we reached the man's camp the sight that met our eyes was a sickening one.

The man was bleeding from his nose, mouth and ears, also from his finger and toe nails. How a man could bleed as much as he had, and still live, was a marvel. He had been bitten in the foot; only the fang of the serpent had entered the flesh. The manager of the estate had given him several doses of curarine a medicine made in Columbia and much used here in Central America for poisonous bites. We also gave him the medicine which I had brought with me, which made him vomit profusely.

In a few hours the bleeding stopped and next day the poor fellow was sent to the hospital. No one expected that he would live, as the bite is considered deadly but strange to say he did recover, and in a month's time was at work once more. If both fangs of the snake had entered the foot instead of one, he would undoubtedly have died. I have known a horse to die in a few hours after being bitten by one of the snakes. In the past three years two men in my district have died from snake bite, and in hunting in this country one must always keep a sharp lookout for snakes.—Forest and Stream.

## THE COST OF A DIE.

This Form of Gambling is Old as Man According to Antiquarians.

It has long been known that the method of deciding a wager by the cast of a die is of great antiquity. Aboriginal tribes in almost all of the divisions of the earth were accustomed to gamble with dice. Antiquarians have found these implements in their explorations in the mounds, etc., which mark nearly every portion of the habitable globe. Now it has been demonstrated that the ancient Britons were addicted to this habit and that they prized their dice boxes and dice very highly. A number of other curious relics were picked up in some recent explorations in the late dwellings in Glastonbury.

From the remains of animals and from shells found in these late dwellings it is concluded that these ancient Britons, whoever they were, lived on oysters, oxen, horses, sheep, deer, dogs, cats, beavers and swine, which is not a bad variety for a mixed meat diet. They also had quern stones for grinding wheat. They also had spindle whorls of stone for making bread, needles made of bone and combs made of horn.

A dice box was apparently one of their most precious treasures, for one of these was found carved out of deerhorn, with two neat bands around it. As if to make sure that there was no mistake about the use to which this instrument was to be put the dice themselves were found inside of it. No coins, however, were found, though some small crucibles which it is conjectured were used for melting gold were discovered. The first skull found was that of a young man who had evidently been decapitated, for it was stuck on the top of a pole. The second skull found was that of an old man who had evidently had a rough life for numerous healed-up scars on his skull bore eloquent testimony to this fact.

The general belief of antiquarians is that the owners of these two skulls were killed in the last fight of the lake dwellers, and this theory is borne out by the finding of numerous slings, with hard baked earth the size of walnuts as ammunition, while only one iron spear was found. It is supposed that the lake dwellers had only slings, while their adversaries had spears and also probably bows and arrows.

## First Floating Dock.

In the time of Peter the Great, a British captain finding that his vessel, in Cronstadt harbor, was in want of docking and that, owing to the absence of tide in the Baltic Sea, the then orthodox method was impracticable, obtained a bulk named the Camel and completely removed the whole of her decks and internal work, cut off one end and fitted it with a gate. He then berthed his ship inside the hollow hull of the Camel, closed the gate and pumped the water from its interior. This, says a writer in Cassell's Magazine, is the very first instance on record of the use of a floating dock, and it was directly brought about by the absence of the hitherto essential tide.

Every Berry Selected as carefully as the master builder chooses the most perfect stones for the completion of a famous piece of work.

So it is not to be wondered that the beverage made from

**Chase & Sanborn's Seal Brand Coffee**

is *par excellent*.

And it is not strange that thousands of homes delight in the joys of a drink made from such material.

Every grocer who prides himself on handling the best class of goods sells Chase & Sanborn's Seal Brand Coffee, in one and two pound cans, sealed with a seal and guarantee of perfection.

Give the Baby a Chance **Martin's Cardinal Food** a simple, scientific and highly nutritive preparation for infants, delicate children and invalids. **KERRY WATSON & CO., PROPRIETORS, MONTREAL.**

PLEASANT TO USE **TEABERRY FOR THE TEETH** CLEANSSES FROM ALL IMPURITIES—ARRESTS DECAY—MAKES THE TEETH PEARLY WHITE **LOPES & CHEMICAL CO. TORONTO**

**13 RUNNING SORES.**

Mr. Stephen Wescott, Freeport, N.S., found (Burdock Blood Bitters) a wonderful blood purifier and gives his experience as follows: "I was very much run down in health and employed our local physician who attended me three months, finally my leg broke out in running sores with fearful burning. I had thirteen running sores at one time, from my knee to the top of my foot. All the medicine I took did me no good, so I threw it aside and tried B.B.B.; when one-half the bottle was gone, I noticed a change for the better, and by the time I had finished two bottles my leg was perfectly healed and my health greatly improved."

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