

“Free” in Wall Street

WHERE GOLD AND SILVER SWAG IS ACCEPTED AND NO QUESTIONS ASKED
GOVERNMENT ASSAY OFFICES
A MECCA FOR BURGLARS AND
IMMUNE FROM THE POLICE

IT is ever occur to you that the Uncle Sam runs the greatest fence for thieves and burglars in the United States? Starting, but true, he spends millions a year on the Secret Service and the Post Office detective force. Yet in the government assay office in Wall street he runs the biggest and most convenient "fence" for stolen gold and silver in the country.

And, while the New York office is the largest fence in the country, the other assay establishments are exactly the same thing. The proceeds of countless burglaries all over the country run into them as into a mill to come out a shining great of clean gold dollars. For at all of these plunder mills Uncle Sam not only redones the spoils of gold and silver thieves in general, but also buys a good proportion of the resulting precious metal at market price and no questions asked. And the rest can be sold at the bullion establishments on the same terms just across the street—good, clean gold for the kindness of general Uncle Sam for the criminal's misdeed.

Of course, the government does not do this out of any benevolent feeling toward the "criminal" man about the street corner. The conversion of the loot into marketable bullion or coin of the Republic is not a part of the enormous business in refining, mostly for legitimate purposes, that the federal administration does every year for the country. Yet, by one means or another, a figure in that total is cut by the lot of midnight marauders and with what ridiculous ease a sort of plunderer that makes plate, trinkets, jewelry or any other gold or silver ware specially has been allowed for years to make his loot an easily marketable product, and sometimes to convert it immediately into clean money, through the kindness of Uncle Sam.

At the Wall street mill of the precious metals, for instance, \$1,000,000 worth of "gold jewelry bars, old plate, etc.," was refined and melted during the year ending July 1, 1936. Nearly a million more in silver of the same class went through the mill, coming out as good, clean dollars. And it is admitted by officials of the assay office that more than half of this mass of gold and silver is the proceeds of burglaries. In other words, Uncle Sam plays the part of chief fence extraordinary and plenipotentiary in the housebreaking profession in an annual amount of over two millions in New York city alone and something like ten millions in the whole country.

The "old plate," which contributes to this illicit total, is merely the plate which has been plundered from various sideboards, had its ornaments and other marks of identity removed and then been bettered up a little more to give it an appearance of age. The "jewelry bars" are the result of dropping the settings of rings, watch cases, brooches, match safes and plate of either unusual and easily identified, or much prized design—both gold and silver—into a plumber's melting pot. The gasoline flame is not enough to fuse the metals into a mass lacking all



of the value of the brick is then directly a matter of simple arithmetic. A similar method on a large scale is followed with the mass of the brick itself. The difference in weight between the original brick and the mass of metal is six days. When the operation is complete each brick is weighed and held subject to the depositor's order. Thus it is that Raffes, if he is re-

spectably dressed, has Uncle Sam do his refining and buy his loot with as little question as does the largest wholesale jeweler in the city with legitimate means. And officials of the assay office, and in fact of every other branch of the federal service in New York, in their moments of relaxation will tell you that there isn't the slightest doubt that many a burglar brings down his loot regularly for use of the government without a dollar for a bribe and the government willingly obliges him.

Of course, the suspicion of the office at the moment of his delivery is not reported to the police for investigation. Yet, as has been said, no depositor has ever been arrested for bringing down his loot, so long as every mark has been removed which might identify it as the loot from some recent burglary.

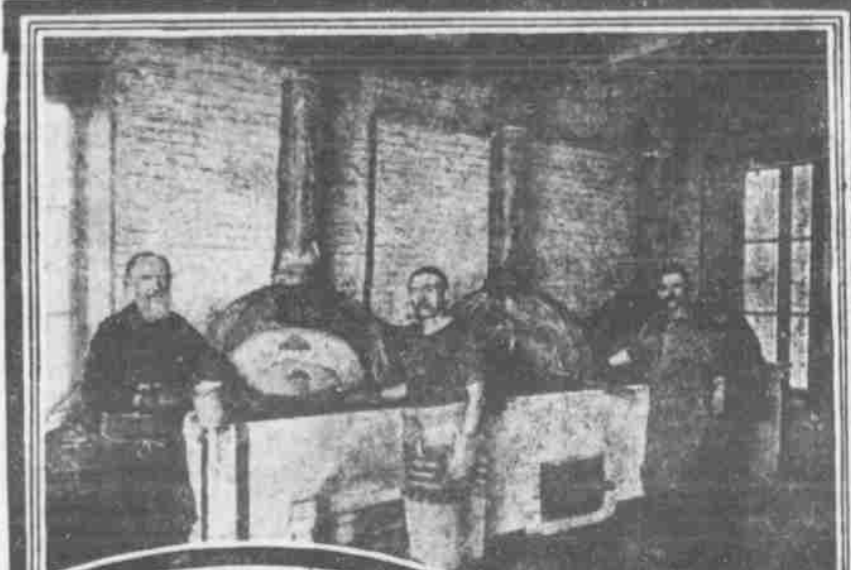
A consideration of the commercial end of the burglar's game is interesting in view of how almost all of his loot he takes direct to the government. Uncle Sam turns into dollars for him the loot he does it. For it can be seen that good plate or fine pieces of jewelry are worth more in the open market than the bullion and jewels out of which they were made.

Uncle Sam is a real friend in need to the burglar, especially after making a safe "get away." A quick turnover of his loot into government dollars is the one thing he desires above all else. The desirability, may, the necessity of the discovery by accident or otherwise of the loot. Every one will remember, for example, that the astonishing amount of William Menzieski, the "Masonic burglar," that the astonishing amount of night parading excursions, with their light bulbs, were definitely fastened upon to minimize the chance of such discovery that Raffes never works with a hand, but always alone or at most in couples. For, bands of four or five, green goods men have at least six and sometimes eight in their combination, and sometimes invariably work in groups of five or six.

The idea of getting the most he can for his loot, then, is balancing in the crackman's mind with the knowledge that the



U.S. ASSAY OFFICE, 30 & 32 WALL ST.



BOILING METAL CASKETS IN CONCENTRATED NITRIC ACID



THE BEAM SCALES ON WHICH ALL DEPOSITS ARE WEIGHED

bulky stuff certainly, and as much of the rest as is possible, ought for safety's sake to be turned over into cash right away. Adding weight to the latter consideration is the desire of every criminal to get his dough and begin to have a good time with it. He has taken a furnished room in some obscure locality where he has made himself known, perhaps, as a plumber. He locks the door, still panting with the previous lullaby had under his arm. He spreads out the loot and ponders each piece, whether it had best go into the melting pot or could be safely held on to for sale through some pawnbroker or antique merchant.

Of course, all the jewels are ripped out of their settings at once and set aside so as not to be traced as soon as the noise of the housebreaking has died away. The rings and other settings are immediately thrown into the melting pot. Oddly enough, the finest pieces of plate and of jewelry, on account of being so liable to identification,

invariably meet the same fate. The plate of an ordinary and widely current design is usually set aside. Raffes will get to work on it with acids and a stout file and after removing all signs of identity will hide it until it can safely be sold through the dealer. The same is done with jewelry of an ordinary type. All the real brooches, earrings, watch cases, trinkets, rings, gold and silver plate—go into the common melting pot to be finally run into the "jewelers bars."

As a matter of fact Raffes always converts the bulk of his plunder into the bullion, leaving out little besides the sparklers for later sale. The crackman is too cautious a criminal and not quite commercial enough to take risks by holding his stuff for a deposit of the bricks with the federal fence. In six days, for he is not

able to arouse suspicion by asking for his money at once, he comes back and reverts in gold eagles and hundred dollar bills the gold and silver he stole in the night a week back. With a little more trepidation he sells the remaining stuff to a crooked pawnbroker or antique merchant such as every journeyman crackman knows. After all, the junk he has done the burglar the kindest service possible. To save himself, equal to him. But Uncle Sam never squeals on him. As safe and uncommunicative as a church, he has played the fence to a man on practically all his plunder, without so much as a thank you and huge to Mr. Raffes safety, convenience and, possibly, amusement.

How to Keep Healthy Without Physical Culture.

Correct Breathing, Rational Eating and Plenty of Water Will Work Wonders.

It is a curious fact that in this age of enlightenment there is so much misunderstanding regarding those simple rules of health which, if followed with a certain degree of consistency, result in immediate and marvelous bodily betterment. Most people imagine that in order to attain that greatest of all blessings, an absence from illness and ailing and what is further so widely prevalent—an indelible general debility, must acquire some system of physical culture which will entail an expenditure of both time and money that they cannot afford. This is erroneous. Half the complaining persons we meet have no really serious derangement, but while they are not positively ill something is persistently wrong. Many have by nature robust constitutions, and others are healthy from ed habits of right living, but you who are merely existing—who drag out each day, devoid of energy and ambition, if you are producing the following suggestions, thereby finding that sheer force of habit in an incredibly short period will make them a component part of your daily life.

The result will be the eradication of those frequently recurring ills to which the flesh is heir—headache, nervousness, indigestion, lassitude, insomnia, etc., etc. You will quickly experience a marvelous increase of energy and vitality—the daily task now groined over will become easy and pleasant, your temper will improve, and your pleasure in the enjoyment of whatever pleasures constitute your recreation be immeasurably extended.

First and foremost, you must clearly realize the essential importance of fresh air, but that the air itself will not benefit you unless it is taken into your lungs. Most people, if they only knew it, are range of respiration is so limited as to just keep them alive. Intense mental application will cause this, a difficult piece of work, an absorbing book, excitement and worry. Correct and natural breathing is the relaxation and contraction of the diaphragm, that powerful layer of muscular tissue which stretches horizontally through the body at the base of the lungs. When this muscle contracts, it is pushed up by the lungs, and the air is drawn in. When it relaxes, it falls down, and the air is pushed out. This is the natural process of breathing. It is important to breathe in this manner, not suffer from indigestion. However, no matter what your present method of respiration, whether by the use of the upper or lower chest, you can, with but very little volun-

amount of air consumed, and any additional quantity whatsoever will have an immediate and appreciable benefit upon your health.

Whether at home or at your office, indoors or out, bear in mind the thought of a greater inhalation, and while at first you will frequently forget it, a little perseverance will cause it to become a fixed habit—much as so the former restricted breathing had been. Do not, be sending about speaking streams surcharged with life and energy to every part of the body.

The next great fact of almost equal importance with that which has just been described, is the absolute necessity of keeping an approximate balance between the consumption and elimination of food. Nothing that he to him or her is palatable and does not cause some evident distress like nausea or indigestion; but there must be if one wishes to enjoy good health, a relative proportion of intake and output. Few persons are stupid enough to continue placing coal in a furnace and expect it to burn without seeing that the grate is clear of ashes, yet this is what the average person does with his or her own body after day. Their chief concern is the supply of fuel, without any thought of the elimination of burned up materials.

The nutritive properties of food pass into the system by absorption from the alimentary canal, which is made up of the small and large intestines, a muscular tube that extends from the mouth to the rectum. The stomach acts as a preparatory mill, whence the food, transformed by it into a pulp mass called chyme, passes through the alimentary canal. Here the elements required for the nourishment of the body are constantly being extracted, the process of absorption becoming more rapid in the colon. The residue, if allowed to remain, ferments and forms offensive gases, which poison and debilitate the system. From this one cause alone are derived half of our actual maladies.

Moderation in eating is entirely a matter of individual opinion. Generally speaking, those who lead an active out-door life require and do consume more nourishment than those whose occupations or habits are sedentary, but no set rule can be established for all to follow. Whatever the extent of your appetite, the important thing is to keep the balance

comparatively even, and this cannot lead to other than serious organic disorders if brought about by any but natural means. Once each day the colon or large intestine should be emptied. Between meals, when it does not occur there is only one safe rule to follow, which is, not to eat a mouthful of solid food until you are hungry. Eat slowly and masticate thoroughly every mouthful of food, which, if it reaches the stomach in minute particles and is well mixed with saliva of the mouth, greatly lessens the work of the former organ. Partake largely of good fruit and drink unlimited quantities of water—this last never withholds digestion. Between meals, when the stomach has been quite emptied of the digested food, water greatly assists the movement of the chyme along the alimentary canal. Fruit and water are the best agents for eliminating waste material from the system.

Get your full quota of sleep. Some require more than others; but retire early enough to awake refreshed, and without a desire to remain in bed "just ten minutes more." Upon arising do not plunge into a bath of ice cold water. The bodily energies, although renewed by sleep, are upon awakening in a relaxed and dormant condition, and no violent shock of any kind can be at all beneficial. Take your morning bath if you wish, but in water from which the slightest feeling of coldness has been removed.

Don't hurry. There is a world of wisdom in that time worn adage "more haste, less speed." Take it easy and you will accomplish more. Suppose you do hear the car coming before you reach the corner; another will be along presently, so why put a sudden strain upon your heart, exhaust yourself and ruffle your temper? And, last of all, don't worry. You are not the only one who suffers hardship, and half the torments you dread to cross in anticipation have when you come to them dwindled into little rivulets. Look up into God's great open sky occasionally. It may perhaps be covered, but then you know that to-morrow or the next day the storm sun will be shining forth from that tremendous dome of blue. Apply that to yourself and be cheerful, and cheerfulness, let me tell you, is one of the most potent factors toward the attainment and retention of health.

Germany and the Textile Arts.

THE weaving school at Chemnitz, Germany, has made such progress during the last few years in the point of pupil attending and continually increasing number of teachers employed that the old quarters have been outgrown and a new and spacious building has just been moved into. The cost of tuition amounts to \$24 per annum for pupils of German nationality and \$36 for foreigners. Each pupil must pay an additional fee of \$10 to cover expenses for weaving materials used in instruction. A few stipends are granted each year to talented and needy students. It has been the experience of the school that all who complete its curriculum find ready employment immediately upon leaving the institution. The new building has been constructed at a cost of \$200,000, and the government of Saxony has voted a sum of \$100,000 annually as a fund for its support. This amount has been secured for a number of years to come.

The school was originally founded about fifty years ago, and will, therefore, soon celebrate its semi-centennial. During this period it has trained some 200,000 pupils, skilled in all the arts of the textile industry, have left its halls and taken their places among the ranks of those who by their own industry, diligence and intelligence have raised the manufacture of dress goods, hosiery, fabric gloves, etc., in Saxony into world-wide importance.

To support the theoretical instruction, laboratories and practical workrooms, fitted up with the latest machinery of various kinds, run by electricity, are placed at the disposal of the students. Liberal collections of designs and a small library are also constantly in use, the one in practical instruction and the other for reference. That the school stands high in the estimation of the textile manufacturers is amply proved by the numerous presents which are continually given to augment the effectiveness of the various collections, as well as the laboratories, library, etc.

Sugar Beet vs. Sugar Cane.

ACCORDING to a report from Consul General A. L. M. Gottschalk, the sugar growing in Mexico is to have a serious rival in the sugar beet, which is about to be planted and manufactured extensively in that country. The general source of supply of sugar in this country is from the West Indies, held by Professor Fox, of the Agricultural College of Mexico, who states that the new sugar cane will become a very important factor in the sugar industry.

"A concession granted by the government of the Republic," he says, "is an apparently favorable contract for the manufacture of beet sugar, an industry which has remarkable possibilities in Mexico. The company, which is to be formed in the United States and with American capital, is to be composed entirely of men who have had experience in the beet sugar industry in the Northwest. Their contract permits them to establish in the federal district or State of Mexico a factory for the production of beet sugar on a large scale, in which shall be invested at least \$500,000 Mexican (\$25,000 United States) currency. Within twenty-four months from July 5 the concessionaires are to submit a scheme for the plant, buildings and dependencies, which must have the approval of the Mexican authorities and be completed in five years. Buildings may be erected also at other points with the approval of the Department of the Interior.

"Two pupils of the national schools are to be admitted to the respective factories to pursue practical studies there. Should the government require the production of the factories for its own service, the concessionaires are bound to sell the same at a discount of ten per cent off the wholesale price at which their product is offered to the public. They must also furnish the Mexican authorities with data when desired.

"The capital invested in the shares and bonds which may be issued shall enjoy exemption from all direct federal taxes, and not including fees from government stamps. The company is considered as Mexican and is subject to the jurisdiction of the tribunals of this Republic.

"It would appear that several years ago the possibilities of beet sugar culture and manufacture in Mexico attracted the attention of foreigners. European ability, nothing of any importance was done until this that beet culture has been carried on sporadically, chiefly for the purpose of feeding cattle with the beet root, and apparently with great success.