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BY HOFER BROTHERS

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GOLD IN CIRCULATION HAS BEEN OVER-ESTIMATED.

Chicago Tribune.

"Lost or strayed, $300,000,000 in American gold coin. Any person who has information as to its whereabouts will please communicate with the director of the mint," That is the substance of a circular which is about to be sent out by the director to manufactures of jewelry, to gold-leaf supply houses and all dealers and manufacturers who use the precious metals in their work.

Let it not be supposed that the treasury or the mint has lost $300,000,000 in gold coin and wants to recover it. Nothing so serious as that has happened. What troubles the director of the mint is that, while he knows the whereabouts of the greater part of the gold coined in this country since 1897, as large a portion of it as $300,000,000 has eluded his search. It has disappeared from circulation, and he does not know where it is. If it has been melted down, then the mint statistics of the amount of gold coin in the country are at fault. The accuracy of those statistics was questioned recently by Professor Faulkner. He doubted whether the stock of coin outside the treasury and the banks was what it has been assumed to be. Mint Director Roberts seems to have been impressed by Professor Faulkner's statements, and is going to find out whether there has been a flaw in the customary mode of calculating the amount of gold in the country.

The mint officials have been able to keep close track of the gold in bars used by jewelers, dental houses and others. They have guessed that gold coin, to the value of $1,500,000, was melted down annually and used in the arts. It occurs to them now that that guess may have been far out of the way. Hence, 20,000 circulars are to be sent out to firms using gold in the arts, asking them to say how much gold coin they have melted down during the present year. If their replies indicate an annual consumption of, say, $10,000,000 instead of $1,500,000, then the director of the mint will know where a good part of his missing $200,000,000 has gone, and he will have to revise and cut down his estimate of the amount of gold in circulation. But if the replies show that the million and one-half guess is about right, then the mystery as to the whereabouts of that $300,000,000 of gold coin will be darker than ever.

THE GENIUS OF THE WEST

Perhaps no saner explanation of the genius of the West has been made than that offered by Arthur I. Street in Ainslee's Magazine which reads:

"Merely spotted and stained with habitation is the country across the Missouri, and more particularly that beyond the eastern line of Colorado. Nearly one million two hundred thousand square miles—a third of the total population out of the grand American census of seventy-seven millions! Surely geology has done its work in the Rockies and beyond. If there is breeziness that blows from scattered centers to scattered centers, it is but logical. If the politicians will assume tasks and experiments, and presume occasionally upon an abormal capacity against the world, as when a solid west votes for silver, it is to be expected. The people are used to long reaches and big movements and nervy undertakings. They have to be in order to get things done at all. The closely knit power of the east is supplanted in the west by an expansive grasp and faith. It is a long range adhesiveness, with the elements of inspiration and mutual trust and confidence in it. It is chivalrous and noble, because it is founded upon honest aspiration and broad fraternal sympathy. It takes victory with elation and swallows defeat with determination to have no more of it.

"Interesting as the land itself, even interesting as the monstrous canyons through which the Rio Grande railway has constructed its marvels of engineering skill to afford pleasure to the sightseer, are the marks which populations have left upon the surface. Many of them stand like the ruined cities of ancient nations, less venerable only because less ancient, but equally fruitful in suggestions of history, equally pregnant with memories that concern man. Beginning with the border of British Columbia and running continuously southward to the Rio Grande, these landmarks remain. Deserted forts and trading stations they are in the far North, where the Hudson Bay Company made fortunes in furs long before American agriculturists or miners stepped out of their Eastern homes. Decaying haciendas and adobe villages and towns that seem odd even by name, as Tuscon, in Arizona, are on the far Southern border. The huge cavities and indentations which the placer hose wached in the foot hills of California resemble abandoned acropoles, or sometimes inspire one with the belief that some giant prehistoric race has left its work of reconconstructing the earth's surface unfinished. In latter years the people have gone back over most of the landmarks in Colorado and rehabitated them; but about such places as Kokomo, at the head of one of the so-called parks, where once the overland and the gold-seeking trains crossed the mountains, there is an ineffacable atmosphere of dreariness and desertion. The toil to reach the point—even the toil of the railroad—is so great that the instincts of admiration assume proportions of amazement and wonder at the pluck of the pioneers and their brazen hardihood in venturing into such lofty wildernesses in order that generations to follow them mighthe richer and that the destiny of the nation might be pursued.

"The mountains that lie eastward of the Great Salt lake, and through which the Union Pacific twined its way, first among the transcontinental railroads, are marked in places innumbered with the signs of sturdy thrift and humble religious obedience, where the Mormons worked out their incomes in building the railroad for which the leaders of the church had taken the contract of construction.

"Some day the people of the west will themselves hunt out and consecrate to history these remnants and relics of the places in which once they hoped to thrive, and from these points as beginnings the future historian will procede to analyze the character of the sections of the nation in which they lie."

"Above the south and east of the Applachian chain, the geography of the population of the United States falls into divisions as clear and as readily apprehended as they might have been predicted had the students of earth's surface proceeded far enough ahead of its occupants to take the bearings." This statement is made in Ainslee's Magazine, and the writer thus supports it: "The original Ohio immigration spread over the topographical plain until it was checked at the Mississippi. It went toward the Canadian boundary until it was baffled by the down-pouring cold from the lakes of Winnepeg and from Rat Portage. A second movement crossed the Mississippi and the Missouri rivers, settling Iowa and Missouri and overflowing into the higher termini of Kansas and Nebraska. When the navigation fever grew strong, and the public lands became as numerous as are the passions of men to obtain things free of cost, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota were inhabited, with a scattered surplus crowding over into the then forbidding prairies of Dakota. The The settlement of Texas was a movement by itself, as Texas has always been a state alone and unique in its place in the galaxy of the nation.

"Gold allurements on the Pacific coast put the procession of the census out of its order, and left a big blank between the Sierra Nevada, Wasatch and Cascade ranges, and the western portions of Kansas and Nebraska, until similar allurements in Colorado at the time of discovery of the Leadville carbonates reversed the order again and created the constituency of a state in the vicinity of Pike's peak. Kansas and Nebraska filled up with the extension of the railroads toward the coost. The Dakotas thickened their population after the northern railways were completed. Washington state constituted almost a movement by itself, ensuing upon the arrival of the Villard railroad experiment at Puget Sound and the discovery of the water possibilities in the eastern section, which is now known as the Palouse country. A last, and probably final, movement set in when the territories of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming received their statehood.

"Population halted, and halts now, at the rocky shore of the Pacific. The next great division will be in pursuit of the constellation of fame which Admiral Dewey lit in the bay of Manila."

"Tennessee mountaineers took advantage of the more level lands of Missouri to fill that state in an incredibly short space of time after the the treaty with the Osages, and in the state's rich and abundant soil and water they might have made one of the largest and greatest of the American commonwealths nearly half a century ago had not the vicinity been so tempting to the confederacy and so important to the north. In the terrific contest that waged over the freeing of the slaves, the young men and the adventurous of the community found it easier to migrate than to remain at home, easier even at the cost of reaching the unexplored regions of Kansas, New Mexico and Arizona. The enduring ones tarried, suffered the emotions of war, posted the sacrifice of $40,000,000 to be free of serfdom, and stamped upon Missouri the characteristics of combative endurance.

"Long before the discoveries of gold in California and Colorado, Missouri traders were venturing into the distant Arizona and New Mexico. Herein lies the topographical beginning of Kansas. The Sunflower state was in the line of easiest progress for the traders. It became the route of all transcontinental trails. It was fortified by army posts and defended by trading stations, and these forts and stations in turn were the nuelei of mature promiscuous population Sjmilarly when the western gold excitement arose, Kansas was in the line of overland travel and secured permanent inhabitants long before Nebraska, which is almost equally fertile, or before the Dakotas and Montana, through which the low grade route to the coast traversed so profitably nowadays by the Great Northern and the Northern Pacific railways penetrate. A string of inhabitants was dropped like wheat along the old emigrant trails, and grew and multiplied out of sheer necessity where it fell.

"It is around the places where men who can go no further throw down their packs or where families who are tired of the canvas-covered 'prairie schooners' and cooking with buffalo chips turn their oxen or horses loose to shift for themselves, and begin to cut logs or bake mud for cabins that such half-way between states as Kansas get their start; and the manner of genesis dictates the succeeding nature of acquisition. The emigrants who were left behind in Kansas might many of them have wished that they had gone on, for the days of the territory were written in blood until long after the people of the East ceased to cry 'poor bleeding Kansas.' It was the have-to of staying behind the van, the resignation to the inevitable that breathed into the Kansans the spirit of defense and conflict that abides with them still, and makes them conquerors in the battle with mortgages, and matchless fighters in the rice fields and torrents of the Philippines.

"Yet it was this same repellant and grim inevitability that sent two sweeping tides of immigration over Kansas' head, and resulted in the population of California and Oregon, then Colorado, then the entire Western slope, from Puget Sound to Sante Fe. People went where there was the least resistance.

When the hogs are sold there will be another Christmas time, says the Woodburn Independent.

SALEM LODGES

P. J. W. W.
Salem Camp No. 118. Meets every Friday evening, 7:30, in A. O. U. W. hall, State Ins. bldg. Scott Bonorth, C. C.; W. A. Moores, clerk, room 16, Moores blk

FORESTERS OF AMERICA
Court Sherwood Forest No. 19. Meets Friday nights in Turner block. C. Mellen, C. R. A. L. Brown Secy. 11-17-1yr

A LIFE SAVED.

Dr. J. F. Cook, the Botanical Specialist, Succeeds Where Other Fail.

To whom it may concern:

This is to certify that Bertha P. Conner, of Mt. Angel precinct, Marion county, Oregon, has suffered from a cancerous growth in the left ear for about three years. The growth was cut out twice and burned out once by Albany Physicians, but the growth came back as bad as ever, and pained her so badly that she had to be taken from school. After three week's treatment by Dr. J. F. Cook, of Salem, Oregon, the Botanical Specialist, the growth entirely disappeared, and at this date, four months since treatment was begun, the growth has not reappeared, and the ear has entirely healed leaving only the scars inflicted by the Albany doctors.

I hereby certify that the above statement is absolutely true, and that Bertha P Conner, the person mentioned in the affidavit, has resided in my family since early childhood, bearing the relationship to me of niece.

H. C. LONG.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this eighth day of June, 1899. W. W. Hall, county clerk of Marion county Oregon.

All diseases successfully treated and cured.