

Round About New York

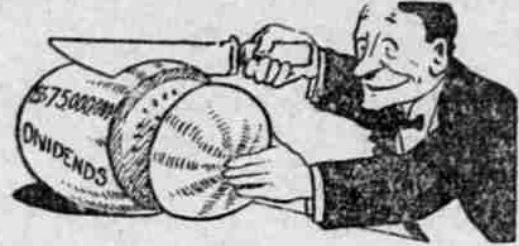
Gossip of People and Things
in the Great Metropolis

STANDARD OIL TO MAKE NEW RECORD FOR PROFITS

NEW YORK.—The earnings of the Standard Oil company for some time have been establishing new high records. The net earnings for the current year are expected to reach a figure between \$75,000,000 and \$100,000,000, or twice the amount required to pay dividends at last year's rate of \$40 a share. The litigation in which the company is involved is the only thing that prevents the Standard Oil company from increasing its disbursements to shareholders. It is said in the event of a satisfactory conclusion of this litigation there will be a melon cutting of no small proportions.

That the management of the Standard Oil company does not believe the present market price of the securities is too high is evident from the fact that the stock is down on the books at a valuation of \$500 a share. Included in the assets are more than \$100,000,000 of government bonds.

Producers of oil are sharing in the prosperity of the Standard Oil company. Eastern as well as western oils have witnessed a sharp advance, which has served to stimulate production materially. There is a pro-

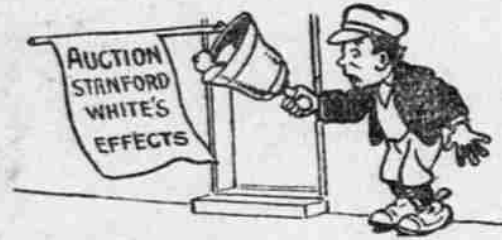


nounced scarcity of high-grade oils in the Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana districts, due to the enormous increase in the demand for products of petroleum, and it is believed it will not be many years before the Standard Oil company will be depending more upon western than eastern oils.

The same results can not be obtained from the low-grade as from the high-grade oils and it will be necessary for the company to increase its refining and pipe line capacity as it becomes more dependent upon the products of the Texas, California, Kansas and Oklahoma fields. As soon as the litigation in which the Standard Oil company is involved is out of the way the question of increasing the capital stock to a figure that will be more in harmony with the market valuation of the securities will be taken up for consideration.

Standard Oil representatives are more confident than ever that the corporation will come out victorious in the suits instituted against it. They hold that practically all the charges against the company are based on technicalities.

MUSICAL ANTIQUES ONCE OWNED BY WHITE SOLD



AT the recent Stanford White sale there was not more than two minutes of chaffing on each article before it was snapped up by eager purchasers. Harps without strings went for \$100 because they were made in France in the reign of Louis XIV., and gilt-framed Italian armchairs sold for \$180 because of the abiding faith of the purchasers in their antiquity.

The sale opened with an offering of weird musical instruments such as the novels of the romance days speak about familiarly. A sitar which looked like an elongated soup ladle went for \$5. Then the crowd of purchasers in the music room at the White residence saw more value in sitars and two others went at \$15 and \$11 each.

The attendants held up an attenuated lute, whose fretboard stuck out like the handle of a gardener's spade. This was a chitarrone, English, middle of the sixteenth century. As the negro in the bottle-green livery lifted the chitarrone up to the little stand in

front of the green velvet curtains he swept the strings across the buttons of his waistcoat. A mellow wall like the breath of an aeolian harp went forth from the hollow throat of the ancient instrument. The tuneful chitarrone brought \$135, and a brother sold for \$175 because he was moulded on more outre lines.

Another strange instrument was the dulcimer, a contrivance which looked like a modern zither inclosed in a giant glove box. When the attendants set it on the stand and let down the four sides of the box, each depicting delightful pastoral scenes wherein kirtled shepherdesses toyed with beribboned crooks, the creator of the stage atmosphere came again to the fore and dropped \$300 before the lure of those shepherdesses. Then they sold 11 harps, most of them sans strings and partially broken by infirmity, but all antiques. The lowest price paid for a harp was \$85 and \$230 was the high-water mark.

Another strange instrument was the dulcimer, a contrivance which looked like a modern zither inclosed in a giant glove box. When the attendants set it on the stand and let down the four sides of the box, each depicting delightful pastoral scenes wherein kirtled shepherdesses toyed with beribboned crooks, the creator of the stage atmosphere came again to the fore and dropped \$300 before the lure of those shepherdesses. Then they sold 11 harps, most of them sans strings and partially broken by infirmity, but all antiques. The lowest price paid for a harp was \$85 and \$230 was the high-water mark.

THAW JURORS SUFFERED LOSSES BY LONG TRIAL

NEARLY all of the jurors in the Thaw trial, who recently failed to reach a verdict in the long drawn out case, experienced severe financial loss in sitting on the case. While the jurors presumed at the outset that they were in for a long siege of it, none of them had any idea that the case would extend the length of time it did. During the trial many of the jurors, prevented from attending to business affairs with their accustomed regularity, suffered losses they can never recoup. Others fell far behind in their work, and it will be months before they can catch up.

Besides this, the houses by which some of the jurors are employed as managers or in other responsible capacities found their affairs sadly lagging, and financial losses that cannot easily be estimated have resulted.

There were only two jurors who did

not suffer seriously by the long period of inurement. They are retired merchants and independently wealthy.

The fact that the jurors, from the death of the wife of Juror Joseph B. Bolton, three weeks after the trial began, were allowed to go at the close of each day, helped only in part. Those who availed themselves of the opportunity to go to their offices were so overwhelmed with work that it was a severe strain on them.

Before the death of Juror Bolton's wife, the jurors, when not in the court room, were locked up in the Broadway Central hotel. After that they were given their freedom after the adjournment each day. Each adjournment invariably found the majority of the jurors hustling to their offices, to work until late at night.

The jurors received two dollars for each day's service during the trial.

EASTER FLOWER BILL OF GOTHAM \$1,000,000



SOME one with a fondness for statistics has discovered that the sum spent for Easter flowers in this city amounts to almost \$1,000,000. This estimate is based on a canvass of flower shops and is as near the correct figure as can be arrived at without a great deal of time and labor being spent on the task. That society is becoming more extravagant in floral decoration every year is the statement made by one of the florists to the Four Hundred. This same florist says that aside from the amount of money spent at Easter, there is more money put up daily for flowers than ever before. There are also more expensive flowers in the market than there ever were before, because so many of the country gentlemen hereabouts, with fine conservatories, are constantly bringing out newer and higher grades of flowers for the market as well as for the pleasure of raising them. For instance, Mr. H. McK. Twombly, who has a fine place at Madison, N. J.,

has this year brought out some very fine orchids.

These orchids have been retailing for two dollars each. On the surface it would appear that the poor would be able to get little pleasure out of flowers at Easter, but the truth is they get more real pleasure out of them than the rich. In the first place, the poor appreciate them more when they get them, and the fact that they do not get them until the day after Easter does not make them enjoy them any the less. There are many societies here for the special purpose of distributing flowers among the poor, and after any event at which they are used profusely, the members collect them and distribute them among the hospitals, institutions and the poor of the tenement house districts. Thus, if New York spends a million dollars on Easter flowers, the poor and unfortunate of the city get fully two-thirds of them the next day, and it is only those of moderate means who get left.

BANK VAULTS STUFFED WITH FORGED NOTES

FINANCIERS OF FAR EAST
DUPED BY SKILLFUL
COUNTERFEITERS

Experts from the Bank of England and the American Bank Note Company Are Now on the Way to China to Assist in Separating the Spurious from the Genuine Notes Held by the Big Financial Institutions of the East—Powers May Join in the Attempt to Stop Skillful Counterfeiting, Which Threatens the Currency of All Nations.

The most stupendous counterfeiting operations in the history of the world are coming to light in the orient. The amount of money involved is great almost beyond reckoning, and the method of forgery so far reaching, clever and dangerous that all the financiers of the east are alarmed.

The gigantic scheme, so successfully carried out that no living man knows its extent, is practically laid at the door of the Japanese. Point by point the fact that the little brown men flooded all Manchuria and stuffed the Russo-Chinese bank with spurious money during the war with Russia is being established by experts. Sixteen million pounds, or \$80,000,000, of the worthless stuff is said to have been detected. Nobody can guess how much more is extant.

Japanese engravers and printers have manufactured a counterfeit bank note that has defied experts for two years and puzzles them still. The Russo-Chinese, the Hongkong and Shanghai, the Imperial Bank of China and the Indo-Chinese bank—all these have felt the sting of the Japanese money viper. What effect it will have can as yet be only conjectured. Even Europe has suffered.

Appeal has been made to the Japanese government to enact and enforce stringent laws to exterminate the swarm of shrewd counterfeiters in Nippon, and who elude the watchful officials of that empire. It is claimed scant attention has been paid to this request. Japan has had many things to look after since her costly conquest of the Russian bear.

Now Doubt the Truth.

Experts from the Bank of England and the American Bank Note company are now on the way to China to assist in ferreting out the tremendous amounts of bogus money known to be mixed with the genuine. Their findings, if made public, are expected to startle the world. They may be so momentous that they will be suppressed to prevent the tottering of the strongest financial institutions in Asia. Bankers of the orient fear, with good reason, that they are holding, locked in their burglar-proof vaults, tens of millions of pounds in counterfeit notes which they took for genuine, and which will spell ruin when disclosed.

The money men have not forgotten that the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation was compelled to keep its doors open five nights and five days at a stretch to handle a remarkable and unaccountable influx of bank notes—notes of which many have since been found to be forgeries, and of which the bank is not rid.

And the Indo-Chinese bank, a French corporation of Shanghai, withdrew its notes from circulation to investigate the character of those received. Then a sudden and drastic system of scrutiny was put in immediate effect. Nine out of every ten notes were rejected; now there is doubt about many of the tenths.

Plant in Kobe.

The Russian government has demanded an investigation as to the effect upon the Russo-Chinese bank of the stream of counterfeit money which threatens to engulf the czar's financial craft and bankrupt half his empire, as it already has Siberia. Nicholas III. may address a note to the powers asking that the Mikado be urged to adopt measures to strangle the counterfeiting menace charged to his subjects. There is ground for the belief that they would readily acquiesce through the fear of the spread of the plague and duplication of the money of other nations.

In Kobe has been located a counterfeiting plant which is said to have cost \$100,000. It has ceased operations, but worthless notes, so near perfection that only the minutest fault can be found by adepts, are declared to be still coming from the land of cherry blossoms, chrysanthemums and fighting men. Other plants and ingenious imitators are presumed to be continuing the crooked work.

Last summer in the Russo-Chinese bank doubt arose as to a certain note. It was for \$10, Mexican money, and numbered 0664. It was as perfect a reproduction of the genuine original as could be conceived. The bank's experts pored for weeks over it and a good note and could find not even the slightest discrepancy. Yet the bank note officials had strong cause to believe it a forgery.

Worst Fears Realized.

Similar doubts had come up in the Imperial Bank of China and at the Indo-Chinese bank. Persistent efforts, however, revealed no visible peculiarity of a note—certainly none suffi-

ciently flagrant to be observed in the regular transaction of business.

Utterly in the dark, the bankers turned to this side of the water for light. To determine whether the suspected notes were real or spurious, several of them and a number of unquestionably good ones were sent to the American Bank Note company, New York, and also to the Bank of England, says the Cincinnati Enquirer.

After three months' close study of the notes discrepancies were noted in all those under suspicion, and they were pronounced counterfeit. The discrepancies were limited, however, to the minutest differences of texture of the paper, and other virtually indiscernible faults. British findings were the same.

Consternation has been caused by the replies sent to the oriental banks. To what extent they have been receiving these counterfeiters during three years and how many of them the banks themselves were and are holding as supposedly good money remains to be learned. Sixteen million pounds — \$80,000,000 — is an American expert's estimate of the amount already found.

Four Plates Used.

It has been established that these counterfeiters were placed in circulation at the opening of the Russo-Japanese war, and possibly before. Instead of having stopped the tide has risen until the afflicted bankers are afraid of their own paper, because they cannot be sure of it.

During the war it was openly charged that the Japanese government knew of nefarious operations carried on and closed its eyes and ears to them. Every Japanese or Chinese of the coolie class appeared with plenty of money. The banks were besieged, and the report was rife that the little brown men were securing a goodly portion of their fighting expenses from the four banks referred to.

Experts to Investigate.

Information has been received that the main counterfeiting plant itself has been located in Kobe. The outfit is said to have cost at least \$100,000. The most expensive machinery used in the making of money has been employed in turning out this

middle of a warm summer day a great rush of notes began. Every obligation was met without question. During the afternoon it kept up. The notes were for the most part presented by the coolies. They were universally of the five dollar class. The officials thought of a counterfeiting scheme, and had their experts investigate the notes. Several hours were devoted to a study of them under a microscope. The experts had to acknowledge that no discrepancy could be found.

Inspection Proved Futile.

Then the big bank did its duty. The officials knew that every note it had in circulation was more than amply secured, and they determined that if the people wanted hard money for their paper they should have it. That night the bank remained open, and the procession of coolies kept up. The next day the bank did not close. And every hour for five days and five nights this rush continued.

"Extra funds from other branches of the corporation were hurriedly recalled and every note met. Then the drain slackened and the officials breathed easier. How many thousands of dollars in good English coin was withdrawn has never been divulged. Suffice it to say that when the year was rounded out and the statement of the bank made, the higher officials were surprised. They again set about to see if a forgery had not been perpetrated. Their investigation merely brought out the fact that practically every note issued by the bank had been returned, and that all appeared genuine. Then more notes began to come in. Genuine depositors and those holding the real notes began to be frightened by the rumors floating broadcast, and coming for the most part from drunken, opium-crazed coolies who had secured unaccounted amounts of money. These depositors began to present their notes for payment. Then the bank officials knew there had been a great crime. Inspection proved futile, and they decided to lay the matter before American and English experts. The result is now known.

"The Indo-Chinese bank in Shanghai was similarly affected. It occurred about a year ago. I remember it well. A run started through

spurious note, and some of the most skilled workmen in the world did the delicate engraving of the plates. The product of the plant is nothing less than a reproduction of the Russian bank note. In its perfection it passes the bounds of the word "counterfeit." It becomes a duplicate.

One of the leading experts consulted regarding the dilemma is George S. Hall, of the American Bank Note company. He is now en route to China, where his mission will keep him occupied three months. His time will be devoted toward solving the problem uppermost there.

Five Days Run.

J. S. McCune, one of the best-known experts of England on forgery and counterfeiting, is also bound for Shanghai, which offers the most fertile field for the skill of such men. That appears to be the headquarters for the extended investigation now beginning. Mr. McCune claims Japan has been petitioned by several of the larger banking corporations of China, all of which are Europeans institutions, to enact a drastic law, similar to that of the United States, making it a high crime even to have a counterfeit note in possession.

"This is the condition in the far east," said Mr. McCune. "The bankers do not know where they stand. Runs have been started on them which were absolutely unaccountable. I recall in particular the case of the Hongkong and Shanghai bank in Shanghai.

"About a year and a half ago a run started on this bank. The officials did not understand why. The institution is an English concern, and has practically unlimited capital. In the

rumor that forged notes were in circulation. The Japanese who were 'in' on the counterfeiting game were augmented by the holders of genuine notes, and in a swarm they descended upon the bank.

Where Will It Stop?

"This institution is understood to be backed by the French government. It paid dollar for dollar on every note. The run continued in tremendous volume, and the officials fixed upon a drastic move. They recalled every note of the bank that was in circulation, and for five days kept them from passing out to the public. It was hoped in this way to unearth the holders of the counterfeits. It was unsuccessful, and the bank resumed the circulation of its notes.

"The Imperial Bank of China has experienced similar runs. Where this is going to stop the bankers cannot say. The only reason it has not caused a suspension of business in the far east is that every man thinks he has a genuine note and therefore does not worry. The only man now worrying is the banker, who is almost palsied by the thought that the millions of notes he is carefully guarding in his vaults may be merely a mass of counterfeiters made by the Japanese.

"The bankers look to the paper manufacturers to save the day. So far the only basis for declaring any of the notes forgeries has been a discrepancy in the paper. It takes something more than imitation to make the grade of paper required for bank notes. This last condition may be the means of putting a stop to the activities of the Japs, and likewise the greatest of counterfeiting schemes."



Louise McCleese, aged sixteen and a favorite at Wayne, was found dead in the rest room of the Wayne National bank building. An empty bottle, marked "poison" was standing near. Friends say the girl was in love with a student of the normal school there and that at a party the night before he treated her coldly. No other cause for the act can be ascribed. Her mother is a widow.

The sentence of August Mueller, who shot his wife and her parents in Stanton county a year ago, has been modified by the state supreme court from fifteen years to three, the court claiming that the sentence was excessive.

Postoffice Inspector A. O. Swift of Nebraska City, who was injured in a railroad wreck some time ago in Illinois, is at home and improves very slowly. He was much worse injured than was first thought and it will be some time before he will be able to report for duty.

NEBRASKA MATTERS

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS NOTES
HERE AND THERE.

ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Social, Agricultural, Religious and Other Matters Having Reference to This Commonwealth Alone.

One hundred dollars was raised in Nelson for Chinese sufferers.

Mrs. F. Scott, a laborer of Hastings, was found dead in his chair.

The state university cadets will go into camp at Beatrice May 28th.

The water and light supply of Humboldt is to be put on the meter basis.

Platte county is talking of voting bonds for the Midland Central railroad.

The mayor of Tekamah has decreed there shall be no gambling in that place.

Insurance rates have been raised in Beatrice, whereat there is vigorous protest.

Junior normal will be held at Broken Bow in June, followed by teachers' institute.

Will Cox, of Stella, lost his leg at Leavenworth, Kas., by being run over by the cars.

Matt Riley, Kearney, 72 years old, died from injuries received while driving a coil.

Mrs. Purcell of Pawnee county took belladonna by mistake and came near losing her life.

One of the teachers in the school at Overton is remaining at home with a case of measles.

Contrary to reports the oats crop in Adams county was not seriously injured by the late freeze.

Wymore school keepers have promised to strictly obey the Slocumb law and will receive licenses.

After examination in Oxford, C. E. Adams was declared to be a dipsomaniac and ordered to Lincoln.

At the late term of district court in Custer county, the judge had fourteen divorce cases to deal with.

Several thousand people witnessed the laying of the corner stone of the Y. M. C. A. building at Fremont.

The farmers of Adams county report one of the biggest egg crops this season in the history of that section.

A fortune is awaiting John Wilson of Tecumseh, and he has until 1910 to go to a foreign country and claim it.

Hon. Anton Zimmerer of Nebraska City last week celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his residence in that city.

Rev. Leggett of Nebraska City has been telling the people of many wicked doings in the metropolis of Otoe county.

John Elliott and Alex Berkwell found a wolf's den about two miles north of Plattsmouth and captured nine baby wolves.

The contract for grading the right of way of the new Omaha-Hastings interurban line was let at Hastings to C. D. Conover of Omaha.

John Buchholz, a farmer residing five miles south of Elmwood, had his left leg broken and terribly mangled by the knives of a stalk cutter.

The milling plant at Blue Rapids, Kas., owned by M. T. Cummings of Beatrice, was burned to the ground. The loss will reach \$12,000, with \$8,000 insurance.

Nursery men about Fremont, who have carefully examined their fruit trees are inclined to believe that the damage to the fruit by the cold weather has been exaggerated.

The wedding trosser of Miss Mary Miller of Hall county was destroyed by fire just a short time before her marriage was to take place. The ceremony, however, was not postponed.

The new stone crusher plant of George H. Davis is now in operation. It is located one mile east of Wymore, has a capacity of 60 tons daily and cost \$20,000. It is one of the finest plants of its kind in the west.

The officers of the Nebraska society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, who reside in Osceola, are sending out circulars throughout the state with a view of establishing a society in each county where no humane society now exists.

The pure food law, according to State Chemist Redfern, contains an ambiguous and puzzling phrase. "Canned goods" are exempted from the new weight labeling section. Redfern has searched diligently and has failed to find a legal definition. He asserts that the court will have to determine the matter.

Louise McCleese, aged sixteen and a favorite at Wayne, was found dead in the rest room of the Wayne National bank building. An empty bottle, marked "poison" was standing near. Friends say the girl was in love with a student of the normal school there and that at a party the night before he treated her coldly. No other cause for the act can be ascribed. Her mother is a widow.

The sentence of August Mueller, who shot his wife and her parents in Stanton county a year ago, has been modified by the state supreme court from fifteen years to three, the court claiming that the sentence was excessive.

Postoffice Inspector A. O. Swift of Nebraska City, who was injured in a railroad wreck some time ago in Illinois, is at home and improves very slowly. He was much worse injured than was first thought and it will be some time before he will be able to report for duty.

The sentence of August Mueller, who shot his wife and her parents in Stanton county a year ago, has been modified by the state supreme court from fifteen years to three, the court claiming that the sentence was excessive.

Postoffice Inspector A. O. Swift of Nebraska City, who was injured in a railroad wreck some time ago in Illinois, is at home and improves very slowly. He was much worse injured than was first thought and it will be some time before he will be able to report for duty.

Louise McCleese, aged sixteen and a favorite at Wayne, was found dead in the rest room of the Wayne National bank building. An empty bottle, marked "poison" was standing near. Friends say the girl was in love with a student of the normal school there and that at a party the night before he treated her coldly. No other cause for the act can be ascribed. Her mother is a widow.

The sentence of August Mueller, who shot his wife and her parents in Stanton county a year ago, has been modified by the state supreme court from fifteen years to three, the court claiming that the sentence was excessive.

Postoffice Inspector A. O. Swift of Nebraska City, who was injured in a railroad wreck some time ago in Illinois, is at home and improves very slowly. He was much worse injured than was first thought and it will be some time before he will be able to report for duty.

Louise McCleese, aged sixteen and a favorite at Wayne, was found dead in the rest room of the Wayne National bank building. An empty bottle, marked "poison" was standing near. Friends say the girl was in love with a student of the normal school there and that at a party the night before he treated her coldly. No other cause for the act can be ascribed. Her mother is a widow.

The sentence of August Mueller, who shot his wife and her parents in Stanton county a year ago, has been modified by the state supreme court from fifteen years to three, the court claiming that the sentence was excessive.

Postoffice Inspector A. O. Swift of Nebraska City, who was injured in a railroad wreck some time ago in Illinois, is at home and improves very slowly. He was much worse injured than was first thought and it will be some time before he will be able to report for duty.