Weird Effects Discernible in the Famous Lake of Fire.

BAHAMAS' GREATEST NATURAL CURIO

Small Body of Salt Water Which Is So Phosphorescent That Under Proper Conditions It Resembles a Sea of Flame -- Cause of the Phenomenon and Curious Negro Legend Con-

James Foster, in Providence Journal.

There are several great natural wonders in the Bahamas, but one stands without a peer in the world. It is the Lake of Fire. This lake is a body of salt water some 100 yards long by 70 broad. The phosphorescence is strong at all times, and a visit to it under proper conditions insures a sight grander than any of nature's fireworks excepting the volcano or the lightning. and possessing a weird fescination of

It is only of late years that the lake has been noted as a show place. It is located some distance from the city of Nassau. The natives do not say much about it, as there is an underlying supersittion which makes it one of the things about which they do not care to talk. The story related by the merchants of the island about the phosphorescent lake is that a number of years ago one of the residents enlarged this pond, cutting away the solid rock to make it of suitable size for a turtle nursery. He had the idea that it would he a profitable place in which to raise turtles for market. The enterprise failed, as the negroes said it would, and for many years the place was deserted. That is all there is definitely known

ISLAND'S ONLY POND.

One peculiar feature about the pond is what is called the ocean hole, probably a subterranean passage connecting it with the ocean from which the supply of water may come. Of late years a canal has been cut in the solid rock to the sea, thus insuring a plentiful supply of water. Another pecuhar feature about this lake is that it is the only pend or sheet of water on the island, for there are no rivers, brooks or streams of running water. In fact, as the waters surrounding this island are remarkable for their clear quality, even so is this one pool remarkable for the wonderful light which its waters give forth when disturbed.

The natives do not care to go near the "Lake of Fire." Yet on close quesreason for their aversion. A traveller asked one of the negroes who lived within a mile of the spot if he knew where it was. His answer was characteristic: "Never, no, sah. Never hear of him, boss." On further questioning he reluctantly admitted that he did know, and directed the stranger to the gate and the grounds that contain it. The reason why the natives do not tell the stranger about it may be surmised from the account which was abstracted from an old Congo man with much difficulty, and after a liberal dose of Santa Cruz spirits. In fact, it was only when the old man was convinced that the stranger knew and had heard part | bright yellow spray, and the stroke of the story from the "Oblzzo" man that he would impart the story of the

NEGRO SUPERSTITION.

Obizzo, or witchcraft, is the underlying vein of superstition that the negro brought with him from Africa and still lives. He is not communiicative on this subject for he is keenly sentitive to the ridicule of strang ers. Again, he realizes that in his language and folk lore he possesses something that the white man has not and guards it with fealous care. To see the "cassova" is accounted bad luck, except by the "obizzo man," one born with a "cord" (caul), for it presages some fateful event in the life of the negro who has the vision. The legend about the lake is that in the a pond or lake on it. Then the "cassova" or white hog had his great battle snake possessed all wisdom and had supernatural powers he was jealous of the white hor and relabed to the strong lashing the color of the strong and relabed to the strong lashing the color of the strong lashing lashing the strong lashing las of the white hog and wished to lesson of the white hog and wished to lesson little white caps. The effect is grand, his powers, so he compounded a magic lit is a sea of fire. The whole lake preparation of light which he intended is ablaze with the bluish light while to smear over his enemy which would make him visible to all eyes, for the the obizzo men. But the white hog of the great snake for many days. Finally the great snake entrapped the white hog and the two did battle. During the conflict the great snake accomplished his purpose and smeared the potion all over the white hog.

knew that he had lost the power of duced. The lake resembles a perfect being invisible. After a time the great | inferno, obizzo man told the white hog if he would make a lake of water on the

The white hog dug out the cavity and went through the ocean hole to the sea to let the water in. He then and the fish, he thinks, produce the bathed three times in the lake, and growth which causes the light. after that every third month he swan The fire seen when the water is disturbed is the result.

THE LAKE APPROACHED. However this may be, the lake I worthy of a visit. The drive out to it is over a splendid road. Then the carriage enters the gateway and follows the cart path, somewhat overgrown, past two deserted houses and magueys. These hollow stalks are sepstops on a wide esplanade flanked by arated by joints into several cavities,

THE BEST

WASHING POWDER

near the landing at the lake, and by the stone balustrade with its Grecian urns that he is in what was once a pretentious garden.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1898.

explains the peculiarities if the water, and after a little delay the tourists are placed in a row boat. The negro at the oars is a very uncommunicative man. He does not say a word during the entire trip. As the boat is pushed away from the stone landing the manager signals to a little girl who has been sitting on the railing. With a rush she darts into the water after the boat. Her every movement is followed by a trial of fire. Then you note that every time the cars touch the water there is a yellow light. Some distance from the shore the oarsman stops rowing and the girl swims alongside. Then with a sudden shove she darts her body a few feet back, and treading water, you note that her legs, body and arms are all aglow with golden radiance. With her witny movement her skirt sweeps around, and as she slowly moves her arms, they seem to be on fire. It is a splendid sight, Loie Fuller never did a skirt dance like this. While you watch it with amazement, she suddenly sinks beneath the surface. Then from the cur-ly hair to the tips of her feet every part of her body is distinctly illuminated with the golden glow. Slowly, with graceful stroke she swims under water and directly under the boat rising some distance beyond, Perhaps she will float silently, without move ment on the surface of the clear water, until every particle of light has died away, Without warning, with strange cry she will suddenly make a great splash. Every particle of the disturbed water is aglow with the strange light, she looks like a fury risen from the infernal regions and struggling in the fiery lake. Then, as you watch he slowly swim ashore, followed by a pathway of radiance, you realize that nature may produce effects more startling than those brought out by all the art of the stage carpenter and gas

ALMOST INCREDIBLE. What you have seen is the prelude to what is to follow. The guide now rows the boat over to the farther shore where the shadows of the trees are deepest in the dim starlight. The wat-

er is not deep here, perhaps three or four feet. He lets the boat drift along. There is an uncanny sensation as you see from out of the depths of the water a flery streak shoot like a falling star towards the center. Your voice sounds strange as you ask the negro, "what was that?" He does not answer. Perhaps your companion suggests

that it is a fish. A minute more and from a dark sheet of water a number of streaks shoot out from a common enter, just like the bursting of a shell If you keep silent, you may here see one of the big fish, for there are a great many in the pond of all kinds, swimming in his own light. As the boat moves along under the shadow of the trees, every dip of the oars produces a blue, sulphurous-like flame in the water. Every now and then, half a dozen startled fishes shoot out like a sunburst in the water, making zig-zag lines and a display of golden light finer than fireworks.

The brightest phosphorescence is seen over by the ocean hole. This is the deepest part of the lake. It is a matter or difficulty to get the guide to take the boat there. Here the pathway of the boat is all aglow with yellow light which seems to linger after the disturbance that caused it has ceased. The slightest splash of the oars produces produces a whirlpool of fire from the center of which, with its blue and yellow light, you half expect to see the horns and head of the familiar spirit

of the flery regions rise As the boat is turned towards the landing once more a cloud may pass over the lake casting a dark shadow. the cool breeze drifts across, sending a chill to your heart, as you see i ruffle the surface between you and land and turns the slightest ripple into a wave of fire. Then in the silence, the darkness and the glow of the water you realize why the negro has a sup-

erstitious dread of the place. EXPLANATION.

The lake is always a good show at night. The phosphorescence is so vivid that even on a bright moon-light early days of the island there was not | night, it far exceeds that seen on the sea when dark and stormy.

The finest sight at this remarkable where the waves break into foam they seem to be turned into flames and one white hog is invisible to all except thinks that it must be enchantment that keeps the forest on the farther heard of the ruse and evaded the wiles shore from catching fire. Yet they are cold, uncanny flames, almost the kind that would form a fitting foothold for a gigantic Satan. At the season of the tropical rains, the lake is said to be even better. During a heavy shower every splash of a rain drop means a Then for a long time the white hog brilliant display of phosphorescence, hid in the palm and palmetto. He and the effect of a rain of fire is pro-

The explanation of this remarkable phosphorescence given by the manager island and wash in it, the light would is that there is always a very rank wash away and he would once more growth of vegetable matter, both on be invisible. The "lake of fire" is the pond. Then there many fish of different species in the water, these two causes, the decaying vegetable matter

THIRTY MILES FOR AN ACORN.

The Industry of a Mexican Bird in Storing Up Winter Provisions.

Down in Mexico there lives a woodpecker who stores his nuts and acorns in the hollow stalks of the yuccas and stone railing. As the visitor steps and the sagacious bird has somehow from the carriage he sees that he is found this out, and bores a hole at

the upper end of each joint, and another at the lower, through which to extract the acorns when wanted. Then it fills up the stalks solidly, and leaves There is a courteous manager who its stores there until needed, safe from the depredations of any other thievish bird or four-footed animal.

The first place in which this curious habit was observed was on a hill in the midst of a desert. The hill was covered with yuccas and magueys, but the nearest oak trees were thirty miles. away, and so, it was calculated, these industrious birds had to make a flight of sixty miles for each acorn stowed thus in the stalks!

An observer of birds remarks There are several strange features to be noticed in these facts; the provident instinct which prompts this bird to lay by stores of provisions for the winter, the great distance traversed to collect a kind of food so unusual for its race, and its seeking in a palce so remote from its natural abode a storehouse so remarkable."

Can instinct alone teach, or have experience and reason taught, these birds that, far better than the bark of trees or crevices in rocks or any other hiding place are these hidden cavities they make for themselves with the hollow

stems of distant plants? This we cannot answer. But we do know that one of the most remarkable birds in our country is this California woodpecker, and that he is well entitled to his Mexican name of El Carpintero-the carpenter bird.

NEW YORK FASHIONS.

Spring Shirt Waists-Ginghams-Revival of the Crepon Weave-Grenadines-Silks-Spring Millinery.

Special Correspondence of The Tribune. New York, Feb. 11.-Shirt waists sound the first note of spring-differing sufficiently from those of last year to bring much business to manufacturers or dressmakers, and disappointment regarding the "left over" favorites of last Summer. The radical changes are in yokes, fronts and sizes of sleeves; the latter being much smaller with a rounded cuff; in short exactly similar to a gentleman's shirt deeve. Square or pointed yokes are in equal favor in cambric, pique or gingham but do not extend to the front, and may be cut in one piece, or have a bias seam at the centre of the back. Loose fronts are so far universal, and fly-fronts with clusters of diagonal tucks produce a pretty effect in plaided materials, or three independnt, graduated bias folds may be set on at the back, from shoulder to waist.

TUFTED GINGHAMS (which if in wool, would be called boucle fabrics) are now a favored material for shirt waists, showing three or four colors, and in every imaginable embinations of plaids or stripes; often varied by white silk stripes on both and 25 cents per yard. Silk dotted or plain pique are also prominent for shirt waists-and being somewhat thick is no disadvantage, as it is a protection against sudden changes of

weather, and keeps clean longer. Lappets are prettier than ever, in contrasting hues or in two shades of the same color, wide, fancy diagonal stripes affording more opportunity for display than when the zig zag work partially concealed beneath floral designs, and by carefully laundering to the meteorological conditions that them with a pure soap like the ivory, the colors will hold as long as the ma-

AMONG SPRING AND SUMMER fress materials, the revival of crepons on hand; and high-class plaids also, ccupy a foremost position, either as waists or skirts, but no plaided costumes throughout will be seen, For the stylish tailor suit, "two tone" covert cloths enjoy almost a monopoly somewhat invaded however by pin head checks, which have the advantage of being more serviceable. Poplins of every kind are in strong demand, and silk and wool novelties exist by the thousand, usually in delicate designs or in bayadere effects, which will undoubtedly be the reigning fancy of the season in every class of goods, admitting of their introduction.

THE CREPON WAVE IS PROMI-

NENT likewise in black or colored grena dines, which is the leading thin fabric for summer use; and this season's styles include every variety, from the plain iron-frame grenadine to the beautiful ribbon-striped, plaided or bayadere grenadine, in every stylish vening hue, in a combination of color, or in black; large black lace-like leaves on plain grenadine, being particularly attractive this season.

FOULARD SILKS

fancy taffetas, and startling plaids claim attention at present, the first named in waving lace ribbon, polka dot, or small square designs, the second largely in Bayadore effects or dots, and the third, in plaid upon plaid, so to speak; as upon a modest ground work of very small plaids, are broad, plain satin stripes near the scivage edges. Over these are narrow satin stripes (in another color) forming squares, and still another set of stripes make still larger squares. These are, however, extremes, but still nothing eems just now too glaring for silk shirt waists.

FANCY SATIN BRAIDS lead in spring hats, and although many colors are represented, yellow In every shade is the fashionable fancy, both in hats or trimmings, often comdined with white or dark red; but the key-note of millinery is soft effects; consequently the entire absence of stiff outlines. Many medium-sized hats are rolled up on one side, and another style rolls off the face and droops at the back, which is especially intended for the Pompadour style of hairdressing. The most prominent shape at the present time is "The Shepherdess," which droops at the back, admits of many modifications, and whether the hat be large or small, the tendency to droop is noticeably popular. At the same time, some stylish hats turn up at the back and many will be worn

down over the eyes. AS YELLOW IS THE LEADING COLOR.

Legherns seem to suit the season's requirements, and two brims to one crown (each one gracefully twisted) produces a novel and attractive effect. A heavy roll of straw on the edge of a trim gives a pretty finish, and great popularity is predicted for low, round crowns. In trimming, a pronounced change has taken place. and wreaths, garlands and drooping grasses are in great favor, and if a high effect must be had, standing flowers are used. Trimmings are as full as they possibly can be, and a huge satinribbon bow at the back, with three very long loops falling at each side, with a knotting at the centre, commands attention from its peculiarity, be examined.

This may be called a "flower seaon" and any or all flowers from liliesof-the-valley to huge poppies are called into requisition; roses, however, lead, and crushed roses are especially handsome as an under trimming, massed

close together. Fannie Field.

COURTSHIP IN ZUNILAND. Women Do the Lovemaking and Pop the All-Important Question.

The powers freely extended the wo men of Zuni are many, being particu-larly favorable to them in domestic matters and in everything pertaining to the home. These peculiar liberties are manifest before marriage, as well as after, for the alleged privileges of leap year hold rule continuously in Zuniland. When one of the daughters of the tribe takes an amored liking for a young man, she very frankly confesses it, and her parents are informed of her choice of a prospective husband If they approve, the interesting infornation is imparted in due time to his family; and if the yet perhaps unsuspecting subject of the selection is suited, in turn he makes, through the mutual parents, an engagement to visit his admirer at her home. He is received somewhat formally by the maiden and her family, when something like the following laconic conversation ensues between the young people, while the father and mother, with the other members of the household, slt apart, amiably pretending not to listen: "Thou comest," she says.

"Yes; how be ye these many days?" answers. "Happy. Gather and sit," and, she otions him to a seat near her.

As a never-failing hospitality on the part of a hostess, when a visitor enters a Zuni home she places food before him and bids him "locsen his belt and lesser his hunger." But he appears preoccu pled, and partakes quite sparingly, to give the polite impression that he is light eater-an important point in the favor of a prospective husband.
"Thanks: I am satisfied," he says

after dining off little more than a bird's "Eat enough. You must have com thinking of something. What have you

"I don't know." "Oh, yes, you do; tell me," she coyly persists.

to say?" she asks, encouragingly,

"I'm thinking of you," in a whisper "Indeed! You must be mistaken." "No.

"Then do you love me?" "I love you!" "Truly?" "Truly."

"Possibly we shall see. What think ou, father?" as she turns in apparent rplexity to the family group, "As you wish, my child," her paren

replies. She then appears to ponder the mater for the first time, and after due ensideration of the momentous question consents to become his yi-lukia'ni-ha, or "his-to-be,' 'and from that time dark or pale hued plaided grounds. ha, or "his-to-be,' and from that time on they are as devoted to each other as are lovers in any clime.

> GOOD GUESS ABOUT ANDREE The Ballonist and Explorer Has

Probably Settled Down for the Winter Near the Pole. Dr. Eckholm, the Swedish meteorolo gist, in a lecture recently on Andree's balloon voyage, said it was possible from the study of the known facts as

prevailed on July 11 and the fortnight following to arrive at some definite idea of what happened to the voyagers. declared it was highly probabl that at first the ballon was carried to the northwest, then came a on and puckered satin stripes, is pleasing day's calm and then a drift to the news to those who have such fabries northest. This being so, Dr. Eckholm

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oncluded that the following assump tions were therefore allowable: "I That Andree was taken quite close t the North Pole, 2. That he reached some point to the north of Franz Josef 2. That he came down in that vicinity, reached Franz Josef land, and made arrangements for wintering

This is unquestionably the most autheritative as well as hopeful sugges-tion yet made in the way of conjecture as to the fate of the Andree expedition, observes the Philadelphia Press It is authoritative because Dr. Eckholm is not only a great meteorologist but is familiar with ballooning in gen eral, and Andree's balloon in particular, as, it will be remembered, he was to have made one of the Andre party in 1896, and even this year, but with drew last spring owing to certain differences with Andree over balloon con struction. He therefore speaks by the card. The suggestion is hopeful, sinc Nansen has proved it is possible to travel over the polar ice to Franz Josef land and subsist on the ice and on the land. Therefore if Andree and his two companions have reached this haven they ought to be able to pass the winter in safety, and in the spring. by reaching the headquarters of the Jackson expedition at Cape Flora, they would find food and shelter left there for emergencies, and would be in a position to wait almost indefinitely for relief expedition. As Franz Josef land is comparatively accessible every year, there are no great natural ob pedition should cost little and be carried on without menace. The Andree problem, as Dr. Eckholm states it, by no means forbidding, and that it I as he has suggested will be the wish of all those interested in scientific research as well as in human intrepidity

"As the immortal William once said, marked Prince Henry, "There's cinity that shapes on ends rough bew Really, now, Heinrich," said the Kais as he overheard the remark of the

Prince, "that is quite clever, but when dld I say it?"—New York Tribune.



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thought to be dead.
"With this I had neuralgia of the stomach so bad it was necessary to give me morphine to deaden the pain.

"Sometimes the doctors gave me tem-porary relief, but in the end it seemed as if my suffering was multiplied. "Medicine did me no good and was but

an aggravation.
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"No one thought I would live.
"I was in despair and thought that my

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