SUTTER'S TORT, NEW HELVETIA

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

HE recent "gold decision" of the Supreme Court of the United States. awaited so long and so anxiously by the whole world, has added another chapter to the history of money, and especially to that much-discussed and frequently perplexing angle of it, commonly known as the "gold standard." It is a far cry from the event which

took place in Washington the other day to an event which took place in a little European vil-lage one February night 132 years ago—a far cry, indeed, from the stately hall where sit the black-robed justices of a nation's highest tribunal to a small room in the cottage of a Swiss paper-maker. Yet there is a distinct connection between the two.

Just before midnight on February 23, 1903, son was born to Johann Jakob Suter and his wife, Christine Wilhelmine Stoberin Suter, but if, the next morning, anyone had told the sim-ple burghers of Kandern in the Grand Duchy of Baden that this little boy's career would change the destiny of a new nation across the Atlantic and vitally affect the economic history of the whole world, they would have stared at such a prophet with unbelieving eyes. But he would have spoken the truth. For the world, half a century later, was to know this little boy, whom his parents mamed Johann Augus-tus Suter, as Gen. John Sutter—Sutter of California, the man whose name has become al-most synonymous with the name of a yellow

metal so highly prized by mankind—gold!

The result was his decision to seek his for tune in the New world and 100 years ago this spring the Odyssey of John Sutter (he had changed his name upon his arrival here) in America began. First a trader on the Santa Fe Trail, he went to the Oregon country in 1838, made a trip to the Sandwich islands and to Alaska and finally on July 1, 1839, arrived in San Francisco, then called Yerba Buena by the Mexicans, and started on the career in the country which was to make his name forever

land grant from the Mexican officials he set out to select a site for his proposed colony. In August be arrived at a point where the Amerpresent capital of California. There he established his colony to which he gave the name of New Helvetla, after his homeland of Switzerland, and erected the fort which was to be the focal point in the empire he was to build.

The story of that empire is a familiar onehow he won the friendship of the Indians by using just the right mixture of kindness an firmness; how they formed a part of the hundreds of retainers who tilled the fields and tended the herds and flocks of this feudal lord the American wilderness; how he extende his holdings of land until he ruled over nearly 250,000 acres; and how he became the most important figure in all that region, both under Mexican rulers and later when California passed from their hands into the possession of the United States.

To Sutter's Fort came many a notable travele -Col. John C. Fremont, Kit Carson, Gen. Stephen Kearney, a young lieutenant named William Tecumseh Sherman and another named W. J. Revere, the latter a grandson of Paul Revere, who inherited some of his ancestor's talent for drawing and who made the sketch of the fort which is reproduced above. From Sutter's Fort went out the rescue party which saved the remnants of the Ill-fated Donner party marooned in the snowy Sierras in 1847 and many another stirring chapter in California history was en-acted in and around the capital of New Hel-



Mormon, with booming voice, shouting the news of the discovery in San Francisco, who started the mad gold rush which ruined John Sutter.

One other fateful entry in Sutter's diary deserves quoting. On Friday, January 28, 1848, he recorded "Mr. Marshall arrived from the Mts. on very important business." The "important business" was to show Sutter some yellow fakes he had discovered in the tall-race of the sawmill he was building in the "beautiful vale" of Coloma, 40 miles away. They tested the flakes. It was gold!

At that time most of the settlements in Call-fornia were along the coast but Sutter pro-posed to go inland and colonize. Obtaining a mer's chattering sons, Wimmer in turn let slip the secret to Samuel Brannan, a Mormon elder who had led a colony from the East to Califor nia in 1846, had published one of Cahfornia's first newspapers in Yerba Buena for a short time and was now running a store near fort. Brannan was a crafty person. If news of the gold discovery in the Sacramento valley became known, it might start a gold rush there. The gold-seekers would need supplies. They could obtain them from Elder Samuel Bran-

nan's store. Therefore . . .
So, one day in May, 1848, a horseman galloped through the main street of San Francisco.
"In his right hand he carried a bottle of glittering yellow grains.
"'Gold! Gold!' be cried, 'Gold from the

American river!""
It was Elder Samuel Brannan.

Col. R. B. Mason, American military con mander at San Francisco, paid little heed to the first news of the gold discovery. But as the ru-mors increased, his young adjutant, Lieut. W. T. mors increased, his young adjutant, Lieut, W. T.
Sherman, urged him to investigate. So Mason
gave Sherman permission to visit Sutter's fort
and learn the truth of these rumors. From that
visit grew a friendship which had an interesting
aftermath for both Sherman and Sutter. Durting his visit Sherman collected \$3,000 worth of
gold nuggets and hurried back to San Francisco. Then he wrote a long report which Mason signed and this, with the nuggets packed
in a tea caddy, was sent by special courier to
Washington. When President Polk, a little later, startled the world with the announcement
of, the golfi discovery in California it was Sher-

washington. When President Polk, a little later, startled in and around the capital of New Helvetia.

Many of these are recorded in the extracts from Sutters diary with which Mr. Dann embellishes his biography. John Sutter could not have realized what history he was recording when he took his pen in hand one day to write this:

"August 27th, 1847. A host of Mormons here to buy previsions and have blacksmith work done. Made a contract with James Wilson Marshall for a sawmill to be erected on the American Fork."

Even more fateful is the entry for the following day:

"August 28th. Horses shod of many more Mormons. Employed hearly all them to work here since they seem to be unstormly hones, honorable and hardworking. James Wilson Marshall and Puter Wimmer departed early for the Mrs. to determine a proper sawmill tale.

When Suiter would with the announcement of, the gold discovery in California it was Sherman's words that he quoted.

What followed is a familiar story—the lust for the golden metal which swept the whole world and sent thousands by land and by sea to California, Sutter's emptre of New Heivetia crumbled under the ourcush of the gold-hungry fortune-seekers. In 1850 California became a state and Sutter believed that now his property rights would win recognition. But he was liaspointed. In 1851 he realized a long-deferred ambition—that of bringing his wife and children to join him in his new house.

But the years which followed were sad ones for the man who had been "ring of New Helvetia." Little by little, his property slipped away from him. Court decisions in his favor way from him court decisions in his favor head of him was a

see that justice was done him. It was the ginning of a 14-year fight for justice.

GOLD from the AMERICAN RIVER

"Washington was hot that June; and gering, hotter. Perspiring members of both houses were eager for an adjournment. John Sutter's claim found lizelf, as customary, on the tagend of the session's business. . . . Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman ast in the gallery, mopping his face with a handkerchiet waiting to carry the good news to the Swiss. . . .

"In his hotel room, Sutter lay on his bed and slept. He was very weary; happy, too, that this was the last journey he would have to make to Washington. It was all settled. The pittance was to be finally allowed.

"Five o'clock came; a knock at the door awakened the general... The door opened. Sherman came in. There was a bleakness on him and his lips were straight.

"Sutter stood up, expectant. "The claim? he said, the blue eyes certain.

"It's a d—d shame, general!" burst out Sherman. "They're adjourned. Your claim didn't even go to a vote."

man. They're adjourned Your claim didn't even go to a vote.

"A strangeness came into the bine eyes. They seemed to grow cold and old; blue ice they seemed to be, ice from a far-off Swiss glacier that suddenly ceased to knew the sunlight.

"Next year," he said clearly, 'next year they

"He fell suddenly, like a stricken thing, back upon the bed. Sherman ran forward with a cry, shifted him slightly, held up the white head

cry, shifted him slightly, held up the white head tenderly.

"John Sutter had passed beyond caring for any earthly claim, or for the task of slifting the ashes of empire..."

And so the Swiss adventurer died, but the story of "Sutter's gold" which ruined him has kept his memory alive through all these years. As for the way in which his cureer changed the destiny of a nation, ane historian has summed up the results of the discovery and the enormous production of gold in California during the next half century as follows: It raised the price of goods and labor; it opened new markets and extended commerce; it alled a wilderness with settlers, stimulated the development of the Pacific coast, susabilished new lines of steamships, and in time made a transcentinental railroad a necessity; it extended the domain of free labor on the Pacific coast and effectually shut out slavery in all that part of the West; and it was one of the causes which induced the majority of the nations of Europe to stop the coinage of silver and to adopt gold as their sole standard impacy." And that is why there is a connection between the hirth of Johann Augustus Suire in a little German

National Capital

ington.

It is difficult to prove any given case, for in every instance some sanators or members of the house are honestly and enthusiastically for the particular thing that the White House thinks would harstring its program. Proof of the real underlying desires of any given senator being so difficult to obtain, it would be very misleading to name names.

name names.

The interesting point about the whole situation, however, ites not in any particular more against the administration which may gain unexpected support, but in the possible consequences for 1938.

It muddles what until now had been a very clear view of what seemed certain to happen, and which in all probability still is very ours. It is only the fact that there is now a bit of a cloud on the horizon—which may or may not grow—that is really interesting at all.

The cloud is the possibility that

that is really interesting at all.

The cloud is the possibility that a group of the extremists may get together and form a third party next year. For such a move to get anywhere it must surmount several rather tail hurdles. One is whether they could even get together on a candidate, there being no such person in the offing as the elder La Follette was in 1925.

With that hurdle surmounted, and assuming—which is much easier—that the third party leaders could agree on a platform, the next hurdle is something over which the radicals have no control whatever—what the regular Republicans will do.

Big Handicap

For the only possible importance of a third party entering the field would not be the possibility of electing its own candidates, but of giving the Republicans a chance to beat Roosevelt, just as the elder La Follette's candidacy in 1924 assured the election of Calvin Coolidge by a landslide. The third party would draw votes from the New Deal. It would not get any of the 18,000,000 men and women who voted the Republican ticket last

November.

Even with this big handicap, however, the Republicans would have to make a good showing to win, a bigger showing, in fact, than there is any apparent probability at this time of their making. Their difficulties revolve not only around the candidate, but the platform.

What could they agree on in a national convention as to platform?

Talks with hair a dozen leading Republican survivors in the house and senate indicate almost that number of widely varying views as to the proper course to be taken.

ginning of a 14-year fight for justice.

He had the aid of powerful friends, one of them William Tecumseh Sherman, now a famous general. But congress repeatedly turned a deaf ear to his appeals. In June, 1880, he made another of his interminable trips to Washington.

"Washington was hot that June; and getting botter. Permitting members of both houses.

which usually is so apparent at this stage of the Presidential term among the outs. No one is screaming for this or that candidate. All unite in saying they do not know what candidate would make a good

There is less opposition to Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg of Michigan, and to Frank Knox, the publisher, than to most, but even those
who like these particular men disagree as to what the platform
should be.

Altogether, even with more success for the radicals than is now
anticipated, the picture is not very
disconcerting to the New Deal.
Actually, the far more important
element is whether business can revive sufficiently by November, 1936,
for America to see its path leading

The Baby Bonds

Anticipated objections from the life insurance companies to the baby bonds the government proposes to sell at post offices have not materialized, most representatives of the companies saying there is no strictly insurance feature, in that the amount of return is not changed by the ideath of the holder actually the baby bonds present ideal arrangement for the pur-

But, bankers and insurance men point out, this baby bond issue presents an estirely different proposition. In the case of people taking short term government loans, their motive is to obtain a little return on their money while they are walting. They hope that by the band of the period of that loan they may find some safe investment, which will yield them a larger return. Proof of this is in the fact that for long term bonds the government has to pay from two to four times as much interest.

But in the case of the baby bonds

But in the case of the baby bonds there is no return at all during the first year, and only a very small return for the next six years. Moreover, the holder is compelled, if he wants to cash in before the higher interest rate becomes effective, to take the price fixed in advance by the government. Other investors might be willing to pay more, but the bonds are not transferable.

One of the government's objects

One of the government's objects One of the government's objects here is to save money, of course. Every person cashing the bonds in before maturity takes a very low interest rate! Another object is to keep the bonds out of the hands of the banks. There has been a great deal of criticism of government financing on the score that it was loading the banks up with government bonds, and thus restricting the amount of money which could betamount of money which could bet-ter be employed at stimulating in-

Not being negotiable, these baby bouds will stay out of the banks, thus serving this purpose. But the fact that the bonds are not negotiable also lessens their attractiveness to investors. This might not interest the chap who buys just one bond for \$18.75. But it would interest considerably the man or woman with a few thousand dollars to invest. Hence the prediction that the total sales will not figure heavily in the sovernment's facal plans. Not being negotiable, these baby ily in the government's fiscal plans.

In fact, this is frankly admitted by some administration officials. They admit they would like to see certain other effects. Just holding a hond of any sort, they point out, has the effect of making the holder just a little more conservative. And incidentally making him in a way a partner in the New Deal.

Gold Clause Decision

One of the most significant things ut the gold clause de the Supreme court was not only the secrety which shrouded what that decision would be—indicated by the finances were very misleading—but also the moves the administration had planned to counteract the effects in case the decision should have gone 100 per cent against the

For it can now be stated that not even the speaker of the bouse, nor leading administration smators, had the slightest idea what would be

done.
Just three people really knew.
They were: President Roosevelt,
Secretary of the Treasury Morganthau, and Attorney General Cum-

mings.

And that Cummings knew is the writer's guess. Cummings does not admit it. So is might be possible that the third person who knew was not Cummings, but some other lawyer on whose indigment the President and Morgenthau could rely.

One high treasury official, known for his shrewdness, made some interesting deductions in advance. For example, he had the idea, stressed in the majority opinion by the court, that the amount of damages would have to be determined in court—that certainly no court would force a company to pay the full \$1.69 for each dollar of a gold clause bond.

"And," this official added in a conversation several days before the decision, "I do not think it will be possible actually to demonstrate damages to the extent of the decision."

with a strong waxed thread
The above "Pin Wheel" r
ures 85 inches and require
pounds of cotton rag rug
The center section has a big
ground and the 8 section
white. The outer circle s
center are of hit-end-mis

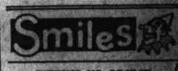
center are of hit and miss mb colors.

Cut strips 1½ inches wide, edges under and then fold again make a strip about one half it wide. Use three strips in a acading. Start in the center and sew 8 re of braid around, keeping work 1. Start next row on opposite side where the previous row ended, we around, changing colors for 9 roas illustrated. To change color strips of new color desired to ones in use. Start again at differentiate for 8 outside rows, then sew the last row separately. This rehas 26 rows.

has 26 rows.

If you are interested in mean rugs, send 15c to our Rugartment for book No. 25, which takes 26 rugs in braiding and or instructions are given with each also directions for braiding and answering the second cheting rugs and how to prepare rags into strips to get the heat res ADDRESS—HOME CRAFT

DEPT C, Nineteenth and St. L avenue, St. Louis, Mo. Inclose a stamped addressed evelope for reply when writing for a



FITTING NO OBJECT An old negro recently approa-a relief worker and asked for si-ing. He particularly wanted a

of pants.
"What size do you wear?" he was

"I'm afraid I don't have your size." she informed him. "The smallest I have is a size 50." "Well, that's all right. You see! Miss, we sin't so much for fittin' as for hidin'."

Once Was Enough
Two women were waiting for a
ous, which was nearly full when it
came along.
"Room for one inside and one on
top," said the conductor.

"But surely you wouldn't see mother and daughter."
"I did once," replied the cond as he rang the bell, "but again."—London Tit-Bits.

System
His Wife—What if I do take a

the white—What if I do take the money out of your pockets we you're asleep? It's the only we can get any out of you.

The Efficiency Expert—I'm complaining. I'm only asking to ring up the amounts on this cregister so I can make the procharges."

Danthloss Banker—This is the tenth
you have had this note renews
Yan Meters.
Poet—Yes, sir; I fear that the only immortal thing I she
write.



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