

SILVER COIN WORKS WONDERS IN LAND OF SWISS, IN BUYING GERMAN GOODS

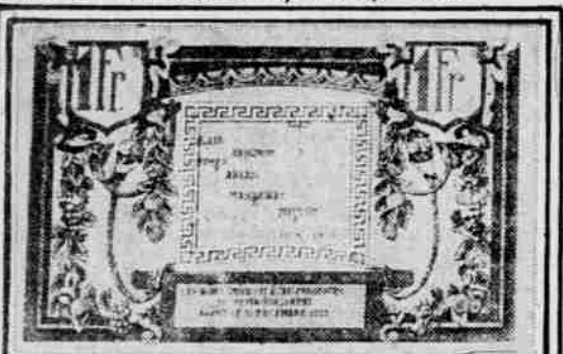
If One Can Get Across the Frontier From France \$400 Worth of French Franc Pieces Will Buy a Forty Thousand Francs German Automobile.



What in Ordinary Times Would be a 10 Cent Note.



Currency of Chamber of Commerce of Nantes. Redeemable at any date. Ten Notes or Multiples of Ten.



One of Early Notes, Issued in January, 1915 by Belfort.



Note Issued by Chamber of Commerce of Belfort.



The Latest Idea "Regional" Currency Notes. 1 Franc Note Issued by Chamber of Commerce of Entzize French Department.

BY STERLING HEILIG.
PARIS, Feb. 1.—If you can get across the Franco-Swiss frontier with a bag of silver coin, say \$400 worth of French franc pieces, you can buy a 40,000-franc German automobile of the best make. And furniture, toys, fancy goods, etc., at the same figure.

The way it is done is this: Your \$400 worth means, of course, an American check for \$400 sold in Paris for 10 francs per dollar (it has been much higher), and it thus produces you 4000 francs in current French money—i. e., French banknotes and fractional silver. Now you must change all the banknotes to silver, put it in the bag and get across with it to Geneva. In Geneva, where the mark is current at 10 centimes, you can get 10 marks' worth of German-made merchandise for your Swiss franc, and your French silver passes at par, and there you are. If you have a chauffeur's license you can drive your new 40,000-franc motor car to the hotel immediately. Probably you can buy marks cheaper from your New York broker, but for this transaction, don't. The bargains are in Swiss money or Latin-Union silver coin. Why, your \$400 American check, sold at its present small premium in a Geneva bank, is worth only 2200 francs of Swiss money; so it will buy only half of that scrumptious German-made car or parlor set or silverware looked in North Italy or rugs stolen in Belgium.

A Frenchman, with his banknotes or checks, when he gets into the occupied territory, can purchase (by conventional fixed rate) only 18,180 marks' worth of German autos, drugs or furs pilaged in Russia for his 4000 francs—and we the same, if we go via French exchange; while in Geneva, current French exchange gives slightly better, say 2000 francs Swiss money, which, as I explained before, will buy 20,000 marks' worth of autos.

So, there is no getting away from it—you need the bag. And to fill it with French coin requires so much hustling or expediting that, good for bag is filled, you are liable to get drunk and be run over by a motor truck or have your clothes torn in assault and battery or land in jail, like those 14 men in London, on a charge of maneuvering against the security of the realm. Of course you may get off—but the profits would be eaten into by lawyers' fees, stamped paper and cost of restaurant meals sent into your cell while awaiting bail.

The danger of drink comes from changing your French banknotes in cafes. The waiters will always give you silver, nickel and copper change to make up 5 francs—and the rest in 5-franc banknotes. The fight comes when you firmly refuse to exchange stamps in shops or try to buy silver in bulk from street car conductors, market women or cashiers or bill collectors.

Jail lurks with it. You see all these fellows have their own private customers for all the fractional silver they can lay hands on, or else are really patriots. Which being the case, it would be a waste of science to tell you how to get across the French frontier into Switzerland (or into Spain) with the bag. The bag would be empty. But if you should manage to have a lot of silver coin in it, they would sure take it away from you! Nobody can get across the French frontier with silver coin. At nearby French resorts, like Davos, natives and sanitarian boarders obtain "frontier cards," good for a two days' trip into Switzerland and permitting the bearer to carry in his (or her) pockets 10 francs' worth of change in silver and 100 francs' French banknotes. Parties of sight-seers linger around the posts to see automobile parties and entire trainloads searched for "the excellent"—anything over. The eternal feminine hides it down eternally in the eternal safe deposit bulge of femininity. They spot it. Selah. Tourists with a passport have a right to take out of France 20 francs in silver coin and 1000 francs in French banknotes. Now you see one reason why silver coin is so scarce in France—and just as scarce everywhere else in Europe except in Switzerland, Spain and a few like sponges of humanity. (It is not the Swiss, you understand, who search you.) The Bank of France can print banknotes advantageously. But to coin a silver dollar (which is likely to immediately disappear) today costs \$1.50 in France and about the same

in England, even—the gold and silver market of the world! At the recent new record price of \$125 per ounce to which silver jumped in London, the silver in a shilling becomes worth something more than 1 shilling, 2 pence and the silver in half a crown worth 3 shillings 1½ pence. These values cannot, of course, be legally realized, because the laws in the various countries prevent the silver coins from being melted down or exported.

So it has to be done illegally. Every day, in both France and England, they are catching parties peddling and fences accepting silver bullion so imperfectly melted down that outlines, dates, letters and devices of coins are visible, here and there, on this or that surface. It takes a lot of heat to make silver as liquid as molasses. Only the competent and well-provided should attempt it. They get there, O. K.

Please do not think that these things happen in bleeding France alone. The bloody boche has none to melt—I mean in circulation. As for us Americans, the recent decision of the United States treasury to melt up 70,000,000 silver dollars and use the ingots for settling trade balances with China has brought to light the fact that the American dollar is at a discount in several Oriental countries—as it was, up to recently, in Switzerland and Spain—including China and India. This astonishing condition (in the general disruption of exchange) is brought about by immense trade balances in favor of China and India which have piled up in the United States and in Europe. The demand has been for payment in silver, and the price of that metal has advanced gradually to a point which makes the amount of pure silver in an American dollar worth considerably more than the face value of the coin.

You see. We ourselves—the United States treasury—have begun to melt it into merchantable bullion. Why hand a coined bonus to the Chinese equal to 70,000,000 times .30 cents? We'd feel like it ourselves. If this sort of thing continues the governments of Europe (and doubtless our own) may be constrained to call in the entire silver circulation before that of gold is released; and (as the poet would with fate conspire to grasp the sorry scheme of things entire) they'll—

shatter it to bits—and then Remould it nearer to the heart's desire! Put less silver in 'em, you know. Ah, moon of my delight, no know'st no wane, if it could only be done all round! Gosh! to be reissued, pure, cheap, at a profit . . . for the boss!

French silver dollars ceased to run

the streets about November, 1914. But just rare, nothing more. Cashing some American checks at Geneva in January, 1915, I obtained, for the asking, 250 silver dollars, at par, which I lugged into France, with labor, two valises, a passport and the hope of gain.

Nobody searched me. Nobody relieved me. Nobody offered me a bonus; and, in Paris, little by little, those silver plunks were frittered away paying rent and grocery. (Had I stood them off—moralism—I could have 50 per cent reduction today, like the wise guys. Instead, the landlord tried to double our rent at armistice.) I don't know what he did with the silver; but I'll bet he would have "sweated" it by patient shaking in a horsehair bag, had he known how, before it disappeared.

"French peasants have patriotically given their gold to the government," it was generally understood, "and as they've got to have something, they are loading the woolen stocking with silver dollars."

Fractional silver began to grow less plentiful at the same time, but much slower. Around 1918, in Tours, it was a real inconvenience. "It's the peasants," sneered the cashier lady at Felix Potin's. "They come into town with eggs and cabbage and clean up all the fractional silver—take it with them."

COLVILLE, Wash., March 20.—(Special.)—Do fish have the influenza? "They surely do," says C. J. Rhodes, superintendent of the Stevens county fish hatchery and game farm. "Not only that, but they have pneumonia just like people and they die of it, too. This winter we lost many thousands of trout fry just before we removed our last run and cleaned up for the spring run. It was a mystery to us what caused so many losses in the trays, but a microscope discovered in some that they were yet alive that they were suffering from unusually red and inflamed gills. We saved many by using a moderate solution of salt."

"The deer in our zoo were also afflicted with the influenza and we sustained a loss of a few pheasants and quail."

Italian Sailors to Meet. GENOA.—The sailors' conference, which is to be held in connection with the international labor body constituted under the league of nations, is to take place on June 15.

The O'DONNELL SHOE

The perfection of style, fit and design combined with first-class finish and wearing value

The O'Donnell Shoe Co. Saint Paul, Minn.

Sold by the Better Shoe Stores in All Principal Cities

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See Also Our Regular Advertisement on Page 1, Society Section

"Restgood" Mattresses

—We are exclusive Portland agents for the famous "Restgood" Mattresses. Filled with sanitary curled hair. On display Furniture Dept., Fourth Floor.

The Standard Store of the Northwest

Olds, Wortman & King

Reliable Merchandise—Reliable Methods

Sweeper-Vac Cleaners

—Do your Spring Cleaning with a Sweeper-Vac. Sold on Easy-Pay Plan—\$5 down and \$5 per month. Demonstration in the Rug Department, Third Floor.

March Sale of Room-Size Rugs—3d Floor

—Offering Thousands of Dollars' Worth of Floor Coverings at Great Savings

—Monday morning we launch our Annual March Sale of Room-size Rugs. This has come to be an event of great importance to home-keepers and this season we are going to give our customers values such as have not been offered in Portland for many a day. If you need a new Rug, don't fail to take advantage of this opportunity to buy it at a substantial reduction.



The Rug Sale of the Year

—\$35.00 Brussels Rugs; size 9x11.6—priced special \$24.35
—\$45.00 Brussels Rugs; size 9x12 ft.; priced special \$37.50
—\$50.00 Velvet Rugs; size 9x12 ft., in the sale; only \$44.50
—\$65.00 Odd size (8x12 ft.) Wilton Velvet Rugs at \$53.85
—\$64.50 Wilton Velvet Rugs; size 8x11.6; special \$53.35
—\$60.00 Wilton Velvet Rugs; size 9x12 ft.; only \$47.65
—\$62.50 Axminster Rugs; size 9x12 ft.; priced only \$55.00
—\$67.50 Axminster Rugs; size 9x12 ft.—special at \$58.50
—\$72.50 Axminster Rugs; size 9x12 ft.—special at \$65.00
—\$90.00 Axminster Rugs; size 9x12 ft.—special at \$77.50
\$115 Wilton Rugs, Special \$95
Third Floor—Fringed Wilton Rugs of splendid quality. Size 9x12 ft. and beautiful rich patterns. \$95.00 Regular price \$115—now



Draperies Underpriced

Equip Your Home With the Celebrated

Brenlin UNFILLED Window Shades

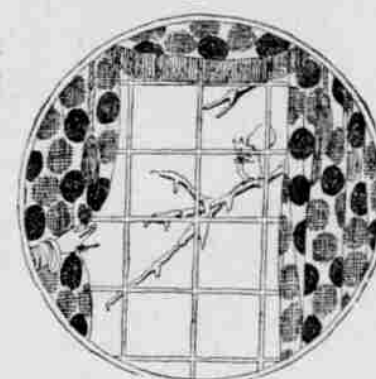
—Brenlin Window Shades will wear twice as long as the ordinary kind. Made from a material that resists the constant strains of daily use—a material that will not crack or spot. We are exclusive Portland agents for Brenlin Window Shades.

—Third Floor

—Spring house-cleaning reveals the need of new Draperies. Here's an opportunity to buy them at a saving worth while.

65c Marquisettes 54c Yard

Third Floor—Colored Marquisettes in many beautiful designs for curtains and draperies. 65c grade—yard 54c
—CURTAIN Voiles with taped edge. Very strong and durable for any style of curtain 28c
—STRIPED Drapery Silks in beautiful colorings. Very desirable for windows. 50 grade \$1.69 inches wide. \$2 grade \$1.69



—COLORED MADRAS in many beautiful patterns. 50 inches wide. \$3 grade \$2.45
—\$1.35 Colored Madras 98c yd.

Sale of Small Rugs

\$10.00 Rugs at \$8.75
\$12.00 Rugs at \$9.90

—Royal Wilton Rugs in several beautiful patterns. Nice size for hall or living room. \$8.75 27x54 inches. Special
—Royal Wilton Rugs, size 27x54 inches. Choice assortment of patterns to select from. Regular \$12.00 grade \$9.90

Reversible Fiber Rugs At Splendid Savings

Third Floor—Reversible Fiber Rugs are very durable and are much used for bedrooms and dining rooms. Heavy grade. See them.
—\$13.75 Reversible Fiber Rugs, 6x9 ft. \$11.90
—\$18.00 Reversible Fiber Rugs, 9x9 ft. \$15.85
—\$21.00 Reversible Fiber Rugs, 8.5x10.6 \$18.80
—\$22.50 Reversible Fiber Rugs, 9x12 ft. \$19.50

Spring Sales in the Housewares Store, 3d Floor

Imported Dinnerware—Easter Showing



Third Floor—We show the largest and most complete stock of Dinner Ware in the Northwest. Recent shipments have added greatly to our fine collection.
—SPECIAL—Decorated Nippon China Dinner Sets of 43 pieces—very attractive. \$29.75
—SPECIAL—60-piece Sets of Decorated Nippon \$40.75
—SPECIAL—Tea Sets of Nippon China in dainty decorations. Priced \$12.00

—NEW DINNER SETS—large shipment just received in time for Easter. These sets contain 99 pieces and are of fine quality.

—Dinner Sets with green and rose colored spray design. Set contains 99 pieces. \$40.00
—Dinner Sets with Dresden roses, forget-me-nots and green leaves. 99 pieces. \$50.00
—Dinner Sets with pink garland border decoration. \$45.00
—Dinner Sets in conventional design in delft blue. 99 pieces. \$110.00
—Dinner Sets—Greek key border with gold edge, hairline and gold handles. Offered at the Set \$140.00

—MINTON'S English Bone China—Tea Pots, Salad Bowls, Chocolate Pots, Sherbet Cups—odd lines on sale at 1-5 OFF.

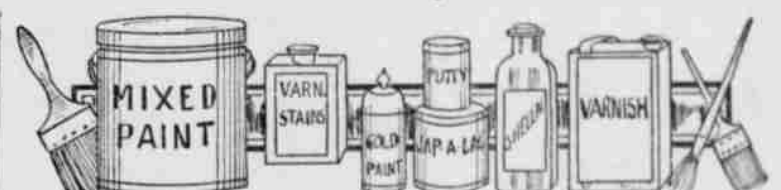
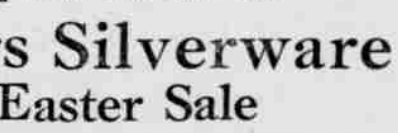
Carpet Sweepers At \$3.25

Third Floor—Standard Carpet Sweepers with full size brush. Oak or mahogany finish. Nickel plated—ends, cap and bail. Priced special at \$3.25



3-Piece Tea Sets \$9.95

Third Floor—Quadruple plated 3-piece Tea Sets as illustrated above. Bright finish and beautiful design. Limited number of sets \$9.95 in the sale—each only

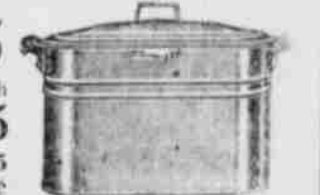


Sale of Paints

—HOUSE PAINTS in several desirable colors. This is a well-known make that will give satisfaction. Special, gallon \$3.25
—Outside and Inside White \$3.50 at this low price—pint at \$2.25
—FLOOR AND LINOLEUM VARNISH—SPECIAL QUART \$1.00
—WHITE ENAMEL for interior woodwork, walls and furniture. Produces a hard, lasting finish. Supply your needs at once 65c

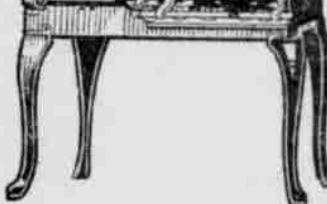
Boilers at \$2.75

Third Floor—Large size Wash Boilers with metallic bottom. These are \$2.75 worth far more money. Special \$2.75
—Family Scales, weighing to 24 lbs. \$2.25
—Good quality Oregon-made Brooms 98c



Detroit Jewel Gas Range Special \$41.75

—This is a splendid Range for the average family. Takes up very little space. Equipped with gas-saving burners, easy to clean and sanitary. Made of high-grade materials and workmanship of the best.



A Perfect Baker
—Has the famous Detroit Jewel Oven with double construction. Left or right styles to suit your kitchen arrangement. We would be pleased to have you inspect this wonderful range. For a limited time—\$41.75

All Stoves and Ranges Sold on Easy Pay Plan

Full Line of Garden Tools and Lawn Needs

Third Floor—Our new Spring stock of Garden Tools and Lawn Needs is now complete in every detail. Make out your list and bring it to this store. Reasonable prices.

Suggestions

—Combination Hoe and Rake priced 80c
—One-Prong Cultivators priced only 65c
—Three-Prong Cultivators priced \$1.00
—Hand Sprayers priced at only 75c
—Reversible Lawn Rakes priced at 85c
—Long or Short Spade, priced at only \$1.80
—Long or Short Handle Spading Forks at \$1.60
—5-spring Cultivators—priced special at \$1.25
—Garden Rakes 50c up
—Hoes at 50c to \$1.25
—Grass Shears only 65c
—Grass Hooks 50c to \$1
—Garden Trowels 15c up



Headquarters for Lawn Mowers And Garden Hose

Great 6-Day Drive On Electric Washing Machines

—This week we shall feature a special demonstration of Electric Washing Machines. As a special inducement to those who contemplate purchasing an Electric Washer we will give

1000 Trading Stamps

with each machine purchased during the next six days. If you wish to pay cash you will get 1000 stamps in addition to the regular stamps—if you purchase on the installment plan you will receive 1000 stamps.
—One-Minute Electric Washers, \$22.00 down, \$2.00 week
—1900 Cataract Washers, \$10.00 down, \$3.75 week
—Gainaday Electric Washers, \$10.00 down, \$3.00 week
—Simplex Electric Ironers, \$15.00 down, \$3.75 week

Housewares Store, 3d Floor

