

JUNIOR THE CALL SECTION

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

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., JANUARY 15, 1910.—THE JUNIOR CALL

HAVE YOU SEEN ALONZO? PUPPY PLAYS A GOOD JOKE



African Ranch Pets

AT Juja Farm many animals were kept in cages. They included a fairly friendly leopard and five lions, two of which were anything but friendly. There were three cheetahs, nearly full grown; they were continually taken out on leashes, Mrs. McMillan strolling about with them and leading them to the summer house. They were good tempered, but they did not lead well. Cheetahs are interesting beasts; they are aberrant cats, standing very high on their legs, and with nonretractile claws like a dog. They are nearly the size of a leopard, but are not ordinarily anything like as ferocious, and prey on the smaller antelope, occasionally taking something as big as a half grown kongoni. For a short run, up to say a quarter of a mile, they are the swiftest animals on earth, and with a good start easily overtake the fastest antelope; but their bolt is soon shot, and on the open plain they can readily be galloped down with a horse. When they sit on their haunches their attitude is that neither of a dog nor of a cat so much as of a big monkey. On the whole they are much more easily domesticated than most other cats, but, as with all highly developed wild creatures, they show great individual variability of character and disposition. They have a very curious note, a bird-like chirp in uttering which they twist the upper lips as if whistling. When I first heard it I was sure that it was uttered by some bird, and looked about quite a time before finding that it was the call of a cheetah.

Then there was a tame wart hog, very friendly indeed, which usually wandered loose and was as comical as pigs generally are, with its sudden starts and grunts. Finally there was a young Tommy buck and a Grant's gazelle doe, both of which were on good terms with every one and needed astonishingly little looking after to prevent their straying.—Theodore Roosevelt in Scribner's.

Live Animals From Roosevelt

Five lions, a leopard and a variety of other wild animals, the gift of former President Roosevelt to the zoo at Washington, D. C., were unloaded from a steamer at Philadelphia. The animals were presented to Colonel Roosevelt by an African ranchman who captured them when they were young. The five lions and the leopard were shipped direct to Washington. The other animals, including two hartebeests, two elands, one gazelle, one warthog and one water-buck, were taken to the Philadelphia zoological gardens, where they will remain in quarantine 15 days, after which they will be sent to the capital.

Charge of Light Brigade Re-called

The Grand Duke Michael, a son of Emperor Nicholas I of Russia and great uncle of the present czar, died recently at Cannes, France, aged 77. More than 50 years ago he was world famous as a commander of the Russian army in the Crimean war. He was at the battle of Balaklava and it was against his batteries that the famous "Charge of the Light Brigade" was directed.

Two Comets in One Year

Several times in past centuries two comets have been seen in one year. An unexpected one has recently been discovered by the astronomers at the Greenwich observatory, in England. This, with Halley's, will make a pair in the year 1910. The newly discovered comet is as yet very faint, and as the astronomers have not as yet calculated its path, they can not tell whether or not it will come near enough to be seen without the telescope.

There are many comets whose period is wholly unknown, and some that seem to have no period, but come to us from outer space, then disappear, never to return. Great comets therefore may appear at any time. Only a few are known to return at regular periods.

Student Discovers Third Comet

Zaccheus Daniel, a postgraduate student of Princeton university, has discovered a new comet—his third—and calculated its orbit and dimensions. He finds it to be 56,000,000 miles from the earth, 146,000,000 miles from the sun. This is a small comet, only about three times as large as the earth. A star that is many millions of miles further away was seen shining through the comet, showing that its substance is very thin.

Porto Ricans as Citizens

Should the people of Porto Rico be regarded as citizens of the United States? Hitherto they have been referred to in the laws as "citizens of Porto Rico," but congress and the administration have been careful not to call them citizens of the United States. In his annual report to the secretary of war, General C. R. Edwards, chief of the bureau of insular affairs, pleads the cause of the islanders and asks that congress confer upon them full American citizenship.

Red Cross Work

President Taft has been re-elected president of the American Red Cross society. In a speech before the members he spoke of the good work done during the last year. The Red Cross relieved much suffering in Italy after the earthquake, in eastern Turkey after the massacre, and in Mexico after the floods.

British Government to Aid South Pole Expedition

The Scott expedition in search of the south pole is now assured, the British government having promised \$100,000 toward the \$200,000 which is the estimated expense.

The expedition will set forth in July. There is little doubt that the reported activity among the American arctic explorers who advocate a south polar expedition proved a convincing factor which determined the government to assist Captain Herbert F. Scott.

Story of the Fate of Andree

Reports have come from Eskimos, by way of Saskatchewan, regarding the fate of Prof. S. A. Andree. Twelve years ago this professor tried to reach the north pole with a balloon, and was never heard from again. Bishop Pascal of Prince Albert has heard from Father Turquotille, a missionary, that Eskimos somewhere within the arctic circle saw the balloon descend. There were white men in the car, alive, but they were far gone with hunger and cold and died soon after landing. The Eskimos used the ropes and other parts of the balloon and have some of them now.

Merchants Honor Peary

Hailing him as the discoverer of the north pole the New York chamber of commerce has elected Commander Robert E. Peary an honorary member.

Good Schools in Massachusetts

After examining the public schools of 60 cities, the commission of the Russell Sage foundation has decided that Somerville, Mass., has the best schools. "Repeaters"—pupils who fail to receive promotion—are, says the commission, a perfect barometer of the efficiency of a city's school system, and no other of the 60 cities spends so small a proportion of its school money on repeaters as does Somerville.

Millions for the Old Countries

Money to the amount of \$7,500,000, mostly Christmas gifts, went out of New York one week in December in foreign postal money orders alone. Nearly \$2,000,000 went to Great Britain and Ireland and only a little less to Italy. This is an increase of about 50 per cent over the amount sent in the corresponding week of last year. Of course, a great many gifts went in the form of bank checks and drafts, no record of which has been obtained.

How Money Leaves the Country

Counting checks and money orders it is estimated that immigrants in the United States send more than \$50,000,000 out of the country every Christmas season, as gifts to their friends in the old world.

Down the Mississippi in a Canoe

Paddling 3,160 miles in a cedar canoe, Kiyoo S. Inui, a Japanese student, has completed what is said to have been the first voyage down the Mississippi river from the source at Lake Itasca to the mouth. Inui is a graduate of the University of Michigan and a Chautauqua lecturer. He placed his frail canoe in Lake Itasca on May 20.

The Age of Iron

These times in which we live are often called the iron age, because our civilization depends to so great an extent upon iron and steel. Our railroads, our steamboats and battleships, our machinery, our "sky scrapers," even our reinforced concrete, use vast quantities of iron and steel. Without iron and steel civilization could hardly continue on its present lines.

Now comes the learned Professor Rinz and says that the world's known supply of iron ore, in all lands, is only 8,000,000,000 tons, and that at the present rate it will all be gone before the close of the twentieth century.

But let us not begin to worry about it. Other scientists have an idea that the interior of the globe may be almost all iron; and some way will surely be found to tap these hidden stores when the surface ore is exhausted.

Audubon University Planned

Insect pests now cost the country \$1,000,000,000 per year. Much of this might be saved if we could protect the song birds that feed upon these insects. The National Association of Audubon Societies is planning an Audubon university to teach facts about birds. The university needs \$1,000,000. The societies are asking for contributions, using the argument that a million dollars is only the thousandth part of the yearly loss caused by insects.

"Wireless" in the Alps

Experiments on the high peaks of the Alps prove that they are fine locations for wireless telegraph receiving stations. Messages from 2,000 miles are readily picked up.

Naturalize Turks and Syrians

Some weeks ago the department of commerce and labor took the ground that Turks and Syrians could not be naturalized. It requested courts of naturalization, not to receive applications from Turks and Syrians. It claimed that they were not white, and by our laws naturalization is for members of the white and black races only.

The department now seems to have changed its mind. It has sent to all courts a new circular asking that its first request be disregarded, at least until the supreme court has decided the question.

ON OUR WISE BUT GREEDY OLD FRIEND

