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AMERICAN SENTINEL.

WESTMINSTER, - MARYLAND.

JOS. D. BROOKS, Editor.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1909.

A FEW INSECT MUSICIANS.

Surely you have heard them—a band of insect musicians—it is a treat! Who are they? Why, the crickets and their cousins, the grasshoppers, locusts and katydids. They all carry fine musical instruments with them wherever they go. So a concert or serenade can be given at a moment's notice, and I fancy they never make the excuse, "I can't: I am out of practice!"

I have been kept awake many a night by the little glossy brown or black house cricket, which, well hidden behind some article of furniture, insisted on treating me to a musical program.

"I wonder if he makes it with his mouth," I have asked, and I decided to really find out, and was surprised to know where all that noise came from. You know a cricket is not slender like a grasshopper, but is short and thick, and looks like he is carrying a little bundle of something under his wings all the time.

Well, near where his left wing-cover joins his body he has three veins on his wing. The largest is rough like a file, and this is his "bow" for for his violin. He—I say "he," because Mrs. Cricket cannot make music—draws this rough veins across the right wing-cover, which trembles and quivers and gives out sound—his music, in other words.

The field cricket sings all day, while the house cricket (my friend) takes the night for his concerts.

In Spain crickets are so popular they have little cages for them, like we do for our canaries; but they have only one cricket in a cage, as they will fight if put together.

"The Murmurer," as Mr. Grasshopper is called—and I don't see why as his songs to Mrs. Grasshopper are so loud and shrill—makes his music by rubbing his wings together. He has a little piece of skin like a tight drumhead set in each wing, and as he moves his wings these tiny drums vibrate—thus his music.

Mrs. Grasshopper doesn't have a drum in her wings, but listens to her lord's music with her ears, which are on her fore-legs! Isn't it queer? Think of having one's ears in such an inconvenient place, as near a knee. Or, as the locusts have, on each side of the abdomen. At least, they have a round plate there, which is supposed to be an ear on each side.

Mr. Grasshopper sits perfectly still while making his music, looking very grave and quite correct in his longtailed dress-suit coat, which he always wears.

Mr. Locust, however, stands on his two front legs to sing, and is really a ludicrous sight, as he lifts his hind legs and draws one by one and then both together, across his wings. The inner side of his hind legs has rough, file-like edges, and the wings thick veins, like cords, and the file of the legs on the cords of the wings produces the sound. He is a finished musician, too, for he can make two tones, and as one or two legs are used, makes the music loud or soft.

The beautiful light-green katydid sings only at night, and his song, "Katydid, Katydid; Katy broke the teapot lid; Katydidn't," and all the different versions of it, is of my earliest recollections.—Mrs. Helen B. Bell, in Baptist Boys and Girls.

PAY AS YOU GO.

The best of all rules for successful housekeeping and making both ends of the year meet is. "pay as you go!" Beyond all countries in the world, ours is the one in which the credit system is the most used and abused. Passbooks are the bane and pest of domestic economy—a perpetual plague, vexation and swindle. Abused by servants at the store and house, disputed constantly by housekeepers and dealers, they are temptations to both parties to do wrong. "I never had that," "We neglected to enter this," "I forgot to bring the book," and so it goes. But the worst of it is that housekeepers are tempted to order what they have not the means to pay for, and when the time for settlement comes they are straitened. A family can live respectably on a very moderate income, if they always take the cash in hand and buy where they can buy to the best advantage. Then they will be careful first to get what is necessary. Extra comforts will be had if they can afford them. But it is bad policy to buy on credit. No wise dealer sells so cheaply on credit as for cash.—The Hearthstone.

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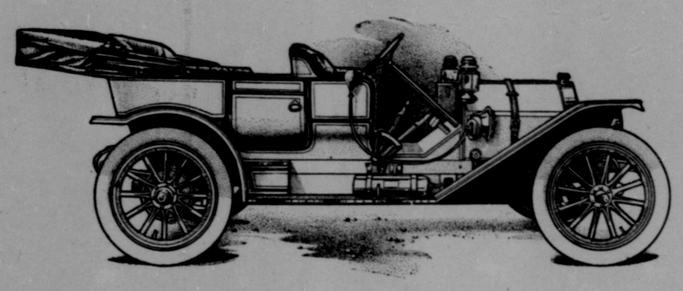

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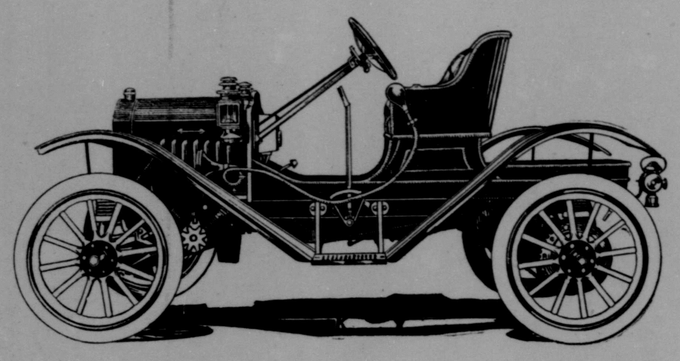

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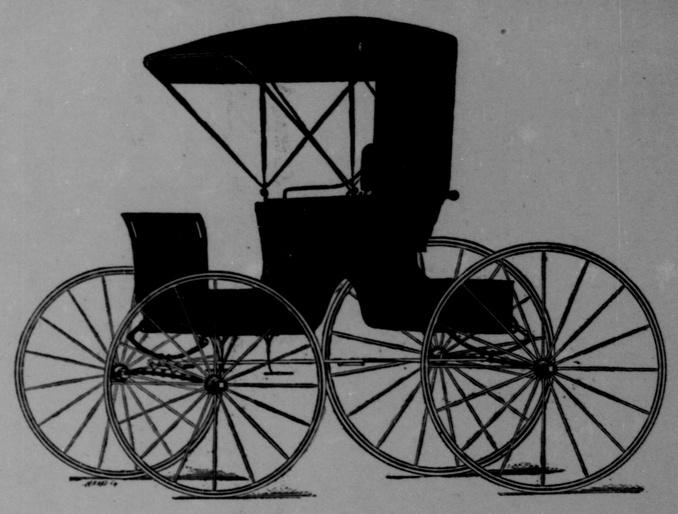

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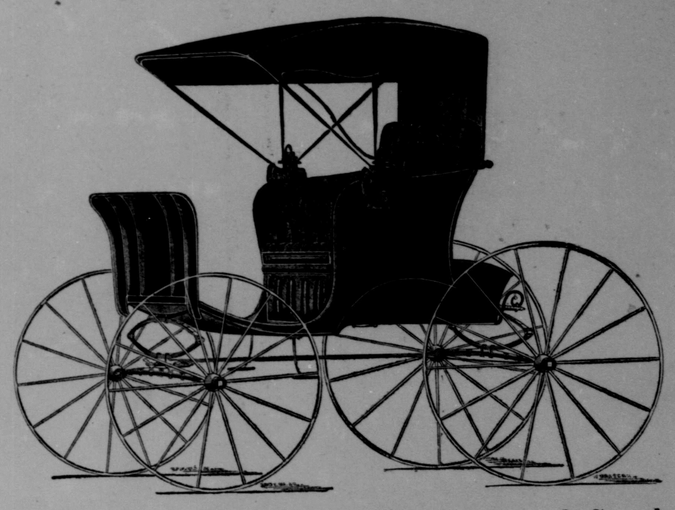

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Do not forget, the best Xmas present is a handsome Portland Sleigh. We have a car load of 24 of these Sleighs on hand.

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