

CIVILIZING ALASKA.

What Our Bureau of Education Is Doing - Value of the Reindeer.

In Alaska, the entire work of education is under the direction of the United States bureau of education. Alaska is a big rock, covering 400,000 square miles, that is covered with most in the most barren places. It is the kind of most that the reindeer eat. The human being can live on moss, also, but it is better to have the reindeer eat the moss and provide man with meat and milk. relates Dr. W. T. Harris, in Ainslee's.

RUSSIA'S QUEER ALPHABET.

One Reason Why People of Other Nations Struggle Try to Learn This Language. There are, perhaps, fewer learned men who are familiar with the Russian language than that of any other people. This is largely due to the fact that at the very threshold of the Russian language one is confronted by the alphabet, and a most formidable obstacle it is to linguistic study. Cadmus, with a prophetic sympathy for the modern schoolboy, stopped short at 24 letters when he invented Greek, but Cadmus's offspring (as his Russian prototype is called) launches no fewer than 33 on the gulfless foreigner, relates the New York Times.

When a foreigner writes his name in Russian he invariably tacks this "final mute" on to it. It is regarded as a subtle compliment to the Russian nation and doubtless has due weight with the secret police.

Helen Cuddick, one of the few white women who have ventured into the heart of Africa, has recently written about her trip from Zambesi to the great lakes a trip for pleasure. The cotton houses or waists which she wore were washed and "ironed" by her native "boy," and the process was extraordinary. The laundryman first spread a mat on the ground. Next the clothes to be "ironed" were placed on it and smoothed out as well as possible. Then, placing a towel or some large cloth over the garment, he rubbed his feet back and forth over it, until he thought it was smooth enough.—Youth's Companion.

TRICKS OF THE BARN STORMER

Use Was "to Pong," or Fill in a New Part Not Committed to Memory.

"One of the old slang phrases of the stage," said Muggles, who used to be a good actor, relates the Chicago Inter Ocean, "was 'to pong.' This means, or used to mean, using your own language, that is playing a part without cues of the proper lines, relying only upon a knowledge of the play to carry you through. Years ago on the road these used to be some highly indignant situations in consequence of a new play being produced in a hurry. The stage manager, however, had a wonderful genius for patching up a hitch. When circumstances were necessary he would sometimes lower a front scene and tell the lower comedian and the chambermaid to go on and 'keep it up,' and while they did so he would arrange how the play had to be continued.

HOW SOME ANIMALS GROW.

Likely Comparisons Are Made Between Young and Old of Various Species.

It is not generally known that the human baby is smaller at birth in proportion to the size it ultimately attains than most other animals, says a writer in the Chicago Chronicle. The size of the young of any animal varies in proportion to the size of the brain, and is significant in many ways. The average height of a baby at birth is about 12 inches, and as the average height of a man is generally put down at 5 feet 10 inches, the proportion is as 1 to 5.83.

In general, the larger the animal at maturity the slower its growth. A man is not fully grown until he is 25 years old, though he attains his height sooner. So with animals. A colt or calf gets his height at 3 years, but thereafter slowly gains in power until his fifth year—the man's development being five times as slow. An elephant matures slowly, and lives as long as a man. There are fables telling of the extremely long life of cranes and eagles, but in few cases have these been fully verified.

Hay Fever in Germany. Hay fever is becoming more prevalent annually in Germany, and after carefully considering the matter physicians of that country have selected the island of Heligoland as the most suitable resort for such sufferers. Hitherto patients have been most frequently sent to the mountains, but the benefits of such a change have hardly been commensurate with the cost. Investigation convinces medical men that Heligoland has many of the curative qualities which hay fever patients have found in northern Michigan and a "Hay Fever Union of Heligoland" has accordingly been formed, with headquarters in Hanover. The union rapidly gaining members, particularly in the northern and eastern sections, where grass and hay grow in abundance.—Chicago Chronicle.

First Citizen—My wife and I have voted for 15 years. Second Citizen—Not interested in politics? "Oh, yes! deeply interested, but we're paired."—Puck.

COREA'S COMIC OPERA KING.

Many of His Imperial Edicts Are Brimming Over with Scarcely Concealed Humor.

The king is always biting the dust in public. He informs his people that he cannot eat on account of this and he cannot sleep on account of that. His edicts rank with the best of comic literature. I copied when there some of his daily confidences, says a writer in Harper's Weekly. "The defense of the country is a matter of the utmost importance. This is true at all times, but especially so today. Hence we, by a previous edict, placed our army and navy under our direct command." The fact that Corea had no navy was purely incidental. The following was another: "The welfare of our people is our constant thought. We realize that since our last year's disturbance our people have suffered greatly on account of lack of peace and order. The dead suffer as much as the living, but our government has not done anything to ameliorate existing conditions. This thought worries us so much that the affluence by which we are surrounded is rather uncomfortable."

A REMARKABLE FACT.

Fly Has Four Thousand Eyes in a Bunch on Each Side of the Head.

Whoever thinks the male superior animal finds no rest for the sole of his foot in the contemplation of what we, in the sublimity of our self-conceit, call "the lower animals." In our general ignorance of the housefly we do not know just how foolish and no account the male is, but we may reasonably infer that he is as markedly deficient as usual, seeing that his eyes are so close together that they touch each other. This is always a bad sign. If you see anybody with eyes close together you are entitled to think little of his intelligence, says Harvey Sutherland, in Ainslee's. The fly has two sorts of eyes, the big compound one, 4,000 in a bunch on each side of the head, for knocking about in daylight, and three simple eyes on the top of the head for use in a poor light, sewing and fine print. Before going into ecstasies of admiration over the creature that has 4,000 eyes on each side of its head it might be well to remember that they are not of much account. In case of old flies kept over winter, the compound eyes cave in and get broken, yet the fly seems to get along and find food. One kind gentleman vanished off the wings of some flies. He found that he might hold a candle close enough to burn the compound eyes of the fly before it had a suspicion that anything out of the common was going on. In daylight he took a knitting needle and brought it up in front of the fly close enough to touch its antennae before it dodged. If the knitting needle was brought up on one side, Mr. Fly picked up his sticking plasters quite lively.

WANTED RIGHT NAMES.

Otherwise a Colored Waiter Would Not Serve the Dishes Ordered by His Customers.

There is a colored waiter in a downtown lunchroom who will have things called by their right names or he will not serve them, says the Chicago Tribune. "I want," said a businesslike young man as he sat down on a stool at the counter, "a glass of milk and a cut of raspberry pie with ice cream on it." The waiter, leaning toward and asked: "Nah?" "Glass of milk and raspberry pie with ice cream on it," repeated the young man. "Didn't get it," persisted the dark-browed garçon, putting his ear close to the customer's face. The young man was becoming irritated. "Do you know what milk is?" he asked in a high tone. "Yes, sah." "Well, bring me a glass of it." The waiter brought it. "Now," pursued the young man, "bring a cut of raspberry pie on a plate." This was said in a moderate tone, but the waiter heard, underdosed, and brought the pie. "And now have you any ice cream?" "Yes, sah," answered the waiter, with a trace of surliness. "Then take that pie over to the ice cream can and dump some ice cream on it, and hurry up!" "O, you mean pie is a mode? Why didn't you say so in the first place?" And the man behind the counter took on an air of superiority that did not wear off until the head waiter clapped his hands as a signal to hurry things along.

AMERICAN SHIPPING.

Nearly Fifteen Hundred Vessels Built Last Year.

The Gross Tonnage of These Ships Was 300,000—Record for the Great Lakes in Largest Yet Attained.

Complete official returns for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1900, show that 1,444 vessels of 360,168 gross tons were built and documented in the United States. Since 1853 this record has been exceeded only twice in 1864, when 415,740 gross tons were built, and in 1874, when 432,735 gross tons were built. The construction may be classified according to the following types: Schooners, schooners, barges and sloops, 499, of 109,605 gross tons; great lake steam vessels, 25, of 97,847 gross tons; canal boats and barges, 523, of 74,860 gross tons; ocean screw steamships 20, of 60,369 gross tons (of which all but one, the "Marine", 1771 gross tons were built wholly or principally for trade reserved by law to American vessels); river steamers, 375, of 44,284 gross tons; square-rigged vessels, 4, of 6,205 gross tons. The steam vessels built—420, of 202,489 gross tons—surpass the record, the nearest approach being 1891, when 481 steam vessels, of 185,937 gross tons were built. The steel vessels built, 90, of 196,831 gross tons, exceed the previous record year 1899, when 91 such vessels, of 131,379 gross tons, were built. Cleveland O. ranks first as builder of steel vessels, with nine steamships, of 42,115 gross tons, followed by Newport News seven steamships, of 28,202 gross tons; Chicago, five vessels, 24,504 tons; Detroit, four steamships, of 15,693 tons. During the past decade the steel steam vessels built in the United States aggregate 465, of 742,830 gross tons, of which 195, of 450,089 gross tons, were built on the great lakes. For comparison, it may be noted that the British board of trade reports that 727 steel steam vessels, of 1,423,344 gross tons, were built in the United Kingdom during 1899. During the ten years, 69 steel steam vessels, of 194,080 gross tons were built at Cleveland, and 110, of 135,000 gross tons, at Philadelphia.

CLOCK STARTS WITH NATION.

Bought July 4, 1776. It Has Recorded the Flight of Time Ever Since.

A clock that has ticked out each second and each minute of the existence of the nation is owned by A. G. Egbert of Poplar Bluff, Mo. This old timepiece, which stands nearly eight feet in height, with wooden wheels still ticks away and records every passing moment as faithfully as it did on July, 1776, when it came into the possession of Paul Egbert at Trenton, N. J. The clock has kept pace with the events of the nation. It may truthfully be said that its duties commenced when the thirteen original states threw off the yoke of oppression and the United States was born. For its first owner, Paul Egbert was a witness of the signing of the declaration of independence, and to commemorate that event he purchased the clock as an heirloom to be handed down from the generation to generation. That same day the timepiece commenced its regular duties, and still continues to tick away, never faltering and never having to be repaired. Upon Mr. Egbert's death it passed to his son, and on down to the present owner, who is a great-grand-grandson of the original purchaser.

HOLLAND A GREAT CRAFT.

Further Test Proves Her to Be a Dangerous Enemy for a Man-of-War.

After dark at Newport the other night the torpedo boats Morris and Rodgers and the submarine boat Holland were sent outside the breakwater to make a test of the Holland's usefulness. The boats were to make an attack and the tug Leyden was to pick them out with searchlights. The Leyden found the torpedo boats at will, but after the Holland had plunged under water she was not seen again until she was found at her dock. The Holland approached near enough to the Leyden to fire a torpedo and then went within a short distance of the cruiser New York without detection. The big cruiser could easily have been sunk by a torpedo from the Holland. The test proved the submarine boat to be the greatest thing in the American navy.

A "Spotted" Coin.

A mahogany coffin, bearing a gold monogram, gold-plated handles and elaborately chased with gold and silver, says the London Express, is among the pledges in the windows of a Cardiff pawnbroker.

Automobile Hearse in Philadelphia. A Philadelphia undertaker has had an automobile hearse constructed.

HOW SOME ANIMALS SWIM.

Many of Them Display Wonderful Powers of Endurance in the Water.

Among what are generally considered purely land animals there is no finer swimmer than the polar bear. This grand creature, with which everybody is nowadays familiar, spends more than half his time in the water, performing immense journeys across the polar wastes from continent to continent. The distance he travels from the pack ice to the main coast over open water are at times astounding, considering that the body is all the time immersed in freezing water, known to human beings as the greatest deterrent to an long swimmer, writes a naturalist. The most interesting family of swimmers is perhaps the rodents. It may be taken as a general rule that if one member of a family is a good swimmer all the rest are, but not so with regard to the group in question, for it embraces not only such fine performers as beavers, rats, mice and their allies, but such regular land tubbers as squirrels, hares and rabbits. All the good swimmers among the rodents are also expert divers and are able, moreover, to raise or depress the body in the water at will. When swimming at ease and unsuspecting of danger the water line passes across the mouth, the middle of the cheek and the shoulder, disclosing on the surface rather more than one-third of the whole body, and though the root of the tail is seen, the tail itself is generally under the water, excepting when the animal is quite stationary. About rats I need hardly speak, so familiar to everybody are their habits. The common house rat, when he takes to living on river banks, is almost as much at home in the water as his cousin, the water vole, and the same thing may be said of mice, notably the water shrew.

Among the Indifferent Swimmers of This Family the Squirrel Claims Attention.

Many observers are of the opinion that the squirrel does not swim at all, but that by hopping onto a floating piece of bark and using his tail as a sail he crosses the widest rivers. This is a very pretty story and one with a certain amount of truth in it—it has myself seen squirrels floating down stream in this way, but that he often attains his object thus I very much doubt. Twice, while fishing in the Tay, I saw squirrels actually swimming across the river, and their movements struck me as so peculiar that I afterwards experimented with them in the water. They were evidently alarmed at the thought of trusting themselves to so treacherous an element, and, at starting, some of them sprang into the air, as if inclined rather to fly than to swim, but once well afloat they paddled away with such extreme rapidity as to exhaust themselves within a few minutes at most. In this action the head and shoulders are carried very high out of the water, while the rest of the body sinks deep beneath the surface—in direct contrast to the job of hares and rabbits, which in swimming are, like an ill-balanced ship, "down by the head."

Like the squirrels, these two animals show great timidity in the water, and naturally so, for their heads are so low and stems so high that the slightest ripple on the surface would send their noses under water and so drown them, unless they at once returned to land. In perfectly still water, however, they can both swim considerable distances. Nearly all the ruminants are excellent swimmers, and all take freely to the water, except perhaps the wild sheep and the camels. Of pigs it is commonly reported that so queerly fashioned are they that if they attempt to swim they cut their throats with their fore feet, but this only an old wife's fable. Whether wild or tame they are all good swimmers, though owing to the shortness of their legs they just touch their throats with their fore feet, and beat the water very high. Many of the islands of the southern seas are now inhabited by wild pigs, which are the descendants of those which have swum ashore, sometimes great distances from wrecked vessels. Camels cannot swim. They are very buoyant, but ill balanced, and their heads go under water. They can, however, be taught to swim rivers with the aid of goat skins or jars fastened under their necks. During the Beluchistan expedition of 1858 the camels were lowered into the sea from the ships and their drivers plunging to their charges, causing the animals' heads to come up, and thus assisted they were successfully piloted ashore. Several animals, such as hedgehogs and bats, who would at first glance be considered incapable of navigation are in reality quite respectable performers.

The Sultan's Expenses.

By slightly curtailing his vast personal expenses the sultan of Turkey could easily pay Uncle Sam's little bill and a good many others besides. His annual outlay is in the neighborhood of \$30,000,000, of which \$7,000,000 goes to the ladies of the harem, \$400,000 for his majesty's own wardrobe, \$7,500,000 for presents, \$5,000,000 for pocket money and \$3,000,000 for the royal table.—N. Y. Sun.

Electricity Killing Fish.

Many thousands of fish are being found dead in the lakes contiguous to Ferguson Falls, Minn., chiefly in Otter Tail lake, from which the city of Bemidji gets its water supply through the Red River. This is a serious feature of the situation. General belief has it that severe electrical disturbances have killed the fish. Chicago Chronicle.

PITH AND POINT.

Money is sometime the root of the family tree.—Puck.

Many a man is generous to a fault who is generous to nothing else.—Indianapolis News.

There are lots of people who look as if they had spent the day sitting on a wharf waiting for their ships to come in.—Atchison Globe.

A snub is a man on a ladder who kisses the feet of the man on the round above him and kicks at the man on the round below him.—Chicago Daily News.

"How do you suppose she manages to have the reputation of being so good-natured?" "Easy enough. She never cultivates any opinions of her own."—Brooklyn Life.

"Stinson is a mean man." "Why so?" "He's got a way of keeping his wife from going through his pockets for loose change." "How's that?" "He spends it all before he gets home."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Did you ever hear anything against his honesty?" "No, sah," answered Mr. Erasmus Pinkly. "But he eats chicken mighty regular on Sunday and he's allus got an umbrella when it rains." Boston Herald.

The Resemblance Was There.—Towne—"That was a rather disreputable-looking man you just spoke to." Brown—"Sir! That man was my brother." Towne—"Oh! beg pardon; I might have known that."—Philadelphia Press.

From a Modern Mother's Diary.—"To-day had occasion to whip my son Clifford, and again it was borne in upon me how unfit I am to be a mother. For I had to wait for a doctor to come and administer anaesthetics. Thus much of the moral effect of the whipping was lost. Now I accuse myself in that I have not long ago learned to administer anaesthetics myself. And how wretched I am tonight!"—Detroit Journal.

HARD LEGAL NUT TO CRACK.

The Question Is, Does a Railway Passenger forfeit His Rights by Becoming Old?

A singular case involving the rights of a holder of a ticket was observed ticket developed recently on the Santa Fe line, says the St. Louis Republic. It was on an east-bound train from San Francisco, and the conductor, while collecting tickets, was given the return portion of a half-fare or child's excursion ticket from Kansas City to San Francisco. The holder of the ticket was a young man about 22 years of age. The conductor looked at him, smiled and asked: "You don't expect to ride on this ticket, do you?" "Why not? It is an unlimited ticket and I bought it in Kansas City 11 years ago." The conductor examined it more carefully and found that it bore the stamp of the Santa Fe office at Kansas City and was dated April 12, 1889. It was, moreover, as the young man had said, an unlimited ticket. "I don't doubt what you say about buying it," the conductor said, "but you were a kid then and now you're a man. I can't let a man ride on a child's ticket. You must put up the other half in cash or get off the train."

But let me explain. My father put up nearly \$100 for that ticket 11 years ago and your company has had the use of \$50 of it for all that time without rendering any service to him or for whom he bought it. If I have to pay the extra half fare, am I entitled to a credit in the shape of interest on that \$50 for 11 years?"

"I'm not cracking those kind of nuts," the conductor replied, smiling. "You're a man and you have got to have a man's ticket or pay full fare."

"Well, I will pay the extra half fare, but I would like to have something to show for it."

"All right; I'll give you a receipt."

The money was paid and the receipt given, the name of the young man being Charles A. De Courey. He said he would present a claim against the Santa Fe on his return from an eastern trip.

Local passenger men to whom the case was presented said the conductor took the proper stand and that the young man has no legal or equitable claim against the company. A railroad ticket is a contract and both parties to it must comply with the terms and the conditions provided on it. A child's ticket calls for a child passenger and the moment the holder ceases to comply with this condition, the ticket is not good for passage so far as he is concerned. As railroad companies do not agree to pay interest when redeeming unused tickets, the absurdity of a claim of this kind is readily seen. The prospects are that Mr. De Courey will keep his receipt as an odd souvenir of an odd railroad journey.

Cheese in Swiss Families.

The social rank of a family in Switzerland is estimated by the age of its cheese, and the greater the respect due to, or the attention for, a guest, the older is the cheese set before him. There are in each family at least as many cheeses as there are boys and girls in the family, for at the birth of every child a cheese is made. It is first cut into his or her wedding day, on which festive occasion all the guests partake of a piece of the groom's and the bride's cheese in order to secure for them all earthly thrift and happiness. The rest is served as a token of friendly sentiment and heartfelt mourning after the tomb has closed over his or her earthly career.—N. Y. Home Journal.

Philosophical.

Snailley—What's the festem? You'll find something we all hate to see in someone else, but which is a virtue if we possess it ourselves.—Syracuse Herald.