

COIN OF THE REALM.

How the Dollars Are Ground Out at Washington.

UNCLE SAM'S GRIST MILL.

An Interesting Sight at the National Capital—The Greenback Printer and Lady Assistant.

On the wide-stretching plain over the Washington monument casts its slim shadow when the sun is setting stands a tall brick building made conspicuous by a still taller tower and a waving flag. All day long a chimney belches forth black smoke that drifts out upon the Potomac and a noisy steam sends forth a cloud of white vapor in regular respirations. At 8 o'clock in the morning nearly a thousand people pass under its arched doorway and at 5 o'clock they emerge again like bees from a hive. In the meantime they make money—make it in a purely matter of fact way as a weaver weaves carpets or a cobbler mends shoes for a daily living. They exist in an atmosphere of wealth. Great stacks of money that are a sight for poverty-stricken eyes stand around them. The poorest girl in the bureau of engraving handles enough money every day to make her rich for life.

It is an interesting fact to see how the government turns out day by day, tons and tons of crisp, new bank notes or silver certificates—to watch the silent engravers etch the steel, the shirt-sleeved plate printers take the impressions, and the careful messengers carry off the finished bills by the cart load. So interesting, indeed, is this work of money making, says the Washington Post, that the bureau began to be overrun by visitors who persistently interfered with its work. Now visitors are only admitted between 10 A. M. and 2 P. M. Saturdays, and during these hours nearly every stranger in the city presents himself at the arched door and under the leadership of a pretty girl-guide sees how Uncle Sam replenishes his cash.

When congress has ordered the issue of a new series of notes the first step in the bureau is the preparation of what is known as the model. This is generally a handsome pen and ink drawing of the proposed bill, and is submitted to the secretary of the treasury for his approval. Nothing about the note is left to mere change. The banker does not regard money from a purely artistic standpoint. He wants the denomination to be plain and distinct, and he asks that the figure of the note be placed in the upper right hand corner to facilitate counting. The fact that a note must bear a certain title rather restricts the artist in the preparation of the model, but very frequently, as in the case of the new \$20 silver certificate, which bears the portrait of the late Secretary Manning, both utility and artistic beauty are combined. In this particular bill the artist has made a striking innovation. The portrait, instead of being at one end of the note, is in the center, and is supported on the sides by figures of Prosperity and Labor. The lettering is at the extremities of the certificate, and the effect produced by this new idea is really very striking.

The model having been adopted, the next step is the engraving of the plate. The room in which this work is done is a large, well lighted apartment on the ground floor. It must not be supposed for a moment that the entire face of a note is engraved by one man. The portrait goes to one, the vignette to another, the lettering, script and borders to others, and so on until no less than twelve men are at work. It is a long and tedious task, requiring great care and accurate skill. No less than six weeks' time is necessary for the engraving of a portrait like that of Secretary Manning. The steel used is all imported from England and is a remarkably fine grade. Engravers all over the world use English steel and have done so for a century.

Steel of equal quality could be made in this country, but the demand would not be sufficient to recompense for the cost of the plant. Even the engraving tools are imported, being manufactured by a Parisian firm which for many years has had a monopoly of the business.

When, at the end of many months of careful engraving, the various portions of the note are finished an impression of each section is taken upon a soft plate of steel. Each separate part is placed in the position it would occupy on the note, and when the transfer is finally accomplished the face of the new bill appears in perfect form. The plate is hardened and across its engraved surface is passed a soft steel roller. The depressions of the plate appear on the roller as a raised surface and when the little cylinder is hardened it is a perfect die. It in turn is rolled by tremendous pressure upon a plate of soft steel. The power exerted to force the fine lines of the die into the steel is so great that a thin bit of paper placed on the plate leaves a deep impression, and a bit of lint, scarcely visible to the naked eye, forms a rough scar. A fly-speck under this pressure leaves a deep hole in the metal, and particles of dust must be carefully removed lest they, too, leave their imprint.

This transfer process not only allows any number of plates to be made, but is an excellent guard against counterfeiting. Each face and each reverse side of a note, being taken from the same die, are exactly alike. No engraver, he ever so careful, could reproduce, without the variation of a hair's breadth, any work of his hands. Four impressions of the die are taken upon a plate, so that the face of a bank of four notes are all

ways printed at the same time. The plate, after being hardened, is finished by the government, from its inception to its completion, between \$1,500 and \$2,000 in actual outlay for labor expended upon it. This does not, of course, include the expensive plant which is already owned by the government, including one lathe for geometrical scroll work that alone cost \$5,000. For national bank notes the same die is continually used, the only fresh engraving being the name of the bank. A few days ago an order came from the comptroller of the currency for notes for the new national bank with which E. O. Graves is now connected at Seattle, Wash. As a compliment to the former chief of the bureau the work was rushed, and in three days several large packages of crisp bills were on their way to the far-off country where Mr. Graves now resides.

From the engraving room the plate goes up stairs to the printers. There are about 200 of these, and each will take from 600 to 1,000 impressions daily on his press. His compensation ranging from 80 to 90 cents per 100 impressions, averages about \$5 a day. Each printer has a lady assistant to place the paper upon the plate, and it is a bit of the romance of money-making that not infrequently a printer's assistant becomes a printer's wife.

Each revolution of the press is registered and at night the number of revolutions must tally with the sheets printed, spoiled and returned. The percentage of spoiled sheets is not very large. It rarely runs over five in 100, and expert printers sometimes print 1,000 sheets without a single error. Should a discrepancy occur in any of these piles of paper every plate printer and his assistant is a prisoner in the office until the mistake is rectified. Mistakes, however, very rarely occur. Sometimes the office runs for six months without a single sheet being missed.

All the late issues of bank notes and national currency require but two impressions, once each for the back and face. The currency of 1875, however, required three, because in the center of the reverse side there was an elaborate historical picture printed in black. No one knows exactly why these pictures were printed on these notes, unless it was an artistic device. At any rate, these bills cost a good deal more than the others, and the experiment has never been repeated. Eventually they will disappear. When the sheet of notes has been printed on both sides, with numerous examinations and countings in between, it goes to the numbering division.

The work of numbering is done entirely by women, who operate fifty-six machines which the government owns. Each note is numbered with a neat figure printed in blue ink, and of the \$1 silver certificates over 40,000,000 have been numbered since they were first issued in 1886. The machines will number as high as 99,999,999, and some of these days a \$1 bill will bear this array of figures, then the machines will start anew on a fresh series, starting at the very beginning with the figure 1.

The sides of the sheets are trimmed by machinery, and it is an interesting fact that not even the waste margins can be removed from the building. A fine of \$5,000 and imprisonment is the penalty for having this paper in one's possession, and a memento of one's visit to the bureau is pretty costly at that figure. When the sheet is trimmed it represents four perfect notes, except that they lack the red seal. This used to be added in the bureau, but now it is put on at the treasury department. When this seal is printed on the note the latter is perfect currency, representing the coin of the realm.

Croup Can Be Prevented.

We want every mother to know that croup can be prevented. There is no question about this; as it has been done in thousands of cases, and you may depend upon it that when a child takes the croup it is wholly owing to the negligence of its parents. True, croup never appears without due and timely warning; a few hours of a day or two before the attack, the child becomes hoarse. This hoarseness is the first indication of croup, and is a sure sign that croup is to follow, unless promptly and properly treated. The free use of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy as directed with each bottle, under the heading "To prevent croup," will dispel all symptoms of the disease. This first sign of croup, hoarseness, may be overlooked by young mothers or those not familiar with the disease. Under such circumstances, or when not properly treated, the hoarseness becomes more marked, and the child shows symptoms of having taken cold, then a peculiar, rough cough is developed. Even at this stage Chamberlain's Cough Remedy will prevent the croup, but after the croup has developed the remedy is liable to appear at any moment. The proper way is to keep a bottle of this remedy at hand, it costs but 50 cents, and only a few doses, or at most not over a third of a bottle, is required to dispel all symptoms of the disease. Can you afford to risk so much for a little? There is not the least danger in giving this remedy in large and frequent doses, which are always required, as it contains no injurious substance. As proof of this fact we refer to John L. Olson, of Des Moines, whose 18-month-old boy drank the entire contents of a 50-cent bottle of Chamberlain's cough remedy without the least injury. Certainly it made the baby vomit very freely; but after taking a nap he would have been glad to have drunk another bottle of the remedy, as he liked it. A similar incident occurred near Valley Springs, Dakota. Mrs. Mattie Johnson's two-year-old daughter, Annie, drank a full bottle of the remedy without injury. This remedy has been the sole reliance of thousands of mothers for croup, and especially as a preventive for many years, and has never been known to fail. It is also invaluable for colds and whooping-cough. For sale by Fishy & Mason.

Come and Look. Thus, Brink has just received a fine lot of wicker chairs, wood seats, music stands, and some fine piano, organs, etc., which will be sold at the very low price of \$10.00.

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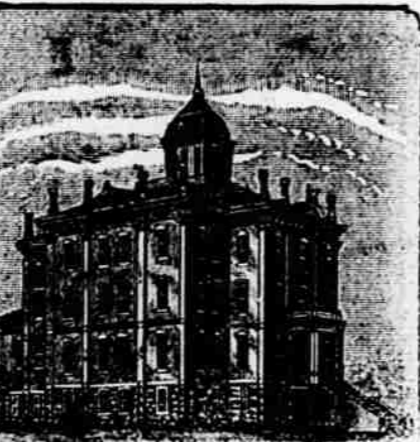
Furnishing Goods and Clothing

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