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GIVES COWS FOR DIAMONDS

Interesting Experiences of a Pioneer Prospector in South Africa.

J. B. Robinson has been recounting to an interviewer his early experiences in 1879 while in search of South African diamonds. Having given eight oxen and a wagon loaded with sugar and tobacco to a Griqua in exchange for a 23-carat gem, the news spread like wild fire through the country side that a white man was giving away wagons and oxen for bits of stone, relates the Detroit Free Press.

"I set all the natives who came to work to seek for diamonds on one side of the river," says Mr. Robinson, "and fetched up my own 50 men to hunt for diamonds among the bushes and scrub on my side of the Vaal. I may say that I had bought the land on both sides of the river, so that I was working on my own property. Next morning at sunrise when I was having my coffee I was startled by a loud halloo-ballying, and looking I out saw the whole gang of my men rushing toward me in a state of wild excitement.

"One of them had found a diamond of good size; they all had come to see what I would do with it. 'What will you give me for it?' says he. 'I will give you ten cows,' I replied, and sent the man into the herd to take his pick and he marked ten of the best cows as his own. They had never dreamed of making such a bargain. Ten cows for a bit of stone! Off they went again and found diamonds every day; they all became rich and I accumulated a good store of precious stones.

"After we had accumulated a large quantity we decided we had better send them to London. We made a belt full of small pockets, in each of which we placed a diamond. When the belt was filled my partner girded it about his body and started for Cape Town. He never took off the belt until he reached London. And it was in this way that the first consignment of African diamonds reached London."

HOW TO CONTROL A VOICE
Officer of the British Army Says That Nature is Not the Sole Regulator.

To a recent issue of the British Medical Journal Maj. R. F. E. Austin, of Imtarfa, Malta, contributed a paper on commonly overlooked factors in vocal mechanism, in which he asserts that the universal idea that all naturally possess either good, bad or indifferent voices is wrong and contends nature is directly responsible for one and only one of these conditions, and that the others must be attributed to man's unconscious departure from nature's laws.

It will be news to many that by far the greater number do not possess full control of the adductor muscles of the cords and are therefore unable to place and keep the cords in the most appropriate position quickly. The author asserts that it is surprising what a number of professional voice users, as well as amateurs, fail in this respect. According to his thinking, the majority of voices are lost not from overwork but as a result of improper emission.

Maj. Austin contends that in order to obtain quickly the thorough control of any muscles or set of muscles they should be developed by brisk movements, which fully contract then in the case of the adductor muscles of the cords this can only be done by using the voice in a most inartistic although physiological manner. That is to say, words should be sung or spoken quickly in acute penetrating tones ("pat-a-wat-quack" being given as an excellent phrase for the purpose). The voice should be extended up and down, note by note, in this manner until the limits of the compass are reached. Classification into soprano, baritone, etc., should not be attempted before this has been done.

BEAT THE SLOT MACHINE.
An Italian Got His Whole Family on the Scale at Cost of One.

An economically inclined Italian, accompanied by his wife and two children, who were waiting for a train to take them to some point down on the West Jersey railroad, where they were to obtain employment as berry-pickers, worked a sharp scheme on a slot machine in the Camden terminal the other day, relates the Philadelphia Record.

All four climbed on the scales at once and the necessary coin was inserted. The indicator flew around to 399 pounds. The man then stepped off and the machine showed 247 pounds. The woman followed, the figures dropping to 127, and when the larger child left the scales the younger one's weight was shown to be 43 pounds.

A man who witnessed the affair said that it was a regular performance for Italians going to the country to work during the summer months to get weighed before they go and on their return home, but he had never seen it done in a wholesale manner before.

Meaning of a Mexican Word.
The word "pec," found in so many Mexican names, means hill. Chapultepec means grasshopper hill; Ocotepc, pitch pine hill, and so forth. It is an Aztec word and its use is almost entirely confined to that part of the Mexican republic that was once ruled by Montezuma.

Willing to Contribute.
Rev. Mr. Sapley—I'm collecting for our drunkard's home, madam.
Mrs. Ardack—Oh, are you? Well,

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MIGHTIEST OF WAR CRAFT.

Battleships Michigan and South Carolina to Have Big Gun Batteries.

The naval bureau of construction is perfecting plans for the battleships Michigan and South Carolina which will make them the most powerful warships in the world. Many important innovations will be introduced, the most striking of which is a complete battery of 12-inch and 10-inch guns. Such an arrangement of heavy guns has never been tried in any vessel. There is no warship afloat that carries more than four guns of the caliber named.

In tonnage the ships will about equal the splendid new British vessels of the King Edward VII. and Africa class. Those vessels displace between 16,000 and 17,000 tons and are about 425 feet long. They carry four 12-inch guns, four 9.2-inch, ten 6-inch and 28 smaller guns. As the South Carolina and the Michigan, if the 12-inch and the 10-inch plan is adhered to, will carry at least eight of the latter guns, the new warships will be a great deal more powerful than the King Edward VII. and Africa type.

The adding of a third screw to the new battleships, which will call for the addition of another engine, is reported to have been definitely decided upon by the bureau of construction. This system, which was introduced into the navy by Rear Admiral Melville, although looked upon with great disfavor by foreign naval constructors, has proved a great success on the Columbia and Minneapolis. One of its advantages is that in cruising great economy is attained. In that when only a moderate speed is required the central engine alone is used. If a high rate of speed is desired the two wing engines and if necessary all three can be operated.

FRAUD ON LIFE COMPANIES
Death Cleverly Simulated by Girl Who Was Insured in Uncle's Favor.

A fraud scheme at the expense of life insurance companies was carried out three times successfully as long ago as 1730. A young woman with an extraordinary power of simulating death had for a confederate an elderly man, who passed for her uncle. Twice in different parts of England she insured her life in her uncle's favor, went into convulsions and to all appearances died. The third time the game was played with an ingenious variation. The uncle went to a life insurance company, explained that he was in financial straits and wished to borrow money on his niece's estate.

To compensate for such a loan, he would have to insure her for its value, but could not afford to have this insurance become known, as it would expose his financial condition and ruin his credit. The company, therefore, agreed to write the insurance under a bond of secrecy. As usual, the young woman went into convulsions and died. Before her funeral she lay in state for all the world to see. Her uncle was prostrated.

He did not try to collect the insurance for some months, and when he did the company paid him in full with expressions of real sympathy. So did nine other companies, which he had silenced by the same ruse, and he joined his niece on the continent with a very impressive fortune.

TAKES DOG UP A STEEPLE.
Daring Climber Pays No Heed to the Dizzy Height He Scales.

Accompanied by his pet dog, Fred Sutherland, better known as the "human fly," scales heights that would make the common person ill from fright and dizziness, says the Detroit Tribune. A short time ago the authorities of Most Holy Trinity Catholic church, Sixth and Porter streets, decided their spire needed repairing, and that the large wooden cross at the top needed to be replaced with a larger one of galvanized iron. Sutherland was sent for. The top of the spire is 240 feet above the sidewalk.

"I can go up it in two minutes," said he, and he very nearly made good his assertion. It was only when the cross, four by six feet, had to be lowered that any real danger presented itself. Being of wood and having been in position since the church was built, it had somewhat rotted and, giving way, was near to throwing Sutherland from the steeple.

Sutherland is a Californian by birth, but has done steeplework in all parts of this country and Europe. Sutherland had his dog slung in a little hammock on his side while working at the top of Trinity spire. The dog has as little regard for height as his master.

Political Ambition.
"But why," persisted the questioner, "do you want to be a senator? There's little money in it. A man of your ability could make much more at almost anything else."
"Sir," replied the aspirant, "you seem to think money is every man's idol."
"I beg your pardon. I meant no offense."
"I know you didn't," said the other, softening. "In confidence, I'll tell you why I want the senatorship. It will enable me to place about 50 of my poor relations in government jobs, and then I'll be rid of 'em."—Newark News.

Feminine Amenities.
Clare—But, my dear, it is a secret. I vowed on my honor never to tell



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