

SYNTHETIC GOLD HAS BEEN MADE?

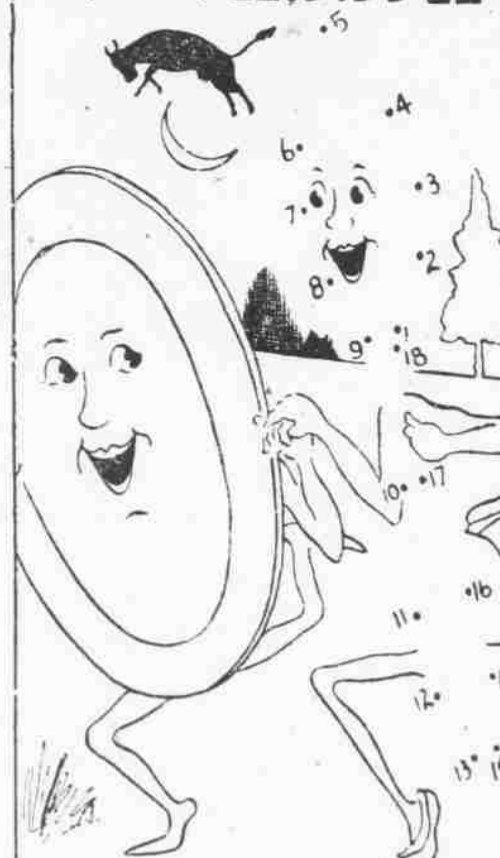
German's Claim Disputed as Impossible by Some; Others Say Possibly.

Dec. 27.—(By the Associated Press)—Wall Street was undisturbed over persistent reports that a German scientist has succeeded in making synthetic gold. Certain chemists were skeptical. Quite a number of other people recalled their own experience. "All is not gold that glitters," and numerous disbelievers in the claims of alchemists had reached the Germans wait for synthetic gold to make reparations payments, and will probably need a longer more than they now seek," said Dr. Byers, head of the chemists' department of Cooper Union. Professor Fisher, of Yale, was quoted as saying in London that if the synthetic gold process were true, it might make a farce of the reparations payments by using synthetic gold.

Dr. Byers said, "It is not possible to leave, or an ignorant scientist would pronounce the synthesis of gold impossible. There is no credible evidence that anyone today any nearer the realization of the dream of the alchemists than they were in the days when the German kings were dunned by the knights of the Black Art, or that the speedy delusion of transmutation of metals promised by the practical problem would be as distant from solution as that of diamond manufacture, which very few know is possible." Dr. Byers and Dr. Harrison E. Jones, editor of The Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry, discussed the synthetic gold achievement, and Professor Fisher, who has stated that synthetic gold might be worthless, as Professor Fisher is reported as fearing," said Dr. Howe. "For all that we know it might be more valuable than Morisant, of Paris, demonstrated it was possible to make diamonds, but the small ones that he did make were more costly than the genuine gems."

MOTHER GOOSE DOT PUZZLE

HEY, DIDDLE, DIDDLE!



THE CAT AND THE FIDDLE;
THE DOG JUMPED OVER THE MOON
THE LITTLE DOG LAUGHED
TO SEE SUCH CRAFT;
AND THE DISH RAN AWAY
WITH THE

CITY RECOVERS FROM CHRISTMAS

Rolls Up Its Sleeves After a Couple of Days of Quiet and Rest.

After a couple of days of cessation from business and occupation of all sorts, Charlotte went back to work Tuesday morning after a lapse since Saturday night for the Christmas celebration. The two days given over to the quiet and tranquility of the annual occasion were productive of fewer excesses than has often been the case in the past when there was only one day for Christmas relaxation.

Themultitudes turned their faces to the churches Sunday and the calmness and serenity which generally characterize the observance of the Sabbath in this community were not violated even by the extraordinary rights which some think Christmas invests them with. An occasion was taken as the day off for making merry during the Christmas and it was a day marked by more than accustomed quiet. The streets were largely deserted. The day was cold and disagreeable, making for unpleasantness and discomfort for those out of doors, and this probably contributed to the fact there was so little in the way of an external celebration.

The celebration this year, according to police officers, has been featured by an orderliness which is somewhat unusual. While there was an occasional unfortunate to pick up from the streets because he had tarried too long at the moonshine, the city was remarkably free from wrong-doing of an overt kind. There was little lawlessness called to the attention of officers and no semblance or suggestion of a wave of crime such as is being experienced in many other cities just at this time of the year.

The Christmas was attended by the usual big dinners around the firesides, some turned their faces toward the country to spend the day in hunting, others ministered to the needy and the poor, seeing to it that some of the luxuries of the Christmas were tendered them and making a point to get some of the necessities of life distributed where there were the most insistent calls for such.

Many of the youngsters exhibited the plentifulness of Santa Claus with which the old patron saint had invested them, bringing to the streets their little wagons, tricycles, roller skates, miniature aeroplanes, musical devices of varied sorts and other trinkets left them upon the occasion of the prowling about of old Santa.

Recovering from the cessations of the season, the wrestling with big turkey dinners and other forms of holiday transgressions, the city rolled up its sleeves again Tuesday morning and went back to work the best it could under the circumstances. The post-Christmas feeling, however, was in evidence in the display of languor in business offices and a general atmosphere of torpidity which follows the laying off from labors for a day or two.

Merchants set themselves to the task of finding out what shops their stores are in following the rush of the holiday buying, many of them repairing to institute sales at once to clean up the fragments and all of them looking forward to the time of the inventory which falls between now and the first of a new year.

FIRE LOSS FOR LAST MONTH HALF MILLION

Raleigh, Dec. 27.—The November fire loss in North Carolina was \$466,017 and for November last year \$1,584,000. The loss for the 11 months total, \$6,329,421 against \$5,006,000 for 1920. For the United States and Canada the November loss aggregated \$26,178,600 against \$28,093,350 in November, 1920. The loss for the 11 months amounts to \$303,747,400 compared with \$289,658,025 last year. The per capita loss for the 11 months for North Carolina is \$2.82; for the United States and Canada \$2.74. Last year the per capita was North Carolina \$2.27; U. S. & C., \$2.62.

Commenting on the foregoing statistics compiled and tabulated from official reports to the State Department of Insurance, Commissioner Wade gives the consoling prediction that for the 12 month period there will be a reversal of the bad 11 month per capita showing for North Carolina, since December losses from present prospects will not be half those of December last year \$1,000,000. The loss at this date, December 22, is approximately \$175,000 and exactly half of this was from one fire at Louisburg.

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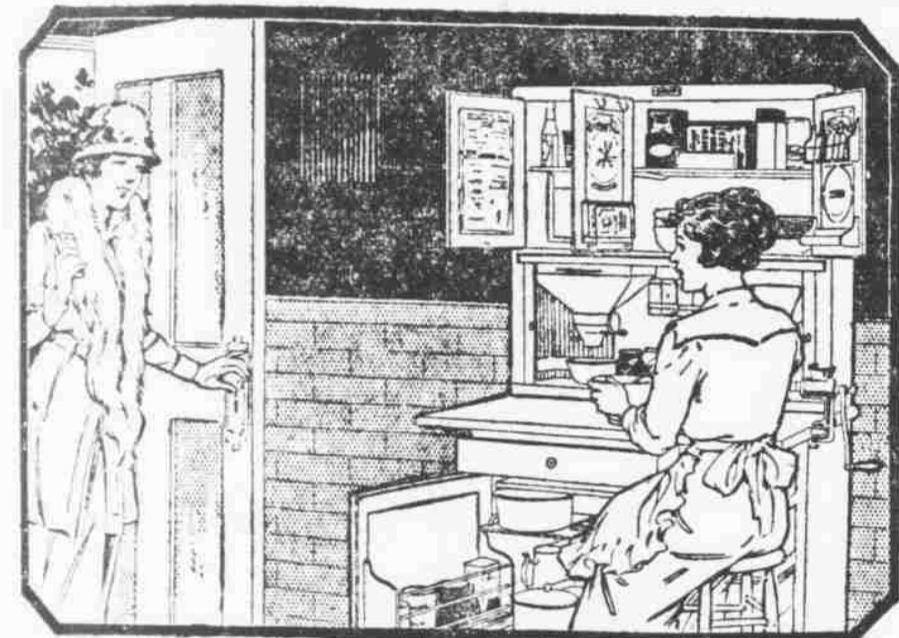
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