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## Great Cities of the World

### "THE HAGUE"

Ever since the present war began the newspapers have had frequent references to "The Hague" especially in dealing with points of international law. The Germans have more than once been charged with violating "the Hague Convention." What does it all mean?

The Hague is the capital of Holland, and has been selected as the meeting-place for the various governments of the world to consider questions of mutual interest and to decide upon the principles and laws which shall be generally recognized especially in time of war. Here Mr. Carnegie has erected a noble building, the Peace Palace, at a cost of a million and a half, which it was hoped would be the scene of friendly arbitrations between the great powers with a view to forever ending armed conflict. Unhappily this expectation has not been realized for the gates of the palace are now closed and the building is guarded by the soldiers of Holland. The reason for choosing the Hague as an international meeting-place was the fact that Holland is such a small country that it was not likely to become involved in international troubles, because it is not strong enough to compete with its neighbors.

The name of "Hague" does not appear on all maps of Holland, for to the Dutch their capital is known as "S Gravenhage," which means "The Count's Enclosure." Long before there was any city here one of the Counts of Holland built a hunting lodge on the bank of the lake and put a hedge around it to keep out the wild beasts. About 1250 Count William II. tore down the lodge and built a palace on its site and this was afterwards enlarged and rebuilt until it grew into the present pile of buildings known as the Binnenhof. Maurice of Nassau, son of William the Silent, chose this as his residence, so that it became the capital of the country and grew into a large and elegant city, but it has always kept the name taken from that first little hunting lodge, "The Count's Enclosure." Instead of using the full name Gravenhage, it is generally referred to as The Hague.

The Hague is a most charming and beautiful city, with broad straight streets, lined with trees, handsome shops, fine parks ornamented with lakes, the whole place having more of a French appearance than Dutch, with an air of wealth, ease and comfort everywhere.

As everybody knows, the Dutch people are noted for their cleanliness, and many evidences of this are to be seen at The Hague. There are miles upon miles of new streets, which look as if they had been freshly scrubbed in the same thorough ways as the Dutch housewife scrubs her floors. Even the walls and roofs of the houses have the same look. Saturday is always a great cleaning day, because it will not be possible to clean things again until Monday; and Monday is also a great cleaning day, because, of course, nothing has been cleaned since Saturday. Water is splashed over the house fronts and dashed over the pavements. Water is everywhere trickling down the house fronts, running out of the doors, rushing over the sidewalks.

Wooden shoes are used by the people quite generally. They are never worn in the house; even leather ones send a thrill of horror to the heart of the cleanly housewife. Wooden shoes are slipped off just outside the door with a movement incredibly quick, and the family goes about indoors in its stocking feet, which must be trying in winter, for the floor is usually of tile. Cloth slippers are, however, worn by many of the better class. One can always tell how many people are inside a house by the number of shoes standing there all pointed toward the door just as they were stepped out of. This is always the back door, and not the front door. The latter is open only for marriages and funerals and such important ceremonies. The family makes its exit and entries at the back door, and callers always knock there.

It does not take long to go from one part of Holland to another. The Hague can be reached in about an hour from either Rotterdam or Amsterdam. For that reason a large percentage of the population caters to the whims and fancies as well as to the wants of tourists. They are courteous and obliging and aim to make the visitors' stay one of pleasure and profit. It would seem to the tourists that a large percentage of the people of Holland are self-constituted guides for it is almost impossible for one to stand a moment in any public place without some one addressing him in English and offering to take him to a place of interest. They scarcely ever fail to distinguish between an American and an Englishman. It is very easy indeed for a stranger to get about in The Hague, or in any other Dutch city for that matter as the majority of the people have at least a slight knowledge of English.

Holland is a most delightful little country to visit the scenery is so unlike that of any other country, the travelling so comfortable, the houses, roads, canals customs so strikingly different but always full of charms. And of course, the historic associations are wonderfully interesting. If young people want a book which will hold their attention let them read Motley's "Rise of the Dutch Republic." They will be thrilled with the heroism of this noble people, who fought against most overwhelming odds and defied the powers of Imperial Spain with its horrible Inquisition. No wonder the statue of William the Silent adorns the squares of so many of the cities to-day.

Some one has remarked that the Dutchman has three enemies, his lakes, his rivers and the ocean. The lakes have been drained, the rivers imprisoned and the ocean driven back. The whole country is a fortress, surrounded by fortifications in the shape of dykes, manned by an army of engineers, waging a ceaseless war against an enemy that never sleeps. The first thing that strikes one in travelling through Holland is the canals that intersect the country in every direction. They are wide and picturesque and serve a three-fold purpose, for traffic, for drains, for fences and hedges. Every road and every canal is bordered by an avenue of trees. If the trees are along the canal their roots serve to strengthen the banks; if along the road, they offer a most grateful shade during the heat of summer, and, of course, add not a little to the picturesque of the country.

In every direction windmills are seen and are kept swinging their great arms pumping up the water. "The landscape teems with life. The pastures are dotted with black and white cows and snowy sheep, the ditches are alive with ducks and swans, along the roads the queer little carts of the peddlers are always passing, drawn by dogs, or perhaps it is a milk cart, its cans pushed by a white-capped girl. The rivers and larger canals are full of boats—boats of every kind and size and shape, boats with red sails, or propelled by steam, or drawn by a man and a dog. There is perhaps, no other country in Europe which, in the life of its fields, and roads and rivers, offers so much of interest."

Foreign travellers in Holland are greatly impressed by the care which everyone takes to make sure that they are going the right way. On English and Canadian railways the traveller is left to look after himself to a surprising extent but in Holland all is changed. At every stop a guard appears and looks at your ticket and punches it. As soon as he finds you are a stranger in the country he takes care to inform you that this is not your station and you are to keep your seat. If you attempt to alight you are pushed back into the carriage gently and firmly. Every employee of the company seems to know your destination and to be determined to see that you reach it safely.

The royal palace at The Hague, in which Queen Wilhelmina resides, is not a very imposing building. It is a place that gives the impression of having been built for comfort rather than

for ostentation. What appears like great marble columns are only plaster very cleverly painted. In some of the other decorations there is likewise more pretentious grandeur than real grandeur. In the centre of the old town is a group of new buildings, called the Binnenhof, to which reference has already been made. One enters the court through a vaulted gateway and is at once on the scene of some of the greatest tragedies of Dutch history. Here the stadholders live in the palaces which were built around the open court, and tried to break up the many plots which were formed for their extermination. Here also lived many counts and other nobles. Life was rather uncertain with many of these during the Middle Ages and later, as plots and intrigues were constantly going on. There is not a building surrounding this square which could not tell the tale of a tragedy if it could speak. It has today a most mediæval appearance.

The Hague is the home of art. Many of the works of the best European painters will be found in the galleries of this city—masterpieces of Rubens, Van Dyke, Rembrandt, Jan Steen, as well as those of other nationalities, are here in great numbers. It is, of course, an education to see these famous pictures.

### Audacious Wounded Gunner Under the Mistletoe

Amusing little stories of the cheerfulness of the wounded in France are related by Mme Alice O'Brien, the operatic singer of Convent Garden and the Opera Comique, Paris, who is serving as a French Red Cross nurse in a hospital in Paris, in the following letter to her sister in the south of England:

"The other day I sang for about 100 English. At my departure they gave me three cheers, and by chance I stopped to thank them and say 'Good-night' just underneath a bunch of mistletoe. Near me was a huge artilleryman and not far off a Yorkshire lad, who said to the other: 'Why don't you kiss her, mon—she's under the mistletoe?'"

"The R. A. promptly did, much to my confusion and the joy of the British hundred. After this I departed quickly for fear the 99 might follow suit! It was at this concert that a boy of twenty, with one leg amputated and with one arm paralysed, asked me to hold his healthy arm while he sang 'Your King and Country Want You.' It was splendid and pathetic at the same time."

I also sang at one of the biggest French hospitals. As I was going off a great Tirailleur-Senegalais, as black as one's shoe, solemnly presented me with two flowers, afterwards declaring that he wouldn't mind buying me for his wife and even paying as much as 250 fr. £10 for that luxury!"

The value of codfish caught in Newfoundland waters last season was \$7,897,000.

Large numbers of French and Belgian girls are selling papers in the streets of London.

### How to Care for Your Complexion

There is no truer saying than that "beauty is only skin deep." Good features lose their charm under a sallow or blotchy skin and poor features are glorified by a beautiful complexion.

A very useful toilet booklet entitled "Your Complexion" has just been issued by Nyal's and contains many helpful health and beauty hints, including proper methods of massage. It can be had for the asking at the Nyal Agency Drug Store and you should call or telephone for it. Among other things it points out that diet, sleep, ventilation, and a thousand other things we cannot escape are continually warring against our complexions. Get a 25c or 50c jar of Nyal's Face Cream and convince yourself of its cleansing and refreshing and beautifying qualities. It is greaseless, oxygenated and quickly absorbed by the skin, leaves no shine, and gives a pleasant, smooth, cool sensation, quickly removing the irritation produced by wind and weather.

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### Report Medical Health Officer of the Town of Bridgetown

To the Mayor and Town Council: Bridgetown N. S.

Gentlemen:—In presenting you my report for the past year I am very glad to be able to say that we have been very free of contagious diseases the past year. Outside of two cases of mild Diphtheria there has been nothing in this class of diseases. We have also been free of typhoid.

On the whole I think we have been as clear of what is commonly described as preventable diseases as any community of an equal size could expect.

The Sanitary condition during the past year has received considerable attention and open drains that remained until this year have been covered. While these were not in places where they were near residents or on the streets yet it is well that they have been closed and even possible menaces of this character corrected.

The matter of improved sewerage accommodation of a sanitary type for the eastern section of Granville street has been a long felt want by property holders and residents in that part of the town, and as you are aware the rate payers have voted authority to your Honorable body to do this necessary work and no doubt it will be completed as soon as possible.

The dairies from which our milk supply is received are in a good sanitary condition and I believe that every attention is paid to giving our citizens a wholesome and clean milk and cream. The same can be said of our butcher shops and slaughter houses.

During the past several complaints have been made regarding manure piles and pig pens near the street, and that they have not only been offensive to the sense of smell, but also have been breeding generators for millions of flies is but common knowledge. With little trouble and care on behalf of the part of the owners of these places they could be made much more wholesome and any danger from them or even unpleasantness avoided, and I believe that we should see to it that these places are kept in subjection by throwing fresh dirt over them or by frequent removals of the contents to greater distance from the street.

The important place of the common house fly is the carrying of infection from the muck and dirt of the barnyard anywhere is now fully recognized. He passes from the pig sty to the dining room without wiping his feet, and from the expectorations of the careless tubercular patient to our food as if nothing had happened, while in reality he has placed on our bread and butter thousands of germs of this or other communicable diseases that may find a proper soil for their growth and development and cause very serious trouble. I believe a campaign of education along this line would be of benefit to our town and as there are many posters supplied by health authorities today, setting forth these facts we could possibly not do better than incur the very small expense necessary to get a supply.

I believe it would also be well for our Board of Health to appoint a general clean up day for the town, when all rubbish and waste should be removed and closets and yards cleaned and made sanitary and that a general brightening of premises be made with whitewash or paint.

In this way our town could be much improved and I believe a united effort in this respect would well repay the trouble taken.

In this move I would include the whitewashing of the buildings along our whole water front which is the side of the town that is most exposed to public view and while this is not necessary to the sanitary cleanliness of other parts, it will say to all comers and goers that as we are on the outside, so we are on the inside. While at present if visitors were to judge us by what they can see from the railroad as they go by in the trains they would think we were much in need of paint. However this last suggestion is hardly within the bounds of my office, but it is suggested in this connection in hopes that it may meet with the approval of this council in the interest of a better and prettier town than even which we are all interested in having and in which we all take a deep and abiding interest.

Faithfully and humbly submitted,  
M. E. ARMSTRONG  
Medical Health Officer

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