

## PREMIUMS ON OLD COINS

increased 75 to 100 Per Cent.  
In A Few Years

### DETERMINING THE VALUE

Four Thousand Collectors in the United States—Certain Letters and Mintage Bring Good Prices—Ancient Greek and Roman Coins Bought by Europeans.

Any number of coins that could have been picked up for a small sum a short time ago now bring sums up to \$75 and \$100, said a dealer in the St. Louis Republic.

"This is due to the tremendous revival of interest that has taken place in coin collecting. There are now in this country more than 4,000 collectors who systematically buy old coins and are always in search of new specimens.

"They make trips to Europe and other countries in quest of desired rarities. Some of them make trips of this character every year for no other purpose than to ransack the shops of dealers in odds and ends on the other side of the ocean in the hope of finding a treasure, which, as a matter of fact, they very often do.

"Most American collectors go in for coins of United States issue. Not much interest is taken here in foreign and in the ancient Greek and Roman coins, although they are the rage abroad.

"A good many collectors make a specialty of gathering Colonial coins and the private gold issues of North Carolina, California and Georgia, but the large old copper cent leads them all in point of interest. Still other collectors go in for die varieties and mint marks. That small letter on a coin which shows the place of its mintage makes all the difference in the world to a collector and also in the price.

"For instance, a 20 cent piece of 1875 of the Philadelphia mint is worth just 25 cents, and yet a coin of the same denomination of 1877 or 1878, bearing the two tiny letters, 'C. C.', for Carson City, will bring between \$10 and \$15.

"The dime of 1891 is another example. The one made in San Francisco, with the letter 'S', is worth anywhere from \$5 to \$10, whereas those made in other mints are worth just their face value or a trifle over. There were only twenty-four of the former 10 cent pieces minted.

"Would you believe a dollar of 1904 was worth \$5.50? It is, just the same and that sum was paid at a recent auction sale.

"Yet such is the inconsistency of coin collecting that a dollar of 1798, in good condition, can be bought for \$2.50. The reason for this is that all 1904 dollars were struck in proof sets, and were quite limited. Proof coins are made by burnishing the sheet of metal before the coins are stamped, and they come forth with a high polish. The low figure of the 1798 dollar is due to the enormous number preserved in good condition.

"Many of the coins minted since 1850 bring premiums that greatly exceed those for coins issued during the latter part of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth century.

A gold dollar of 1875 in proof condition will bring \$75. The \$3 gold piece of 1873 is worth \$50. All \$3 gold pieces, in fact, with the exception of those minted at the Philadelphia mint in 1856 and 1874, are worth premiums ranging up to \$75.

"The \$4 gold piece of 1879 and 1880 is rated at \$50. The flying eagle cent of 1856 brings \$15, and is hard to get at that price.

"Die varieties mean more than one would suppose. Of the 1794 cents alone there are fifty-five die varieties, each one of which is held at a high premium, and of all the big copper cents there are 817 die varieties known at the present time.

"The majority of the collectors of gold coins confine themselves to denominations under \$5.

"Just take the Brasher doubloon. This was a gold piece issued in New York City in 1837. On the reverse it bears the motto 'Unum E Pluribus', and an eagle with spread wings, upon its breast a shield, with a bundle of arrows in the right talon and an olive branch in the left, while the head is surmounted by thirteen stars.

"This coin was struck from the dies which had been made for a cent, which the maker had submitted to the authorities for approval, but it was rejected. The coin is now worth more than \$500, and is seldom offered for sale.

"But there is one gold piece in the United States issue which is beyond the reach of all collectors, no matter how wealthy. This coin is above price. It is the first twenty-dollar gold piece minted by this government, in 1849.

"The piece was submitted for approval, but before action was taken the new year came, so that the dies had to be destroyed and new ones made for 1850. This coin, the only of its kind, now rests in the coin cabinet at the Philadelphia mint.

"After all, the real factor in the value of a coin of rare date is its condition. On this depends whether it is worth \$5 or \$300.

Mock Mince Pie.

Roll eight crackers fine; add three cups hot water, one cup chopped raisins, one-half cup vinegar, one cup molasses, one cup sugar, one-half cup of melted butter, one-half teaspoonful cinnamon, clove, nutmeg and all spices. Makes two pies.

## THE PRODUCTION OF ALUMINUM

Increasing Steadily in the United States, Which Leads the World.

There is more aluminum manufactured in Niagara Falls than in any other place in the world. It was on August 26, 1895, that the aluminum works at Niagara Falls started operation, and in the 10 years that have passed the development has been wonderful, greatly benefiting the electrical and steel interests, for in the modern method of making quantities. Usually from two to five ounces of aluminum are put in each ton of open hearth steel made, and from six to eight ounces of the white metal go into a ton of Bessemer steel. In fact, had every ton of steel made in the United States in 1904 been subjected to this treatment, something like 5,000,000 pounds of aluminum would have been consumed by the steel industry alone. When aluminum is added to the casting ladle the slag of oxide is reduced.

In 1904 8,600,000 pounds of aluminum were made in the United States, an increase of 1,100,000 pounds over 1903, when the output in the United States was 7,500,000 pounds. The output in 1903 is of particular interest because of the fact that 20 years before that, or in 1883, the output was only 83 pounds, and at the end of the first decade of manufacture, or in 1893, only 33,429 pounds were made.

Figures covering the world's production of aluminum are not available later than 1903, when the world's total production is given as 8,252 metric tons of 2,204 pounds, made up as follows: United States, 3,400 tons; the United Kingdom, 550 tons; Switzerland, 2,500 tons; France, 1,700 tons.

Every day aluminum is applied to new uses, increasing the consumption to a wonderful degree. Aluminum paper is one of the latest products and it is said to be far superior to tin foil and similar articles. Aluminum enters into household utensils as well as those for military purposes. In textile mill work aluminum spools and bobbins are very popular and a setting for lenses aluminum is much lighter than brass. It is used on railway cars, on locomotives, lithograph plates, letter boxes, in patented explosives, for making acid carbons and many other chemical vessels. Its lightness makes it desirable for bicycles, cash checks, as well as chains. Unless the output is increased right along these new demands will increase the price.



Alfrado Trombetti, the son of a poor working people in Italy, has become famous by a work on 'The Connection Between the Languages of the Old World,' which was awarded the great prize by the Italian Academy. He is only thirty-five years old and is said to know every language spoken in Europe, Asia, Africa, America and Australia.

### Degeneracy of Millionaires.

The first millionaire appeared in America about a hundred years ago. Fortunes at that time were, for the most part, made in foreign trade, in remote parts of the world, in dealings with peoples unknown to civilization, and by methods which did not come under the observation of the ordinary citizen who stayed at home. All that the public knew was that attractive foreign commodities were brought to our shores. There were merchant princes in those days, men of high character and well-merited renown, but also, in the multitude of those who sailed the high seas, there were many who were tempted to trade, not only with the natives on foreign shores, but to make the natives also commodities, to be exchanged for other goods. Men as honorable and of as good repute as any man who in our time has betrayed a trust or bought an election made fortunes out of the slave trade and in other ways that were morally devious and dark. In our time the evil things which come to our notice seem more evil because they are so near that, when in all their hideous aspects attention is called to them, they lie exposed to the gaze of every citizen. Because they have become known we may be sure that they will not be tolerated, and out of the present disorder will come more decisive rules for the conduct of business, the ordering of social life and the administration of political power.—Christian Register.

### Long, Long Ago.

Mr. Goodly—Her age really surprised me. She doesn't look twenty-eight, does she?

Miss Sharp—Not now, but I suppose she did at one time.

If nine-tenths of the dogs' tails were cut off to the ears the country would be better off a thousandfold.

## KING EDWARD'S SWORD

Blades of Wonderful Workmanship and Romantic History.

Few of the treasures of Buckingham Palace possess one-half the romantic interest of the little armory of swords and daggers—gifts to King Edward from one hundred of the princes and nobles of India.

It is difficult to separate truth from legend, says the Strand, but of the great antiquity of most there can be no manner of doubt. Here is a little story which will illustrate this fact:

A sword in the collection of the Maharajah of Jaipur was sold to an English nobleman, together with the scroll setting forth its history: "This blade was a talisman in the family of Sadat Chandra Khan, descending from father to son for sixteen generations, until the coming of Nadir Shah, who slew Sadat Chandra Khan and gave this sword to his vizier, who sold it to Benares."

The Englishman on his return was one day showing his prize to a visitor, who, after scrutinizing the blade under a powerful magnifying glass, began to laugh.

"I think some one has been drawing a long bow as well as handling a sharp blade," he said. "There is the maker's name here—Johan Smith, York."

It seemed an awkward revelation, but there was a good deal more to be revealed. "Johan Smith" was indeed the maker, but he lived and flourished in the thirteenth century, and made this particular sword—and perhaps one or two others in the present collection—for some crusading knight who, falling in the Holy Land, left his weapon to be handed on to the infidels in the Far East.

One blade is a superb example of Damascus water, damaskened with acanthus leaves and inscriptions in Persian. At the back is inscribed the maker's name—Mohammed Ibrahim. The hilt is damaskened in gold with the Shah's inscription, "La fatha Ma Ali, la saif Ma Zulfiar" ("There is no saint but Ali, no sword but Zulfiar").

The history of this blade goes back 500 years, and to recount all the notable and blood-curdling deeds of Zulfiar would require a ponderous volume.

Histories of swords exist in many parts of the East. In the Royal Library at Teheran there is a manuscript of 200 pages recounting the exploits of a Damascus blade, probably far inferior in prowess to the one just mentioned.

Everywhere we come across fine European sabers filed in Indian handles. After a time the deep grooves were made deeper and utilized in strange fashion, being filled with loose pearls which ran to and fro when waved. These were called "the tears of the enemy."

A curious saber won by successive Rajahs of Mandi is of Indian make and in the middle of the blade are circular apertures containing small leaden shot, visible through six narrow slits on either side of the blade. This shot is said to have been extracted from the heart of a foe, and Ramchander Ghose relates many instances of swords manufactured especially to contain such fatal leaden pellets.

Perhaps the most fascinating of all in the collection is the sword of the renowned Sivaji, founder of the Marhatta dominion in India. Several native pens have attempted to write the history of this wonderful blade, but it is doubtful if any could relate a tithe of its adventures.

It is like many others, was borne in the Crusades by an English knight, and may perhaps be of English make. It is a straight, one-edged blade with two grooves on either side, in one of which the holy letters, "I. H. S." are stamped. It is said that Sivaji claimed it to have been the sword of Godfrey de Bouillon himself.

### Shantyboating Hint.

It is sometimes possible to buy a house boat on the Ohio or Mississippi for \$10. Doubtless the bottom would be rotten, the sides full of rat holes, and the roof full of "starlight shining through." There is many a boat on the Mississippi which did not cost one cent to build—and they are used in making journeys of a thousand miles. With boards of all descriptions gathered from drift piles, nails drawn from wrecked houses, using an abandoned saw and the head of an axe, river tramps have repeatedly constructed boats dry and comfortable, strong and durable. A man I met at Modoc Landing, Ark., once built a cabin boat from dry goods boxes that a storekeeper in a Black River swamp town gave him, "and I wasn't a carpenter, either," the man said. This boat, ten feet long and five feet wide, served its purpose all winter long, the only accident to it happening one night when the frightful sleet storm of the spring of 1902 weighted the boat down on the bank of the Allegheny that it capsized. Any man can build a boat on the bank of the Allegheny that will take him to New Orleans in safety.—Field and Stream.

### Where "Toddy" Came From.

The word "toddy" is generally supposed to be of Scotch origin, but it comes from the Hindostani "Tardi" is the juice of the cocoanut, which, when fermented, is a very intoxicant. "If we had a mind to cocoanuts, or toddy," says Dampter, "our Malaysians of Achin would climb the trees and fetch as many nuts as we would have and a good pot of toddy every morning."

## MYSTERY OF DEATH VALLEY

Fascination for Those Who Brave Its Dangers—Legends of Plague.

While gold seems to be the underlying cause of the great interest taken in Death Valley, yet a mysterious fascination takes possession of all who once brave its dangers. Numberless legends have been handed down from generation to generation of strange happenings almost beyond human explanation; yet at the bottom of all runs the streak of gold, for which men daily sell their lives and oftentimes their very souls.

Old Indian trails and signs still point the way from spring to spring, whether the water is good or bad, the distance from one to the other, the possible and impassable canyons, the location of old Indian villages, etc. In order to read the signs correctly, one must be familiar with their ways and customs, and even then it has become difficult on account of changes that are constantly taking place through natural and human agencies.

The trails are of different periods, some being much later than others. At intervals besides the trails are monuments of stone, with a pointed rock showing the direction to take. Two rocks pointing in opposite directions indicate that it is impassable. The location of metal stones are also significant. A metal stone is a flat stone, hollowed in the center, used for grinding acorns for flour and will be found not more than a half day's travel from water. Many springs known to the Indians are not down on the maps.

Endeavoring to find a pass through the mountains on a recent trip, a party followed the Indian trail and signs and were a course which passed three springs and some old breastworks which Indians had used to hide behind when lying in wait for mountain sheep. One of the first gold excitements was back in the fifties, when Breyfogle found free gold, but was unable to return to the exact spot. He was afterward hit with a stone hurled by an Indian which is supposed to have injured his brain.

Beatty has expressed the opinion that the Breyfogle find was between Willow Springs and the Original Bullfrog. Charlie Nyman thinks it is between Keane Springs, Willow Springs and Death Valley, while one of Breyfogle's party described Hole-in-Rock. The wind breaks supposed to have been used by Breyfogle are located about eighteen miles south of Rhyolite. Another legend is of an Indian who went into Cerro Gordo with a rock full of free gold, which he sold for \$1. The white man tried to get him to tell where he found it, but the Indian was wise and kept its location to himself. He was accidentally killed a short time after while hunting sheep, and the secret died with him. Some think this find was the same as Breyfogle's.

The valley itself is about all that it has been painted. At times a man or beast would make out of sight, and at other times the shifting sands would almost bury him alive. Yet men live there year after year without feeling that they are incurring any unusual amount of danger. They know where they may and may not go, and how to prepare for emergencies.—Phyllite Herald.

Plagues Told of Treasure. Superstitious beliefs still linger in the remote villages of Cornwall, and the tenacity with which many of the Cornish folk cling to them is strikingly illustrated by a remarkable story of a search for hidden treasure which comes from Wendron.

Nearly half a century ago an old lady named Varner lived in a cottage at Lower Bodilly, in the parish of Wendron, which had the reputation of being haunted by ghosts. One night she declared that two pikes had been a visit and told her that vast treasure was hidden beneath the cottage.

With the reputation which the humble dwelling had for being haunted, the story was received with considerable credence in the district. It made such an impression on her two sons that they immediately commenced to excavate for the treasure. Taking up the floor of one of the rooms, they sank a shaft to the depth of several fathoms. Water invaded the shaft and pumps and other appliances were erected for draining and hauling. The premature death of one of the brothers led to the abandonment of the operations without any treasure being discovered.

Now, after the lapse of forty years, the search for this supposed hidden treasure has been resumed by W. H. Varner, a resident of Goldthney and grandson of the old lady who held communication with the pikes. In the interval the cottage has been demolished, but Mr. Varner has located the site, and with the help of another man from the neighborhood is engaged in sinking a shaft.

The excavations already extend to a depth of twenty-four feet, of which seventeen feet is vertical and the remainder on an incline. Pumps and machinery are in course of erection and the explorer is sanguine of success.

Some of the older folk in the district entertain the belief that the cottage marked the site of a smuggler's den and that the sinking of the shaft will lead to the discovery of underground passages.—London Chronicle.

### Paying Tea Gardens.

The tea gardens of northern India extend over 500,000 acres, and they produce 100,000 pounds of tea per annum at a profit of about \$25 per acre.—Birmingham.

## THE VISION OF INSECTS

Number of Eye Facets Differ Between Insects in the Same Species.

A notable fact about the vision of insects, and one which it may be supposed must largely influence their view of the external world, is the number of facets, or lenses, in compound eyes. A German naturalist, K. Leisemann, has been painstaking enough to count the number of facets in the eyes of no fewer than one hundred and fifty species of beetles. He finds that in the same species and even the number increases with the size of the body. There is usually no permanent difference between the sexes as to the number of facets. Occasionally, however, the difference is marked, as in the case of Lampyris splendens, in which the male has 1,500 and the female 300. One specimen is noted, which has the extraordinary number of 24,000 facets in its eye. The number of facets is greater in the rapidly moving active forms than in the more sluggish species.

### Origin of "Retail Grocer."

According to etymology a "retail grocer" is as absolute an impossibility as a "weekly journal." A grocer, or "grosser" as it used to be spelled, is really a trader, "in gross"—that is to say, in large quantities, wholesale. Englishmen of other days spoke of "grossers of fish" and "grossers of wine," and an act of Edward III. expressly mentions that "grossers" dealt in all manner of goods. In those days "spicer" was the word for "grocer" in the modern sense. But it happened that the Grocers' Company, founded in the fourteenth century, specialized in spicing and so "grocer" gradually took the place of "spicer."

### Turks Drinking Water.

"Turks are extremely particular," writes a traveller, "in regard to the quality of the water they drink, and are willing to be at much trouble and expense to obtain water of the kind they prefer. To be a perfect beverage water must issue from a rock, fall from a height, be of medium temperature, flow rapidly and copiously, taste sweet, spring in high and lonely ground and run from south to north or from east to west. The excellence of any water is accordingly determined by the number of these conditions it fulfills."

### Birth Customs in Yorkshire.

A singular birth custom prevails in Yorkshire. In parts of the West Riding it is quite common for visitors to a house in which a new baby has appeared to carry with them as an offering to the infant a new-laid egg, some salt, a piece of bread and, in some cases, a penny.

### Moving Day in Jerusalem.

It is reported that more than 100 Jewish families move into Jerusalem every week. Though most of them are very poor, yet they find means to make a scanty living. Jerusalem is rapidly becoming once more a Jewish city.

### Music in the British Army.

The First East Surrey Regiment of the British army is never without music. When its band is not playing thirty men who are experts on the mouth organ provide the music, the whole regiment whistling an accompaniment.

### Reviewing Volunteers.

A London newspaper remarks that the review of the Scottish Volunteers by the King, at Edinburgh recently, was chiefly notable for the number of more or less distinguished officers who fell from their horses.

### Examining Railway Employees.

All railway employees in France will hereafter be examined once in five years. For those who are considered physically qualified positions will be provided or other places found.

### Chauffeurs Use Gum.

Finding that matches and petrol do not go together very well, and that smoking at high speed is not comfortable, English chauffeurs now use American chewing gum as a replace, in place of tobacco.

### Height of Clouds.

The highest clouds reach ten miles above our heads. They are the white feathery forms which we see on a clear day. Although apparently motionless, they travel from seventy-five to ninety miles an hour.

### Passports in China.

When a traveller in China desires a passport the palm of his hand is covered with fine oil paint and an impression is taken on this paper. This paper, officially signed, constitutes his passport.

### Preserving Butter.

Experiments made in Germany show that butter keeps best if mixed with three to five per cent. of salt. If the percentage of salt is over six the result is less satisfactory.

### Sultan a Bird Collector.

The Sultan of Turkey has taken to importing birds from England by the carload. Among them are song birds as well as others that are simply useful as enemies of destruction.

### King of Siam's Bodyguard.

The King of Siam has a bodyguard composed of 400 female warriors. At the age of thirteen they enter the royal service and remain in until they are twenty-five, when they pass into the reserve. Their weapon is the lance and they are splendidly trained in the use of it.

## AMERICAN IN BRITAIN

Accidents in the Streets of London and Jersey.

Accidents in the streets of London and Jersey. They are made to seem almost a part of the life of the British capital. The number of accidents in the streets of London is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of Jersey is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of London is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of Jersey is a record.

### Ill-Fated Bohemians.

Superstitious Bohemians. The Bohemians of London are a curious race. They are made to seem almost a part of the life of the British capital. The number of accidents in the streets of London is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of Jersey is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of London is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of Jersey is a record.

### Thousands Leaving Chesham.

Thousands leaving Chesham. The Chesham Railway is a curious race. They are made to seem almost a part of the life of the British capital. The number of accidents in the streets of London is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of Jersey is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of London is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of Jersey is a record.

### Many Elephants Taken.

Many elephants taken. The British Government has taken a large number of elephants. They are made to seem almost a part of the life of the British capital. The number of accidents in the streets of London is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of Jersey is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of London is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of Jersey is a record.

### Britain's Automobiles.

Britain's automobiles. The British Government has taken a large number of automobiles. They are made to seem almost a part of the life of the British capital. The number of accidents in the streets of London is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of Jersey is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of London is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of Jersey is a record.

### Transporting a Post Dog.

Transporting a post dog. The British Government has taken a large number of post dogs. They are made to seem almost a part of the life of the British capital. The number of accidents in the streets of London is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of Jersey is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of London is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of Jersey is a record.

### Had Postman's Dog.

Had postman's dog. The British Government has taken a large number of postman's dogs. They are made to seem almost a part of the life of the British capital. The number of accidents in the streets of London is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of Jersey is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of London is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of Jersey is a record.

### Practically All the...

Practically all the... The British Government has taken a large number of... They are made to seem almost a part of the life of the British capital. The number of accidents in the streets of London is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of Jersey is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of London is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of Jersey is a record.

### Model House Built.

Model house built. The British Government has taken a large number of model houses. They are made to seem almost a part of the life of the British capital. The number of accidents in the streets of London is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of Jersey is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of London is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of Jersey is a record.

### Advertising Campaign.

Advertising campaign. The British Government has taken a large number of advertising campaigns. They are made to seem almost a part of the life of the British capital. The number of accidents in the streets of London is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of Jersey is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of London is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of Jersey is a record.

### What Knapweed...

What Knapweed... The British Government has taken a large number of Knapweed. They are made to seem almost a part of the life of the British capital. The number of accidents in the streets of London is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of Jersey is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of London is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of Jersey is a record.

### Chambers' Opinions.

Chambers' opinions. The British Government has taken a large number of Chambers' opinions. They are made to seem almost a part of the life of the British capital. The number of accidents in the streets of London is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of Jersey is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of London is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of Jersey is a record.

### Russian Economy.

Russian economy. The British Government has taken a large number of Russian economy. They are made to seem almost a part of the life of the British capital. The number of accidents in the streets of London is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of Jersey is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of London is a record. The number of accidents in the streets of Jersey is a record.