

Your money back... Judicious advertising is the kind that pays back to you the money you invest. Space in this paper assures you prompt returns.

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Pale, Thin, Nervous?

Then your blood must be in a very bad condition. You certainly know what to take, then take it—Ayer's Sarsaparilla. If you doubt, then consult your doctor. We know what he will say about this grand old family medicine. Sold for over 60 years.

This is the first question your doctor would ask you to ask before he prescribes any medicine. It is the only one that is absolutely essential to recovery. Keep your liver active and your bowels regular by taking laxative doses of Ayer's Pills.



REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF

The Bank of Robersonville

At Robersonville, N. C.

In the State of North Carolina, at the close of business April 6, 1906.

RESOURCES.

Loans and discounts	\$24,887.49
Overdrafts	1,509.20
Furniture and fixtures	3,495.50
Due from banks and bankers	9,543.53
Cash items	2,988.15
Total	\$42,606.97

LIABILITIES.

Capital stock	\$15,000.00
Surplus fund	3,750.00
Undivided profits	106.41
Time deposits	1,550.00
Deposits subject to check	21,410.61
Cashier's checks outstanding	799.95
Total	\$42,606.97

State of North Carolina) ss. County of Martin.)

I, J. C. Robertson, cashier of the above named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

J. C. ROBERTSON, Cashier.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12th day of April, 1906.

S. L. ROSS, Notary Public.

Corrected Attest: J. H. Roberson, Jr., A. S. Roberson Directors.

You have tried the rest

now try the Best

AT

CRYSTAL

Shaving Parlor

Bank Building, Smithwick St.

W. T. RHODES, Prop.

OUR MOTTO

Sharp Tools

PATENTS

and TRADE-MARKS promptly obtained in all countries, or to file. No obtain PATENTS THAT PAY, advertise them thoroughly, at our expense, and help you to success. Send model, photo or sketch for FREE report on patentability. 10 years' practice. SURPASSING RESULTS. For free Guide book on Patentable Inventions write to: 503-505 Seventh Street, WASHINGTON, D. C.

D. SWIFT & CO.

KILL THE COUGH AND CURE THE LUNGS

WITH Dr. King's

New Discovery

FOR CONSUMPTION, Price 50c and \$1.00

FOR COUGHS and CROUPS, Free Trial.

Surest and Quickest Cure for all THROAT and LUNG TROUBLES, or MONEY BACK.

Rocky Mountain Tea Nuggets

A Gaily Stimulant for Busy People. Gives Health and Renewed Vigor.

Prepared by Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass., U.S.A.

For sale by all druggists and grocers.

Do not be misled by cheap imitations.

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FORGED POSTAGE STAMPS

Notable Instances in Which Collectors Were Hooked.

TALES OF "BOGUS KING."

This Business Carried on to Large Extent in Japan—Slight Errors That Have Led to Imprisonment—Colors Often Changed by Use of Acids.

In spite of the enormous amount of labor and secrecy necessary to forge a postage stamp which must then run the gauntlet of lynx eyed dealers, it is, nevertheless, a fact that a large number of forged stamps are bought by collectors every year. These forgeries, says the London Tit Bits, are carried out for the greater part in Japan. Austria also contributes a large quota, but very few are made in England.

The great object of the forger in the first place is to deceive the dealer if he possibly can, and so create a medium for the sale of the stamps as they are produced, but it is very rarely that this can be done. The most colossal stamp forgery on record entailed the successful swindling of collectors throughout Europe in 1859. One day the French papers announced that King Marie I. of Sardinia was coming to Paris. As it happened this self-created monarch was an ex-officer of the French navy, and his appearance in Paris created considerable sensation. As soon as his Majesty had been duly "advertised," sets of seven different postage stamps marked "Sedang," and bearing three half moons, appeared and so great was the demand for them that in less than a month they realized 1,000 fr. each. Not until the king and his Ministers had reaped fat fortunes in this manner was it discovered that the whole thing was a hoax and the stamps were consequently worthless.

One of the most amusing hoaxes on record was purposely set by the greatest stamp expert of his time—namely, M. J. B. Moens—in order to trap other dealers who repeatedly stole and republished, without permission information from his paper, Le Timbre Poste. Accordingly, on April 1 one year, M. Moens announced that the Commune of Moresnet was about to publish a set of postage stamps, and he gave illustrations of the issue, which other philatelic journals promptly copied. Instantly stamp collectors throughout Europe were electrified by the news, and immense sums were deposited in order to secure the first stamps issued. But time passed on and the stamps did not appear. At last the hoax became apparent, to the disappointment of dealers and collectors alike.

It very often happens that the engraving and water marking of forged stamps are so perfect that the cleverest experts are deceived. But the forger frequently comes to grief over a simple point when a little more care would have made the forgery perfect. A few years ago Hawaii 1851 issue became rather common, and collectors began to wonder how this could be. To all appearances the stamps were genuine, but suddenly a dealer discovered something which was instrumental in bringing the forger to justice. In making these stamps the individual had shaded a stamp incorrectly, a trifling error which secured for him a term of imprisonment.

A second instance occurred in Paris, where a number of nine kreuzer (pink) Wurtemberg stamps came on the market. Now, a specimen of this stamp is worth to-day about £20, but a dealer there found a man who had seventeen of these stamps, and he thought he had secured a bargain when he bought the whole lot for £8 apiece. In addition collectors all over Europe picked up stray specimens at high prices. The forger might have made his fortune by the manufacture of this stamp had it not been that an English dealer discovered that he had spelt "Wurtemberg" on the stamps in the English fashion with one "t" instead of with two as was the case on genuine specimens.

It is very seldom that English dealers can be caught napping like this. All the well known firms employing experts especially to guard against forgeries, so the stamp forger has to act as his own dealer, and for the sake of convenience as well as safety he usually prefers to live abroad, with perhaps a few agents to sell his stamps here direct to collectors. The forger, therefore, starts small businesses under various aliases in different countries and cities, changing his quarters frequently as occasion demands. He, of course, only makes stamps of high value, for a set of dies for a stamp will seldom cost less than £50 to begin with.

But he can impose on the gullible collector in other ways. The colors of stamps can be very often changed by acids, and this in the case of some stamps will make a difference of £50, £100 or even more to a single specimen. Moreover, the art of stamp forgery has been brought to such a high level that it is possible to remove completely the effigy from one stamp and substitute another without the fraud being detected, unless the specimen is examined under a powerful microscope.

Judge and Juror. Elmer had had company all day, and a sleeper boy was never put to bed. Just as his mother finished undressing him he said: "Mamma, I said my prayers on the way upstairs, so as to save time."

BRITISH NAVY'S TORPEDO BOATS

Possess Advantage Over Larger Vessels in Coast Defense.

A recent addition to the British navy is the new petrol launch. This little craft, which is only 60 feet in length by 9 feet beam, was built for use as a second-class torpedo boat, and if used for this purpose the tube would be carried aft and a quick-firing gun in the bows, says the London Engineer. A peculiarly shaped hull, with a flat bottom, has been adopted, it being claimed that the boat of this form will swim upon the surface of the water. Practical experiments have demonstrated that a speed of one knot more can be obtained with this form of hull than with any other with a given power; the reason assigned for this being that the bows of the boat rise, the result being that there is a gliding rather than a cutting motion, and that that portion of the power which is usually expended in producing surface disturbance, or what is called "wave making," is utilized for propulsion. The boat is said to have excellent sea-going qualities, as good as can be expected from a craft of this size.

The petrol engines develop about 300 horse-power. There are three units driving three propellers. The starboard and port engines are 120 horse-power each, and there is a smaller unit in the center of the boat which develops sixty horse-power. The two other propellers are only capable of going ahead, while the central propeller can be reversed, it being considered that the amount of reversing power is sufficient. The clutches are of metal to metal. The three sets of engines are all controlled from the same board, by means of three throttle and three control levers. Speed indicators are also placed in a convenient position so that the speeds of the three shafts can be registered. One high-tension ignition box for each of the side engines, with single coil and an eight point distributor, has been provided, while the center motor is driven from a single coil and four point distributor. One of the special features of the boat is the arrangement of the petrol tank. In order to obviate all danger due to the use of this spirit the main petrol tank is quite separate from the remainder of the hull, so that in case of damage to the tank the petrol would simply flow into the sea and not into the boat, and in case of any conflagration the flame, when the boat is traveling, would pass away from the hull.

For a length of about six feet at the stern of the boat the hull is designed to form a "tray," upon which this tank rests. It is sufficiently large to carry one ton of fuel, a quantity which, it is estimated, will drive the boat for nearly 300 miles. The speed of the boat is high. On a series of trials recently carried out over a measured mile she attained a speed of 26.14 knots, which we believe to be unprecedented for a boat of these dimensions. This increased speed is said to be due to several reasons: First, the much lighter weight of the machinery of the internal combustion type, as compared with those driven by steam, the saving being nearly 50 per cent, and secondly, the form of hull, which it may be mentioned, only draws a foot of water when at rest. A feature worthy of mention is the small amount of wash caused by the boat's progress through the water. The weight, including the hull and propelling machinery, does not exceed eight tons.

As to the future of this type of boat, it is claimed that if such a launch be fitted with torpedoes it would be eminently suitable for the defence of a port or a coast, and that a certain amount of money would be more advantageously spent in obtaining a larger number of such craft rather than a few vessels of larger size. For example, the cost of a modern destroyer is said to be about fifteen times as great as the cost of the boat just described. For the purpose of defending a port from an attacking or blockading fleet, fifteen small vessels of high speed, which is would be difficult to hit, should offer a much safer means of defense than one destroyer of large size, upon which the fire of a number of guns could be concentrated. There is also another point in connection with these launches. The number of the crew working the machinery is about half what is needed for this class of boat if propelled by steam.

Where and Wherefore.

The patient at the clinic suddenly shook off the fumes of ether, sat up on the operating table and said: "Where am I?"

When nobody answered he looked wildly into the faces of the students who filled the amphitheater and cried out: "What am I here for?"

And a voice from the rear benches replied: "For instance."—Puck.

Relieved.

"They have made some serious discoveries about you," said the friend.

"What's the matter?" said the insurance director. "It isn't anything that reflects on my business capacity is it?"

"They say you have gotten more than your share of the funds."

"That isn't so bad. I was afraid it had turned out that I got less than my share."—Washington Star.

Nothing But the Truth.

"Human sympathy," remarked the home-grown philosopher, "reminds me of the early strawberry box."

"What's the answer?" queried the very young man.

"The bottom of it is very near the top," answered the philosophy dispenser.

BEAUTIFUL ISLE OF PINES

How the United States Lost This Valuable Possession.

A MECCA FOR INVALIDS.

Mountains Rich in Minerals—Some However Have Been Wrecked For Commercial Purposes—Wild Fruits and Nuts Abound.

In the negotiations of peace at Paris with Spain the United States paid a price for the Philippines and demanded cession of Porto Rico and the island of Pines as indemnity, says the St. Louis Republic. The island of Cuba was covered by a separate condition, which compelled evacuation by Spain and established a protectorate until an independent government could be organized.

There is no doubt as to the policy and purposes of the administration regarding the Isle of Pines in 1898. There can be no question that the officials of this government looked forward to the continuance of American authority over the Isle of Pines, holding that territory on the same basis as Porto Rico. In pursuance of such policy this government built docks at two ports. An excellent road was constructed from one of these ports, Nueva Gerona, to Santa Fe, the principal community of the island, situated in the interior. Officials of the United States carried on an investigation of the harbors. They reported that the Isle of Pines was admirably adapted by nature for a naval station. Nueva Gerona, the port most accessible from Cuba, is in the Casas river, which admits coastwise boats. Near the mouth of the Casas is a harbor where vessels drawing 15 to 20 feet can enter. On the west side of the island are several harbors for vessels of 20 and 25 feet draft. On the southwest is a spacious anchorage formed by the peninsula of Cape Frances which has depths varying from 10 to 35 feet. There are other harbors on the south southeast. In fact, the coast has a series of indentations and peninsulas affording ideal conditions to the navy for a station, with very deep water off shore on the south.

From time to time this government has considered the expediency of purchasing the Danish West Indies for strategic purposes. Much more effective for influence in the gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean sea is the Isle of Pines. Yucatan is 230 miles west and Jamaica, the British base, is 370 miles southeast. The mouth of the Panama canal is 850 miles a little east of south. The nearest point of Cuba is 35 miles north. The administration fully intended to hold and develop the Isle of Pines. A change of policy came when it was decided to require Cuba as part of the price for intervention the grant of a naval station upon the island of Cuba. Having secured these, the administration committed itself to the return of the Isle of Pines.

While the policy of retention of the Isle of Pines prevailed, United States government officials, who investigated the natural conditions, became enthusiastic over them. Although south of Cuba, the Isle is gifted with a climate which is official of the department of state declared "the finest on earth." The mercury, he said, seldom goes above 90 degrees and never below 68. The average for the year, and the prevailing temperature, is about 75. A great future as a health resort was predicted—a Riviera for the western hemisphere. The Isle is not a growth of coral reefs, mangroves swamps and the fotsam and jessam of the gulf stream, like the Keys. It was uplifted by the series of convulsions of nature which made the Antilles. The altitude is much greater than that port of Cuba lying nearest. The general elevation is from 50 to 100 feet above the sea. But the interior has ridges, hills, cliffs and mountains considerably higher than the Ozarks.

For generations the Isle of Pines was a health resort of Cuban families. The Spanish government maintained a sanitarium there for sick soldiers. Either yellow fever or any other of the tropical or semitropical epidemic diseases has ever been known on the Isle.

During two centuries the mineral waters of the Isle have had widespread reputation for curative properties; especially in kidney and rheumatic troubles. Near the town of Santa Fe are thermal springs of blood heat; baths are maintained. Nueva Gerona has magnesium springs, recommended for their efficacy in stomach troubles.

Canas is a mountain of beautiful marbles of various colors. Crystals covered with green rock crystals. The marbles of various colors, Crystals of grain, lying in veins from 5 to 25 feet thick. In various parts of the island is found manganese, the deposits about Santa Fe being of unknown depth. In the Siguanas hills, near the southwest coast, are veins of pure brown hematite.

No Use for it.

Agent—"I am introducing a new coal-book, madam. The price is only 58 cents, and—"

Lady (interrupting)—"Nothing doing. My husband is a poet."

No Longer Needed.

Her—"I hear the count has broken off his engagement with that homely hells." I wonder why?"

Him—"He recently inherited a million from a distant relative."

Restrictions.

Pat—"Phat do yes think av twins' Mike—Begobs, twins is sich a bargain that they should only give one to a customer."—Puck.

POPULARITY OF ORIENTAL RUGS.

Where They Come From and How to Judge Their Quality.

The subject of Oriental rugs has been more or less shrouded in mystery. Their strange-sounding names and their distant origin have cast such a spell on the popular mind that they have come to be regarded as outside the pale of ordinary commodities of life, says the New York Times. While it has paid shrewd dealers not to disturb this, to them a favorable, condition of public mind, the average buyer himself is in a measure responsible for its continuance.

The question of "antique" in Oriental rugs should be dismissed from the mind in purchasing rugs for ordinary use. Among recent importations, in carpet sizes, there are hardly any antiques in the true sense of the word. Real antiques that have found their way to this country have been secured by private collectors who were alive to the worth of such pieces long before the general public showed any sign of appreciating the beauty and the charm of the products of the Oriental looms.

It must be understood that in the countries where Oriental rugs are made they are treated with more consideration and care than we accord to them in existing conditions of our modern life. First of all the number of rugs used on walls, sofas, etc., far exceed those used on the floor, and the latter do not get any harder wear than those on couches, from the fact that in the Oriental countries people invariably walk over the rugs with soft slippers or bare feet. The native method of cleaning the rug, which is very simple, also has much to do with proving the truth of the statement that "Oriental rugs do not wear out." Within the last ten years the import of Oriental rugs has grown from a few hundred thousand dollars to over four millions, and it is indicative of the advanced state of our people's taste no less than their prosperity that there are more Oriental rugs in the United States to-day and of a far better standard of grade than in the entire Continent of Europe.

Some of the best-known Persian rugs in this country are Kerman, Goeravan, Tabriz and Suntanabad. Kermans—The principal features of these rugs, which distinguish them from others, are their soft, neutral dainty colors, the prevalence of floral designs in their pattern, a glossy sheen, and a short-cut pile. These rugs represent the highest standard of the art of rug weaving ever achieved.

Goeravan—Next in popularity in Persian rugs come Goeravan or Serap. It is easy to recognize this type. A bold medallion, bright colors, and lack of detail work in the pattern are their characteristic marks. Tabriz—In point of texture and durability Tabriz are probably the best rugs made, but from a decorative point of view they lack all the desired features of Kermans. Colors are crude, designs too exact, and outlines too sharp; the very firmness of the weave and formation of the pile preclude the wool from taking on gloss.

Suntanabad—This rug is called after the city by that name, one of the principal rug centers of Persia. Rugs woven here are known in our country under the names of Suntanabad, Mushkabad, and Savalan. There is no appreciable difference between them.

The present practice of washing rugs with preparations of lime, etc., to reduce the bright colors of the modern rugs has done much to shake the faith of the informed public in these goods, of once undoubted merit. It is argued that if an application of such chemical solutions is strong enough to affect the surface of the pile, it may be strong enough to penetrate its warp and weft, which once affected, will sooner or later result in the decay of the textile fabric. Thus the life of the rug is endangered for the sake of bringing it into a stricter harmony with the requirements of a modern decorative scheme.

Another ingenious practice often indulged in by certain dealers is that of dyeing them with paint and brush, introducing desirable hues and substituting certain common tints with colors more sought after, such as green, rose, etc. These practices are too recent to furnish sufficient data for form an opinion as to their ultimate effect on rugs so treated. But they emphasize the need of extreme care on the part of purchasers in the selection of their rugs. The wisest as well as the safest course would be, especially when costly pieces are under consideration, to secure the services of a disinterested party whose knowledge can be relied upon. There is no doubt that with due care both in buying and in using, Oriental rugs will still be found worthy of the high reputation which they have uniformly enjoyed as the standard of excellence and worth.

Sixteenth Century Jiu-Jitsu.

A French teacher of boxing points out that the art of self-defense approximately equivalent to jiu-jitsu was known in Europe in the seventeenth century. Its principles are founded by one Nicolas Peters, published at Amsterdam in 1674, and bearing the lengthy explanatory title: "The Art of Wrestling, and how one can protect himself in all kinds of quarrels that may occur; how one can with agility and rapidity repel all unfair attacks and meet one's adversary with science." The author apparently anticipated many of the characteristic grips of the Japanese exponents of to-day.

DETECTIVES AS THIEVES

From Watching Others They Degenerate into Shoplifters.

DIFFICULT TO DETECT.

Woman Employed in One House Fifteen Years Stole Furs Amounting to Five Thousand Dollars—Instances in Which They Worked in League With Noted Crooks.

Some of the cleverest shoplifters are women detectives. From watching the adroit work of others they develop an expert knowledge that makes it difficult for them to be caught. For added to the cunning of the petty thief, they have the training and confidence of experienced detectives that makes them the most dangerous crooks the department stores have to contend with. In one of the large stores, where recently three of these shoplifting detectives have been caught, the chief of the detective force tells some interesting details about their operations.

"One of the cleverest games I ever saw worked by a woman detective was put through after I had employed her on my force. She was a remarkably bright woman, cultured and at one time had been wealthy, she told me. I was impressed by her intelligence and brightness and determined to give her the first vacancy on the staff.

"She had done excellent scouting for about a week, when one day I was sent for hurriedly by a floor walker, who said that he had seen a stylishly dressed woman take a big roll of expensive hand-made lace, tuck it in her bag and walk to another counter. Together we hastened to the aisle where he had seen the shoplifter disappear, and there, to my surprise, he pointed out the woman detective I had just put on the force.

"I supposed she was doing it for a joke and gave the matter no further thought until she came in to say good night and did not mention the incident of the lace. As she started out I told her I would walk home with her because I wanted to talk about her work, and she courteously invited me to accompany her. When we reached her house she invited me to go in, and as I had determined to know what she had done with the lace I followed. We discussed the best ways of detecting thefts and what she should do once she landed a shoplifter.

"Later on she asked if I thought the store where we were employed would exchange a hat that she bought in another shop, because she didn't want to go to the other store now she was a detective. I suggested she let me see the bonnet, and to my surprise discovered it was one worth at least \$30. I told her that they would undoubtedly give her credit or exchange such an expensive piece of headgear if she went to them.

"Out of another bundle she took a costly fur coat which she said was the gift of a friend. In the meantime she opened the package with the lace, and when I had an opportunity I took it out, put it in my coat and left a few minutes later, convinced that she was one of the cleverest shoplifters I had ever met. The next day when she reported for work I told her that her services were no longer needed.

"How long another woman detective had been helping a pretty friend to steal from the store I do not know, but once when I was looking over the force and watching their methods of working, I saw her have a whispered conversation with a woman, who hastily showed her an expensive silver purse and then tucked it in a bag and hurried out of the store. I wanted to be sure there was no mistake and detailed a man to watch her movements. After one day of watching he reported that she was working in with two women shoplifters who were doing a big business in the store.

"After working in the store as a detective for fifteen years another woman developed into a shoplifter and became a very clever one. Furs were her specialty and I suppose she stole at least \$5,000 worth before she was discovered. She would ask for a day off and come into the shop heavily veiled and make straight for the fur counters. There giving an assumed name she would try on wraps, coats and all kinds of furs, telling the shop girls that she would surely buy the next time she came in. Once she was seen taking an expensive fur collar, but realizing that she was followed, dropped it and disappeared in the crowd before she could be caught. A few weeks later she was seen taking a fur coat and captured just as she was sliding it into a suit case. There was consternation in the store when she lifted her veil and we saw that the shoplifter was our trusted woman detective. She was sentenced to serve six months."

Wanted a Square Deal.

Mrs. Newed—"I'd like a nice steak."

Butcher—"Yes, ma'am. You want a round steak, I suppose."

Mrs. Newed—"Oh, I don't care anything about the shape, just so it's tender."

Caught on the Rebound. George—"Rather than remain single, would you marry the biggest fool on earth if he asked you?"

Clara—"Oh, George, this is so sudden."

Time-killer—The bungling watchmaker.

Over-Work Weakens Your Kidneys.

Unhealthy Kidneys Make Impure Blood. All the blood in your body passes through your kidneys once every three minutes.

The kidneys are your blood purifiers, they filter out the waste or impurities in the blood. If they are sick or out of order, they fail to do their work. Pains, aches and rheumatism come from excess of uric acid in the blood, due to neglected kidney trouble.

Kidney trouble causes quick or unsteady heart beats, and makes one feel as though they had heart trouble, because the heart is over-working in pumping thick, kidney-overworked blood through veins and arteries. It used to be considered that only urinary troubles were to be traced to the kidneys, but now modern science proves that nearly all constitutional diseases have their beginning in kidney trouble.

If you are sick you