

PENNIES OF ALUMINUM.

The Mint Making Tests to See if They Are Practicable.

In the short period that will elapse before Congress convenes again in December a series of interesting experiments in coinage will be conducted at the mint in this city.

Metals and alloys heretofore untried for the purpose will be tested and stamped into token coins. Their availability as substitutes for the alloys of which the minor coins—nickels and cents—are now made will be ascertained and samples submitted to Congress.

Of all the countless possible alloys to be obtained from copper, tin, nickel and aluminum in different combinations, perhaps fifteen or twenty may be found fairly satisfactory. It is possible that one or two of these may advantageously be brought into use for general coinage.

No fault has been found with the present 1c. and 5c. pieces. The experiments are merely ordered to keep in touch with the times and to gain a knowledge of resources. The Philadelphia mint, while having no regular experimental department, is well equipped to make the tests.

Aluminum, which has never yet found a place in the currency of any nation, is to be worked up into trial coins. It is also to be given a chance in new alloys. Aluminum is a metal of which but little has been known until recently, and it has been found useful in so many ways that a sort of popular idea prevails that it would be good for coins.

Chief among its advantages would be its very light weight. Cents made of it could be readily distinguished from coins of the same size by this remarkable lightness alone.

Dr. D. K. Tuttle, the chief refiner of the mint, who knows all about the properties of metals, is somewhat skeptical, however, as to whether aluminum will come out of the proposed tests with flying colors. It is extremely difficult to anneal, and when heated will suddenly run like butter instead of becoming plastic.

There would be trouble in rolling it into the long strips from which disks are cut preparatory to stamping. Of course, it can be worked, but not with sufficient ease and rapidity to make it practicable for coining on a large scale.

Pure nickel has recently been coined in Switzerland, but it has been found just as difficult to handle as aluminum, though for a different reason. Such great heat is necessary to bring it into condition for coining that the operation is slow and expensive.

While pure nickel coins might be satisfactorily made in the mints of Switzerland, it does not follow that the same would be true at the Philadelphia mint, which is called upon to turn out fifty times as many 5-cent pieces as the mints of that country, and could not spare the time to work over them.

The 5-cent coin now in use contains only 25 per cent. of nickel, the remaining 75 per cent. being of copper. Nickel, more than any other metal, has the property of giving its color to an alloy. Even an alloy of 90 per cent. of copper and 10 per cent. of nickel will be nearly white.

The advantage of using a greater proportion of nickel in the 5-cent piece is therefore not apparent, especially as more than 25 per cent. of it makes the alloy refractory.

The experiments at the mint will include different combinations of nickel, copper and zinc, forming the alloys known under the head of German silver; copper and tin, which produce bronze; aluminum and copper, which make aluminum bronze.

German silver has been used for coins by one of the small South American states, and proved fairly adapted for the purpose. Bronze is commonly used for coins of small value. It is doubtful if aluminum bronze in any form will be found acceptable, as it is hard to work, and has a yellow, brassy appearance, resembling gold, which is to be avoided in all coins of small denominations.—Philadelphia Record.

Worn Out Billiard Balls. "Did you ever know what became of old billiard balls?" asked a well-known expert, who keeps a billiard parlor on Chestnut street.

"Well, it's rather interesting. Billiard balls, of course you know, are made of ivory—that is, the best of them are. They don't last more than a year or so with constant use; after that they get cracked or knocked out of shape a bit. It has to be 'turned' over again, and after undergoing that process a couple of times it gets to be small for a regulation game. Its days as a billiard ball being over, it is now colored, and for several years more does duty as a pool ball. Naturally, in course of time it gets badly chipped or cracked, and is then usually sold to an ivory worker.

"An ivory ball can be cut up into buttons, electric bell pushes, tips for conductors' batons, and numerous other little things of the kind. Even the tiniest chips aren't wasted, for they can be used in fancy inlaid work. I can assure you that small firms of ivory workers are only too glad to purchase seasoned material second hand; and, as a matter of fact, there is hardly a more salable article in this world than a worn-out billiard ball."—Philadelphia Record.

People are never too old to fall in love or to fight over politics.

MUSIC OF ST. PETER'S.

The Choir Sing It at Sight Without Rehearsal.

Opposite the Chapel of the Sacrament is the Chapel of the Choir. St. Peter's is a cathedral, and is managed by a chapter of canons, each of whom has his seat in the choir, and his vote in the disposal of the cathedral's income, which is considerable. The chapter maintains the choir of St. Peter's, a body of musicians quite independent of the so-called "Pope's choir," which is properly termed the "choir of the Sistine Chapel," and which is paid by the Pope.

No musical instruments are ever used in the Sistine. In the choir, on the contrary, there are two large organs. The one on the west side is employed on all ordinary occasions; it is over two hundred years old, and is tuned about two whole tones below the modern pitch. It is so worn out that an organ-builder is in attendance during every service to make repairs at a moment's notice. The bellows leak, the stops stick, some notes have a chronic tendency to "cylinder," and the pedal "trackers" unhook themselves unexpectedly. But the canons would certainly not think of building a new organ.

Should they ever do so, and tune the instrument to the modern pitch, the consternation of the singers would be great; for the music is all written for the existing organ, and could not be performed two notes higher, not to mention the confusion that would arise where all the music is sung at sight. This is a fact not generally known, but worthy of notice. The music sung in St. Peter's, and, indeed, in most Roman churches, is never rehearsed or practiced. The music itself is entirely in manuscript, and is the property of the choirmaster, or, as is the case in St. Peter's, of the chapter, and there is no copyright in it beyond this fact of actual possession, protected by the simple plan of never allowing any musician to have his part in his hands except while he is actually performing it.

In the course of a year the same piece may be sung several times, and the old chorists may become acquainted with a good deal of the music in this way, but never otherwise. Mozart is reported to have learned Allegri's Miserere by ear, and to have written it down from memory. The other famous Misereres, which are now published, were plated in a similar way. The choirmaster of that day was very unpopular. Some of the leading singers who had sung the Miserere during many years in succession, and had thus learned their several parts, met and put together what they knew into a whole, which was at once published, to the no small annoyance and discomfiture of their enemy. But much good music is quite beyond the reach of the public—Palestrina's best motets, arias by Alessandro Stradella, the famous hymn of Raimondi, in short, a great musical library, an archive, as the Romans call such a collection, all of which is practically lost to the world.

It is wonderful that under such circumstances the choir of St. Peter's should obtain even such creditable results. At a moment's notice an organist and about a hundred singers are called upon to execute a florid piece of music which many of them have never seen or heard; the accompaniment is played at sight from a mere figured bass, on a tumble-down instrument two hundred years old, and the singers, both the soloists and the chorus, sing from thumbed bits of manuscript parts written in old-fashioned characters on paper often green with age. No one has ever dealed the extraordinary musical facility of Italians, but if the general musical world knew how Italian church music is performed it would be very much astonished.

It is no wonder that such music is sometimes bad. But sometimes it is very good; for there are splendid voices among the singers and the Maestro Renzi, the chief organist, is a man of real talent as well as of amazing facility. His modernizing influence is counterbalanced by that of the old choirmaster, Maestro Meluzzi, a first-rate musician, who would not for his life change a hair of the old-fashioned traditions. Yet there are moments, on certain days, when the effect of the great old organ, with the rich voices blending in some good harmony, is very solemn and stirring. The outward persuasive force of religion lies largely in its music, and the religions that have no songs make few proselytes.—Century.

A strong solution of washing soda (sodium carbonate) in hot water will be found to be excellent as a cleansing agent for dirty lamps.

To attack a man with any weapon is a serious matter in Madagascar. It is punishable by death.

Your grocer will sell you Schilling's Best tea, and return your money in full if you don't like it.

He is our agent to this extent; and we want no better business.

A. Schilling & Company San Francisco

A FORTUNE FOR SOME ONE.

The Treasure of the Incas Still Buried in the Mountains.

Adventurers who seek gold should turn to Peru. To begin with, the remainder of the Incas ransom is buried somewhere in the mountains between Cuzamarca and Cuzco. We may confidently assume, says an English paper, that it has not been discovered, for if put into circulation at home the money market would have been convulsed, whereas the finders would have no reason for keeping the secret had they gotten safely away to Europe. As for the evidence of deposit, there is Pizarro's official report that his comrades would not wait until the celebrated room was full. They were too impatient to murder their captive, though they knew that the million levied upon the temple at Cuzco was on its way, transported by 100,000 llamas, each carrying 100 pounds of purest gold. The figure is not incredible, seeing how much remained when the conquistadores sacked Cuzco.

News of the murder reached that precious caravan in the mountains; forthwith the priests buried their gold and returned. Every one concerned with the expedition, who could be identified, was tortured to death, but none would speak. Such is the contemporary account. Sir Clements Markham, president of the Royal Geographical Society, obtained some information during his memorable expedition to Peru. He states, as if it were well known in the neighborhood, that the caravan left the highway at a spot now called Azanjaro.

THE "SANCTIFIED CHURCH."

Peculiar Religious Sect with Headquarters Near Montrose, N. C.

One of the most peculiar religious sects in America is the "Sanctified Church," or "Sanctified Band," which is located on the Chowan river, near Montrose, N. C. The unsanctified do not approve of their ways, and recently an attack was made on what is known as the Albemarle section, which resulted in the killing of one woman, and the wounding of three or four men. These people live in boats, which they call arks. Constructed of rough lumber,



ARK OF THE SANCTIFIED BAND.

these arks are merely houseboats, with neither sails, oars nor other means of locomotion. Sometimes they are dragged up on the bank, when it is decided to make a protracted stay. The arks vary in size, but they are all the same. In one end is a small room containing a cooking stove and kitchen utensils. Here the food for the inhabitants of the craft is prepared. Adjoining is a larger room used alternately as a dining room and meeting place, where public and private worship is conducted.

Why There Are So Many Smiths.

At the time of the adoption of surnames every artisan whose work required the striking of blows on metal was known as a smith, or smith, and the community therefore had its blacksmith, arrowsmith and several others of the same character. The number of Smiths of the present day may, therefore, be readily accounted for, when we remember that each of the different kinds of smiths was as much entitled to the use of his trade name for a cognomen as any other artisan. John the blacksmith, and John the coppersmith, were both known as John, the smith, an appellation which naturally resolved itself into the family name of John Smith.—Ladies' Home Journal.

Castor Oil a Hair Tonic.

The fashionable coiffure for young women and girls is waved at the sides, where it droops a little. Small combs hold these waves in place. The coil at the back is placed rather high. Castor oil, pure and simple, is said to be an excellent tonic for the hair, used once a month.

It is applied with a small, fine sponge, which is dipped in the oil and rubbed on the scalp, the hair being parted with the fingers.

Fishing Smacks.

The number of smacks employed in deep sea fishing in the North sea is over 5,000. They fish in fleets of 150 vessels. Over 20,000 men are employed in this fishery alone and they remain at sea never less than two months at a time.

When a preacher can attract no attention with his religion he still has the chance left of being tried for heresy.

A few of the election orators have returned to work, but a good many are out who should be arrested for vagrancy.

CLIMATE AND COMFORT.

Either way, whether we are to have a prolonged winter of extreme cold or a mild one, through the dampness and chill neuralgia will find its victims, and a great many imprudent people will find neuralgia. In either case, when it does come, with its racking torture, let's look about for the best that can be done. We need not go far. The reputation of St. Jacobs Oil as a certain cure for neuralgia has gone before it, and it is an established fact that it cures, soothes and restores the troubled nerves. To enjoy, therefore, a comfortable winter, whether it is cold or mild, bear in mind that for this complaint one should have the great remedy for pain ready to use. It is by putting off that the ailment grows worse, and the worst cases grow less as soon as it is used.

Progressive Civilization.

A lady recently took into her service a Chinaman, and began to Christianize him. Shortly afterward some silver spoons were missing. Then she taught him the Apostles' Creed, and it was discovered that a valuable piece of plate had been stolen. His benefactress, loath to suspect her new convert, started in to teach him the Ten Commandments. By the time he was able to repeat the First Commandment, the scamp stole her watch. Then the philanthropic lady's son rebelled. "Murther," he exclaimed, "for heaven's sake, don't teach that pig-tailed scoundrel any more, or by the time you've got him to the Tenth Commandment he will have stolen the house and taken the cellar along with it!"

FALSE WITNESSES.

There are knaves now and then met with who represent certain local biters and poisonous stimulants as identical with or possessing properties akin to those of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters. These swarms only succeed in coloring their trashy compounds with tincture unperfected with the genuine article, which is as much their opposite as day is to night. Ask and take no substitute for the grand remedy for malaria, dyspepsia, constipation, rheumatism and kidney trouble.

Chicago university has just received a gift of property worth \$500,000 to be used for a new biological station.

STATE OF OHIO, CITY OF TOLEDO, Lucas County.

FRANK J. CHENEY makes oath that he is the senior partner of the firm of F. J. CHENEY & CO., doing business in the city of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of CATARRH that cannot be cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH CURE.

FRANK J. CHENEY. Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1884. A. W. GLEASON, Notary Public. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Send for testimonials, free. F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. Sold by druggists, etc. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

Bricks of glass are now manufactured in Silesia. They are cheap and more durable than mud bricks.

Piso's Cure for Consumption is the best of all cough cures.—George W. Lotz, Publisher, La., August 25, 1885.

A scheme is on foot to have a general census of the whole world taken to mark the end of the century.

Advertisement for Blackwell's Bull Durham Smoking Tobacco. Includes portraits of men and text: "The highest claim for other tobaccos is 'Just as good as Durham.' Every old smoker knows there is none just as good as Blackwell's BULL DURHAM Smoking Tobacco. You will find one coupon inside each two ounce bag, and two coupons inside each four ounce bag of Blackwell's Durham. Buy a bag of this celebrated tobacco and read the coupon—which gives a list of valuable presents and how to get them."

Advertisement for Cocoa: "Contains More Flesh Forming Matter Than Beef." That is what an eminent physician says of good cocoa. The Cocoa made by Walter Baker & Co., Ltd., Dorchester, Mass., is the best. See that Imitations are not palmed off on you.

LACE CURTAINS.

THE LOWERING OF PRICES....

Which we have effected in these has been even greater than in other goods. They are no longer expensive. If you have not purchased recently we have a surprise in store for you. It is a

Special Offering to Mail Order Purchasers

AT \$1.00, \$1.35 \$1.55 and \$1.85 a pair for

3 1/2 yard length white or cream lace curtains thoroughly to-date styles. Expressage or postage paid by us. They are such goods and values as we are certain will be friend makers for us. As a holiday gift to a housekeeper they will be among the most welcome selections. We will send our new Fall Catalogue Free for the asking. Send your order at once.

OLDS & KING, WHEAT.

302 Washington St. PORTLAND, OR. Make money by successful speculation in Chicago. We buy and sell wheat there on margins. Fortunes have been made on a small beginning by trading in futures. Write for full particulars. Best of references given. Several years' experience on the Chicago Board of Trade, and a thorough knowledge of the business. Downing, Hopkins & Co., Chicago Board of Trade Brokers. Offices in Portland, Oregon, and Spokane, Wash.

FOR PEOPLE THAT ARE SICK OF "Just Don't Feel Well," DR. GUNN'S IMPROVED LIVER PILLS are the One Thing to use. Only One for a Dose. Sold by Druggists at 25c. a box. Samples mailed free. Address Dr. Bosnian, 117 N. 3rd St., Phila., Pa.

RUPTURE and PILES cured; no pay until cured; send for book. Drs. Mansfield & PORTERFIELD, 208 Market St., San Francisco.

Webster's International Dictionary

Invaluable in Office, School, and Home. A thorough revision of the copyrighted, 10th edition of Webster's International Dictionary, for the revision of which the best of the world's lexicographers and etymologists have labored a year, which will fill the needs of the people for a dictionary that is correct, complete, and of the highest quality.

The Choice of Gifts for Christmas. In Various Styles of Binding. Specimen pages sent on application to G. & C. MERRIAM CO., Publishers, Springfield, Mass., U.S.A.

MAILED FREE... Special Price List of HOUSEHOLD GOODS, ETC.

This circular is issued for the benefit of our country customers who cannot avail themselves of our Daily Special sales. Send us your address. You will find both goods and prices right. WILL A. FISKE CO., 818-820 Market Street, San Francisco, Cal.

DOLLS

Fancy dressed and jointed, 20c; seven-inch dolls, 50c; hair dolls, 75c; package dolls, 10c; baby dolls, 15c; baby carriage dolls, 25c; photograph album, 50c; man's socks, 4c a pair; embroidered silk handkerchiefs, 12c; children's rings, 1c; linen thread, 10c a spool; children's heavy gloves, 15c. Mail orders promptly attended to. G. L. & J. V. THE PATENT, 312 Washington Street, Portland, Or.

SURE CURE FOR PILES

DR. BO-SAN-KO'S PILE REMEDY, simple, safe, and sure cure for piles, hemorrhoids, and itching. Price 25c. Druggists or mail. DR. BO-SAN-KO, Phila., Pa.

OPIUM HABIT DRUNKENNESS

Cured. DR. J. L. STEPHENS, LEGANON, OHIO. CHINESE WHO ALL USE PAIN. Best Quality Extra. Sold by Druggists. Use with care. DR. J. L. STEPHENS, LEGANON, OHIO.

N. P. N. U. No. 630.—S. F. N. U. No. 757