

**USED DIAMONDS AS COUNTERS**

**Miners Who Found Them in Brazil in 1726 Considered Them as Merely Pretty Pebbles.**

The news from Brazil that a large company has been formed to work the diamond mines of that country on a more scientific scale in an effort to make Brazil once more an important factor in supplying the world's most popular gem, recalls one of history's richest jokes.

Diamonds were first discovered in Brazil in 1726. But with their pockets full of diamonds, the discoverers were unaware for two years that they had made a discovery.

Miners washing for gold in the Minas Geraes district picked up pretty pebbles from time to time. They thought them worthless and used them for counters in their card games. If they had no money they gambled for the pebbles, winning or losing, in blissful ignorance, a king's ransom in diamonds on the turn of a card.

A penniless adventurer drifted into the gold fields in 1727. Some of the miners staked him one evening to a handful of pebbles that he might sit in at a card game. The others played with listless interest, but the newcomer played with care and skill. He had seen rough diamonds in India and knew what the pebbles were. As a result he won all the pebbles around the table.

He did not remain in the fields to wash for gold, but next day hurried to Rio Janeiro and took ship for Lisbon, where he sold his pebbles for a fortune and lived happily ever after. The rush of diamond hunters to Brazil which followed carried back to the miners in Minas Geraes the first intimation that they had been rich for two years without knowing it.

**NO REFUGE IN BANKRUPTCY**

**In Olden Times Severe Penalties Were Meted Out to Men Unable to Pay Their Debts.**

A curious custom was prevalent in France during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Anyone who found it necessary to liquidate his affairs was obliged to wear a green cap—a humility to himself and a warning to others.

Those who made a hobby of getting rid of their indebtedness by way of the bankruptcy court should at all costs steer clear of China. Bankruptcies are almost unknown in that country, as they entail immediate execution.

A similar drastic punishment used to be meted out to delinquent in Japan.

To come nearer home, one need only go back to a little before the Act of Union to find that debtors in Scotland were obliged to wear garments of diverse colors, a suit of gray and yellow being the most common.

In Siam, a man unable to meet his liabilities was put in chains and compelled to work as a slave for his creditor. Should he escape, his wife, children, father or other relative were seized in his stead.

At one time bankrupts were considered criminal offenders even in England. As a matter of fact, certain cases of fraudulent bankruptcy have incurred the death penalty in this country. Any concealment of books or the secreting of property by a debtor was so punished. Under this law a man called John Perrot was hanged in 1761.—London Tit-Bits.

**Tailoring Ancient Art.**

The art of tailoring, in the western hemisphere, appears to have originated in connection with skin garments rather than those of cloth. In the North, throughout the reindeer and caribou area, well-tailored skin garments were worn, completely covering the body. The Eskimos and the caribou-hunting Indians cut out pieces of skin and fitted them together in intricate patterns like a modern tailor. The tailoring art probably began in China, whence it spread to Europe, thence to the reindeer hunters in Siberia and across from Asia into the new world. Along the Pacific coast the aboriginal Indians were but scantily clad and the natives of Patagonia usually wore only a breechcloth, although sometimes a capelike robe hanging from the shoulders was used. In Mexico and the Andes region where the art of weaving reached its height, garments retained the angular form in which they came from the loom.

**Lord John Russell.**

During the years of my uncle's retirement I was much more in his company than had been possible when I was a schoolboy and he was foreign secretary or prime minister. Pembroke lodge became to me a second home; and I have no happier memory than of hours spent there by the side of one who had played bat, trap and ball with Charles Fox; had been traveling companion of Lord Holland; had corresponded with Tom Moore, debated with Francis Jeffrey, and dined with Doctor Parr; had visited Melrose abbey in the company of Sir Walter Scott, and criticized the acting of Mrs. Siddons; had conversed with Napoleon in his seclusion at Elba, and had ridden with the duke of Wellington along the lines of Torres Vedras.—G. W. E. Russell.

—They are all good enough, but the "Watchman" is always the best.

**TRIAL OF THE EX-KAISER.**

There is no parallel in history to the trial of the ex-Kaiser, though for Englishmen the arraignment of Charles I, 270 years ago, comes nearest to it. On that occasion, however, there was really no trial. Charles was adjudged by the remnant of the Commons guilty of treason for having levied war against Parliament and the Kingdom of England. The judges refused to take any part in the proceedings, Charles refused to plead, and it was purely by an act of Parliament that he was condemned to die.

Kings and Queens have been tried in their own country by their own subjects for breaches of the constitutional law of those countries. But it has been reserved for William II, a fugitive in Holland, so to violate the laws of humanity, that the nations of the world call for his trial. The charges against the ex-Kaiser, which the foremost lawyers will formulate into the mightiest indictment that the world has ever seen, are clear. Before the world the Kaiser stood as the representative of the German people, as their war lord. His must be the responsibility, and his, if convicted, the punishment.

Wilhelm II could be charged, as the representative of the German nation, with crimes against humanity and against the law of nations, on the sea, from the air and under the sea. But Mr. Lloyd George would seem to suggest that Wilhelm is only going to be tried for "breach of treaty."

Where will this great tribunal sit? That it will be assembled at the Old Bailey is unlikely. The largest court in that building becomes inconveniently small when a criminal trial of rather more than an average public interest is being held. The Lord Chief Justice's Court, at the Royal Courts of Justice, is an ample chamber. Roger Casement was tried there for treason, and suitable alterations made the Court quite a convenient one for the purpose.

Some suggest that the ex-Kaiser may be arraigned in Westminster Hall, where Charles I and Warren Hastings both faced their judges. But

wherever Wilhelm II may be put to trial, however appalling the charges on which he is indicted, there is one thing that he may be assured of, he will get a fair trial, with all the publicity of an English court.

German jurists, however, contend that it would be against all established law and justice to try William of Hohenzollern before a court the Judges of which were composed solely of entente lawyers, as these would not only be the Judges, but the accusers at the same time. In which case an unbiased, unprejudiced trial, so they argue, could hardly be expected. Incidentally, a petition signed by 2,000,000 Germans has been presented to the German government in defense of the ex-Kaiser, besides one sent by hundreds of thousands of federated clubwomen, and, to top it all, Prince Henry of Prussia, the ex-Kaiser's brother, has sent a personal letter to his cousin, King George of England, offering his word and substantial proof that the ex-Kaiser was not responsible for starting the war. All he asks is to be permitted to demonstrate this before the public by irrefutable evidence. This, the Prince adds, does not mean that he would ask for mercy. All he demands is justice and a fair and square deal, in which, if not granted now, history would bear him out whenever the true facts of the war would be written.

I hear that, although King George and Prince Henry were fast friends before the war and the Prince a frequent and well-liked guest in London, there is to be no action taken. He was president of the British Automobile Association, and, of course, is a grandson of Queen Victoria, as King George also is. It may also be remembered that this Prussian Prince, in 1902, paid an extended visit to this country, where he was exceptionally well received and entertained.—By Flaneur.

**A Mystery Solved.**

Her eyes were red and she exclaimed that she had been to a wedding. "I always cry more at a wedding than I do at a funeral—it's so much more uncertain."

**Scot Found Mustard Gas.**

London.—Mustard gas, said F. E. Kellaway, deputy minister of munitions, at a dinner of British chemists, was the discovery of a Scottish chemist named Guthrie.

"It was offered to the British government some considerable time before it was used by Germany," he said, "but was rejected by the military authorities. After the attacks on Arras, British chemists commenced experimental work, and Sir William Pope, working in the Cambridge laboratories, was able to develop Guthrie's simple and direct process into a practical proposition for making the same materials which the Germans were producing by long and laborious methods.

"As a result, at the time of the armistice we had completely outstripped Germany in this particular means of warfare, and had the war continued Germany would have been in the spring of this year drenched and almost drowned with her own gas."

"The first mustard gas shells sent to the front," said Mr. Kellaway, "involved among the munition workers at home one casualty for every nine rounds delivered to the troops. It is impossible to pay too high a tribute to the persistence and devotion of the chemists and munition workers engaged in these operations."

**The Psychology of It.**

"How do you like your new neighbors?" "All right. The first thing they did was to borrow my lawn mower."

"Have they returned it?" "Not yet, and I hope they'll keep it. Then they'll be careful not to use it early in the morning or at any hour when it would attract my attention unduly."

**Use for Fat Ones.**

"And that stout son of yours. What is he doing?" "Oh, he's a hammock tester."

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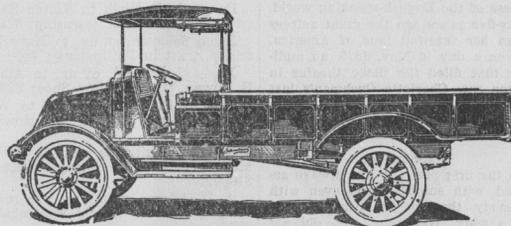
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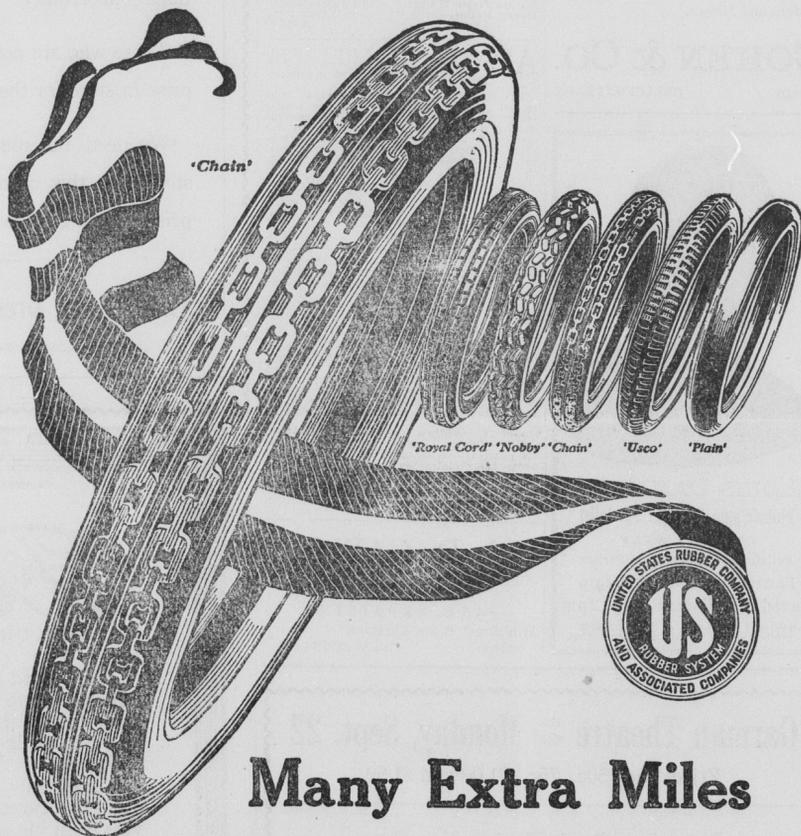
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