

# JUNIOR THE CALL SECTION

ISSUED EVERY SATURDAY FOR THE BOYS AND GIRLS OF SAN FRANCISCO AND CALIFORNIA

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., NOVEMBER 27, 1909.—THE JUNIOR CALL

## HAVE YOU SEEN ALONZO? HE ASKS FOR INFORMATION



### The Uncertain Mackerel

That most erratic of fish, the mackerel, has broken its own record for contrariety this year. Last season results seemed wretched enough, but up to May 1 the fishing fleet had caught more than 2,000 barrels of mackerel, whereas this year, at the same date, 50 vessels had brought only 47 barrels, and mackerel were retailing in Boston at about a dollar apiece. None of the veterans of the fleet could locate the schools, and various explanations of that failure were offered. Some thought the mackerel, under the guidance of new "school masters," had forsaken their usual haunts; others, that they were following the gulf stream, and might be found at a more northerly point and farther off the coast; still others, that there are not many more mackerel. Whatever the reason, the depressing fact remained. The only heartening circumstance, from the fisherman's standpoint, is that when mackerel do appear they come abundantly, and a vessel might take five thousand dollars' worth in a single night.—Youth's Companion.

### The White Man

Because Chief Richard K. Campbell of the bureau of naturalization recently ruled that Turks are neither white nor negro and therefore are not entitled to naturalization in the United States, our law limiting the privilege of naturalization to people of the white and black races, the question, "What is a white man?" was submitted to the race experts—ethnologists—of the Smithsonian Institution. These learned gentlemen agreed that Turks, Syrians, a large portion of the Armenians, Semitics, Arabs, Egyptians, Moors and Hindus, although they may have dark skins, are as truly members of the white race as is the most flaxen haired Norwegian or Swede.

### Eruptions of Mt. Vesuvius

There will be no more important eruptions of Mount Vesuvius for several years, according to Prof. Frank A. Perret, the American student of the volcano.

After careful study of the records of past eruptions he concludes that they are most violent during periods of several years, ending in a terrific outburst, followed by about 3½ years of dead calm. Such a period of calm is now upon the most famous of the world's volcanoes.

### A Big Cataract Found

What is believed will prove to be the highest waterfall in the western hemisphere has been discovered in Labrador. The discovery was made by Edward B. Barr, a Wisconsin explorer, and his party while exploring the Caster river in canoes. They had no means of measuring the fall, but thought it higher than the Grand fall in Labrador, which they had lately seen. The Grand fall is 368 feet high.

### Leopard Protected by Bees

"If the lair of a leopard is known," says a writer in the September Wide World Magazine, "stones will generally dislodge the lurker. I recall one occasion when a leopard was supposed to be located in a cave near camp. The guns were placed around in positions commanding the exit, and a few stones were then thrown in. There was no result at first, but as more and larger stones crashed in there came a faint humming and then a roar like the sea under the cliffs. In a moment the air above the cave's entrance grew dark with bees! As one man, sportsman and gun-bearer fled for the camp, a few were slightly stung before they could reach their tents and pull the flaps over the entrances, which the bees for some time besieged. Incredible though it may sound, it is the truth that, although the camp was full of native servants, horses, etc., none of those who had remained behind and were not concerned in the attack on the bees' cave were stung. It was a considerable time before the bees beat a retreat, but during all the time that they stayed in the camp it was the tents of their aggressors exclusively around which they angrily buzzed."

### The Gladsome Apple

It is an unusual child who is not gladdened by the sight of a fine apple and who is not still more rejoiced at the prospect of eating one. The supply of fall and winter stores for the family larder should contain enough good apples so that the little people, and older ones if they like, may have them frequently. They are more wholesome than candy, preserves or cookies and cost less as a rule.

### A Process for Hardening Copper

A blacksmith in San Juan, Cal., claims to have discovered a process for hardening copper, an art that was in common use in ancient times, but was in some way lost. He has made knife blades which seem to be as sharp and hard as a razor, while he has copper chisels which may be driven through the hardest woods. His secret has not been given scientific approval, but he has evidently discovered something worth while.

### Seal Piracy

Our government has something like a little war on its hands in defending the seal islands of Alaska from Japanese marauders that come without right to take seals. Not long ago seven Japanese were killed in a skirmish with the revenue officers.

The government leases the privilege of taking 15,000 seals per year to the North American commercial company. The company pays the government \$10.22 for every seal taken, or over \$150,000 a year. The company is not allowed to take seals above or below a certain size, but the Japanese "pirates" take any that they can get.

### Diamond Remains a Mystery

As a substance the diamond is one of the mysteries of nature, one of the despairs of science. Nobody knows whence it came, nor how—whether it is a spark from a comet's tail or a crystallized drop squeezed in some horrible intensity of fiery convulsion from the white-hot insurgent heart of the earth. Nobody knows much about it at all, except that it doesn't "belong" to this world.

Some known black diamonds literally were from the skies. They came imbedded in meteorites cast upon Arizona and Chile by an unidentified star. One does not prospect for chips of stars. As well search for the end of the rainbow. Neither is it practical to hammer all sorts of eruptive rock and conglomerate wherever come upon. Earthquake or volcanic upheaval districts are not necessarily the most promising, for often diamonds that seem to have had volcanic origin occur thousands of miles from the probable place of extrusion—carried thence, it is assumed, by glacial drift in some far back geological time.—Everybody's.

### When the Fairies Are Noisy

Among the flowers which are said to be very popular with fairies are bluebells, harebells and wood sorrel. All these flowers are used by the fairies to attract the attention of their friends who are at a little distance. If you are ever out in the woods when the bluebells or wood sorrel begin to peal in delicate, soft tones you will know that the little flowers are being swayed to and fro by some visiting fairy. The foxglove, known also as the fairy bells, are also said to be used by the fairies for chimes, but when the little people wish to sound a real resounding blast that shall awaken from slumber some tiny friend in a nearby flower bed or thicket they use not a bell, but a rose leaf rolled up into a very charming horn.

### Proposed Canadian Navy

Canada is completing arrangements with the British admiralty for the loan of two cruisers. This will be the first step toward the formation of the proposed Canadian navy. The primary purpose of the cruisers is to serve as training ships.

### President Taft's Tour

President Taft has completed his first long tour of the United States as president. The Taft tour has carried the president over 12,755 miles by rail and water and over 600 miles by auto and practically 500 miles by stage or horse drawn vehicle.

### New Japanese Ambassador

Baron Gasuya Uchida has been appointed by the emperor of Japan as ambassador to the United States.

### Little Helpers of the Soil

We have all heard of the millions of little microbes that can find standing room on the point of a pin which thrive in water. Some of us have seen pictures of them and have heard all about the good and bad things they do in their short lives. There is another class of minute living things, the bacteria of the soil, which we are less familiar with and of which we are just beginning to learn. These soil bacteria are as useful as they are small, and they are so small that they can not be discovered even with the aid of a microscope. They are busy little beings living in colonies like the bees and building houses for themselves. They build these houses on the branching roots of plants deep under the ground and in these houses they store nitrogen just as bees store honey in their hives. Nitrogen is two-thirds of the air we breathe and is so necessary to the existence of living things that nothing in plant or animal life can exist without it. Farmers buy chemicals containing this element, calling it plant food, and feed it to the soil. It is only of late years they have discovered that the little soil microbe is doing the thing for them in certain plants, such as clover, peas and beans.

### Something New in Subsidies

Germany is now subsidizing not only ships, but automobiles. It pays \$2,142 to owners of automobiles of a certain class, with the understanding that in case of war within five years the government may seize these machines for military use. The \$2,142 almost pays for the machine, and the chances are that it will never be called for by the government.

### Blessing the Neva

An impressive ceremony, which takes place annually at St. Petersburg, is known as the "Blessing of the Neva." It is performed on a large barge moored in midstream and is a very imposing function, being attended by the czar, the grand dukes and the court officials, all in full dress uniforms, while the religious part of the ceremony is performed by high dignitaries of the Greek church in their gorgeous robes.

### Must Learn to Swim

The Boston school committee has decided that all high school pupils in that city, unless prevented by ill health, must learn to swim, and must receive a certificate from an instructor in swimming.

### Precious Stones in Liberia

Reports from Liberia say that diamond fields are suspected in the interior of that country. A number of good stones have been picked up.

## AND THE ANSWER DISTURBS HIS TEMPER

