

THEFTS CAUSE WORRY

Uncle Sam Has Been Playing a Long String of Hard Luck.

MAIL POUCH ROBBERY LATEST

Two Defalcations Recently in as Many Subtreasuries.

RECORD THEFT FOR ONE TIME

Million Dollars Taken from the New Orleans Subtreasury.

MOST INGENUOUS OF THEFTS

Colored Messenger in Treasury Department Takes Silver Dollars and Substitutes Lead of Same W.

Washington, Aug. 25.—(Special.)—Your Uncle Samuel is having considerable trouble in getting out of the loss of the mail pouches of the various departments of the government, the disappearance of registered mail pouches from a train between Denver, Colo., at 11:30 a. m., and St. Louis, Mo., at 11:30 p. m., and the loss of a mail pouch which is now being investigated by the post office.

Only a short while ago one of the officials in the Boston subtreasury relieved Uncle Sam of \$3,000. The theft of \$173,000 in \$1,000 bills, which occurred about five months ago in the Chicago subtreasury, is still a great mystery to the government's detective forces, the chief sleuth of the Treasury department, Colonel John Wilkie, having been continually endeavoring to ferret out the criminals who took the money ever since the crime was committed.

According to a statement made by an official of the Treasury department, the United States subtreasuries have suffered greatly by reason of peculations on the part of "trusted" employes. In nine cases have the subtreasuries been robbed of \$10,000 or more, in six of which the thieves have been apprehended and punished and considerable of the money recovered.

Million Dollars Taken. Probably the greatest theft of government money was the Whitaker-May steal from the New Orleans subtreasury in 1867, when nearly \$1,000,000 was taken.

The Winslow theft, which was accomplished in 1896, was another big haul. Winslow was an "honest" employe in the Treasury, and everybody was surprised to discover that he had helped himself to a package containing \$5,000, intended for shipment to a western bank.

That night someone rang the door bell of the home of the secretary of the Treasury, A. U. Wyman, formerly a resident of Omaha, now an employe in the department over which he presided as chief, so hard that the old gentleman tumbled out of his bed in a hurry.

Ingenious Colored Messenger. One of the most ingenious and painstaking thieves was that of an old and trusted colored messenger of the Treasury department who had access to the Treasury vaults where gold and silver coin is stored.

He got away with about \$60 silver dollars, taking from one to four at a time. Silver dollars are stored away in the Treasury vaults in canvas sacks, each sack containing 1,000 silver dollars. The method adopted by Jackson was this: He purchased a Troy weight scale and weighed a standard silver dollar, and ascertaining its precise weight proceeded to get a quantity of lead in the exact size and weight of a silver dollar.

With these lead disks in his possession from day to day he would as opportunity presented itself, during his hours of duty about the vaults of the Treasury, carefully open a sack containing silver dollars, extract two or three, replacing them with the lead disks. This petty larceny went on for some years, and was only discovered by the sheerest accident.

When a United States treasurer goes out of office an accounting of the cash under his control must be made and a balance struck before the United States will release his bonds and a clear balance turned over to his successor.

The millions of silver dollars in the vaults of the Treasury when a count is made necessary by a change in United States treasurers is not made by actually counting by hand every piece of money, but by weighing the bags. Each bag containing 1,000 pieces should weigh just so much, and if short or over the nearest fraction suspicion would be at once aroused and the sack opened to find out what was wrong.

Bag Accidentally Buried. The weighing process or counting is conducted by a committee of trusted clerks appointed by the secretary of the Treasury. Upon the occasion of the discovery of the theft of the messenger Jackson the weighing of the bags of silver dollars had been about half completed in the sack, muddled and old, broke in the hands and its contents rolled all about the floor of the vault. Of course those having charge of the count directed that the coins be gathered up, and when this was done to their great astonishment, they found four lead disks in the bag. A careful count was made of the actual gold standard silver dollars which totaled \$6, four short, with four pieces of lead to make the even thousand.

CONDITION OF THE WEATHER

Table with columns: Temperature at Omaha yesterday, Hour, and Degree.

the treasurer's office. How the lead disks had been substituted for the standard silver cart wheels was a puzzle and might have forever remained a secret had not the negro messenger, who turned the trick, lost his nerve and confessed.

Another theft whereby Uncle Sam lost a considerable sum of money might in very truth be called a gold brick swindle. The chief answer in the Philadelphia mint turned this trick some years ago. It appears that gold intended for mintage is moulded into shape about the size of the common red brick of commerce and each is worth about \$100. These gold bricks are stored in United States mints by the thousands awaiting such time as the government desires to coin the metal.

Veritable Gold Brick. The Philadelphia mint official conceived a shrewd plan. At intervals he would extract one of these real gold bricks, and having erected a retort at his home in one of the suburbs of the Quaker City, proceeded to work the golden metal into small ingots, which he had in ready supply.

Cabinet Officers Are Travelers. "Official traveling is as contagious as yellow fever. It goes through an administrative household like a prairie fire and oddly enough the more of it that is done the more it seems necessary."

WRECKED CAISSON RIGHTED. Railroad Will at Once Proceed to Complete Bridge Over the Missouri.

PIERRE, S. D., Aug. 25.—(Special Telegram.)—The caisson which was wrecked last spring by high water was righted today. This insures the early completion of the Chicago & Northwestern railway's steel bridge over the Missouri river. It is expected that the rails will be connected during the week of September 14.

Accident in Navy Yard. Air Compressor Explodes at Norfolk and Injures Three Men.

SAUNDERSTOWN, R. I., Aug. 25.—Waldo Merrill, stockbroker of Boston, and Landstrom of Mattapan, Mass., a chauffeur, were killed today by the overturning of an automobile, which crashed into a stone wall at a sharp curve in the road leading to Narragansett pier.

TORNADO IN WISCONSIN. Storm Near Eau Claire Kills Two Persons, Injures One and Wrecks Many Buildings.

EAU CLAIRE, Wis., Aug. 25.—A summary of the tornado of last night in the southwest part of Eau Claire county shows the following casualties.

FATAL COLLISION IN FRANCE. Ten People Killed and Twenty-Five Injured in Railroad Wreck.

COITRAS, France, Aug. 25.—Ten persons were killed and twenty-five injured in a head-on collision today between an express train bound for Bordeaux for Paris and a freight train. The accident was caused by a misplaced switch. None of those killed or wounded was an American.

PEACE AMONG SHOE MAKERS. Charges Against International Officers Dismissed by Convention.

TORONTO, Ont., Aug. 25.—The Boot and Shoe Workers' International convention closed today. Charges against President Robin Vies President Lovely and Secretary Dahn of tampering with ballots, issuing false statements and other unlawful acts were dismissed by a vote of 189 to 25.

STOCK MARKET IS EASIER

Financiers of the Opinion Worst of Period of Uncertainty is Past.

REFLECTS EUROPEAN CONDITIONS

High Rates for Money Abroad Have Induced Foreigners to Throw Over Large Amount of American Securities.

NEW YORK, Aug. 25.—The feeling of apprehension with which the stock market began this week has been discounted by the calmer judgment. There was much less liquidation and few signs, save in isolated instances, of selling by those whose margins were impaired or whose confidence in the future had fallen to a lower point.

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MOVEMENTS OF OCEAN STEAMERS. Table with columns: Name, Destination, Date, and Agent.

EXPLOSION IN POWDER MILL

Two Men Are Killed and Several Others Are Injured at San Francisco.

OAKLAND, Cal., Aug. 25.—An explosion occurred at the Dupont-Demours powder works at Sobrante, on the bay shore, sixteen miles north of Berkeley, yesterday.

REHA GETS BIG RECEPTION. Omaha Turner Who Wins Honors Abroad Welcomed Home.

Mr. Reha's return from Prague, where he represented the Omaha Tel. Ed. Sokol in the international exhibition and contests, was marked with festive features not common in Omaha.

MAYOR HELPS IN RECEIVING. Tel. Ed. Sokol Gives Demonstration to Man Who Brings International Championship to Gate City.

First Medal and Diploma. Mr. Reha today was back with his first medal and a diploma for the excellence of his turning.

NEEDS OF THE SIGNAL CORPS. General Allen Wants Both More Men and More Officers for His Department.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 25.—Brigadier General James Allen, chief signal officer of the army, in his annual report urges a considerable strengthening of the arm of the service in his charge.

TWO KILLED IN AUTOMOBILE. Four Others Injured When Machine Crashes into a Stone Wall.

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COLORED MEN BUCK TRUST

Two Bootblacks Refuse to Raise Prices with Greeks Who Control Business.

In this day and age of trust busting, when the vox populi is lifted in righteous indignation against predatory conditions, Omaha has grappled with two tenacles of the octopus, the coal and ice, and now finds itself face to face with the third—the bootblack industry.

Down to Primaries. Politicians All at Sea as to Probable Result on Candidates.

Many Uncertain Quantities. No Precedents to Guide Them in Making Up Their Estimates.

Switch on Talk About Press. City Papers Blamed No Matter Which Tack They Take in Campaign.

Clerkship Bone of Contention. Plun Which Started All the Fight Over the Candidates for Supreme Judge—Chance for Legislature to Act.

Passenger Trains Collide. Four Persons Killed and Six Seriously Injured in Wreck Near Sapulpa, I. T.

SIEGE OF JERICHO IS NEXT. Big Spectacle Is to Be Presented at Vinton Street Ball Park.

President Writes G. Green. Secretary Loeb Sends Thanks of Mr. Roosevelt for Third Term Song.

Holdup at Huntley, Mont. Four Men Fatally Shot and One Maimed for Life—One Robber Captured.

Scots Hold Best Picnic. Clan Gordon Has Finest of All Its Annual Outings at Park.

Waiter Stabs a Yardman. Sticks Knife in Man at Chesapeake Restaurant and Makes His Escape.

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