

WRONG IDEAS ABOUT ALASKA

Winters There Are Mild, Thermometer in Region of Juneau Barely Reaching Zero.

I met a family in Juneau, Alaska, that had formerly resided in Cleveland. I asked the lady of the house if it wasn't somewhat difficult to stand the rigors of the northern climate, writes Sherman Rogers in the Outlook. She laughed outright.

"Well," she answered, "we endured Cleveland winters, and Juneau is certainly a paradise compared with Cleveland, either in winter or summer. We have been north eight years in all; spent five winters here, and three back home; the five years we have lived here during the winter months the thermometer has never reached zero. Do you imagine it takes a rigorous person to stand such a climate?"

This was followed by peals of laughter and further remarks about the silly ideas of people in the States regarding the climate of Alaska.

Southeastern Alaska has an Oregon-Washington climate, due to the Japanese current, which has the same effect from Ketchikan to Cape Spencer as it has on Puget sound, resulting in very mild winters and extremely delightful summers. Very seldom, in the last 20 years, has the thermometer reached zero in this entire section.

The interior of Alaska, made famous by exaggerating novelists, has a climate closely duplicating Minnesota in the winter, and Maine or Oregon in summer.

GREAT WRITERS' YOUNG DAYS

Tales Told of Two Authors Who Have Risen to Eminence in Literary World.

Mr. Rudyard Kipling was in the habit of selling his old schoolbooks to a dame who kept a curiosity shop at Bideford. In recent years many people have visited the shop, hoping to pick up a volume with an early composition of the great man scrawled in the margin. They have been disgusted to hear that the old dame rubbed out everything of the kind.

"No," she said, on one occasion, "Master Kipling was always fair to me, and he may have written things not so good as those he has sold since. I wasn't going to have them poking fun at him." Which shows the popularity Mr. Kipling enjoyed in his school days.

Another great writer, Sir James Barrie, has a good story to tell of his young days. It was at the time of his first success, and an old townsman of Kirriemuir, Barrie's native place, was asked what she thought of it.

"Weel," she replied, cautiously, "it's a gude thing the laddie can mek something at his writin'; he could never have made a teevin' at th' mills!"

Knew Just Where He Was.

Whimsical Walker, the famous clown, has followed the prevailing fashion and written his recollections, which naturally abound with theatrical shop talk. Among his reminiscences of Drury lane—the street, not the theater—is the following: "I was on speaking terms with an undertaker there and he once invited me into his shop and brought out a bottle. I sat myself down on something covered with black cloth and we hobbled together in friendly fashion. The undertaker was an enthusiastic theatergoer. He knew a host of 'stars' by sight and had acquaintance with a few of the lesser lights. We talked theatrical 'shop,' and I happened to ask the undertaker if he knew what had become of a certain actor whom I mentioned by name. 'Yes,' said the man, comportedly, 'you're a-sitting on him now!'"

Lead World in Corn Production.

Approximately 80 per cent of the corn entering into world trade comes from Argentina and the United States, according to information compiled by the United States Department of Agriculture. In 1921 shipments from the United States exceeded those from Argentina by 21,000,000 bushels, but prior to that year Argentina was usually the larger shipper, average exports from that country before the war (1909-1913) having been between one-third and one-half of all corn entering into world trade and about two and one-half times the quantity exported by the United States.

Fine Art of Pussyfooting.

"I'd like to adopt a political career," said the ambitious young man, "but I'm no orator and I don't believe I'd ever learn how to make a good speech."

"You don't need to, son," replied the veteran campaigner. "Some of the smoothest political strategy this country has ever witnessed was put over in a whisper."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Increased Output of Lorraine Mines

Statistics just published show that the mines of the Lorraine basin exported during the first six months of the present year 4,328,455 tons of mineral ore, valued at \$1,800,000, as against 2,000,498 tons, valued at \$1,100,000, for the corresponding period of last year.—London Times.

—The "Watchman" gives all the news while it is news.

DIAMOND NOT NOW SUPREME

Scientists Have Put Forward Products Which Rival Famous Precious Stone in Hardness.

The diamond has always been regarded as possessing one quality which placed it beyond rivalry, namely, that of hardness. There are several gems which compete with it in beauty, and at least one, the ruby, when of rare size and quality, outranks it in costliness. But none in the whole list equals it in hardness.

"Diamond cut diamond" is a popular saying. The hardest steel cannot equal the diamond in that respect. The diamond, the text-books used to declare, "is the hardest substance known."

But science progresses, and if nature has set aside for her king of gems the distinction of unparalleled hardness, the art of man has not been equally considerate. There are several products of chemical experiment which have proved, it is claimed, to be as hard as diamonds.

These are produced from the rare metal titanium. One investigator succeeded in preparing titanium in the electric furnace. In the pure form it is harder than steel or quartz, and when combined with silicon or boron, so as to form a silicide or boride of titanium, it matches the diamond itself in hardness.

Titanium resembles tin in its chemical properties, and it is the characteristic element in the beautiful red and brown crystals of rutile. These, in the shape of needles, are sometimes found penetrating large white quartz crystals, forming gems that the French call "love's arrows."—Washington Star.

RIVAL THE NATURAL PEARL

Artificial "Gems," Cheaply Produced, Said to Be as Beautiful as the Real Ones.

It appears that the lining of a pearly mussel shell or of a pearl oyster is precisely the same material as that which composes the pearl itself. Coat buttons and other articles made of this "mother-of-pearl" are very beautiful, and would bring high prices but for the fact that the material is so common.

To make artificial pearls, clear mother-of-pearl is reduced to a fine powder and mixed with rosin, shellac, stearin and a little pigment to afford color.

This is the process devised by a westerner who possesses much knowledge of the pearling industry of the Middle West.

A New Jersey man has invented a process to make imitation pearls from beads of highly polished silver coated with a translucent cellulose varnish that contains a little white pigment. Light rays reflected through the coating from the mirror-like surface beneath afford a pearl-like effect.

The most familiar artificial pearls of commerce are globules of glass lined with a substance derived from the scales of a fish called the bleak. It is to this substance that the iridescence of the scales of many species of fishes is due.—Exchange.

Roosevelt's Two "Red Rags."

Dr. John H. Richards, Colonel Roosevelt's physician during his last illness, writes in the Saturday Evening Post:

On my first visit to Oyster Bay it was considered necessary to take blood from Colonel Roosevelt's arm for a chemical examination. He insisted on standing while this was being done, in spite of the fact that his ankles were acutely inflamed at the time.

While the needle was being inserted he was joking with Doctor Swartz and Dr. W. Martin, who were in the room with us, and I, fearing lest he should move his arm, thereby making another vein puncture necessary, said: "Please do not move your arm, so that I shall not misplace the needle."

"All right," he answered, "but don't anyone mention Wilson or the Kaiser."

It Wasn't Hubby.

One night while at a dance I was introduced to a dashing young man by my husband. We stood talking for some time, and I turned to talk to some one else, and as the music started I turned around and, not looking to see whom I was taking hold of, I said: "Well, honey, aren't we going to have this dance?" I found I had grabbed this young man and that my husband was talking to some one else.—Chicago Tribune.

A Quick Retreat.

"I have here, sir," began the brisk agent, "a device which—" "Jobson," yelled Mr. Wadleigh, "what do you mean by letting this fellow get into my private office? If I have to throw him out you'll go with him."

"I have here, sir," continued the agent, "my hand on the door knob, which I am turning for the purpose of letting myself out. Good day, sir."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Starting Out.

"Have you ever had any business experience?" asked the self-made man. "No, sir," replied the brisk applicant for a job. "I'm just out of college. But I have a diploma." "Well, you look like an intelligent young man. What do you want to do?" "Thank you, sir. What's the first thing you want me to do?" "The first thing I want you to do is to forget that diploma."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

FICTION WRITERS TO BLAME

Girl With Experience Is Disillusioned Concerning Qualities of the "Strong, Silent Man."

"Deliver me," said the girl with experience, "from any more of these strong, silent men. They make very good fiction heroes, but personally I prefer a man whose chief claim to strength does not lie in his breaking all records for silence. I like a man who knows the value of a pause or a moment in which no one says anything, but in which unutterable things are felt."

"A man who shatters a time like that, or doesn't even know when it comes along, is, as we say, 'impossible.' If there's anything worse than a female chatterbox, it's a male chatterbox, but that's no reason why a man can't answer 'Yes' when you say, 'Isn't it a lovely day?' without thinking that he is violating a secret."

"Writers are to blame, I believe, for building up the fictionally perfect, but realistically terrible, type of man, whose stock in trade is an enigmatical smile. Consequently, every man who is shy, bashful or stupid feels that he has an excellent alibi. A girl who is not versed in the ways of men, but knows her story books backward and forward, is led to believe that the man who listens alike to her prattling, her small talk and her profoundest remarks with a mere quirk to the left side of his mouth, is a fiction hero come to life. After a season or two, depending on her perspicacity, she knows, alas, that he is generally just a very dull man. Of course, if he is dull, it's much better that he should be dumb as well. The only pity is that he appears, at first, to be what he decidedly is not."

TAKE THEIR PLEASURE NOW

Young Chicago Couple Evidently Believes in Verse, "Gather Ye Roses While Ye May."

The woman knows a couple who've just gone abroad. The husband is a young writer who earns a very moderate income and the wife is an artist who receives small returns.

"We're just going to enjoy ourselves for six weeks or two months," they told the woman. "You see we had a little saved up and we were going to struggle to save more by great economy and self-denial. And then we talked to one of our neighbors. He used to be as poor as we are—once. And by stinting and scraping and wise investment he is a well-to-do man now."

"We asked him why he didn't travel and he said he had always meant to, and yet, while he was young, he felt he should be saving for the future. And now that he has saved—it was saved with such self-denial that he just can't go out and spend it. He took a little trip this summer, but came back in a week—he couldn't bear to see the money which had been accumulated by small amounts go out in big ones."

"So we made up our minds that we'd travel when we could enjoy it, and not wait for the days when our enthusiasm and our nerve at money-spending would be gone."—Chicago Journal.

Records Patient's Rest.

Recording continuously the slightest movements of a patient in bed, and thereby determining the hours of complete and untroubled rest he has had, is an idea recently introduced. This result is obtained by first placing a sheet of rubber beneath one of the bed posts and attaching special apparatus to the post. The apparatus consists, briefly, of a lever, one end of which is fastened to the bed post, the other having a recording pen affixed to it. Underneath the pen is located a clock-work drum containing a chart divided into 24 hours, so that a continuous curve of the sleeper's movements is kept and may be consulted if it is desired to ascertain how he has rested, or to convince a patient that he has underrated his hours of rest.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

Motortruck Used by Loggers.

Nothing is more characteristic of logging as it was done from 1800 to 1900 than the sight of a huge truck, piled high with logs, and hauled through the muck and over the corduroy of the woods trails by four, six, or even more husky horses. If there is one place in the world where a truck might be expected to fail, it is here. But with the right kind of equipment it seems just as easy to get the logs out by gas as by horse; and there need be no argument over the proposition that, if it can be done at all by gas, it can be done more cheaply so.—Scientific American.

Municipal Camps Grow in Favor.

Counties such as Gila county, Ariz., and Fresno and Mariposa counties, Cal., and cities such as Denver, Salt Lake City, Los Angeles and Butte, now have programs of county or municipal development which provide for maintaining county or municipal camps and camp grounds within the national forests. This growing use means for the national forests new opportunities of service of immeasurable public value.

Giant Tree Many Centuries Old.

A giant pinaceous timber tree indigenous to New Zealand, locally called Kauri, has been discovered in the northern forest. It has a trunk 22 feet in diameter and 66 feet in girth, and it rises 75 feet clear of branches. The tree contains 195,000 superficial feet of timber and is estimated to be 2,000 years old.

GREAT SINGERS WERE MINERS

Underground Workers Have Contributed Largely to the Ranks of Famous Operatic Artists.

A foreign dispatch calls attention to a wonderful phenomenon which has been manifesting itself in the coal fields of Belgium and in other mining districts. From the ranks of the miners, the underground, molelike workers, there has come a series of great singers, not just one or two, but a number. The great Dufresne, Bouilliez, Anseau of the Opera Comique of Paris, Descamps, a famous Faust, and many others were all miners. Of course, we all know of the unusual rise to fame of the rollicking Harry Lauder, whose irrepressible lilted mirth had its origin in a Scotch mine. But these conspicuous examples are not all. It is reported that in the coal mines of Liege the men have the habit of singing as they work, and often with magnificent effect.

Press agents for the great singers have been fond of telling how they learned their art from the birds. It is their favorite story. But these miners have no such inspiration. As far away as possible from the blue sky, the free air, the music of the birds and the leaves and the winds and the sea, they still dream of and produce music. It seems paradoxical. But the human soul has its own music, as well as the winds and birds and other phenomena of nature. Possibly, it is all the easier for this human harmony to escape in expression when it is uninterrupted by music from without.—Ohio State Journal.

KILL GULLS WITH MATCHES

Birds Are Poisoned in Search for Food Along Thames Embankment at London.

Proof that the average Londoner is ardently fond of birds was furnished a short time ago when the report of the untimely death of several score of gulls out of the thousands that daily flutter over the foggy Thames was given prominent space in the metropolitan newspapers and called forth general indignation.

One of the oldest customs in London is the feeding of the gulls along the Thames embankment, where hundreds of persons daily stand, throwing breadcrumbs into the air and watching the swirling gulls catch the morsels on the wing with uncanny accuracy.

The other day the bodies of a number of gulls were found floating in the river. An investigation disclosed that some person, instead of throwing breadcrumbs to the birds, had fed them matches, the phosphorus ends of which poisoned them.

Research in South America.

The Field Museum of Natural History is equipping six expeditions. Two will gather geological specimens from Brazil to Patagonia, while two others will study plant and animal life in Peru. Archeological investigations will be pursued in Colombia and the Isthmus of Panama, and another party takes up the ethnology of the Malay peninsula. The gems and minerals of Brazil and the silver, copper, nitrate and vanadium deposits of Peru and Bolivia will be carefully explored. Specimens of pre-historic vertebrate life will be sought in the Santa Cruz beds, and the great ground sloth and the pampas horse may be represented in the finds. The archeological expedition aims at solving some of the mysterious interrelations of ancient civilizations and may prove a connecting link between the Maya and the Inca.—Scientific American.

American Corn in Europe.

Less corn was imported in 1921 by the United Kingdom, France and Belgium than during pre-war years, according to information compiled by the United States Department of Agriculture. In 1921 the United Kingdom took 78,000,000 bushels, compared with an average of 83,000,000 bushels during the five pre-war years, 1909-1913; France took 17,000,000 bushels, compared with 19,000,000 bushels; and Belgium, 19,000,000, compared with 20,000,000.

Canada and the Scandinavian countries, however, imported more corn in 1921 than during the pre-war years, Denmark's imports totaling 19,000,000 bushels, an increase of over 70 per cent.

Long Amateur Radio Message.

All long distance records for amateur radio transmission were shattered during the transatlantic tests of the American Radio Relay league, when the signals of two amateur stations were picked up in mid-Pacific, 7,000 nautical miles distant, by R. E. Roesch, radio operator on board the steamship Easterner, it was announced at league headquarters, Hartford, Conn. The stations heard were those of W. D. Reynolds, Denver, Colorado, and W. A. C. Henrich of Aberdeen, Washington.

Government Lumber in Alaska.

Eighty-six per cent of the lumber used in Alaska is cut from the government forests, and Sitka spruce from the Tongass national forest is finding an outlet in the markets of the world. The sawmill at Wrangell during the past summer made a shipment of 45,000 feet, board measure, of Sitka spruce for the London market, and another lot of 450,000 feet, board measure, was shipped from Wrangell through Prince Rupert to eastern points.

Shoes. Shoes.

Underground Workers Have Contributed Largely to the Ranks of Famous Operatic Artists.

Shoes! Shoes!

Less than Half Price

I have four lines of Ladies' High Tan Russian Calf Shoes, regular sale price \$10.00. These Shoes are now on sale at

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