

**THE OLD COW BILL.**  
 Mr. Editor, I wish a trifle to explain. Have patience with me now, I'll not try it again. It's a simple little matter, so I will not on it dwell. It's the unimprovement of the old cow bill. In the morning near the day break. From sweet sleep, I start and wake. Unstrung and angry—more than I can tell. Through the unimprovement of the old cow bill.

When milk is sick, and suffering lies. And a dozen cows assemble night—A string of blessings (?) rush pell mell. At the unimprovement of the old cow bill.

If the cows must roam about the streets. To fertilize, and keep them sweet. Would it not be wise, to muffle for a spell. The unimprovement of the old cow bill?

Do no other, as you would have them do. Is a very fine maxim, and good to stick by too. So drive your cows to pasture, and in milk may they excel.

If there's no unimprovement of the old cow bill!

INDEPENDENCE, SEPT. 21st.

**HOW OUR PAPER MONEY IS MADE.**

Did you ever think, when you took a one-dollar bill, a bill of any denomination, in your hand, what it really was, how it was made, and what became of it after it was worn out? Very few people ever do think about these things in connection with money. Our chief thoughts in connection with money are how to get it, sometimes how to keep it, but chiefly what it will buy.

That the making of the pretty, new, crisp bill should give employment to many people many of us do not know. And yet, if we stop to think, we know that paper money does not grow on trees, nor is it dug from the ground, so it must be made, and the government has the undisputed monopoly of its manufacture.

All the paper money, bonds, stamps, revenue stamps, and gold certificates are made in the bureau of engraving and printing in the city of Washington, the seat of the United States government. The building, standing in a park, is of a plain, but dignified style of architecture. The first step in the manufacture of paper money is the engraving of the design, which is drawn by experts and submitted to the authorities for approval. When approved the engravers take up their work, which is the engraving of the design on a soft steel plate. Each designer does a particular part of the plate; no one man does a whole plate. This system is followed to prevent counterfeiting, and also because different parts of the design require different kinds of work. After the several parts of the design have been executed on the soft steel plate, the parts are put together and hardened.

The printing now begins. The paper for the money is made of special quality, having a silk thread in it, and the contract is awarded to one firm. It comes in sheets of a specified size for the different uses to which it will be put. For the paper money that we are most familiar with, it comes in sheets that will make four bills, leaving a margin which is cut off later. The backs of the bills are printed first, the green ink giving them a familiar appearance at once. A notch or mark is put at the top and bottom of the sheet, and when the face is printed these marks are carefully fitted over marks in the face-plate, so that the lines are perfectly exact. The greatest care is necessary to accomplish this, as all sheets that are not perfectly adjusted are rejected as imperfect, and thrown aside to be destroyed. In the manufacture of stamps and bonds the same exactness is necessary, as all imperfect work is rejected. A very fine grade of engraving is done by the government, and prizes have been awarded to the government for its superior work when it has entered into competition in this line with other engravers and other nations. All the moneys are counted and packed in numbered packages. But it is not money while in this building; it would not, even a great package of it, buy one stick of candy. It is not money until it bears on its face the seal of the treasury. The engraved notes or paper are carried to the treasury building, and there each sheet is placed on a press and the brown seal stamped to the right of the center. It is money now, but it is not completed. It is given in bundles into the hands of a number of women, who count it while still in sheets, and mark the amounts on wrappers. It is then given to those who run the cutting machines, and the bills are cut apart, the margins cut off, and the bill is ready for circulation. It is again counted, and carried at last to a corner where a man gives the final counting, and puts the bills in packages of varying amounts. I saw "Five Thousand Dollars" printed on most of the packages. The ends of the papers are sealed with great seals, and the money is then for sale, ready to pass into the hands of the people to become a great commodity by itself, and the purchasing medium of civilization.

Down in the vaults of the treasury building is the coin that is held for security for this money; for you know that every paper dollar is only a promise to pay. If you should demand a silver dollar from the government for the paper dollar that you hold, the government has that dollar in bright, new silver to redeem its promise to pay. Deposited in the silver vaults are over \$91,000,000 of new silver, and you will see by the following table that that does not begin to represent the money deposited in the United States treasury:

NUMBER.	AMOUNT.	DESCRIPTION.
1	\$96,075,000	Standard Silver Dollars.
2	1,236,000	Fractional Silver.
3	\$4,000,000	Standard Silver Dollars.
4	25,000,000	Gold Coins.
5	2,000,000	National Bank Notes received for redemption.
6	100,000	Mixed moneys received daily for redemption.
7	7,000,000	Mixed moneys for daily use.
8	250,000,000	Bonds held as security for National Bank circulation, etc.
9	20,000,000	Held as a reserve to replace worn and mutilated notes and for circulation.
Total.	\$99,271,000	

You will see by this what an enormous banking business the government does. Immense sums are deposited to

meet the demands of business. Sometimes you will see paper money very worn and very dirty. There is no need of this money being kept in circulation, and the government would much prefer having it returned for redemption. The money that it represents is in the vaults, and the government will gladly issue a new promise to pay when the old is returned. If a bill is partly burned, or money is mutilated by rats or mice, the pieces can be returned to the Treasury Department and a new bill will be given in its place.

What becomes of the old money? It is destroyed as money. The old bills are assorted, as to denominations, counted and arranged in packages of varying amounts by women who are noted for their accuracy and delicacy of touch; it is said that they almost never make mistakes in counting, and that they can detect counterfeit money as soon as they touch it. When the old money is arranged in packages it is fastened with a tightly fitting band of paper and then taken to a machine where four holes are punched through each package. They are then carried to a cutting machine, which cuts each package in half. The two parts are carried to two different departments of the Treasury and each part counted again. The packages are then brought back and fitted to each other to insure that no part is missing. Each day this partially destroyed money is carried to the macerating machine at one o'clock, heavy padlocks are unlocked and the doors in the top of the machine opened by the representatives of the Secretary of the Treasury and the Comptroller, and the mutilated money put in. Heavy streams of water are turned on it, and by the action of the water and machine it becomes a pulp, and the next day, in the presence of the same representatives, it is removed from the machine a liquid of about the consistency of paint. This pulp is sold by the government at \$40 per ton, and is used in the manufacture of paper and pasteboard. Somebody has had the cleverness to have *souvenirs* made of this pulp. I have on my table as I write a pitcher less than four inches high that bears a guarantee that reads as follows: "Made of United States National bank notes, redeemed and macerated at the United States Treasury Department; estimated \$10,000." This in bulk is very much less than the money would be, unless in the largest denomination printed.

Not only does the United States Treasury hold the security for National banks. These security bonds are held in great vaults. When a National bank issues a promise to pay it must deposit with the government in bonds the value of that promise. You will notice that the government holds \$239,000,000 in bonds as security for the National banks, and a like amount to redeem our promises to pay.

Most of the work in the Bureau of Printing and Engraving is done behind high iron gratings; the unfinished work each night is deposited in vaults the doors of which, when closed, will not open to any key, they are called time-locks, and are set to open at a certain hour; one door weighs over six tons, and is closed by the help of machinery worked by hand; this door closes the vault in which the deposit of silver is seen behind gratings. The silver is in bags, and two bags are in each box. All that the visitor sees is the outside of these boxes and a few bags that are on the floor. This enormous door is behind a time-lock. The vaults of the Treasury have walls that are six feet thick, and some of the vaults are inside of these walls, and have a passageway between their own walls and the protecting walls, or outside walls.

Every part of the work is done under a system that aims to protect the government, and those who know say it is impossible to take the money from the building. An engraver who had worked for the government for years made a plate with which he executed a United States fifty-thousand-dollar bond. The excellence of the plate was the cause of its discovery. The bonds to the amount of \$250,000 were put in circulation; the fine work attracted attention; the man who executed the engraving was caught, with his accomplices.—*Christian at Work.*

There is an editorial writer on the *Oregonian*, says a Pendleton exchange, who is a peculiar freak of nature in this enlightened nineteenth century. Invariably everything not to his taste is the height of folly. He frequently pronounces the believers in the Christian religion victims of superstition; those who see virtue in theosophy are charlatans and humbugs; supporters of Democracy are ignorant and deluded fools; people who advocate prohibition are inexperienced, feeble-minded and impractical; civil service reformers are hypocrites and unsexed men; those who see relief in free coinage of silver are selfish, designing, dishonest inflationists, and his last declaration is that "the single tax cranks ought to herd together and not claim fellowship with sane persons." And so it goes.

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