

CLEVER BANK SWINDLERS.

ST. LOUIS BANKS HELD UP FOR \$20,000.

BIGHT OF THEM NEATLY TAKEN IN.

A Series of Forgeries of the Most Remarkable Kind Has Been Unearthed—Professionals Successfully Work a System Never Before Equalled—They Had the Business Down Fine.

St. Louis, Mo., March 26.—A series of forgeries of the most remarkable kind has been unearthed in this city and detectives are now at work upon it. At least eight banks have suffered and probably more. The aggregate of the forged paper will reach \$20,000, all of which sum has gone into the pockets of a gang of professionals, who have succeeded by the use of a system never before equalled, the principal feature of which was the securing of genuine check blanks and full knowledge of the serial numbers, by which knowledge they were able not only to minimize the danger in uttering, but also delay detection.

The number of persons in the gang of forgers is supposed to be not exceeding three, but their knowledge of banking and business methods and the versatility of their autograph artist are admittedly ample. Their preparations were elaborate and consumed some time, but when ready their haul was made with astonishing celerity. As only a few of their checks have been passed upon by the alleged drawers, it is impossible to say how much the forgers took, but it cannot be less than \$20,000. The forgers first took account of the fact that the checks drawn by business houses are written usually upon the firm's own lithographed heading, protected by several numbers on check and stub. The forgers therefore, not only counterfeited the blank check forms of their victims, but numbered their checks close to the numbers of the checks then running with each victimized firm. To do this latter, opportunity to see the genuine check books was accomplished in various ways.

In one case, that of the Charles W. Melcher Machine company, whose signature was forged to a check for \$500, a young man, stating that he represented the printing house, which lithographed the firm's checks, asked permission to see their check book, as he was sent out to trace up books already used in other cases. In this instance the Continental bank lost \$500. As there were eight or more other banks victimized and no one yet knows how many firms, there is no way to tell the total loss.

Bold Robbery in St. Joseph. ST. JOSEPH, Mo., March 26.—Pat O'Brien, a tough character and a stranger, went into Burnett's jewelry house on one of the principal streets, at noon yesterday, and, finding but one clerk present, knocked him down and made off with a considerable amount of jewelry. O'Brien, after a desperate resistance, was captured, but his partner made good his escape, taking the jewelry with him.

COXEY'S ARMY.

It Cannot Assemble in Washington Without Permission From Congress.

WASHINGTON, March 26.—There is one circumstance which may seriously interfere with the general features of Coxe's marching program at Washington. It has been stated that the object of his bringing his army here is to assemble it on the steps of the capitol on the 1st of May for the purpose of impressing its views upon congress. To do this it will be necessary to first secure authority from congress, as there are specific acts upon the statute books forbidding the assembling of crowds in the capitol or in the capitol grounds for the holding of any sort of public meeting, except the sessions of congress and the assemblages which are incident to the inauguration of a president. These laws go to the extent of forbidding organized parades through the capitol grounds.

George Dixon Knocked Out.

PHILADELPHIA, March 26.—The "friendly bout" last night at Industrial hall for the benefit of the poor between George Dixon, featherweight champion, and Walter Edgerton, of Philadelphia, proved to be anything but friendly. Neither man attempted to do any slugging in the first round, which was of two minutes duration, but the fun came in the second round, when Dixon was completely knocked out. It was just one minute and ten seconds before Dixon realized what had happened. The bout lasted one and one-half minutes. Dixon, by careful handling, was able to go on and finish the scheduled three rounds.

Fourteen Horses Burned.

MENDON, Mo., March 26.—A livery barn owned by Sharp & Bell of Marceline, Mo., was burned last night about midnight, making the third livery barn to burn since the town started. Fourteen head of horses were burned to death and three others were badly injured. The cause of the fire is not known.

Cremated Alive.

MARSHALL, Mo., March 26.—Robert Winton, living about three miles south of Miami, was burned to death in his own barn last evening. He was addicted to drinking, and it is supposed set the barn on fire while intoxicated, whether by accident or intentionally is not known.

Inventor Killed Dead.

WASHINGTON, March 26.—George C. Baker, the inventor of the submarine torpedo boat, died in this city yesterday afternoon.

HIS WIFE A "PLUNGER."

Millionaire Cox of New York Unable to Keep His Mate From Gambling. New York, March 26.—Franklin Cox, a well known figure on upper Broadway, who comes of a rich and prominent family and who has acquaintances all over the country, figured in the Jefferson market police court yesterday on a warrant sworn out by his wife, charging him with failing to support her.

Cox came originally from Rutherford, N. C., but his mother lives at Atlanta, Ga., and is said to be worth \$2,000,000 and he is her only heir. He has always had a large income. At one time he was known as the "Bay-side Millionaire," owning a magnificent country villa at Bayside, L. I., where he kept blooded horses, fine dogs and a yacht. He and his first wife, a southern woman, were divorced and he was married to his present wife, Edith Scofield, whom he alleges he first met at Koster & Bial's in Hoboken in 1888. They lived together in fashionable apartment houses and "cut a wide swath." The wife developed an uncontrollable passion for gambling on races and her money and jewels all went on horses. She became acquainted with George Forbes, the owner of Arab and other horses, and was only happy when at the races. He tried to induce her not to invest so heavily, but she said he was a "hoodoo" and that she did not want him to go with her. After that she went alone or with her sister, and Cox saw her sitting in the grand stand several times with Forbes and other sporting men. She was almost a daily visitor at Guttenburg, and at times was accredited lucky. Among the members of a large circle of sporting people she was known as the "Little Plunger."

May 28, 1893, while the couple were living at the Gedney house, Mrs. Cox left and stayed away several days and they did not live together after that. Last Wednesday Mrs. Cox caused a warrant to be issued for her husband and he was ordered to pay her \$8 a week. He will probably sue for divorce.

Recruits for Coxe's Army.

St. Joseph, Mo., March 26.—Twenty-two tramps slept at the police station, a greater number than have stayed there any night during the winter. They left for the East, and said they expected to be with Coxe's army when it halted at the capitol steps in Washington. Several professional tramps were among the number, but most of them seemed to be mechanics. They said they would very likely go East at once, and not wait for the Western division of the army.

The Dawes Commission.

MUSKOGEE, Ind. Ter., March 26.—The work of the Dawes commission rests largely in the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations from now on and the commission has determined to change its headquarters from Muskogee to South McAlester. They will change their location next Tuesday.

Congressman Wilson Weaker.

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, March 26.—Congressman Wilson spent a restless night and is in a weak condition, but Dr. Underwood reports that no unfavorable conditions have arisen, and that his patient is no worse off than when he arrived here.

Freight Cars Burned.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., March 26.—Twenty-nine refrigerator and stock cars belonging to the Burlington railway were burned on the store tracks east of Harlem between 2 and 5 o'clock this morning.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Iowa legislature has passed a bill making it a misdemeanor to use imitation butter in state institutions.

The governments of Great Britain, Italy and the United States have recommended clemency toward the captured Brazilian insurgents.

Judge Buford of the Oklahoma, federal court has decided that W. R. Gregg is the legal mayor of Enid, Ok. This is expected to cause fresh trouble.

Three Arctic exploration parties will leave St. Johns, N. F., this spring. One will go after Lieutenant Peary. The other two will engage in scientific work.

Fire in Poplar Bluff, Mo., destroyed eight buildings, including Neal's hotel and Randall's grocery house. Loss, \$50,000; insurance, \$25,000.

The number killed by the recent explosion of dynamite which was being removed from the sunken steamer Cabo Machicao, at Santander, Spain, is placed at thirty.

J. W. Walker, wholesale grocer of St. Joseph, Mo., is a candidate for the Democratic nomination for congress to succeed Mr. Burnes, who proposes to retire.

James C. Campbell of Youngstown, Ohio, convicted a few weeks ago of killing his wife and awaiting life sentence in the penitentiary, committed suicide.

Sidney Sapp, a lawyer and Populist politician of Perry, Ok., was arrested on a recent requisition from the governor of Nebraska, charged with the embezzlement of a large sum of money at North Platte.

The bill of Congressman Curtis of Kansas to modernize the militia has been reported to the house. It provides new regulations and appropriate \$400,000.

Postmaster General Bissell has appointed F. D. Norton of Missouri division superintendent of the railway mail service at St. Louis, Mo., vice J. F. Lindsay, resigned.

Chairman Cummings of the house naval affairs committee believes that huge guns for naval purposes are not good investments. He thinks none should be made to exceed ten inches in bore.

Hawaiian Minister Thurston claims to have received no notice of the intention of his government to recall him to assist in forming a permanent republican form of government for the islands.

The internal revenue commissioner has received reports from the collectors in regard to Chinese registration. In California 77,583 have complied with the law, in Kansas 37 and in Missouri 106.

THE FARM AND HOME.

WHY EVEN THE BEST OF POTATOES DEGENERATE.

More Care in Selecting Seed Potatoes Is a Crying Necessity—Plant Life and Land Growth—Farm Life—Farm Notes and Home Hints.

Why Potatoes Run Out.

It is a common complaint of farmers that potatoes do not show the vitality and vigor they used to do. Varieties that endured thirty or forty years, as the old Mercer or Neshannock, have long since entirely disappeared, though new varieties greatly resembling them have been reproduced from seed. Even so recent a potato as the Early Rose is not what it once was. Those that produce best now are not descendants by cuttings from the original stock, but have been reproduced from seed, says the Market News.

This tendency to rapidly degenerate dates from about the time the potato bug made its appearance. It was most pronounced as it affected late potatoes. The year before the potato beetle became very numerous we grew Peachblow and Peerless potatoes in the same field. It was a good crop of each, upward of 200 bushels per acre of Peachblow and about 350 of Peerless, the latter variety being then new and growing more vigorously than it ever has since. Late in the season some potato bugs got on one corner of the Peachblow patch. It was after the vines of other varieties had died down, and the bugs did some injury before they were discovered. The yield of the potatoes did not seem affected, as the bugs came so late in the season. Not much harm was thought to be done, but the next season a few of the Peerless potatoes and more of the Peachblow variety, came up weak, and made only a spindling growth. In two or three years thereafter, the Peachblow variety became wholly unreliable and was scarcely grown at all.

There can be little question that any injury to potato foliage during growth results in some deterioration of the vigor and vitality of its seed. It is inevitable where bugs exist that they should do some damage to the leaf. If poisoned when very small they are obliged to eat some of the foliage to get at the poison. Sometimes, too, the poison itself is used so freely that it burns the leaf. This, of course, is just as bad as to have foliage eaten by the larvae. Potatoes grown thus do not ripen as they should. When dug their skins slip as those of new potatoes do. The potatoes have to lie in pits in the field thinly covered to dry out. In this unripe condition they are, of course, more exposed to rot. We may say, indeed, that if potatoes can be ripened early and properly in the field, loss from rot would be unknown.

As the potatoes have mostly got their growth, the common idea is that it does not make much difference how severely their tops are eaten down. So long, however, as frosts leave the leaves alive, they are building up and developing the tubers. In the old Peachblow a good deal of growth was made after the leaves were frosted, from the sap in their stalks. The late crop of bugs prevents this. It is, therefore, as important for future crops that this late crop of bugs be destroyed as it is for the present that the early bugs be poisoned. Not only do the late bugs threaten greater dangers to the crop next spring, but they decrease the ability of the potato to resist them.

More care needs to be taken in selecting seed potatoes. It will usually be found that the potato beetle leaves uninjured the most vigorous sappy vines. Instinct teaches it to lay its eggs chiefly on those vines of slender growth. Yet at digging time these poor hills may contain one or more good-looking, marketable tubers that in a bin would be naturally selected for seed. The only way to guard against poor or missed hills next year is to select seed while the crop is growing, keeping off all bugs and taking the best and smoothest tubers from hills that give the largest yields.

Plant Life and Land Growth.

I have made the life of plants a study for forty years. While at the world's fair I interviewed many foreign horticulturists and agriculturists and in my opinion the Japanese know most about these subjects. They are now dwarfing all trees and fruits without budding or grafting and I believe I partly understand their moos.

It is my opinion that by producing trees by grafting and budding, and potatoes by tubers instead of from the seed, we unsex the plants and trees, which will sooner or later destroy them by disease, that is, finally impair their vigor and vitality to such an extent as to finally fail to produce fruit.

There are three tests of the vitality of a tree, the roots, the wood and the seed. All are shown in the peach, apple and pear; viz. borers, yellows and blight and other tree diseases.

Our whole system of fertilization of land is erroneous. So long as land is covered, shaded by plants and trees, it grows richer and more productive. On the other hand it is impoverished by exposure to sun, to wind and to washing. Productive land grows, has organs like plants and trees, absorbs, grows by layer upon layer just as a tree lays on layers of wood. All the growth and productiveness comes from the air. True, the rocks disintegrate by the action of air and water and adds to the power of the soil to absorb and retain moisture, and in both hot and cold tend to hold an equal temper-

ature, thus preventing sudden changes like the clothes on our bodies. Plants and trees get all from the atmosphere, nothing from the earth. Leaves are full of pores, roots and bark have none, and if they absorb anything it must be gas, not water or vapor. The test of productive land is physical not chemical. Land that absorbs most water and holds it longest is best. Sap does not circulate, it flows down not up. There is no digestion or assimilation.—John C. Bender in Colman's Rural World.

The Life of a Farmer.

A old farmer gives some hints in a letter to an exchange that may be useful to our readers. He says: "I have been a farmer all my life, which is over fifty years, and love it for what can be made out of it. I do not mean dollars and cents entirely, but real, genuine happiness, contentment and independence—the noblest occupation our Maker ever designed for man." I think what makes so many get disheartened is the hard work, before daylight and after dark, and also on stormy days. No need of it now, with all of our improved machinery. Do your work in season. Don't try to cultivate too many acres. Make all around attractive and neat. Have a place for everything, and put it there when you are done using it. Keep up your fences, and gather up the old rubbish. Mow and trim up the weeds and brush around your fences and buildings. Make your home pleasant, indoors as well as out. Have plenty of good books and papers."

Farm Notes.

Eight pounds of bran a day fed to the cows, even when they are on good pasture, will pay.

Sweet cream butter does not please the average consumer as well as butter from ripened cream.

A spring, or weight and pulley, on the cow stable door is a good investment, as it insures against accidentally leaving it open some cold night.

There are still some people who think that in days gone by when there were none of the modern methods of butter making, the butter was just as good as now. Not as a rule, friends, if ever.

Putting a horse upon the market unbroken and trying to get a good price for it, says a writer, is like putting green lumber on sale and expecting the value of the seasoned and finished product.

An average yield of black raspberries is about seventy-five to eighty bushels; red raspberries, seventy; blackberries, 100 bushels per acre, according to the estimates of Professor Bailey of the Cornell experiment station.

Beans after thrashing should not be stored in large quantities, as they are liable to sweat and mold; it is well to spread them in a dry room for a time, and then put them in sacks to prevent the generation of moisture.

A very handy truck for moving barrels of grain, vegetables, etc., may be made by framing together two pieces of 3x3 scantling and three strips of planks, so as to form a platform three feet long and two feet wide, and resting the same upon four piano casters.

A Kansas fruit grower says that corn is undoubtedly by far the best crop for an orchard that can be grown as it breaks the wind and the trees grow up straight. Insects, as a rule, will not trouble a tree when there is plenty of green fodder and corn for them to work on.

Home Hints.

A teaspoonful of ammonia to one teacupful of water for cleaning jewelry.

Before laying a carpet wash the floor with turpentine to prevent buffalo bugs.

Powdered pipe clay, mixed with water, will remove oil stains from wall paper.

Place a strip of wood back of the door where the knob hits the paper in opening.

In bottling pickles or catsup boil the corks, and while hot you can press them in the bottles, and when cold they are sealed tightly.

Vinegar and salt will clean the black crust off sheet iron frying pans, but they should be thoroughly scoured afterwards with sand soap or any good scouring soap.

If shelves and floors of closets are wiped with water hot with cayenne pepper, and afterwards sprinkled with borax and alum, roaches and other vermin are kept at bay.

Steel knives used at table or for cutting bread, meat or anything for which a sharp knife is needed, should never be used for stirring or cooking anything in hot grease, as it makes them very dull.

A simple plan of disinfecting rooms consists in putting a saucerful of salt in the middle of the room and pouring on it a dram or two of sulphuric acid. The fumes that arise do the work of disinfection.

To prevent the spread of influenza where there is a catarrhal discharge, all handkerchiefs used by the patients should be placed where they will not be likely to be handled by other members of the family, or to come in contact with other clothing. When they are washed they may be thoroughly disinfected, freed from stains and whitened if first soaked in cold water to which a half-cupful of the best carbolic acid has been added. Add enough boiling water to the cold to heat it and with soap wash them out of this water, and through another warm water containing soap and a little oil. Rinse thoroughly and dry in the open air, leaving them out of doors an entire day, when they should be entirely free from the smell of oil.

WORLD'S FAIR AWARDS TWO MEDALS. Alliance Carriage Co., Cincinnati, O.

RIPAN'S TABLETS. REGULATE THE STOMACH, LIVER AND BOWELS AND PURIFY THE BLOOD. THE RIPAN'S CHEMICAL CO., 19 SPRUCE STREET, NEW YORK CITY.

YOU WANT THIS RELIC. Reprint Frank Leslie's Illustrated Weekly. STANLEY BRADLEY PUB. CO., 5 EAST 16TH ST., N.Y., U.S.A.

For Sale. A FIVE HORSE POWER Electric Motor. In good condition. Will be sold cheap if sold soon. M. O. REILLY, Corner 11th & M Sts., LINCOLN, NEB.

BUY "DIRECT FROM FACTORY" BEST MIXED Paints. At WHOLESALE PRICES, Delivered Free. O. W. INGERSOLL, 233 Plymouth St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

NOTICE. In the District Court of Lancaster County, Nebraska. Samuel M. Mills, Plaintiff, vs. Ella L. Mills, Defendant.



EXCELSIOR HOME BAKER AND ROASTER. The best paying investment for a house wife.

"Tobacco Users Smile Sometimes"

When told how tobacco hurts them: sometimes they don't, because shattered nerves, weak eyes, chronic catarrh and lost manhood, tells the story. If you are a tobacco user and want to quit post yourself about NO-TO-BAC, the wonderful, harmless, guaranteed tobacco-habit cure by calling on H. T. Clark Drug Co., our agent, and securing a copy of our little book, "Don't Tobacco Split or Smoke Your Life Away," they have sold many boxes of NO-TO-BAC, and they are prepared to sell it to you under an absolute guarantee to cure. Books mailed free by addressing "THE STERLING REMEDY COMPANY, No. 45 Randolph St., Chicago, Ill."

To Hot Springs, Ark., and return \$22.35 via the Missouri Pacific route Feb. 13th. Call on Phil. Daniels, C. P. & T. A., 8201 O street, Lincoln, Neb.

\$35.00 round trip ticket to San Francisco, Cal., choice of three (3) different routes via Missouri Pacific. City ticket office 1201 O St., Lincoln, Neb.

The Chicago Limited (Daily). Gives to the North-Western line unsurpassed speed service to Chicago and eastern cities.

I told you so! \$20.00 first class fare to San Francisco, Cal., via Missouri Pacific route. Call on city ticket agent, Office 1201 O St., Lincoln, Neb.

MY WIFE CANNOT SEE HOW YOU DO IT AND PAY FREIGHT. FREE OFFER. CHICAGO, ILL.

FREE SILVER AND PEERLESS FEED GRINDERS. Bennett Stump Puller—9 Sizes. Do Your Own Leather Work!

World's Fair Highest Awards. Modest and Diploma on our INCUBATOR and BROODER Combines.

Table with columns: Leave, Arrive. Lists train schedules for various routes including Burlington & Missouri River, Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific, Union Pacific Railway, Missouri Pacific Railway.

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HARVEST EXCURSIONS. Via the Missouri Pacific Route. On the second Tuesday in December 1893, January, February, March, April and May, 1894, the Missouri Pacific Route will sell round trip tickets to all stations in Texas, with final limit to return in thirty days from date of sale.