

Montour American

FRANK C. ANGLE, Proprietor.

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GREAT WEALTH IN ALASKA

The enormous hidden wealth of Alaska, especially its inexhaustible supply of coal, has been disclosed by the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy before the Senate committee of investigation, and in the light of testimony given, Congress will be found guilty of serious negligence and disregard of duty if it allows the session to end without taking measures to protect Alaska from the raids by private interests, and prevention of further land grabs. Alaska, covering an area of 535,000 square miles, was purchased by the United States government in 1867, from Russia, for a pittance of \$7,200,000. It is one of the most wonderful stories of great wealth ever revealed by the probing of the earth that, less than half a century later, the value of the coal alone in the two principal regions is two hundred and fifty times greater than the purchase price, or approximately, \$1,800,000,000. It is not astonishing, consequently, that in a spirit of greed, various interests should bend all their energies toward gaining possession of portions of this unknown land. It has been only recently that a fair idea has been obtained of the immense value of Alaska and perhaps it is not altogether the fault of government agents that private interests have not been checked in their endeavors to seize the territory.

FIRST CHILDREN'S BOOKS.

Sheets of Horn Protected the Pages From Soiled Fingers.

The earliest English book for children was "The Babes' Book, or a Lytt Report of How Young People Should Behave." The horn books existed in Elizabeth's reign. The writing was covered with a sheet of horn in order to protect the lettering from contact with dirty fingers.

The chap book contained most of the familiar nursery rhymes and stories which have appertained to nursery lore for generations. They exhibit very crude woodcuts, often dabbled with inappropriate color, and the commonest paper as a rule was used. They were hawked about by the chapman or peddler and cost only a few pence apiece.

They served to perpetuate such familiar ditties as "Sing a Song of Sixpence," which dates from the sixteenth century; "Three Blind Mice," in use, with music, in 1609; "The Frog and the Mouse," in existence in 1580, and "Girls and Boys Come Out to Play," which was sung by the villagers in the time of Charles II. "Little Jack Horner," we know, is older than the seventeenth century, and last, but not least, "Lucy Locket," the tune from which originated "Yankee Doodle."

A few of what were called "battle-door books" have been handed down to us. They were three leaved cards which were folded up into oblong pocket shaped volumes. These taught reading and numerals in the dame schools in town and country. The little gift books, as they were called, adorned on the outside with gilt Dutch paper colored flowers, were much prized gift books of that period. Children were employed coloring such picture books by hand, one child doing all the red in the series of illustrations, another all the blue, and so on. Of course they gained precision by repetition, but we very often find the tints overlapping as if carried out by an inexperienced hand.—London Queen.

A Double Hold.
Miss Moonlite—Er—let me hold the reins, please. Mr. Bashphul—What will I do then? Miss Moonlite—You might hold the holder of the reins.—Boston Herald.

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TEMPTED, HE ATE.

A Story of Heinrich Heine and a Toothsome Lyons Sausage.

Returning from a journey to the south of France, Heinrich Heine met a friend, a German violinist, in Lyons, who gave him a large sausage that had been made in Lyons with the request to deliver it to a mutual acquaintance, a homeopathic physician, in Paris. Heine promised to attend to the commission and entrusted the delicacy to the care of his wife, who was traveling with him. But as the postchaise was very slow and he soon became very hungry, on the advice of his wife both tasted of the sausage, which dwindled with every mile.

Arriving at Paris, Heine did not dare to send the remainder to the physician, and yet he wished to keep his promise. So he cut off the thinnest possible slice with his razor, wrapped it in a sheet of vellum paper and inclosed it in an envelope, with the following note:

Dear Doctor—From your scientific investigations we learn that the millth part of a certain substance brings about the greatest results. I beg, therefore, your kind acceptance of the accompanying millth part of a Lyons sausage, which our friend gave me to deliver to you. If homeopathy is a truth, then this little piece will have the same effect on you as the whole sausage. Your HEINRICH HEINE.

Ughetti's "With Physicians and Clients."

Cowboys to Use Automobiles.
Cowboys mounted on ponies will soon be supplanted by automobiles on the larger cattle ranches in Texas, according to an announcement made the other day at Chicago by the representative of a Texas ranch owners' organization. He said that automobiles were so constructed now that their use over the ranges was practical. Already 200 machines have been ordered shipped from Chicago and New York to various Texas points.

Lead Pencil Experiments.
An English statistician was asked how many words could be written with an English lead pencil, and, being determined to answer it, he bought a lead pencil and Scott's "Iranhoe" and proceeded to copy the latter word by word. He wrote 95,908 words and then was obliged to stop, for the pencil had become so short that he could not use it. A German statistician who heard of this experiment was dissatisfied with it because all the lead in the pencil was not used on the work and therefore he bought a pencil and started to copy a long German novel. When the pencil was so short that he could not handle it with his fingers he attached a holder to it, and it is said that he wrote with this one pencil 400,000 words. Possibly, however, his pencil was longer or the lead in it was of a more durable quality.

When Silence is Deadly.
Silence is commonly the slow poison used by those who mean to murder love. There is nothing violent about it. No shock is given. Hope is not abruptly strangled, but merely dreads of evil and fights with gradually stifling shadows. When the last convulsions come they are not terrific. The frame has been weakened by dissolution. Love dies like natural decay. It seems the kindest way of doing a cruel thing.—George Meredith.

Inspiring Air.
He—So you think married life ought to be one grand, sweet song? She—Yes. He—And what air would you prefer for this matrimonial song? She—A millonaire.

Reciprocal Help.
Doctor—Well, my good woman, what do you want? Beggar—A quarter, doctor. Give me a quarter and I'll tell everybody that you helped me.

Death is the golden key that opens the palace of eternity.—Milton.

ENTERTAINMENT AT ST. JOSEPH'S

The annual entertainment by the young people of Saint Joseph's parish will take place on Friday and Saturday evenings of this week in St. Joseph's hall. For some weeks a company of the young folks have been rehearsing for two pretty plays which will be the features of the evening's entertainment.

"King Rene's Daughter," a Danish lyrical drama, will be given by six young men and two young ladies, as follows:

King Rene, of Provence, James Finnigan.
Count Tristan, of Vaudemont, James Gill.

Sir Geoffrey, of Orange, Wm. Reilly.
Sir Almerick, Edw. Gill.
Ebn Jahia, a Moorish physician, Jas. Powers.

Bertrand, Bernard Shevlin.
Martha, Bertrand's Wife, Catherine Rogers.
Iolanthe, King Rene's daughter, Sarah M'Hale.

Following this nine young ladies will present "The Rainbow Kimona," a comedy in two acts. The act of characters is as follows:

Nellie Van Tassel, President of the Rainbow Kimona Society, Nellie Curry.
Ruth Ashton, Vice-President, Margaret Kilfoil.

Alice Marion, Treasurer, Mary Cady.
Isabel Sutro, Secretary, Margaret Curry.
Beatrice Courtney, Class Poet, Catherine Deen.

Olive Mercer, President of Basket Ball Team, Mary Finnigan.
Winifred Turner, Student, Ella Gorton.

Edith Jones, New Senior, Catherine Powers.
Rose Jackson, Colored Maid, Mary Rooney.

Between the two plays a vocal solo, "The Mission of the Rose," is to be rendered by Miss Catherine Rogers and a recitation by Miss Alice Tooley.

Queer Goldfish.
Beautiful and most interesting of all goldfish is a native of Japan, and it is noted for the beauty of its tail and the abnormal length of its fins. The tail resembles a delicate veil, and the fins are developed to such an extent that it is impossible for the fish to make rapid progress in the water. It is therefore solely on account of its beauty that it is prized and because in this respect it differs widely from other varieties of goldfish, such as the "telescope fish," the eyes of which bulge out of the head in most unsightly fashion; the "celestial eyed fish," which is also unusual because its eyes are bullet shaped and are ever turned skyward, and the "egg fish," which is so called because its body is somewhat amorphous, but resembles an egg more than anything else.

THE SPARROW IS A NUISANCE

To the gardener and fruit grower the English sparrow is a nuisance rather than a help. It was introduced into the United States about forty years ago, to prey upon the measuring worm, or canker-worm, which had become very destructive to shade trees in the cities. It found many other things, however, to engage its attention, and soon became so undesirable in its habits as to become despised by gardeners, farmers, fruit growers and horticulturists generally. It is a pugnacious bird, and on account of its violent attacks upon them many of our most valuable native song and insectivorous birds have greatly diminished. It not only is disposed to drive such birds from their nests, but has been known to kill and devour their young and their eggs.

Moreover, the English sparrow feeds largely in the spring on the buds of fruit trees, and, also, does great damage in vegetable gardens in pulling up and eating the seeds, such as peas, etc., as they come up. It is, likewise, destructive in grain fields, as it alights on the stalks of wheat and oats, and not only consumes large quantities of grain, but wastes a great deal through swaying to and fro on the lender stalks, causing the grain to fall to the ground. It has been known to tear open the husks of green corn, devour the tender kernels, and cause much loss through exposing the remaining grains to atmospheric changes and the ravages of insects.

The martins which formerly returned every spring to the boxes provided for them in towns and cities, have, in many instances, failed to turn up, on account of their nesting places having been seized and occupied by English sparrows. Many other insectivorous birds, as useful as the martin, have been driven away by the common feathered enemy. In fact, there is hardly a species of our native birds that the English sparrow will not molest.

In view of the pugnaciousness of the English sparrows and their destructiveness, and but few redeeming qualities, State Zoologist Surface recommends that a war of extermination be waged against them. It will not do to endeavor to poison them, he says, as by scattering grain for that purpose which had been soaked in some poisonous solution, the lives of useful birds would be endangered, as well as domestic fowls. They can be shot, and trapped, or their nests destroyed when containing young, thus keeping them down to a minimum. There was formerly a law which protected the English sparrow, the same having been passed soon after its advent in the United States, but in 1883, at the suggestion of a number of agricultural and horticultural societies, the law was repealed, and the killing of English sparrows, eggs or young, at all seasons of the year, is now legalized.

EXPOSITION IN CHINA.

American Products Will Be Shown at Nanking in May.

Preparations are going forward rapidly at Nanking, China, for the opening of the Nanyang exposition, or National Industrial exposition, as it is called. It is to be opened May 9 and to continue for six months.

Hsi-Chen Hwang, director of works for the exposition, may be quoted as saying that there are to be sixteen large buildings, most of which are well toward completion. Most of them are in English and French styles of architecture.

The exposition grounds cover an area of about 150 acres and are laid out artistically with ponds, lawns, trees, flowers of every Chinese variety, pavilions and graveled walks leading to the several entrances. Display lighting with electricity will be a feature of the decoration of the grounds. Among the amusements will be a hippodrome, Chinese theater and other shows, both Chinese and foreign. Music will be furnished by the new army military band. A miniature railroad on the grounds will be one of the attractions.

The exposition grounds are reached directly from the railroad by the Nanking city lines. Chinese capitalists have furnished the funds for suitable foreign hotels near the grounds. There will be accommodations for 1,000 guests at these hotels. It is expected that there will be 10,000 to 15,000 visitors daily to the grounds.

The total cost of the exposition is estimated at \$700,000. Twenty-two provinces of China are to be represented in the exhibits, and 5,000 square feet each have been allotted to American, English, German and Japanese exhibits in the Chinese government building.

Why They Were Selected.
It has been recorded that General Henry Knox in 1783 was the "greatest" of eleven distinguished officers of the army, weighing 280 pounds. Noah Brooks in his book entitled "Henry Knox" gives the following incident relating to the general's full habit:

With a Captain Sargent he was selected to present the hard case of the starving and naked men at Valley Forge to the attention of a committee of congress. One of the congressmen, wishing to show his wit and sarcasm, said that he had never seen a fatter man than General Knox nor a better dressed man than his associate. Knox managed to keep his temper and remained silent, but his subordinate retorted: "The corps out of respect to congress and themselves have sent as their representatives the only man who had an ounce of superfluous flesh on his body and the only other man who possessed a complete suit of clothes."

BIG PREPARATIONS AT MT. CARMEL

The Mount Carmel Odd Fellows are making arrangements for the holding of the largest celebration in the history of the District on the occasion of the Ninety-First Anniversary of the Founding of Odd Fellowship in America to be held in Mount Carmel, April 26, 1910. They are advertising the town and the occasion in a very creditable manner and the reports already begin to show the judicious use of printers ink the towns daily papers have joined hands in assisting the local lodges in stirring up enthusiasm throughout the district. The committee has issued an immense quantity of Anniversary buttons which bear an invitation to "Meet me at Mount Carmel on April 26, '10." Their advertising labels have the invitation "Come with us" within the three links. The stationary and printed matter lands of the town's facilities to take care of a large number of visitors and briefly sets forth the various industries of the community.

Extensive preparations are being made to have the town assume a general holiday appearance and the committee has requested the management of the several mining operations to suspend work on this occasion in order to permit the entire community to turn out and enjoy the day.

Several special features are being planned one of which is to have the one hundred and twenty orphans now in the home to participate in the parade. Another is to be the massing of the bands at the finish of the counter-march of the parade. This promises to be a very successful affair and is to be so arranged that every marcher in line will see and hear the great musical body which will move over some of the town's principal streets, followed by the Patriarchs Militant and led by the mounted Marshals and Aides as well as the massed banners.

THE SPEAKERS.

Special concerts will be given throughout the day by a number of the very best bands in the State, the Address of Welcome will be given by Judge Voris Auten who will be introduced by Chief Burgess Pensyl at the time he will extend to the visiting members the freedom of the city. Grand Master James S. Montgomery will be the principal speaker of the day. Major E. C. Wagner, President of the Orphanage, will be present and will have with him in line the directors and trustees of the home. The Rebekahs will be represented by their Chief officers of the State. The Patriarchs Militant will be led by Major R. A. Raney, Commander General of the United States and Major General J. B. Andrews of Penna., will accompany him.

Special decorators are in the town attending to the details of the general plans as the committee have contracted for. Reception committees will meet every incoming train. The trolley company will run every available car in order to carry the largest number of passengers possible in the shortest given time so that visitors may reach places of interest without trouble or delay.

Every fraternal and social organization without exception will keep open house and have already appointed special reception committees to receive Odd Fellows generally and particularly Odd Fellows who happen to be members of such particular fraternity.

It is expected that fully 10,000 visitors will attend this great celebration, every Odd Fellow in the district should make a special effort to turn out and take part in the demonstration.

Massive banners are being prepared to mark the various headquarters and immense signs are to be strung across the streets bearing the generous "Welcome Brothers."

The Tears in Books.
It is not hard to understand why, when a book makes you laugh, you want to read it, and to read it over and over again. But it is rather puzzling to find that one also enjoys reading and rereading books that make one want to cry. What can there be in us that likes to be made to feel unhappy? In real life we don't try to do things that will make us suffer—not at all! But there are books that you cannot think of once you have read them, without tears coming to your eyes, and yet you will find that you love those books perhaps more than any others.

To feel deeply is one of the best things in life, and there maybe lies the explanation of why we do love sad stories. They make us unhappy in a way, but they do not leave behind any bitterness or sense of personal loss. And they usually have a special beauty of their own.—St. Nicholas.

An Airship Destroyer.

An invention in connection with projectiles to be fired at balloons and airships has recently been made by Her Wagner, landlord of the Railway hotel at Ensdetten, near Munster, in Westphalia, Germany. The projectile is so constructed that when it leaves the cannon four knives in the casing open, thus giving the missile greater destructive power.

Often The Kidneys Are Weakened by Over-Work.

Weak and unhealthy kidneys are responsible for much sickness and suffering, therefore, if kidney trouble is permitted to continue, serious results are most likely to follow. Your other organs may need attention, but your kidneys most, because they do most and should have attention first. Therefore, when your kidneys are weak or out of order, you can understand how quickly your entire body is affected and how every organ seems to fail to do its duty.

If you are sick or "feel badly," begin taking the great kidney remedy, Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root. A trial will convince you of its great merit.

The mild and immediate effect of Swamp-Root, the great kidney and bladder remedy, is soon realized. It stands the highest because its remarkable health restoring properties have been proven in thousands of the most distressing cases. If you need a medicine you should have the best. Sold by druggists in fifty-cent and one-dollar sizes. You may have a sample bottle by mail free, also a pamphlet telling you how to find out if you have kidney or bladder trouble. Mention this paper when writing to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y. Don't make any mistake, but remember the name, Swamp-Root, and don't let a dealer sell you something in place of Swamp-Root—if you do you will be disappointed.

MIDNIGHT BLAZE CAUSES ALARM

A fire occurred on the south side shortly after 12 o'clock yesterday morning, which created considerable excitement, especially on the Danville side of the river, from where the blaze seemed a sweeping and destructive one illuminating a large section of River-side.

The fire occurred on the premises of John Murphy, just east of St. Peter's Methodist Episcopal church, Gearhart street, and was confined to a group of outbuildings at the rear of the lot, which included a good-sized chicken house, one end of which was partitioned off to form a small shop.

The people were aroused by the loud and prolonged whistling of a passing locomotive, the engineer of which was one of the first to discover the fire. The buildings were then in a mass of flames. The south side has no facilities for fighting fire and about all that could be done was to wait for the fire to burn out, meanwhile preventing it from spreading. The burning buildings fortunately were not situated very near any other structures.

Mr. Murphy is having his house painted. The shutters had all been removed from the windows and, freshly painted, were stored in the little shop adjoining the henry. In this building also was a quantity of paint and oil.

The shutters burned along with the building. It was these along with the paint and oil that caused such a bright and fierce fire. Danville people, who ran over to the south side under the conviction that several buildings were on fire were amused, if not chagrined when they found what really caused the blaze.

Yesterday morning but one of Mr. Murphy's chickens remained. Whether the rest burned or disappeared in some other way is a question not easily answered. Some persons are inclined to believe that Mr. Murphy was visited by chicken thieves and that they dropped a match, which started the fire. Other persons incline to the view that the fire was due to spontaneous combustion caused by the presence of the oils and the painter's overalls, which were in the building.

The loss will amount to over a hundred dollars. Mr. Murphy has this dwelling insured.

Charles Froehner, the painter employed, lost all his tools besides several articles of clothing. He estimates his loss at about ten dollars.

He Obeyed Orders.

Old world domestics make the best possible servants because they work like machines, never forgetting an order and doing exactly as they are told, without presuming to think for themselves. But once in awhile this literal adherence to duty produces some awkward results. An American woman living in India, with native servants, once told her butler to see that there was always a napkin at the bottom of the fruit dish, cake basket, etc., when these were brought to the table. The napkin was thereafter always seen in its place. But one day a tureen of vegetable soup was served, and the hostess began to wield the long, old fashioned silver ladle about in it. Something very like a fringed rag made its appearance in the first plateful. The butler was summoned to remove the dish. "It cannot be that the men said found no napkin at the bottom," he hazarded, most distressed because of this unexplained disappearance, "for I myself placed there the largest one I could find."

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Not a Drop of Alcohol

What is a "tonic"? A medicine that increases the strength or tone of the whole system. What is an "alterative"? A medicine that alters or changes unhealthy action to healthy action. Name the best "tonic and alterative"? Ayer's Sarsaparilla, the only Sarsaparilla entirely free from alcohol. Ask your own doctor all about it. Never take a medicine doctors cannot endorse. J. C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass.

Without daily action of the bowels poisonous products must be absorbed. Then you have impure blood, biliousness, headache. Ask your doctor about Ayer's Pills for constipation.