

Find Alaskan Summer Heat Hard to Endure

During the summer heat of the temperate zone the Arctic regions look like a haven of rest and comfort from this distance, and it is hard to visualize the conditions which explorers describe.

Summer is very short in the Far North, but it is fiercer in proportion to its limited time. Under a sun shining from twenty to twenty-four hours a day, everything that grows and breeds comes to life with a rush. The land bursts in a very riot of flowers and the earth that later will be ice and snow-bound is carpeted with delicate color. Seventy degrees is cool for parts of the sub-arctic country.

There are inland valleys in Alaska where the mercury rises to 100 degrees in summer and men and animals will under the heat. There are places in the Far North of Canada in summer where the mosquitoes are so bad that neither man nor beast can face them, but must flee for their lives.

Incident That Upset

Dignity of Inspector

A quantity of milk had arrived in the North and was loaded on an ordinary trolley awaiting claim by the consignees. The trolley had on it about ten of the large cans in which milk is carried by rail.

Along came a dignified inspector, bent on taking samples of the milk for testing purposes. He mounted the trolley and proceeded to insert the special implement he carried to mix the milk before taking out the samples.

But the front bogey wheels were not well placed for such an operation. The weight of the inspector upset the whole trolley. The contents of all the cans flowed freely over the stone pavement, and the dignified inspector was in the middle of it all. He must have bathed in about 100 gallons of milk and he had to be picked up and put into a cab to go home and change his clothes.

The language of the milkmen waiting for the milk could not be printed.—London Answers.

Prolific Tomato Plant

The bureau of plant industry says that it is not beyond the bounds of possibility to produce one bushel of tomatoes from a single plant. This yield is received, however, by giving individual attention to the plant, allowing plenty of room, liberal feeding and fertilizing. A trellis must also be erected over which the plant can extend its shoots. There is little advantage in trying to get a maximum yield from a single plant, for when the attention is centralized on one plant rather than six the plant takes the space of five or six ordinary plants and the possible failure, due to insects pests or disease, is greater. As many as fifteen pounds of tomatoes can be gathered from one vine without abnormal effort on the part of the grower.

Tribute to Teacher

Frank, age six, was a mischievous lad in school and along with several others, just as bad, managed to give the first-grade teacher no little trouble.

His schoolhouse was situated on a busy street, so that the teacher always went with the children to the street. Frank was telling his father about some of the pranks they played and then began to explain how the teacher coached them never to cross the street without looking both ways for machines, for they might be killed.

Frank exclaimed in surprise: "Yes, sir, dad, as mean as some of those kids are she doesn't want them to be killed. What do you think of that?"

The Highest Mountains

"You see them mountains?" exclaimed the driver of a jaunting car in Ireland to an American passenger.

The tourist admitted that he did see them.

"Well, them's the highest mountains in Ireland."

"Oh, don't say so!"

"Oh, do, indeed! An' you see them mountains?" the driver went on, flicking the whip toward another range. "Them's the highest in the wurruld!"

The American expressed his incredulity. "Surely not!" he protested.

"Sure, it's true!" the driver retorted, bridling, "exceptin', av course, for them in furrin parts!"

Poetry Restored

Let poetry once more be restored to her ancient truth and purity; let her be inspired from heaven, and in return, her incense ascend thither; let her exchange her low, venal, trifling subjects for such as are fair, useful and magnificent; and let her execute these so as at once to please, instruct, surprise and astonish; and then, of necessity, the most inveterate ignorance and prejudice shall be struck dumb, and poets yet become the delight and wonder of mankind.—James Thomson.

Odd Court Cases in 1656

A page from a Massachusetts court docket for the year 1656 reveals that Henry Walton was fined for saying that he would as leave hear a dog bark as to hear Reverend Cobbett preach; that Robert Edwards was fined for excess in apparel in wearing sleeve lace and gold buttons; that John Scudly was fined for stealing his master's ox and selling it to him and that Sarah Collins was fined for railing at her husband.—Detroit News.

Scholastic Mirth

"Now," said the teacher, impressively, "why should we endeavor to rise by our own efforts?" "Because," replied Tommy, there's no knowing when the alarm clock will go wrong."

Master of the Rolls

Once Not Empty Title

In the days before printing, the old records were always written in a form which made them literally a roll, says the Dearborn Independent. One sheet of parchment was used and the next one was sewed to its bottom edge, and the process repeated until a document might consist of a hundred or more sheets, or skins, as they were then called, all sewed together in one long strip. A piece of wood was then fastened to either end in the manner of a modern map and the strip rolled up from the bottom into a great roll or bundle. The reader began at the top, slowly unrolling one end as one rolled up the other end on another stick.

From this form rolls came to stand for manuscripts, particularly official manuscripts or court records. The keeper or master of the rolls was then the high officer who kept the records of the English courts of justice. Today the president of the chancery division of the high court of justice in England, ranking next to the lord chief justice of England, is called the master of the rolls. Originally the master of the rolls had custody of the records, but in the course of time this charge became merely nominal.

Fantastic Titles Given

to Court Favorites

Among the whimsical titles which appear on the pages of national history few are more apparently frivolous than the duke of Marlborough, the count of Lemonade, and the earl of Brandy. They are, or were, however, real titles bestowed by a genuine monarch on three favorites during the last century.

In 1811, a revolution occurred in Haiti, and Christopher, a negro, declared himself emperor. Through conspiracy and plot he retained power until 1820, preserving to the last the appearance of a royal court and creating numerous nobility.

Among them were the three mentioned; and far from being instances of the frivolity of the African character, they were names of places, the first two being originally plantations, but latterly towns of some importance.

Good Reason for Returning

Commodore Albert B. Armitage of the British navy, in his book, "Cadet to Commodore," gives the following glimpse of the explorer Shackleton in the role of a reporter: "Shackleton and some of his comrades joined the Isles in Port Said on their homeward journey after his wonderful dash for the pole. He was cheery and full of vim as ever. The publisher of his book, 'The Heart of the Antarctic,' a copy of which he sent to me—several reporters, and Italian officials met him. I took him to see my home, and then to our agency, where he composed a number of telegrams. He wanted, so he said, a 'catchword.' He walked up and down the room, muttering several phrases to himself. 'I've got it at last,' he cried, 'Death lay ahead and food behind, so I had to return.'"

Dancing to Paradise

It is the belief of the Ponapeans, a tribe of South Sea Islanders, that unless you are a good dancer you will never go to heaven!

According to their creed, every soul passing to the "Great Beyond" is obliged to cross a bridge guarded by demoniacal watchmen waiting to pounce upon him and draw him down to the lower regions.

If, however, the soul is able to dance across the bridge the watchmen will be so engrossed in studying the movements that they will forget their duty and, before they have time to realize it, the soul will slip past them into paradise!

Somewhat Different

An aged divine, whose enunciation was none of the clearest, insisted upon using big words on every possible occasion. One day, after conducting a children's service, he was waited upon by a deputation of parents. "Our children," they complained, "inform us that you told them they should always be up to mischief." The puzzled cleric, sure of having said nothing of the sort, asked the parents to wait while he consulted his notes. Then it developed that what he had really said was that they should always be "optimistic."

Michigan's Distinction

In the case of Michigan the people adopted a state constitution and elected a complete set of state officials, and later that constitution was accepted by congress without redaction, the original delegate was seated in congress without re-election and the original state officials continued to serve without re-election after the formal admission of the state by congress on January 23, 1837. From November 1, 1835, to the date of admission, Michigan was de facto a state, although not technically a state in the Union.

Easy for Theatergoers

The price of admission to the theater in the time of Shakespeare varied. In 1579 admission could be obtained for one penny and two pennies. In 1596 there was apparently a regular scale applicable to all public entertainments. One penny was paid at the gate, another at the entrance to the building, and a third for quiet standing. From this time the prices began to rise rapidly, and by 1604 there were both six-penny and twelve-penny seats.

Imitation Parchment

An imitation of parchment is made by treating paper with sulphuric acid and water. Dip ordinary paper for a few seconds in a solution containing one part water to six parts sulphuric acid, then wash carefully to remove every trace of the acid.

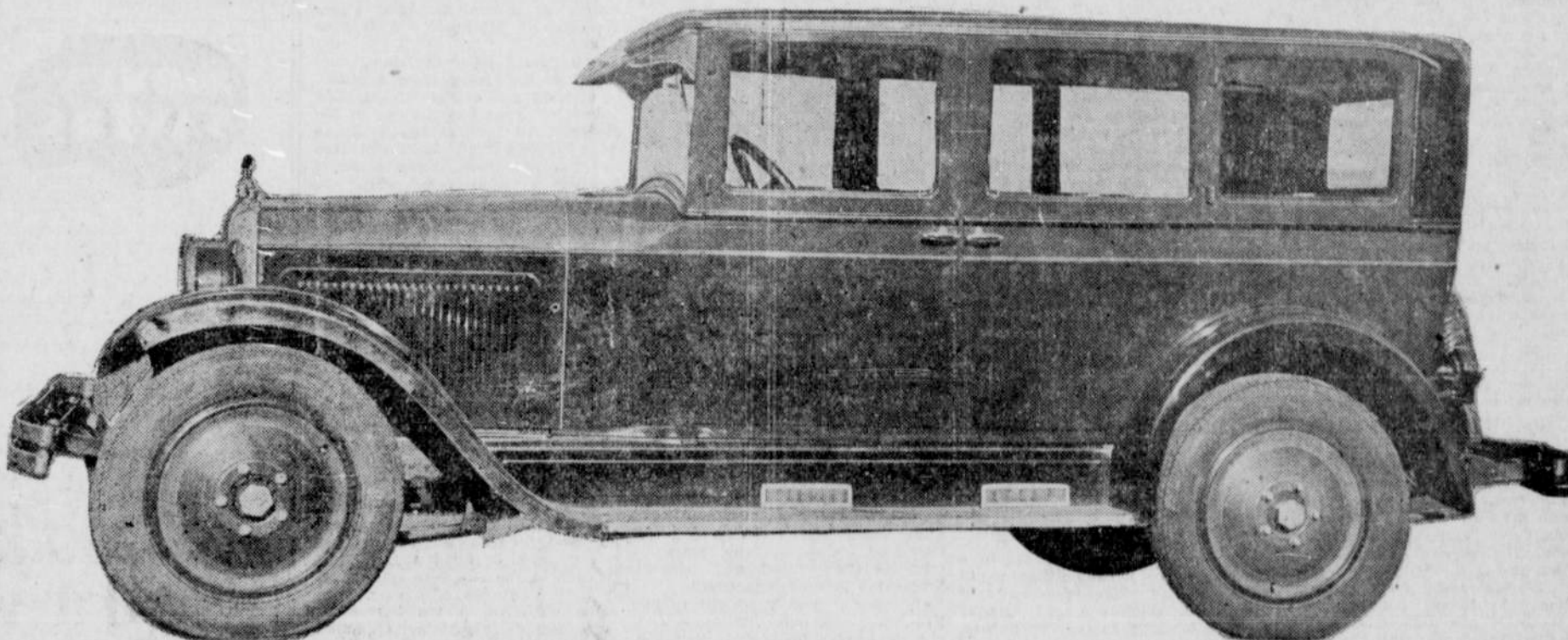
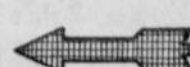
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