

room, making use of the gas stove provided with same. The babbitt is melted over the flame in a small ladle, although often a cheap frying pan is used for this purpose. Molten babbitt is poured into the mould through the pour hole. It hardens in a few seconds, when the mould is opened and the coin allowed to drop out.

Then the small "V" shaped piece of metal attached to the edge of the coin is cut off. This consists of the babbitt which did not find its way into the mould and remained in the pour hole. When this has been removed the edge of the coin where it was fastened is filed smooth. As this portion of the edge of the coin does not bear any milling, same is placed on it with a small three-cornered file, or with the heated edge of a dull knife blade.

The coin then has to be cleaned and polished, as in cooling the babbitt has a tendency to oxidize, frequently turning a dark purple or bronze in colour. Any ordinary cleanser is used for this purpose.

Some counterfeiters, particularly when poor plaster has been used in the moulds, experience difficulty in obtaining a natural looking milled edge. To overcome this defect they place the coin on its edge in a small slotted runway consisting of two strips of wood nailed together side by side the width of a coin apart. Then the coin is rolled along the runway by means of a large file, the edge of which is pressed firmly to the edge of the coin. The file used is one on which the teeth are similar in size and spacing to the milled edge of the coin being counterfeited. The teeth on the file cut into the edge of the coin and impart a milled appearance. This method is not particularly satisfactory and coins which have been milled in this manner can always be detected at a glance.

Should it be desired to silver-plate the coins, they are attached to a length of copper wire strung over a flat glass or porcelain dish, in such a manner that they are immersed in the plating solution in the dish. This is a solution of Silver Nitrate or Potassium Cyanide. A silver anode, consisting of a strip of silver or a Fifty Cent piece, is attached to another copper wire and also immersed in the solution. An electric current is then passed through the solution from the silver anode to the counterfeit coins, and in doing so sets up a chemical reaction which results in silver being deposited on the coins. The current is usually obtained from a set of dry cells. After the coin has been plated it is buffed and polished. This can be done by hand, although sometimes a small buffing machine is used. Such a machine is similar to a hand operated emery wheel, with the exception that in place of the wheel a small rotating brush is attached.

It is only natural that a counterfeiter should take great pains to ensure that the coins he turns out are as passable as it is possible to make them, as spurious coins are just so much babbitt until they have been put into circulation and good money obtained in the place. Sometimes a counterfeiter will pass the coins himself, but often he employs one or more partners to do the uttering for him, or else he sells them to members of the criminal fraternity, who themselves dispose of the coins. In this latter case they are sold for about Twenty or Twenty-five cents apiece in the case of Fifty Cent pieces, with corresponding amounts for coins of other denominations. But in any event the coins have to be uttered by someone who is fully aware of the fact that they are counterfeit.