

COMING OF THE COYOTES.

Ranchers in Western Washington Surprised at Their Appearance—Formerly Unknown in Region.

For several years coyotes in increasing numbers have been bothering ranchers of western Washington. Their appearance has caused much surprise, because old-timers declare that in the early days these pestiferous animals were entirely unknown in this part of the Cascade mountains.

ALASKA INDIANS STRIKE.

Siawashes Refuse to Supply Sitka's Market with Deer—Want Open Season Year Around.

The Siawashes who hunt for market about Sitka, Alaska, have taken a notion to have a hand in the matter of game protection themselves. They say if the government won't let them kill deer to sell any time they want to, then they will not kill deer at all except for their own use.

CITIES COLLECT THE DUST.

German Municipalities Guard Carefully Against the Spread of Certain Diseases.

As is well known, many diseases are widely disseminated in cities by the dust that fills the air and percolates into houses and vehicles of every sort. To minimize as far as possible the danger to the public health from this cause the municipal regulations of Berlin insist that refuse, ashes, and all that is generally though inaccurately summarized by the term "dust" should be carried through the streets in airtight receptacles.

DOCTORS DO TASTE DRUGS

Not Qualified to Practice Until They Have Learned the Flavor of Their Medicines.

"Do doctors know how their own medicine tastes?" was a question put to a group of physicians, says the Brooklyn Eagle. "To be sure," said one, "but we have had work to convince our patients that we do. If you only knew how this beastly stuff tastes, doctor, you would not ask me to take it—that is what they say. And they are hard-headed people, too, who say that—people who are by no means raving in delirium. It's hard ever to convince them that a doctor has a tasting acquaintance with his medicine."

Pulverizing Fir Logs.

In the manufacture of wood pulp logs of fir are placed in a strong chamber and there subjected to the action of superheated steam until the water in every cell is converted into explosive gas. The chamber is then opened and the log explodes, converting itself instantly into wood powder.

SHE IS A METAL WORKER.

New England Girl Enthusiastic Over Trade She Has Taken Up—Buckles Her Specialty.

She has a little forge in one of the rooms of her home, and there this clever New England girl works away with metal and semi-precious stones, turning out buckles, buttons, and odd dress ornaments that are the envy of all who cannot afford to buy them, says the New York Sun.

The fad is a comparatively new one with her. Inspiration for it came on a recent trip abroad when she became deeply interested in the exquisitely wrought metal ornaments she noticed in the shops of the dealers in antiques. It was the designs of these ornaments that first attracted her attention, because for a good many years she had been interested in the study of design and had carried out many original ideas in embroidery.

When she got home she bought a forge and tools and began work. Her small forge blazes away day after day and her enthusiasm keeps blazing away, too.

"It was fortunate enough," she explains to a friend, "to get my trade started just when the craze for fancy buttons was so violent. My friends are all crazy for the ones I make because I make them to go with the gown and I study the wearer's individuality. This old girl set with garnets was made to go with a beautiful deep red velvet cloak."

ORIGIN OF THE CUSTOM.

The Putting of Coins in Foundation Stone of New Building Based on Ghastly Practice.

There is nothing especially impressive in itself about the practice of putting coins under the foundation stone of a new building, especially if the denomination of the coins is modest. Yet this harmless practice is the shadow of an older, ghastly custom. The money stands, theoretically, for the ransom of the human being who by ancient superstition should have been buried in its place. Otherwise, it was held, the building would not stand firm and endure.

There was a time when this particular kind of human sacrifice had a vogue extending to most parts of the world. Even in England skeletons have been found imbedded in the bases of castle walls, and there is record of one German fortress at the building of which a child was bought from its mother with hard cash and walled in to the dungeon tower—the unnatural mother, according to the story, looking on the while. Effigies of human beings are still used in some parts of Europe as harmless substitutes, and in remoter and more ruthless places the old custom crops out from time to time in all its grim reality.

It was not long ago that at Moscow, in the Caucasus, three builders were arrested for kidnaping a lad. Afterward the body was found walled into a tower they were at work upon. Within the last half century two children, a boy and a girl, were, it was reported, walled into a block house by some laborers at Duga, in Asiatic Turkey.

Weather Plant.

For 18 years Baron Fridland von Nowack has been studying the tropical "weather plant," Abrus Precatorius Nobilis, as an instrument of long-distance weather forecasting. He finds that the twigs and leaves respond in movement and even in color to electric and magnetic forces of the atmosphere, and that familiarity with the effects of sun-spots gives a means of predicting barometric and earthquake conditions 24 or 28 days in advance. He believes that he can indicate areas of rainy, fine and foggy weather for two to seven days in advance. He contends, moreover, that very high or very low pressures affect the compass sufficiently to cause vessels to go out of their course, and he claims that these extremes of the barometer and the degree of their effect upon the compass can be foretold 24 or 28 days in advance.

Make-Up of the English Woman.

If you were asked to construct an English woman from her shopping, says London Truth, what a fleshly heartless horror she would turn out. Tearing the plumes from living birds for her hat, scorching her starving countrymen, their wives and children, while she nips across to Paris to buy her silks, decking her head with the tresses of poor souls ill in the hospital. But we will go no further with the fabrication of our female Frankenstein.

Antique Fakes.

The Hong-Kong Daily Press says: "The European seeker after curios out here is a source of revenue to many an unscrupulous native vender. A method whereby the appearance of century-old china is simulated is to kill a dog and place the new, comparatively valueless porcelain in its inside, afterward burying it in the earth. At the end of a year the ware is transformed into a choice specimen of veritable antique."

Unpardonable.

An old gentleman in Australia broke off the engagement between his daughter and a young man because the young man led the thirteenth trump at whist.

TYPES NO LONGER NEEDED.

Printing Is Now Done Without Agency of the Metal Letters—The New Process.

There are three companies in New York and Brooklyn that are about to put on the market devices for printing without types, says the New York Press. One is capitalized at \$10,000,000. The process is as simple as a, b, c. To begin with, a typewriter, with the standard keyboard, is used to "set up" the copy, not in letters, but in perforations in an endless strip of paper. The completed tape looks somewhat like the music used in automotons that play the piano. The strip of paper is passed through a machine which prints, with justification, sheet after sheet of matter of the required size—a book page or newspaper. Impressions of this printed stuff are then made upon aluminum or zinc plates as thin as ordinary sheet iron, which are placed with equal facility upon both the bed-and-plate and the cylinder presses.

One of these typeless machines is called the "planograph" and another the "lithotype." I have forgotten the name of the third. The principle of printing from plates as smooth as glass is this—water and grease won't mix. The text is put on in ink, the basis of which is grease. Enormous pressure is used, the typewritten piece of paper being laid flat upon the zinc plate and placed under heavy rollers. In printing, the ink rollers pass over the entire plate, but leave ink only upon the inked impression, for the rest of the plate—all the spaces between the letters—is covered with water from a water roller, which absorbs ink. As many as 164,000 impressions have been taken from one plate.

HUNT FOR INDIAN'S GOLD.

Red Man Accumulated Quite a Comfortable Pile—Died Without Telling Where He Hid It.

A family of Nez Percé Indians is searching an 80-acre farm near Cullendale, Idaho, in an effort to locate \$12,000 of buried gold left by Reuben Wepshell, the father of the family and a full-blooded Nez Percé. On this farm Wepshell lived with his squaw for 60 years. He tilled a small farm and raised many cayuses which ran at large on the neighboring range. From the proceeds of horse sales and rent received from land leased to whites he accumulated more than \$13,000, which he kept buried in a secret spot. Of four children, Amos, the eldest son, was the old man's confidant, and often went with his father in the dead of night to bury more gold or secure money for some immediate use. During his later years the old Indian removed the greater part of the money to a new place known only to himself. His family always knew the amount thus buried, and he often promised that before dying he would tell the secret to Amos. Three months ago Wepshell was taken sick. Before Amos could arrive from his ranch 20 miles away the old man died without divulging the burial place of his gold. Amos, now 30 years old, is superintending the search for the buried money.

SLEIGHS AIDED ROMANCE.

Glittering Banners on Heavy Snow Materially Helped Cupid's Business This Past Winter.

Cupid and the county clerk have had a big time this winter in the near Chicago territory. Really, the weather man was responsible for it all. He sent the longest spell of sleighing that has ever been seen in the region, and the people say that sleighing and courting go hand in hand together, declares a Chicago publication. A man over at Kalamazoo claims that he has used his sleigh every day for more than 100 days.

Hundreds of young men have tucked a pretty Wolverine or Hoosier girl under a plentiful supply of robes and driven distances as long as 25 miles. The young woman would be allowed to get warm at the stove in the hotel parlor, but the man would not wait until he had secured a license and had engaged a minister to speak the words that would enable him to take a wife back home.

Sleighing parties in five states have had the finest winter they have had for years, and weddings and betrothals have been correspondingly numerous. There was scarcely a day on which a wedding party did not arrive in a cutter in many of the larger of the country towns.

SEVEN BELLS NOT STRUCK.

Signal Sounded on All Other Vessels Never Heard on British Ships—History Furnishes Reason.

The method of signaling the passing of the hour at sea is well known to every person who has taken an ocean voyage. Eight bells are struck every four hours, an additional bell being struck for each half-hour.

From six to eight in the evening is the second dog watch, but on British ships seven bells (7-30) of the second dog watch are never struck. All the other ships, even the American, strike these bells.

During the Napoleonic wars there was a great mutiny in the British navy. The crews of the fleets lying at Spithead and the Nore agreed to rise simultaneously against their officers. The signal agreed upon was seven bells of the second dog watch. The mutiny actually began at the arranged time, but failed, the ringleaders being executed. Ever since then seven bells of the second dog watch has never been struck on British ships, naval or mercantile.

Princes Wore Wooden Shoes.

In the ninth and tenth centuries the great princes of Europe wore wooden shoes.

A TIMBER FAMINE COMING.

Expert Predicts That Third Decade of This Century Will See Depletion of Our Forests.

"The writer not long ago estimated that with the increased rate of consumption the third decade of this century would see practically the depletion of the native timber of the United States, and this year one of the largest operators in the sawmill business has come to the same conclusion," says Prof. B. E. Fernow in an article on "The Forestry Problems of the United States," in Pearson's. "Others there are who point to other lands as waiting to furnish the United States with supplies. There is Canada, most desirous to increase its exports of lumber in this direction. There is Brazil and the whole of South America full of woods! Blissful ignorance! Canada, although relatively to its population very much better wooded than the United States, has not less lavishly cut and wasted. Of the class of timber which this country particularly cares for, it has but a limited supply, and is called upon to furnish to the mother country as well. A few years more than is predicted for the depletion of the United States will see Canada's virgin timber used up."

"The southern continent contains forests of vast extent, but practically no material that this country particularly needs or desires to use, for they are mainly composed of the hardest of the hardwoods, fit only for limited uses—at least in the present household economy. It is pines, spruces, cedars, redwoods, firs, in other words, conifers, that are mainly needed, and of these no supplies of any extent are to be found in South America. In fact, with the exception of Russia, possibly, the United States may claim to have still the largest supply of these most needed woods. The fear, also, of a timber famine—not wood famine, for wood will still abound when saw-timber is gone—is, indeed, beginning to agitate those European countries which rely upon importations."

BOYS UPSET THE PROPHECY.

Mormons Attempt to Walk on Water Frustrated by Vigilant Youngsters—Had Mud Bath Instead.

"I have often heard my grandmother tell of a joke played on the so-called 'Prophet' Joseph Smith, Sr. of the Mormon church," says C. H. Cartwright, according to an exchange. "Some time in the '30s Smith and a part of his followers were proselyting in Muskingum county, O. He appointed a certain day when he would show the people his wonderful powers, and that he was a second Christ, by walking on the waters of Mud Creek. The water was always muddy. A day or two before the time set, grandmama's brother Robert and a couple of neighbor boys were accidentally attracted to the Mormons working at the creek, and, concealing themselves, watched the Mormons put down stakes and put plank on them from bank to bank, the plank resting about six inches under water. After the Mormons left, the boys went down and took out the center plank, where the water was ten feet deep. The next day 'Balaam' Smith came down to the creek, and after a long exhortation started across the creek. He was all right and on top till he came to the center, where his 'powers' seemed to leave him, and he, like McGinty, went to the bottom. This was the end of Mormonism in that old and tried and true Presbyterian county."

MISTAKEN FOR A PATIENT.

Amusing Reception Accorded Visitor to New York Hospital—His Case Puzzled Doctors.

An Italian who had been in this country only 48 hours went to the Bellevue hospital one day lately to visit a patient, says the New York Sun. An obliging fellow countryman in the reception room instructed the stranger in the mysteries of the mail office, and presently he was whisked upstairs in an elevator. When the elevator stopped the Italian walked into a ward and sat down. The first nurse who spied him there took it for granted that he was a new patient. In less time than it takes to tell it he had been thoroughly scrubbed and put to bed. Then the doctor in charge of the ward came along and made an examination. The unwilling patient seemed to be resting comfortably, but the absence of any pronounced symptoms was alarming. A second doctor was sent for. The two made a second examination and then called in a third. By that time the bewildered Italian had yielded to the inevitable and was sleeping peacefully.

Air-Soundings.

Regular air-soundings, with kites and balloons carrying registering apparatus, are now made in the United States, Germany and Denmark, for gaining a better knowledge of the atmosphere and its problems. On a hill near Viborg, in Jutland, a two-story tower, about 30 feet high, is mounted on rails so as to be revolved, one side being open and kept away from the wind. It is equipped with registering instruments, electric motor, two windlasses, etc., for starting kites, while other buildings contain workshops, small balloons, steam engine and accommodations for the director and five assistants. Kites are flown with steel wire of 6 to 13 millimeter, and easily reach 200 yards in height, but attain 3,000 or 4,000 yards with difficulty and only by the use of auxiliary kites. After a recent break of a wire one kite was recovered at a distance of 150 miles.

MEN DON'T WEAR CORSETS.

If the Absurd Custom Is in Vogue It Is Concealed from the Merchant Tailors.

Of late years a great deal of nonsense has been printed about the growth of the corset habit among men, yet there seems to be very little if any foundation for such statements as have been made on the subject. Making due allowances for the reserve with which the tailor might seek to protect his patrons from publicity, it does not appear from interviews with several of the leading custom tailors in this city and other cities that there is any truth in these statements. All of them say they have no calls for clothes to be fitted over corsets, and a leading corset maker for women, purveyor to a high-class custom trade, declares a total absence of applications to make the articles for men. The tailors estimate that such items as those referred to may emanate from the press agents of corset makers, who would like to increase their trade by making for men as well as women. The masculine figure does not, as a general rule, need a corset. Its only effect would be to repress the stomach and throw out the chest, giving a form which is natural to men of athletic habits, who naturally, while to men of other habits it would be a constraint that could not be borne with comfort. That the "military figure" for men may be secured without the use of a corset is shown by the cadets of West Point and Annapolis, who, as it has been definitely established, do not use the articles.

WERE NOT TRUE ALBINOS.

Number of White Buffalo Surprised Hunters Until the Phenomenon Found an Explanation.

Old buffalo-hunters of the western Kansas prairies used to tell of having seen and pursued white buffalo. There were white buffalo, albinos, such as are found at rare intervals in all the families of the animal kingdom; but the number of those which existed in fact and of those which existed purely in the imagination, says the Kansas City Journal, were in wonderful disproportion. In 1873 old Ben Canfield, who roamed the plains with his tall, gaunt wife for a companion, followed a herd of buffalo from the northern edge of what is now Oklahoma to the sand-hills of Nebraska, thinking to kill a big white bull which he had seen in the herd. After three weeks of patient stalking Canfield did kill the bull, only to find that the whiteness of its appearance was due to a coat of whitewash. An explanation of this phenomenon would not be needed by people familiar with the natural lime beds of western Kansas. The habit of the buffalo is to roll or wallow in every pool of water or mudhole to which he comes. Canfield's buffalo had simply been rolling in a bed of the native lime, which, when dried in the sun, coated his hide with a kind of plaster. No doubt these lime-holes account for many of the "white buffalo" so often reported by hunters.

ABOUT CHINESE NAMES.

Geographical Prefixes and Suffixes Have a Definite Significance in the Far East.

A few definitions of Chinese geographical prefixes and suffixes may be of service in elucidating the nomenclature of current war news, says the Boston Transcript. First, prefixes: Ta, as in Taihu, means great, and also, as in Siao-Ping-Tou, means small. Pei, or pan, tung and si are respectively north, south, east and west. Thus the Pei-Ho is the North river, etc. Shang and hai are upper and lower. Pai, hei and whang are white, black and yellow. Suffixes are more numerous and familiar. Kiang, ho, chuan, uia, muren and tchu each add all mean river. Thus Yalu Kiang and Liao Ho are simply Yalu river and Liao river. Shui, kou, thsuan, khi, gol and usu are unfamiliar terms, meaning a brook or small river. Hu, nor and omo mean lake, as in the well-known Lob Nor and Koso Gol. Po, tse and tien mean a small lake or swamp, or a town situated near such a place. Hai means sea; thus Whang-Hai is the Yellow sea, Tung-Hai is the Eastern sea and Nan-Hai is the Southern sea. Tao and sometimes shan means island, but shan more often means a mountain range. Ling is a pass over a mountain range.

Strange Electric Lights.

During the remarkable magnetic storm, accompanied by displays of the aurora borealis, on October 31 last, a gentleman driving along a country road at night, near Calgary, Canada, had a singular experience. He found himself surrounded with great vertical shafts of light, which extended up into the sky, meeting at the zenith in a perfect apex, and glowing with beautiful colors, the shafts being bright ruby-colored at the top, but changing in hue as they descended through purple and green to gold at the bottom. Objects half a mile away were evidently beyond the shafts and indeed some of these were only a few yards distant, and seemed to chase the observer as he drove on in his buggy. The display lasted but a few minutes.

Hunting with an Elephant.

Gen. Sir Montagu Gerard, in a recent volume, tells this story of hunting with an elephant in India: "The best bags I made were 53 brace snipe and some 1 made one day between one a. m. and sunset and 73 brace and 26 duck and teal for one whole day, besides a couple of hours on the preceding afternoon when reconnoitering the ground. The only retriever one could safely employ was an elephant, not so much for fear of crocodiles as on account of the tangled weeds which wind themselves round the limbs of a swimmer like the tentacles of an octopus."

Manipulate Fans in India to Cool Their Masters' Parching Brows—Method of Education.

Manipulate Fans in India to Cool Their Masters' Parching Brows—Method of Education.

Monkeys are more than pets in some parts of the world. At Malabar, India, they are taught to work, and have actually made themselves almost indispensable in the homes of the wealthy. The Malabar monkey is of the species known as the langur. It is very warm in Malabar, and there is a fan called the punka, which used to be kept in motion by a slave. It required a slave to work each punka, but now every punka in Malabar is worked by a monkey. It was an English officer who conceived the idea of making the langur work in that manner. The fan is a movable frame, covered with canvas and suspended from the ceiling. The motion is caused by pulling a cord. The officer tied the bands of the langur to one of the cords, and then by means of another cord put the machine in motion. Of course the monkey's hand went up and down and the animal wondered what kind of a game was being played. Then the officer pulled the langur thought it was fine fun to work the punka. The experiment was successful and now thousands of monkeys are in harness.

A Russian Battleship.

A Russian battleship, Retvizan, which has figured so prominently in the news from Port Arthur, is called after a Swedish battleship of 60 guns which was captured by the Russians at the battle of Wiborg, in 1790. The word Retvizan means "Justice."