

## TREASURE WELL GUARDED

Not Much Chance for Burglars to Get the Nation's Cash.

## SMALL CHANCES OF A DAY ATTACK

Vigilance of the Watch Over the Treasury at Washington—Test of Vault and Locks by a Nervous Official.

The old-time Treasury department watchmen tell buncie that the late-arrived Jesse James had seven distinct views of the Treasury department with, presumably, an eye to business. The rural nightsteeper, after being permitted to handle a package of greenbacks said to contain \$10,000,000, is willing to believe that the late Mr. James was not bold up to the Treasury department and as his eminent biographers explicitly state that he never penetrated east of the Allegheny mountains, the old watchman's yarn may be said to be somewhat deficient in moraine. It wouldn't be an easy matter to reach the New York Sun. Not a dollar has ever been taken from the treasury by force. A sneak thief once got in his work to the extent of \$50,000, which he plucked from one of the tables at the redemption division before the place was properly secured. But there has been no holdup nor any other kind of an account was once printed of the alleged discovery of a plot, engineered by expert burglars, to penetrate the Treasury building by means of the underground electrical conduits surrounding the edifice. Once in the building, these robbers were to crack the safes, remove their contents and place them in light rubber bags and to float these bags along the conduits, which were to be flooded for the purpose, to their pals in waiting at the conduit openings. The watchmen here read it with a laugh over its publication, however, the iron cover of the electrical conduit right under the main entrance to the treasury went up into the air with a roar along toward 2 o'clock in the morning. Some of the watchmen thought the place was about to be carried out and for the first time in many years all the watchmen were summoned from their posts to the main door. The watchmen grinned sheepishly at one another when the cause of the alarm was ascertained.

"Hands Up!" One of the former treasurers of the United States was a somewhat nervous man. He was not quite certain that it would be practically impossible for a band of brigands to loot the treasury. He wanted to make sure that it would never be necessary for him to appeal to congress to have a debt of a few millions removed from his shoulders. For of course the United States treasurer is responsible for every dollar in the vaults for nearly a week after he is sworn in. One night he slipped off his shoes, put on a pair of carpet slippers, and began a tour of the corridors, in order to satisfy himself that the watchmen were performing their duty. He hadn't glided twenty feet from the door of his room before he heard a "Halt!" that sounded like the snap of a loose job. Ten feet ahead of him a man had a bead on his heart with a pistol. The treasurer's hands went up.

"Not guilty," search me," he said. "I'm the treasurer."

"Treasurer, hey?" said the watchman. "I don't know that. Just keep on pointing up until I get somebody to identify you."

The watchman touched a button and in a few moments the night lieutenant of the watch came to the door of his room. The treasurer from his predicament.

Although the treasury had never been held up the secret service people know that many celebrated cracksmen have from time to time contemplated the conversion of a few millions of dollars into cash. All of the cracksmen, however, seem to have decided that the undertaking was of too colossal a character.

Down to the incumbency of Secretary Folger it has been said there would have been no great difficulty for accomplished and nifty cracksmen of the first rank to do a good bit of night work in the big money cash repository of the government. When Mr. Folger took the reins of the treasury there was not an electrical alarm in the building. The watchmen were isolated and had no facilities for calling for help other than ordinary police whistles, the sound of which would reach the outside of the labyrinthine corridors in so bewildering a fashion that it took from fifteen minutes to half an hour for a searching party from the main door to ascertain its source. Watchmen thus conditioned might easily have been overpowered by determined burglars, who would have had little difficulty in gaining access to the building, owing to the inefficiency of the force then distributed at vulnerable points of entrance. The safes, of which there are more than a hundred scattered over the treasury building, were then of the old-time lock-and-key sort, calculated to wreathe the countenances of cracksmen into elegant smiles on account of their primitive simplicity. It really seems remarkable that, with so advantageous conditions under which to work, the safe-crackers who adorned their profession during the seventies did not essay to effect a partition of the nation's wealth.

The watch system was completely changed and reorganized under Mr. Folger. An elaborate electrical alarm system was introduced, the force of watchmen was increased and the old iron safes were replaced by modern steel affairs with time locks and intricate combinations. The gold and silver vaults were filled with steel casings around their common shells of masonry and fitted with the latest different parts of the combinations of the safes were distributed among various officials of the treasury's office, so that the vaults could be opened only with the concerted action of all of them, and then only at the stroke of the hour at which time locks were set. The necessity of the fine profession of modern burglary was kept pace with the improvements in the fine profession of modern burglary was first recognized by Mr. Folger.

Combination and Time Locks. If there were no watch force on constant guard of the Treasury department, however, burglars could do about as much with the safes in the Treasury building. The safes are as good as any made, but even manufacturers of safes admit that the safe has not yet been devised that the modern cracksmen cannot get into. The best that modern burglars can do is to build them in such fashion as to involve the greatest possible consumption of time on the part of the cracksmen who attempt to get into them, thus rendering their detection during the progress of their work more likely.

An expert manipulator of safe combinations was summoned to the treasury from New York not long ago to open a safe that declined to respond to its figures. The expert opened the safe in half a minute. Then he made a tour of the building and opened every one of the safes except those fitted with time locks. There was not one of them that he did not get into within fourteen minutes after making the first turn of the combination handles. He modestly said to the officials accompanying him that he didn't amount to much as a safe opener and that there were any number of cracksmen at large who could do anything he did in one-half the time.

The treasury watch force is divided into

three reliefs, like an army guard, only the treasury watchmen are on post 12 hours, the soldier, his tour of duty lasts eight hours. The first watch of the day goes on at 8 o'clock in the morning. It is relieved at 4 in the afternoon by the watch which remains on duty until midnight. The midnight watch, which is regarded as the most important of the three, consists of the triple-linked chain, and goes off at 8 in the morning. Although, as stated, the mid watch, as called, is considered to carry the greatest weight of responsibility of the three, on account of the well known nocturnal preferences of burglars, Captain Coughlin, the head of the watch force, at the opinion that the day guard needs to be more on the alert for surprises than either night shift.

## Day and Night Guards.

"Each of the night watches," said the other day, "is made up of twice the number of men comprising the day watch, in spite of the fact that should an attempt ever be made to loot the treasury the job would unquestionably be attempted in the daytime. At night it would be impossible for an organized band of robbers to enter the building, for all the entrances are securely locked and guarded after 4 o'clock in the afternoon. A gang of robbers, to effect an entrance at any of the doors after nightfall, would have to employ dynamite to batter down the doors. The time they had made a thoroughfare they would be flanked by the entire police force of the District, the soldiers from Fort Myer and Washington barracks and the Marine barracks, with all of which forces we have direct communication. Should an attempt be made as probable as another sacking of Washington by the British."

"We should have much more difficulty in repelling a day invasion. A large number of robbers, for instance, might walk into the building in broad daylight, and the department is open to visitors, entering at the many different doors so as not to attract attention. At a given signal, all the men having assembled at a convenient point, they might make an onslaught upon the cash room, where in the neighborhood of \$50,000,000 in currency is kept, and would up all the clerks and other employees in the room at once."

"An attack of this sort would give the men of the day watch a heap of thinking to do within a short space of time. Of course, even if a band of daylight robbers successfully accomplished the trick, they could not get away with their booty, even if they had racemasters waiting for them outside the building. They would be swooped down upon the uninformed men in such numbers that with their hands up before they had reached the exits. Notwithstanding all this, a daylight robbery of the treasury is much more practicable than a night robbery, although I should not particularly care to be a ring-leader of such foolhardy robbers, either at high noon or midnight. The chances of some tall old shooting in this building on such an occasion."

The watchmen distributed through the treasury at night are each required to ring up the main entrance by touching a button every five minutes during their tour of duty. In case they do not register it is taken for granted that there is something wrong and a patrol is sent to investigate.

A few years ago the man who was locked in the cash room for his eight-hour tour, beginning at midnight, overlooked the door and saw a man in a dark suit and a hat. The man had a pistol in his hand and a look of determination. The man was a cracksmen. The watchman was a nervous man. He was not quite certain that it would be practically impossible for a band of brigands to loot the treasury. He wanted to make sure that it would never be necessary for him to appeal to congress to have a debt of a few millions removed from his shoulders. For of course the United States treasurer is responsible for every dollar in the vaults for nearly a week after he is sworn in. One night he slipped off his shoes, put on a pair of carpet slippers, and began a tour of the corridors, in order to satisfy himself that the watchmen were performing their duty. He hadn't glided twenty feet from the door of his room before he heard a "Halt!" that sounded like the snap of a loose job. Ten feet ahead of him a man had a bead on his heart with a pistol. The treasurer's hands went up.

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## OMAHA STOCK MARKET

Not Enough Cattle to Awaken Any Great Interest Among Buyers.

## TRADE DULL FROM THE START TO FINISH

Hogs Take a Big Jump, Even if It Was the Last Day of the Week—Ten to Fifteen Cents Higher.

## SOUTH OMAHA, July 22.

Receipts were: Cattle, Hogs, Sheep, Official Monday 1,337 1,337 1,337  
Tuesday 1,337 1,337 1,337  
Official Wednesday 1,337 1,337 1,337  
Official Thursday 1,337 1,337 1,337  
Official Friday 1,337 1,337 1,337  
Official Saturday 1,337 1,337 1,337

Total this week 11,988 44,228 11,988  
Total last week 11,988 44,228 11,988  
Total week before 11,988 44,228 11,988

Average price paid for hogs for the last several days with comparison:

	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893
July 1	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75
July 2	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75
July 3	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75
July 4	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75
July 5	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75
July 6	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75
July 7	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75
July 8	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75
July 9	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75
July 10	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75
July 11	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75
July 12	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75
July 13	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75
July 14	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75
July 15	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75
July 16	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75
July 17	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75
July 18	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75
July 19	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75
July 20	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75
July 21	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75
July 22	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75

\* Indicates Sunday. \*\* Holiday.

The official number of cars of stock brought in today by each road was:

	Cattle	Hogs	Sheep
C. & M. St. P. Ry.	1	1	1
O. & N. St. P. Ry.	1	1	1
U. P. system	1	1	1
E. & V. Ry.	1	1	1
C. & M. St. P. Ry.	1	1	1
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Total receipts 19 34 19

The disposition of the day's receipts was as follows, each buyer purchasing the number of head indicated:

	Cattle	Hogs	Sheep
Omaha Packing Co.	1	1	1
Swift and Company	1	1	1
Cudahy Packing Co.	1	1	1
Armstrong & Co.	1	1	1
Cudahy, Kansas City	1	1	1
Swift, Kansas City	1	1	1
W. I. Stephens	1	1	1
Hill & Hutzinger	1	1	1
Other buyers	1	1	1
Held over	1	1	1

Totals 388 6,009 130

CATTLE—All told less than twenty cars of cattle were reported in the yards, and half of them, or thereabouts, were sent to the city cattle shipped direct to packers and to the city. In other words, there were not enough cattle to awaken any great interest among buyers and the market was dull. The general market was dull. There was quite a string of corned cows, but they found buyers at lower prices. The fewest words possible, "it was a Saturday's market."

Good corn and a little in strong prices all the week past and were in active demand practically all the time. On the other hand, grass was scarce and buyers were not so much interested in the market. The market was dull. The general market was dull. There was quite a string of corned cows, but they found buyers at lower prices. The fewest words possible, "it was a Saturday's market."

The sheep market was far from satisfactory. The last week was very dry and the sheep were very scarce. The market was dull. The general market was dull. There was quite a string of corned cows, but they found buyers at lower prices. The fewest words possible, "it was a Saturday's market."

OMAHA GENERAL MARKET.

Conditions of Trade and Quotations on Staple and Fancy Produce.

EGGS—Good stock, weak at 11c.

BUTTER—Common to fair, 12 1/2c; choice, 13c; separator, 13 1/2c; gathered creamery, 13 1/2c.

POULTRY—Hens, live, 75c; spring chickens, 1 1/2c; old and stagey fowls, 60c; turkeys, live, 1 1/2c; geese, live, 1 1/2c; ducks, live, 1 1/2c.

## ST. JOSEPH, Mo., July 22.

CATTLE—Receipts, 100 head; market steady; native, \$10.00; Texas and west, \$9.00; hogs, \$10.00; sheep, \$10.00.

## NEW YORK LIVE STOCK.

NEW YORK, July 22.—RECEIPTS—No receipts; no trading; feeling steady; exports, 50 cattle, 13 sheep, 1,351 head of beef.

CATTLE—No receipts; none on sale; feeling firm; dressed weight, 10c; native, \$10.00; Texas and west, \$9.00; hogs, \$10.00; sheep, \$10.00.

SHEEP AND LAMBS—Receipts, 4,400 head; market steady; native, \$10.00; Texas and west, \$9.00; hogs, \$10.00; sheep, \$10.00.

HOGS—Receipts, 4,700 head; market steady; native, \$10.00; Texas and west, \$9.00; hogs, \$10.00; sheep, \$10.00.

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