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TRADE DOLLARS.

Authorized in 1873 and Demonetized by the Act of 1887.

A trade dollar is slightly larger than a standard dollar, but it is not current coin, and its metal value is only about 40 cents, though coin collectors will pay 80 cents for it.

So many of these mongrel dollars were in circulation a generation ago that most persons were watchful to avoid getting one, but in recent years they have been so rare that many people never have seen one.

Trade dollars were authorized by congress in 1873 for the purpose of stimulating commerce with the orient. For many years the Mexican silver dollar had been a highly valued coin in nearly all far eastern countries. Hundreds of millions of them were shipped to China, Japan, the Philippines and other countries in that part of the world to pay for the products exported from them to Europe and the United States.

American lawmakers thought that a coin of practically the same weight and size as the Mexican dollar bearing the imprint of the United States could be used advantageously as a substitute for the Mexican dollar.

In the five years beginning with 1873 the United States mint produced nearly 36,000,000 of these dollars. Most of them were exported, but enough of them remained in this country to be embarrassing because of their similarity to the standard silver dollar, and in 1887 congress provided that for six months thereafter all trade dollars presented to the treasury should be exchanged for standard silver dollars, and after that time the trade dollars were left to shift for themselves, being worth only their metal value plus whatever premium coin collectors might be willing to pay for them. Nearly 8,000,000 of them were redeemed, and when the period for redemption ended only 284,587 of them remained in this country, less than 1 per cent of the number that had been coined.

The trade dollars have on one side a sitting figure of the Goddess of Liberty and on the other an eagle of a different design from that on the standard dollar. The inscription is "United States of America, Trade Dollar, 420 grains, 900 fine."

The standard silver dollar weighs 412.5 grains. The weight of the Mexican dollar is 417.79 grains, but 97.27 per cent of it is pure silver, so that though it weighs less its metal value is about 7 per cent more than that of the old trade dollar. Probably this is the reason that the trade dollar never made a hit with the people of the far east. There is ground for suspicion that the originators of the trade dollar thought the orientals might be duped into taking it in preference to the Mexican dollar because of its slightly greater weight, notwithstanding the fact that its silver value was about 7 per cent less. But the oriental money changers quickly learned this difference in value, and the deception wouldn't work.

The trade dollar was authorized by the coinage act which became famous under the designation of "the crime of '73" in the free silver agitation which began a few years later and continued for more than twenty years.—Kansas City Star.

Dashed His Hopes.

At a reception at the Tuileries the Emperor Napoleon III. asked Edmund About if he knew Spanish. About, who had been long sighing for an important diplomatic post, answered prudently, "Not yet, sire." But the very next day he went hard to work to learn it, and a few months later he said to the emperor, "Sire, I can speak Spanish now." Though the sovereign seemed rather surprised, About continued, nothing daunted, "I have learned Spanish because your majesty asked me if I could speak that language." "Ah, yes," answered Napoleon. "I remember now. I had just been reading 'Don Quixote' in the original and had taken great pleasure in it."

The Eye's Blind Spot.

The blind spot in the eye is where the optic nerve comes through the retina about one-tenth of an inch nearer the nose than the center. To test it close your fists with your thumbs outside and held against each other. Extend your arms. Shut your left eye and look fixedly with your right eye at your left thumb. Separate your hands, and when they are about six inches apart the right thumb will go out of business temporarily, for its picture will fall upon the blind spot.

Funny.

Boroughs—Mr. Merchant's out, you say? Well, he had an appointment with me here. That's very funny. New Office Boy—Yes, sir; I guess he thought it was too. Anyways, he was laughin' when he went out.

WON BY A DRUM.

The Battle of Arcola a Romantic Episode of French History.

There stands in the French town of Cadenet, his native place, a monument to the memory of "The Little Drummer of Arcola," Andre Estienne, the hero of one of the most romantic episodes in French history. It was an episode that illustrated the extraordinary military value, so often attested by the world's greatest generals, of what Othello called the "spirit stirring drum." It may be said, curiously enough, that Napoleon Bonaparte's great career was built upon a drum, for the battle of Arcola was won by the beating of Estienne's drum, and the Corsican himself always dated his confidence in his own fortune from this battle, won in 1796. The circumstances were these:

Bonaparte, hemmed in with a small army at Verona, between two greatly superior forces, sallied out at night, made a forced march, and with 14,000 men fell upon the rear of 50,000 Austrians. The battle lasted seventy-two hours. On the second day of the fighting the Austrians obtained such a position that they completely and murderously swept the bridge of Arcola, which the French had gained and which they must hold if they expected to win the battle.

It was an unlooked for movement. No officer was near, but Andre Estienne, the little drummer, was there. He went to his sergeant and told him that he should cross the bridge with his drum and beat it on the other side.

"But," protested the sergeant, "before you place one foot upon the bridge you will be killed. No man on earth could live on that bridge. However, can you swim?"

"I can," said the drummer.

"Then swim across with your drum."

"Impossible!" returned Estienne. "Should the drum become water soaked I could not beat it on the other side."

But the sergeant was equal to this difficulty. Being himself a fine swimmer, he plunged into the water, bade Andre mount upon his shoulders and hold his drum clear of the water. In this way the two crossed the river, Andre beating his drum lustily all the way. Once on the other side, he pounded it in a way to well nigh wake the dead. The Austrians who were massed near were nearly all raw recruits. Hearing what they took to be the drums of an advancing force of French and remembering the terrible French onslaught of the day before, they fled. This left the bridge clear, and the French began to pour across. Andre was joined by other drummers. The Austrian fight became a rout. The French swept on, with Andre Estienne, still drumming, at their head. Soon the whole Austrian force was retreating, utterly beaten.

Years later Estienne's heroic act was celebrated by being represented in stone on the front of the Pantheon at Paris. The funeral of the little drummer of Arcola was attended by a great concourse of French officers and soldiers.

Scotch Pawkinsness.

A "positively true tale" of Scotch pawkinsness is sent us by a naval correspondent. He traveled up to Inverness-shire with a Scotsman, on whose taciturnity he failed, after many efforts, to impinge. The Scotsman still stared dully, fixedly, from the train. At last intelligence began to show in his face and grow to ecstasy, and he shouted in his excitement, "Look here, look here, that's whaur it was!" His companion rushed to the window. "In yor wee town," continued the Scotsman, "I was charged saxpence for yin cup of coffee."—London Globe.

More Practical Than Poetical.

She brought him out a wedge of pumpkin pie and a cup of coffee.

"And you only visit this section of the country during goldenrod time?" she interrogated innocently. "How poetical!"

"Well, you see, mum, it isn't exactly poetical," replied Dusty Dan, with a smile, "but when de goldenrod blooms it is too late to cut grass an' too early to shovel snow."—Chicago News.

Genuine Imitation.

"Well, I made the sale, all right," said the new salesman.

"But you lied to her," protested the proprietor. "You told her they were genuine Irish laces!"

"No, I didn't. She simply said she didn't want any 'bogus imitations,' and I assured her ours were genuine."—Philadelphia Press.

Both Extracts.

Customer—Have you any extract of beef? Waiter—Yes, sir. Brown or white? Customer—Brown or white? Waiter—Yes, sir. Beef tea or milk?—Philadelphia Press.



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