

TEN MUSIC ALONG SHORE.

MOSQUITOES KILL BEAR.

Upon the Yukon These Insects Force Deer to Flee to the Snow Line for Safety.

Many of the life-saving stations along the New Jersey coast have been mired up to keep out the roar of the ocean and the whistling of the cold winds. The little graphophones with the tin megaphones are much in evidence. The stations at Shark river, Spring lake, Squan beach, Bayhead, Mantoloking, Toms River and Island beach have all been enjoying metropolitan amusements at long range. Every station own a cylinder doing double duty, until it was a question whether the graphophone or the stove was the warmest thing around.

When the crew at Squan station saw an advertisement of the talking and singing machines two cents was invested at once for a catalogue and a cheap one was bought on speculation. As soon as it arrived there were continuous entertainments. The telephones were opened, and some of the good things were shared with the life-savers up down the beach. The idea spread like contagion, and now there is a graphophone society along the New Jersey beach. Each station buys a cylinder every four weeks and exchanges it along the line, and in this way there is a change of programme weekly in each station.

MIRRORS FOR SEARCHLIGHTS.

Important Instruments for the Detection of the Elusive and Deadly Torpedo Boat.

The strength of the Spanish navy in torpedo boats makes it necessary that all United States vessels and forts shall be provided with searchlights, and it is found that it is no easy matter to purchase a sufficient number of searchlights in an emergency. A large number of the finest searchlight mirrors have been bought, but an adequate supply of them cannot be had. Having mirrors the electric companies could turn out the lights in a brief time, says the Chicago Times-Herald.

QUEEN TAITOU A STICKLER.

Menelek's Wife Occupies a Dignified Position on Abyssinia's Throne.

There is no European queen consort filling a more dignified station than Empress Taitou of Abyssinia. She has a large household of her own, her lord stewards, chamberlains, butlers, cooks and guards. She directs all the grand feasts, has immense appanages all over the empire, and resources in kind. She leads a sedentary life because there are no interesting promenades, but when she shows herself in public she is surrounded with ladies, mounted on richly-harnessed mules, with runners, umbrella bearers and other attendants. The umbrellas are of many colors, but Taitou's is red.

The empress is a stickler for etiquette, to which Menelek attaches no importance. Nobody who has not been formally presented to her must gaze on her, even within the precincts of the palace. She has a large kitchen garden, which is one of her many delights, but the moment the red umbrella appears the gardeners must retire. All the servants stand aloof with downcast eyes as she walks by. Not taking much exercise, Taitou is lost in fat. Nevertheless, her presence is dignified. She is wonderfully well informed, converses cleverly, and can be charming. Her letters are well written, and in a bright, natural style. They might put to shame those of many a well-educated European lady. The dress of the empress is only distinguished from that of her ladies by its impeccable cleanliness and neatness.

ANIMALS' TRADES.

Bees Are Geometricians, Caterpillars Silk Spinners and Beavers Are Builders.

Bees are geometricians. The cells are so constructed as with the least quantity of material to have the largest spaces and least possible loss of interstice, says the Louisville Commercial. The mole is a meteorologist. The torpedo, the ray and the electric eel are electricians. The nautilus is a navigator; he raises and lowers his sails and casts and weighs anchor and performs other nautical acts.

Whole tribes of birds are musicians. Caterpillars are silk spinners. The squirrel is a ferryman; with a chip or piece of bark for a boat and his tail for a sail he crosses the stream.

The beaver is an architect, builder and woodcutter; he cuts down trees and erects houses and dams. The marmot is a civil engineer; he not only builds houses, but constructs aqueducts and drains to keep them dry.

The white ants maintain a regular army of soldiers.

One whale will furnish from 1,000 to 3,000 pounds of bone. At San Francisco the bone is split, sorted as to color and tied into bundles. These split pieces are called slabs and are three to eight feet long and weigh from three to seven pounds.

Flock Enough for a Bank.

An ex-sea captain now living in Sydney, N. S. W., was many years ago in charge of a ship carrying some convicts. The convicts mutinied, murdered the crew and ordered the captain to navigate them to the islands, and, being a prudent man, he did so. When satisfied as to their course the convicts deliberated, decided that he had behaved himself well and put him ashore on the first large island they came to. He was a musician and took his violin with him. A threatening crowd of savages greeted his arrival, but the marooned captain played to them till they thought him a god, brought him unlimited pigs and yams and bowed in adoration. Finally he married the chief's daughter, succeeded him and ruled the island for years, till a ship called and he sailed away.

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Pineapple for Dyspepsia.

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GRANT'S ILLNESS.

Said Not to Have Been Due Entirely to Tobacco—Canner from Pipe Smoking.

Not only do the Yukon mosquitoes attack men and overwhelm them, but they drive the moose, deer and caribou up the mountains to the snow line, where these animals would prefer not to be in berry time. They kill dogs, and even the big brown bear that is often miscalled a grizzly has succumbed to them, says the Denver Times. Bears come down to the river from the hillside in the early fall to get some of the salmon that are often thrown upon the banks when the "run" is heavy.

If Bruin runs foul of a swarm of mosquitoes and has not his wits about him his day has come. The insects will alight all over him. His fur protects his body, but his eyes, ears and nose will soon be swollen up and bleeding, and unless he gets into a river or a strong wind he will be driven mad and blind, to wander about hopelessly until he starves to death.

Although the Alaska summer is short, two broods of mosquitoes hatch out each year and are ready for business from one to ten seconds after they leave the water. It rains a good deal along the Yukon, and rain is welcomed, for it drives the mosquitoes to cover. They hide under leaves and branches until the shower is over; then they come out boiling with rage at the time they have been forced to spend in idleness, and the miner has a harder time than ever after his respite.

Mosquitoes and snowflakes are not contemporaries in the states, but in Alaska it is different. Snow does not bother them so much as rain, and an early snow may fall while they are still on the wing. Fog does not choke them, either. They appear to like it. They float about it as in ambush, and take the unwary prospector by surprise.

RUSSIA AND CHINA AT ONE.

Report That the Czar Would Facilitate the Exportation of Celestial Products.

The intimacy of China and Russia has most profound causes, says the Chautauquan. The Chinese have a very distinct feeling of their interests. Between Russia and Chinese interests there is no opposition; there is similitude. England, the United States, Germany and France have only one object: To make of China an immense market for the product of their industry, to impose upon it, by force, if need be, their merchandise. On the contrary, Russia and Japan seek to facilitate the exportation in Europe of Chinese products. Russia, with its railroads, will be the middleman between producing China and consuming Europe. The Russian provinces produce nothing which China furnishes; they have every advantage in being put in contact with the innumerable population of the Celestial empire.

The immensity of current of exchanges which will be established between China and Russia by the new railway will carry life and prosperity into the Siberian steppes. In exploiting China the Russians will with the same stroke throw Siberia open to improvement; they will rapidly make it one of the greatest centers of agricultural production in the world. In the economic development of China, Russia has nothing to lose and everything to gain.

MY UNCLE AND MY AUNT.

An Ingenious French Writer Explains a Facetious Expression That Is Very Common.

An ingenious French writer has been explaining to a curious world why the pawn-breaking establishments are called "my aunt" (ma tante), says the London News. Prince de Joinville, son of Louis Philippe, was kept very short of money in his youth. One day the father noticed that the prince was not wearing a splendid gold watch that had been given to him by his mother. "Where is your watch?" asked the bourgeois king. "At my aunt's," was the reply. Princess Adelaide was interrogated on the subject, but she knew nothing about it. Then the young scamprege admitted that he had pawned it. "My aunt," therefore, became proverbial for the mont-de-piété. But then, it may be asked how it comes about that the pawnbroker in England is facetiously spoken of as "uncle" because the French say "aunt." Here in England everything goes by contraries. The French coachman drives on the right, the English on the left; the French soldier a red coat; the Frenchman eats an oyster out of the hollow half of the shell; the Englishman out of the flat half; the French pleure drinks champagne after dinner, the English pleure during dinner, and so forth. It is all a case of pure "cussedness."

A Mixed Race.

Not all Americans are Anglo-Saxons. Even in the south, where the proportion of people drawn from that source is greatest, there are strong infusions of French, Irish and Scotch-Irish blood. In the west are extensive German, Irish, and Scandinavian populations, in the east a vast Irish population, a large Canadian French element and an immense number of Germans. Even what is called the Anglo-Saxon stock is mixed with Dutch, Huguenot and Scottish contributions. When this country has sight to do she does not look to one race among her people, but to all, and her foreign relations cannot be planned on the affinities of Anglo-Americans or any other ethnic element.

Old Time Regulations of Dining.

An act of parliament was passed in the reign of Edward III prohibiting anyone from being served at dinner or supper with more than two courses, except upon some great holidays therein specified, on which he might be served with three.

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