

THE REAL LAND OF PEANUTS.

Senegal, Africa, Raises Over 125,000 Tons of Them Every Year—What Becomes of Them.

If you like peanuts, the place for you is Senegal, Africa. Senegal is one of those places that is hard to remember, even after you have found it on the map, and many a "Failure" has old Senegal produced in school days past and present. But the peanut gives it a sort of lifelike look, and should make it easier to remember, says an exchange.

The peanuts raised in Senegal in one year weighed more than 125,000 tons. France takes most of them. But thousands of tons go also to Holland and Germany.

The little French and Dutch and German children do not, however, eat peanuts by the ton. Indeed, they hardly eat them at all. The peanut in those benighted lands is turned into oil instead of being turned into hungry children. The only European country that treats the Senegal peanut with proper respect is England. It takes less than a hundred tons out of Senegal but the nuts are packed carefully in bags, and are sold to confectioners, as they should be, instead of to oil makers.

Senegal also raises great quantities of that typical Arabian Nights grain, sesame. Do you remember the "open sesame" of the 40 thieves?

POLITE DISMISSAL.

That is What an English Court Holds Request for Resignation of Bank Clerk to Be.

The true meaning and effect of the words, "you are required to resign your appointment in the bank forthwith," will never, we hope, have more than a speculative interest for our readers, but for the sake of gratifying natural curiosity on the point, it may be worth while to record a recent decision of the court of appeal as to the construction to be put upon the words, says the Bankers' Magazine. In a case known as the London Joint Stock Bank, a clerk had been found to be concerned in a transaction in such a way as to meet with the bank's disapproval, and the secretary sent him a letter worded in the manner described, whereupon he sent in his resignation. By the regulations of the bank, subscribed to by every officer on admission to the service, pensions are granted on a certain scale, but no allowance whatever is made to any officer dismissed from the service. "The clerk," it was said, sued the bank for his pension, but the court had not been dismissed, but the he had resigned. The court of appeal, however, affirming the judgment of the court below, held that the letter was a dismissal, and that the use of polite instead of peremptory language in no way altered the fact—a view which commends itself to common sense.

MONARCHS AS PATIENTS.

Servina Doctor Deplets Tires of Royal Patrons—William III. Displays His Little Learning.

A distinguished Servian doctor, who gives some of his impressions on the heads of monarchs suffering from the disease of "parade," says, in a paper, but has a mania for discussing with his doctors and likes to parade all the medical knowledge he has gained through well-known medical books.

King Edward VII. is the gentlest patient imaginable. He obeys without making the slightest objection.

The queen of Holland is a very irritable person. She does not like to have a physician touch her, even to feel her pulse.

The czar and the sultan are very difficult patients. The former is highly impressionable and has an instinctive fear of the most inoffensive remedy. The latter mistrusts his doctor and is always afraid of being poisoned. He wants every medicine prescribed analyzed by his special chemist before it is administered.

World's Longest Canal.

The longest canal in the world is that which extends from the frontier of China to St. Petersburg, 4,772 miles. In India there are 14,000 miles of canal, irrigating 8,000,000 acres of land.

Retired Conductor Tells How the Thing Is Done by Inexperienced Brakemen.

"Flat wheel," growled the old retired conductor as the trolley car in which he sat went thumping along at 12 miles an hour, shaking the passengers uncomfortably at every revolution of the wheels.

"What makes flat wheels?" asked the man sitting next to the conductor.

"Darn fools," said the conductor. "It's this way: If a man doesn't know how to stop his car he makes a flat wheel. On the steam roads some brakemen flatten a wheel every time they put on a brake. When the wheel suddenly stops revolving and the momentum of the train carries it along the wheel slides along the track and a flat is started. Next stop makes it worse, and so it goes until the wheel is no good. If a brakeman knows his business he need never make a flat wheel unless he has suddenly avoided an accident. If he keeps his wheels turning slowly they don't flatten. Now these fellows on the trolleys take no care at all, and every other car in some places has a flat wheel."

Strange Fact.

It is known that a person hunting in the winter time should be careful not to run the muzzle of his gun into the snow. At the end of the bore become filled with snow and the gun burst when fired. While the snow would be almost infinitesimal in weight, it would have to start instantly into motion, at the rate of perhaps a third of a mile a second, when the powder is ignited. While it may be required to accomplish this in the strength of the gun barrel and, and to barrel would rupture the strain.

Coal in India.

Output of coal in India has increased since 1880. It now exceeds 9,000,000 tons a year, and the supply is considered practically inexhaustible.

ONLY NATION OF HUSTLERS.

No Other People Work with the Feverish Industry of Americans—Fact Suggests a Question.

We are the only nation of hustlers, and the idea suggests itself that all the rest of the world cannot be entirely wrong and we alone right in the conduct and object of life, says the Hartford Times. The Germans and the French work for a certain number of hours with a steady but not a feverish industry, and then they enjoy themselves in what we would consider a rather childish way. They gather in their cafes or beer gardens with their families and chat good-humoredly about trivial subjects. Even the English, though abounding in physical energy, take life easily.

They seem to us to make too much of their leisurely game of cricket. But all these nations have accomplished great things, not only in science, art and literature, but in the material advance of civilization. They do not expend nervous energy as rapidly as we do, and in consequence the period of life work among their men is longer. They do not consume life so fast. May it not be that they, in their old-fashioned way, are wiser than we? They have embodied their views of life in proverbs like these: "More haste, worse speed;" "He who goes slowly goes far;" "It's the pace that kills," and others to the same purport, and proverbs are entitled to respect, because they embody the wisdom of humanity. There is no proverb endorsing the necessity of continuous restless activity.

HOW SHELLFISH TALK.

Warn One Another of Danger by Weird Clicking Sounds, Says a Distinguished Naturalist.

Most seamen will tell of curious clicking sounds heard on calm nights at sea, and the origin of the noise seems so altogether unaccountable that it has often created some alarm among superstitious fishermen, says the Chicago Tribune. A distinguished naturalist made a careful study of the sounds on many occasions, and found that it was not a sustained note, but made up of a multitude of tiny ones, each clear and distinct in itself, and ranging from a high treble down to a bass. When the ear was applied to the gunwale of the boat the sound grew more intense, and in some places, as the boat moved on, it could not be heard at all.

On other occasions the sound resembled the tolling of bells, the booming of guns, and the notes of an Aeolian harp. For a long time he was unable to trace the cause, but at length discovered that the sounds were made by shellfish, hundreds of them opening their shells and closing them with sharp snaps. The noise, partly muffled by the water, sounded indescribably weird. He was finally led to the conclusion that, as the shellfish sounds, they probably had some meaning, and that the clicks might possibly warn of danger when the water was disturbed by the boat.

ENGLAND'S MOSLEM PEER.

Lord Stanley the Only British Noble of That Faith—Had No Likings for Americans.

By the death of Lord Stanley, of Alderley, the British peerage lost its only Moslem member, says the New York Herald.

The late baron was eccentric in many respects. He married a rich Spaniard and had no liking for Americans.

To him a few years ago was sent an invitation to attend an Independence day banquet in London. His reply was as follows:

"Lord Stanley presents his compliments to the secretary of the American society, but cannot conceive why he should have been asked to a banquet to celebrate an unaimed rebellion."

Lord Stanley's funeral was a one-day wonder of the week. The ceremony was conducted according to the rights of Islamism. The interment took place in a plantation on the Alderley park estate, but even the servants of the house were kept in ignorance of the exact spot.

The service was performed by Ridjag Effendi, imam to the Turkish embassy in London. Hamid Bey, of the Turkish embassy, also present. The strictest secrecy was observed and none but members of the family was present.

SUPPLYING POLO PONIES.

Some Sent from Colorado to Clubmen in India and Other Countries—Do Good Work.

The business of supplying polo ponies to the crack clubs of the big cities has grown to such an extent in Colorado that contractors now make fancy terms every year furnishing trained animals to the wealthy patrons of the sport. Of late years there has been an attempt to raise the standard of polo ponies as to blood, says Outdoors. Excellent results have been achieved, and it is claimed that a well-bred pony, raised in the Rocky mountains and allowed to run until two years old cannot be excelled for polo purposes. Another good class is the broncho that has been trained to cattle work. A broncho of this sort is used for picking certain cattle from a herd and to obey almost every thought of his rider. This training is invaluable to the polo field, where a pony must act largely of his own accord. Consequently many a cowboy, tempted by a good offer, has parted with his dearest companion, while the alert little broncho, that has spent his early years nosing out cattle or in participating in the excitement of the round-up, wins the applause of connoisseurs at many a well-fought field battle.

Some of the polo ponies from the western range have been sent to India, and others have gone to some of the wealthy English clubmen at Asiatic stations. They rarely break down, except from age, and seem to be good for many years of hard polo work in any climate. Their good record in this most difficult and dangerous of sports is a fine tribute to the quality and staying powers of American horses.

OYSTERS REARED BY HAND.

Propagation of the Succulent Bivalve Has Been Successfully Accomplished by Naturalist.

Although many attempts have been made up to a very recent date it has been impossible to propagate oysters artificially, but within the last year Prof. Julius Nelson, biologist for the state bureau of shell fisheries of New Jersey, has succeeded in propagating oyster germs or seed, says the Chicago Chronicle.

If a female oyster be jabbed with a knife in the right way the knife point will be smeared with a milky-looking substance, in which by the aid of a microscope, can be seen tiny eggs having the general shape of minute oysters.

If the same proceeding be gone through with for the male and the two fluids mixed in salt water fertilization will occur in about ten minutes, and in about an hour the first development of the egg begins. After 24 hours the shells begin to come and the oysters are in a fair way to grow up. At the first impregnation, although many male sperms adhere to one egg, it is shown by the microscope that if more than one enters the egg a monstrosity results which will not develop.

The great difficulty at present is to keep the minute oyster free from escaping from the sea water tank in which they are enveloped, but this problem is in a fair way of solution, and the day may not be far off when the oyster can get his oyster seed in the earliest stages of its development and ready to "set" on the shells planted for them.

MODEL FOR CLEANLINESS.

Sidewalks of Juneau of Birchwood Six Feet Above Sea Level—Zero Weather Infrequent.

Mr. John Johnston, a prominent gold mine operator and real estate dealer of Juneau, Alaska, is in the city visiting his cousin, John B. Martin, says the Cincinnati Enquirer.

"Juneau, our beautiful, wealthy and charmingly located Alaskan capital, rejoices in as good a government as there is on earth," remarked Mr. Johnston, "and in the six years that I have been there the thermometer has never registered as low as zero more than four times, for we get the tempering influences of the Japanese current. Our population is 3,000, and the city a model of cleanliness. Our streets and sidewalks are constructed of inch thick tough-fibered birchwood plank, the latter raised six feet from the street level and slightly inclined to shed the water. The streets and sidewalks are flushed twice a week, and present a neat and unique appearance. Half a mile across the bay are the famous mining towns of Douglas and Treadwell, the latter with the largest stamp mill in the world. The mines there have paid \$9,000,000 in dividends. The original surface ore only ran \$3 to \$4 to the ton, but now at 1,200 feet it is showing \$35 to the ton. We raise splendid vegetables and in great quantities all about Juneau."

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Pennsylvania Schedule of Rates for Eastern and Western States. Includes table with columns for Stations, Rates, and other travel information.

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