

FIRST GOLD FOUND IN ALASKA.

Was Discovered by a Russian Trader on the Anauk River in 1832.

Gold was first discovered in Alaska on the Anauk River, a tributary of the Kuskowim River, which joins the latter stream about twenty-five miles below the trading post of Kalamakofsky, says the Ketchikan Mining Journal.

In 1832 the headquarters of the Russian-American Trading Company were at Sitka and supplies were transported thence to Lukeen's Fort by way of Nusagak River, Tic-chik river and lake and down the Anauk River to the Kuskowim River and thence up stream twenty-five miles to the fort.

In 1837 the yearly supplies were sent by way of the mouth of the Kuskowim River and the old way abandoned as a summer route and used only for the purpose of sending out the mails during the winter by dog teams.

It was while on one of these trips in 1832 that the Russians discovered gold in the Anauk, and it is known today as the Yellow River of the Russians. It is not known whether they ever attempted mining on any large scale or whether they found gold in paying quantities but it is thought to be the first time on record of gold being found in this country.

Lukeen was born of Russian and Spanish-American Creole parents in the Kosa colony in California. He was well educated at the Sitka school and proved to be an active, energetic and intelligent officer.

The case of the Mary Irwin case carried out another hoodoo of the rivermen. It is believed that when the rats desert a ship there is danger ahead. On a summer afternoon in 1871 the Mary Irwin tied up at the Okechewat wharf.

Believers in hoodoos greet with delight the entrance of a pig. There are a number of boats on which the crew have their pet pigs, and these are supposed to be the best bearers of good luck in the world.

Oil Paintings and Bacilli. Oil paints have a marked deterrent effect upon various bacilli of disease, as tests made in Paris have shown. The germs of tuberculosis, especially, are much affected by paint. They do not thrive or live on painted surfaces as they do on other surfaces.

MAKE THEIR OWN BEER.

How Indian Territory Miners Evade Prohibition Laws.

Indian Territory has a larger constabulary than any section of the United States. Every city or town of any pretensions has a United States deputy marshal, and many are appointed in the rural districts.

Two-thirds of the arrests made by this force of officers are of persons charged with the violation of the United States liquor laws. Three offenses are named in the law—introducing, selling and manufacturing liquor. Notwithstanding the vigilance of the officers there are but few towns where the thirsty wayfarer cannot find liquor of some kind.

All the various brands of proprietary medicines, tinctures, flavoring extracts, perfumes and toilet preparations, and other preparations having alcohol for a base, find a ready sale and are drunk with avidity. The "bootlegger" who procures his supplies in Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas and brings them into the Territory by obscure and little frequented roads in a covered wagon is found in most towns and in many rural communities.

Cider is another intoxicant which causes the officers much trouble. A barrel of fresh Arkansas sweet apple juice which has not undergone fermentation may be introduced without the importer violating the law.

Ostriches in a Storm at Sea. "Ostriches are terrible creatures to have aboard ship in a storm," said a sailor. "Knocked about by the waves, they fall and break their legs."

Special Teeth for Tars. A dentist was at work on a set of false teeth that, to the casual spectator, seemed fearfully and wonderfully made.

A Schoolboy Ghost. While staying at a friend's house in India, which had formerly been a boy's school, a little girl was surprised on the first night of her visit to see a fair haired boy, clad in bathing costume, walk through her room into the dining room beyond.

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STORIES OF ECCENTRIC PARSONS

How a Curate's Coat Lasted 43 Years. Collector of Strange Things.

Many stories are told of an eighteenth century Leicestershire parson, the Rev. Mr. Hagemore, who had a mania for collecting, says the London Tit-Bits. When he died he left behind him 30 gowns and cassocks; 100 pairs of boots, 400 pairs of shoes, 80 wigs (not one of which he had ever worn) and 30 wheelbarrows, 200 pickaxes, 200 spades, 74 ladders, 58 dogs, 80 wagons and carts, 80 ploughs (he never used one of them), 249 razors and an enormous number of walking sticks, for which a toy man gladly offered £8.

Mr. Hagemore had two servants, one of each sex, both of whom he locked in their bedrooms every night, and it was through this precautionary measure that he lost his life. As he was walking in his garden very early one morning his dogs leaped on him and threw him into a pond. The servants heard their master's cries for help, but as they were locked in they could not go to his assistance, and the reverend gentleman was drowned, his belongings going to his next of kin, a London porter.

It is a good many years now since the Rev. John Trueman of Davenport departed this life, leaving behind him the snug fortune of £50,000, the accumulation of a life of industry. Some remarkable stories are told of Mr. Trueman's miserly habits—how he would take turnips from his parishioners' fields and then beg pieces of bacon to boil with his purloined vegetables, and how he would invite himself as guest to the houses of his flock in turn and pull the worsted out of the corners of the blankets to darn his stockings.

For the last twenty years of his life Mr. Jones's household expenses never exceeded half a crown a week. He invariably retired at sunset to save the cost of candles and in the coldest weather never allowed himself the luxury of a fire except on Sundays, and then the fire was made from sticks picked up in the roads and church yard. His menu was limited to bread and bacon and tea and a half quarter loaf lasted him a week.

Photographing Big Game. Describing some of the difficulties that must be encountered by one who endeavors to take pictures of wild beasts by flashlight, Dr. C. G. Schillings writes: "The photographer must have a steady hand or the picture will be spoiled. In addition to steady nerves he must have nerve to brave danger and to meet sudden death, if such be his fate."

Weather Prophets. Herring can scent a storm and the direction in which it is coming. They are not able to see the wind like a pig, but like a pig they can smell nasty weather. Hence the herrings always during a storm choose the safest spot in which to swim.

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HANGED ON GHOST'S TESTIMONY.

Peculiar Trials Found Among British Court Records.

The testimony of a "ghost" would not now count for much in a court of law, but the day has been when it has sufficed to hang a man. It is stated that the original depositions are in the Bodleian Library of a most remarkable case of this character.

A girl named Anne Walker was supposed to have been sent away for her good by a substantial farmer. Some time afterward a so-called apparition appeared to a neighbor, with its head all bloody from wounds, and telling him that she had been murdered by the farmer and an accomplice. Her body, the apparition said, had been buried in a spot which she described, and she begged the man to whom she appeared to bring her murderers to justice.

There was a ghostly accuser in a case with which readers of Scott's "The Highlanders" are familiar. Soon after the "45" an English soldier wandering near Braemar met a violent death. Hawks do not peck out hawk's eyes and no man opened his mouth to give a crow. Years passed and then came a story of a communication from another world.

A farm servant declared that in the night a spirit had appeared to him, declaring itself to be the ghost of the soldier, whose bones it said lay still unburied. The Highlander must see to their decent interment and have the murderers, two men named, brought to justice. The Highlander promised, but did not keep his word, and a second and third time the spirit appeared and upbraided him for his breach of faith.

The story of the Highlander came to the ears of an anti-Jacobite, who caused the matter to be brought to trial before the Court of Justiciary, Edinburgh. There the tale was corroborated by a woman who had seen a naked figure enter the place on the night spoken of by the man. It was an age of superstition, in a district more than commonly given to superstitions, and the jury seemed disposed to find the two men charged guilty of murder.

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Concerning lions Dr. Schillings writes again: "Myself had plenty of opportunity to observe the utter indifference which the lion shows towards man when he hunts his prey at night. He will attack and kill asses or bulls fastened to trees three or four steps from a thicket in which the hunter is watching for him."

Hand made—The deaf and dumb alphabet. A girl named Anne Walker was supposed to have been sent away for her good by a substantial farmer. Some time afterward a so-called apparition appeared to a neighbor, with its head all bloody from wounds, and telling him that she had been murdered by the farmer and an accomplice.

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