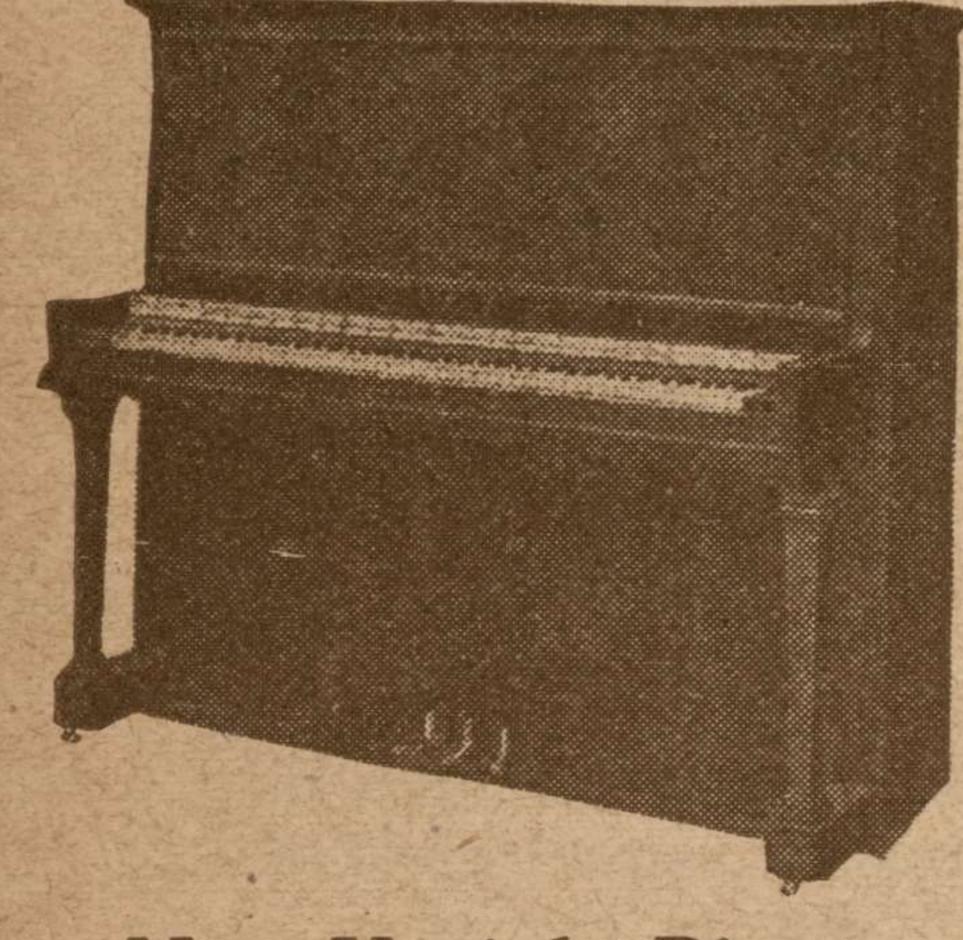


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THE LOST GOLD MINE OF "PEG LEG SMITH"

Smith had lost a leg in on Indian fight, and in the course of his wanderings found himself at Yuma, then a smalll military post on the lower Colorado River. With a companion he was enroute for California, and they struck out toward the west through an uncharted region. As was to have been expected, they lost their way and one day saw in the distance three conical hills, the central one being the loftiest. In order to obtain an idea of the region to the westward and of the best course to be pursued, they climbed the loftiest of the hills and after studying the landscape and deciding in what direction to direct their steps, had their attention attracted by some roughly shaped, blackened frag ments of metal, which upon examination proved to be solid gold. The ground was thickly Filling strewed with them. their pockets, they resumed their journey, after having taken landmarks that might serve as guides in the future, when they planned to return and make themselves wealthy.

But they never returned. They were in a barren and waterless region, and while staggering over the sands, crazed with thirst, Smith's companion finally gave up the ghost, as have so many others who have in the past essayed to cope, while ill equipped, with the hardships of the desert. Smith brought up in the Sisters of Mercy hospital in Los Angeles, having been found unconscious by the roadside by some Good Samaritans. The suffering that he had undergone proved too much for him, and finally it became the duty of the attending physician to inform him that his days were numbered. When assured of this fact, he related the story of the gold discovery to the doctor, and gave him the nuggets that remained in his pocket. The doctor and many others later on made several attempts to find the mine, but unsuccessfully.

GIPSY LAW.

Gipsies of the old order, "deep" Gipsies, the tatcho Romanos who become fewer each passing generation, lament the fact that Gipsy law no longer binds their people.

Said old Adam Cooper, an English Gipsy of the old school:

"Romany Chals ain't like they used to be. They ain't got no principle, they'd chore -steal-from each other, lie amongst themselves, and live in a house and say they Gorgios-non-Gipsies."

True, Mr. Cooper, the old law is no longer enforced, but you know as well as any one that it's soce-time enforcement is without a present effect. There is sufficient evidence of this even among the didikai, the half-breed, and those who have only a little of the sacred black blood.

There were three major provisions of Gipsy Law. These enjoined fidelity to the Romany face and loyalty to Gipsyism; faithfulness in love and marriage, and the payment of debts and fulfilling of obligations. The condition of indebtedness was known as pazorrhus. For certain offenses there were definite punishments, and for others the punishments were determined by the tribe or clan. Sometimes it was social ostracism, expulsion from Gipsy society. Again if old tales be true, it was death somewhere on colonely road. For failure to pay just debts it was not uncommon to deliver the debtor to his cred-

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itor and force him to work as leaves. One American doctor a slave for a definite period of who investigated the subject time. The law was stern. As and wrote a large book on it a rule, those who violated it and a famous American writer bowed to the inevitable like true Gipsies.

Gipsy law is no longer enforced, but it is neither dead nor forgotten. Gipsies talk of it in hushed voices and reverently. The old fellows sigh for the old days, regret that found in the entire leaf. Be they are no longer the same; yet before they finish prove themselves "as Gipsy as the ribs of God." There is not a more clannish people. To their own blood they are hospitable, generous, loyal. In love and marriage they are faithful. And among brothers they fear pazorrhus even now.

### INCA GOLD.

When the Spaniards first came to the highlands of South America they found many strange things being done by the couple of million inhabitants who lived all the way from what is now Ecuador to the northern part of Chile. These people smelted copper, wove cloth, built houses of heavy masonry, embalmed dead bodies and used gold for household cooking, eating and drinking vessels. This last was their undoing, for while they put a value on gold only as something to use like any other metal, the Spaniards prized it as we do and went crazy over it.

These people had a large sheep they used for packing; but it was too small for a riding animal and not very swift, so all the swift errands were performed by runners. It is said that the Inca King each day ate fresh fish caught from the sea and hurried to him by relays of fresh runners. Incredible records were made by these men, who had been trained from birth, almost, to run. The high altitude develops huge lung-power after generations have been bred in it, but for you and me it makes for short windedness. But the people who are born and are brought up in the rarefied air are short and stocky and with very large lungs. They lived in-a country ranging from ten to fourteen thousand feet high with mountains running up at intervals to over 22,000 feet.

All were—and are yet—inveterate users of cooa. This is leaves from the tree of the plant from which cocain is extracted. For long feats of endurance they took a small package of these leaves and constantly kept a wad of them in their mouths wrapped round a small bit of unslaked lime to free the cocain and other alkaloids contained in the coca-

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(Dr. Mozans) claim that cocain used in this fashion appears to free great reserves of strength and is not attended with the pernicious results following use of the drug cocain, which has not the balancing chemicals that as it may, the Indian runners and packers used and still use this leaf when on their long jaunts.

METALS MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD.

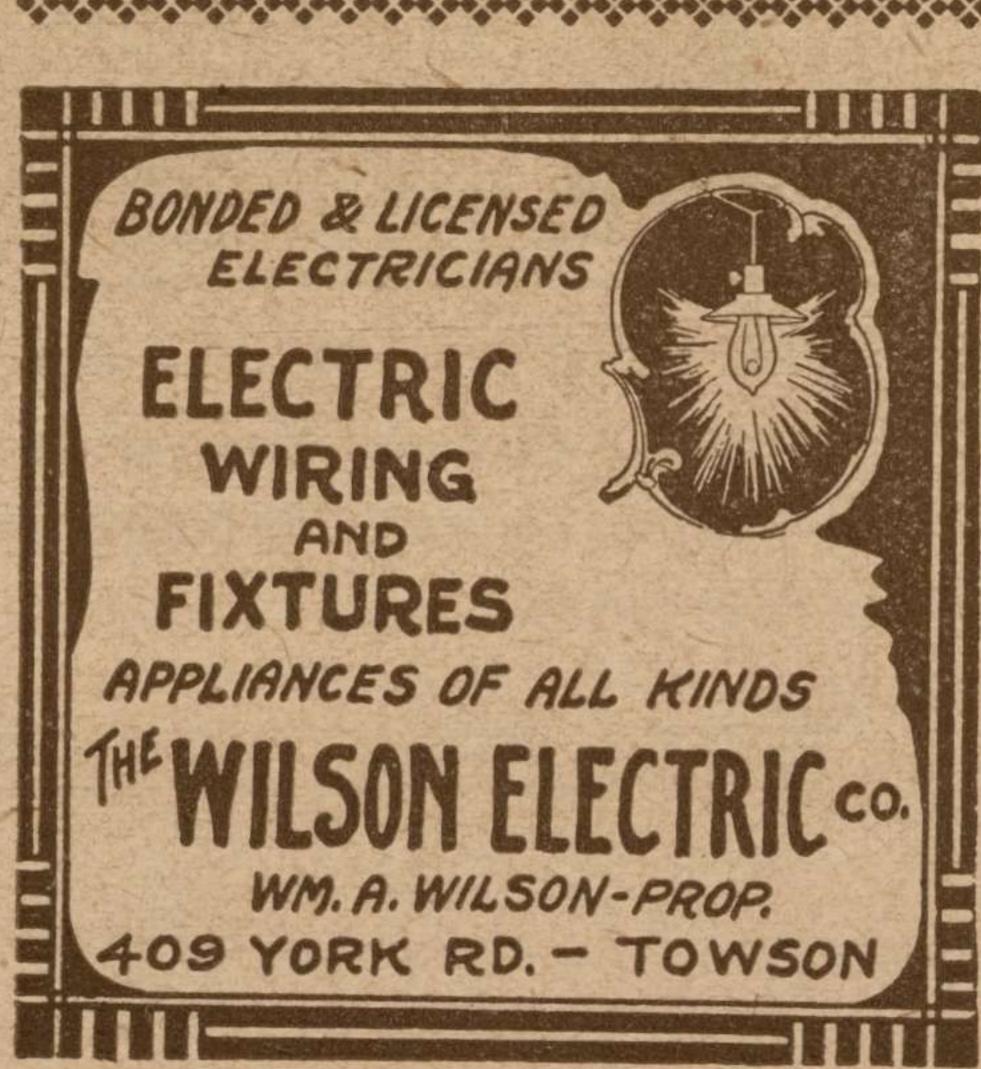
There are three commercial metals upon which I have no quotations. They are thorium, titanium, and ruthenium.

Outside the above there are about six metals mined and sold which are more valuable than gold, which are given in order, starting with radium at \$70 per milligram; iridium, \$275 an ounce; rhodium, \$5 a, gram; platinum, \$115 an oz.; osmium, \$85 an ounce; palladium, \$80 an ounce.

Gold is reckoned at about \$20 per ounce trop.

#### HOW THE CHINESE PAY THEIR DOCTORS.

The Chinese are not particularly keen on Western medical science, and the hospital practice is usually confined to Europeans or Americans for the reason that the Chinese do not pay a doctor for curing them. They pay him for keeping them well. Most Chinese of means employ a doctor whom they pay by the year, but the stipend seaces as soon as the employer becomes sick and is not resumed until he is thoroughly well again. 



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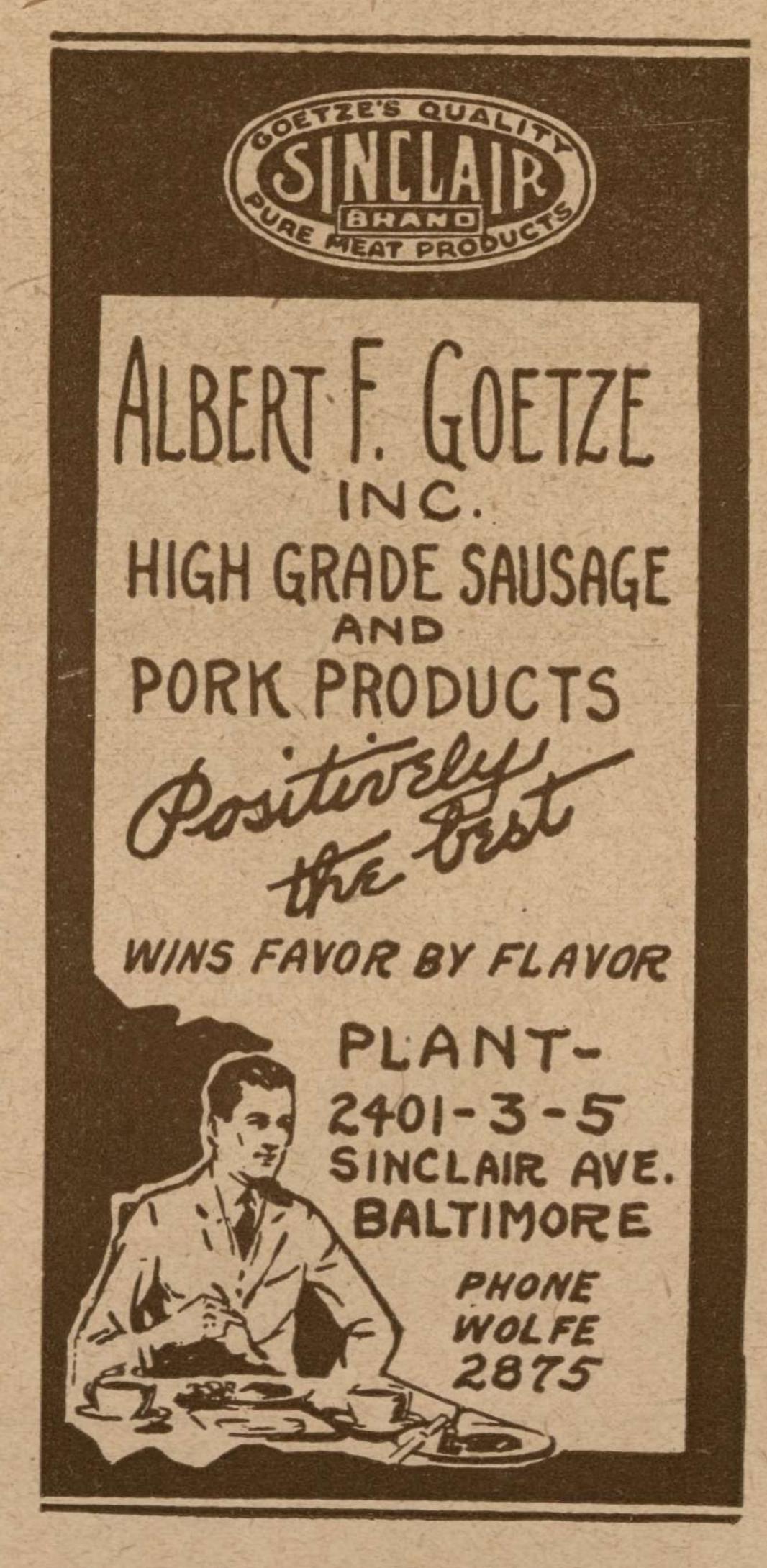
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