

THE "FURRY" DANCE OF CORNISHMEN

A Strange, Weird Festivity in Which the People Take Part.

London, May 24.—Cornwall is the rugged haunt of superstition. In no corner of England does there yet linger such a wealth of picturesque fancy and mystic tradition.

The fete which the lord mayor of London attended at Helston, says the London Express, furnishes a most excellent example of that weird lore which permeates the delectable duchy.

Helston is a slate and drab little town nestling cozily upon the luxuriant banks of the little Coker River and within view of the blue gleam of the Cornish Sea. It is one of those halcyon spots in the backwater of life into which a tired man would retire with the placid conviction that he had discovered perfect peace.

But once a year Helston bursts forth into a spirit of rustic saturnalia. It is this innocently wild revel which brought Sir William Treloar and his trusty sheriffs all the way from London.

Flora day in Helston would be little more than an old world village fair were it not for the "furry dance." The very name excites the fancy with a sense of something wild and strange—a vague vision of prehistoric natives in their aboriginal costume, or uncanny-looking pixies, one is not quite sure which.

For a long while I cherished a belief, implanted in me by a worthy Cornishman, that the term was a corruption of "fury dance." My friend explained to me, with a degree of earnestness which left no room to question either his sincerity or his knowledge that in bygone ages—how long ago he was sure he could not say—the devil used once a year solemnly to visit Helston.

"He always came by way of the Lizard, and there are barren tracks to this day, marking his path, on which not a scrap of vegetation will grow. The place took its name—Hell's Stone—from the fact of having such a strange attraction for him.

"In order to keep the devil out of their houses the inhabitants all joined in a dance of fury, singing invocations that were altogether too much for his ears, and so drove him away." The mayor of this old world Cornish borough will lead off the dance, leading a procession indiscriminately formed of all the inhabitants of the town—and as many more as like to join in.

Measured shuffle. At a slow, measured shuffle this straggling array of people begins to promenade the streets. If they carry out the functions of the "Furry Dance" faithfully the whole crowd ought to dance in at the front door and out at the back of every house in the place.

Measured shuffle. But as such a process would occupy altogether too long and prove much too tedious, it has been agreed to give his satanic majesty a chance this year and only to gambol through a certain number of houses.

What is called the "Furry Song" consists of unconnected stanzas, irrelevant enough to any idea of the purpose of the fete. These have no doubt replaced verses that were more ancient. The following will serve as a fair sample of the whole:

Robin Hood and Little John,
They both are gone to fair, O.
And we will to the merry green wood,
To see what they do there, O;
And for to chase, O,
To chase the buck and doe,
Who haunts in the forest and glade,
Jolly rumble, O,
And we were up as soon as any day,
O,
And for to fetch the summer home,
The summer and the may, O;
For summer is a-come, O,
And winter is a-gone, O!

There are references to the Spaniards, and to Paul's Church in Mounts Bay, which was burned by them in 1595, that serve to connect the age of these rhymes with the days of the Armada.

Following upon the "Furry Dance" comes a very quaint little ceremony known as "Cutting the Bar." About two miles from the town is a small lake called Loe Pool, formed by a sand bar, thrown up by the action of the sea.

The mayor of Helston, on every Florday, presents to the lord of the manor two leather purses, each containing three half-pence, for leave to cut this bar. As the water within the dam is always much higher than sea level, a very slight fissure suffices to set a stream flowing.

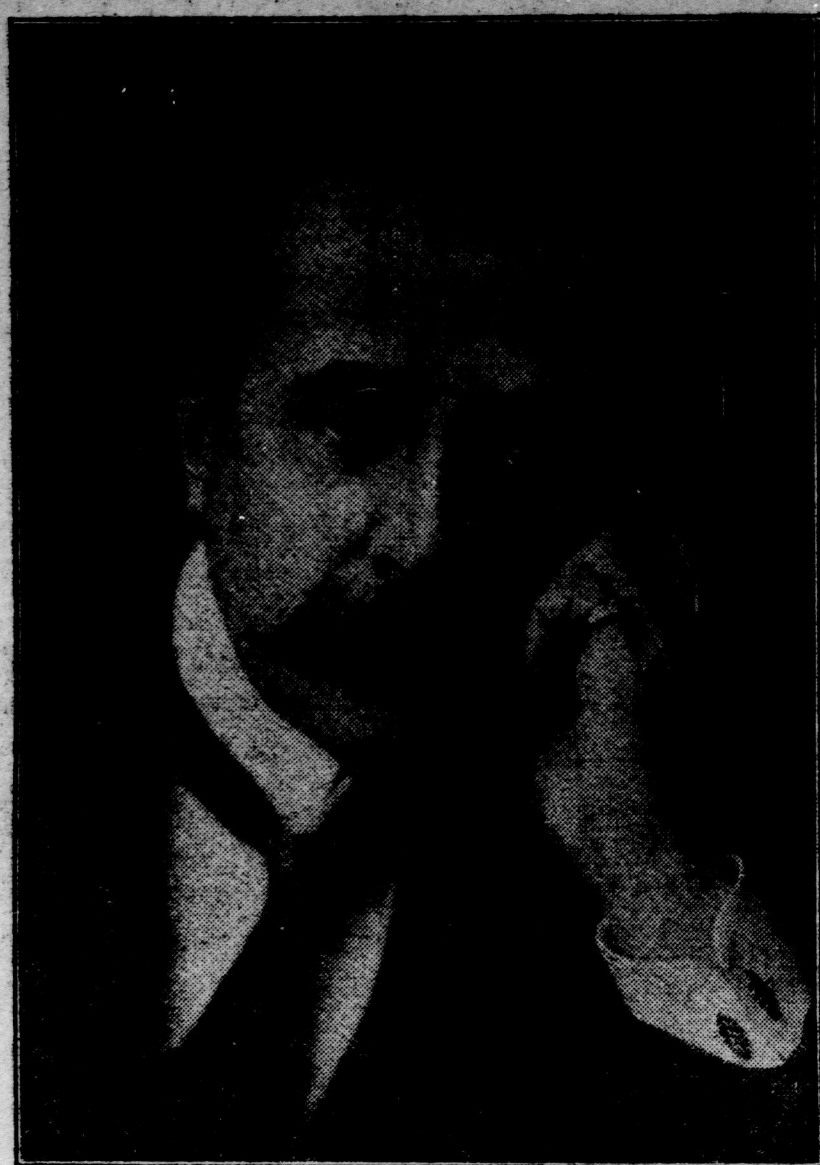
This speedily washes a wide channel for itself, and sweeping down into the lagoon, causes a foaming eddy which has been known to capsize boats. It was upon this bar of the Loe Pool that the Anson frigate was lost in 1807. After the bar has been cut the formal ceremonies of Helston Furry day are at an end.

Because the lock of a Methodist church in Hazlemere, England, would not work it was taken off. The locksmith found the key in it, some people having mistaken it for a contribution box.

Minard's Lament Company, Limited, Yarmouth, N. S.

Gentlemen.—In January last Francis Leclaire, one of the men employed by me, working in the lumber woods, had a tree fall on him, crushing him fearfully. He was, when found, placed on a sled and taken home, where grave fears were entertained for his recovery, his legs being bruised and his body turned black from the blood in his veins. We used MINARD'S LINIMENT on him from the first, and with the use of a few bottles he was completely cured, and able to return to his work. ADVISOR, N.Y.

Right Hon. J. H. Macdonald, Ont.



MR. HERBERT KELCEY,

Who Will Be Seen at the Grand Next Friday Night in "Widowers' Houses."

WILL JAPS ATTACK CROP OUTLOOK MONROE DOCTRINE IS EXCELLENT

Envious Eyes Cast Toward the Pacific Republics of South America.

New York, May 24.—A Tokyo correspondent of the Herald says: "Some American residents in this part of the world, who have had long experience with the workings of oriental diplomacy, are strongly of the opinion that by his frank and open espousal of Japanese rights the President has contributed to the building up of future trouble. The United States is, inferentially, put in the attitude of having been forced out of respect for or fear of the power of Japan—to recede from an attitude of unfriendliness toward the Japanese in America."

The Japanese people blame Roosevelt for their failure to secure a money indemnity from Russia at Portsmouth. The Nobel peace prize confers them in the idea that he dominated the treaty making.

Highly significant of the thought in the mind of every Japanese is the recent utterance of Count Okuma, the great leader of the Progressist party and as many more as like to join in.

Measured shuffle. Before an influential audience recently Count Okuma insisted that "Japan should have a voice in the Anglo-Russian agreement about Persia. Military and naval forces were not merely ornaments. They should be utilized. Two or three warships cruise constantly along the coasts where Japanese settlers existed in any numbers."

In a recent article in the Tokyo Economist, Count Okuma, writing on the general subject of emigration, spoke well of Chili and Peru, in preference to Brazil, on the ground that the two first-mentioned nations of South America "are better suited to be included in Japan's sphere of influence in the future."

A pretty wide stretch here—from Persia to South America. It is he that the first attack upon our Monroe doctrine will come from Asia?

With thousands of Japanese subjects residing in Peru and Chili and Mexico, and with the two or three warships constantly cruising along the coasts, the possibility of future clashes, involving, in greater or less degree, the Monroe doctrine, seems large.

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Although Manitoba Will Show a Slight Decrease—Seeding Finished.

Winnipeg, May 24.—Telegraphic reports were received by the Free Press today from 90 points in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, covering seeding conditions and the progress made by farmers. It is evident that the vast majority of the framers have completed wheat seeding and turned their attention to other grains. A summary of the reports so far received indicates that the acreage in wheat in Manitoba will be from eight to ten per cent less than last year, but that the Province of Saskatchewan will show an increase, though a much smaller increase than was anticipated. The general tenor of the reports is most encouraging. While a number of points report no growth as yet the great majority report all the earlier sown wheat from one to two inches above ground, and the plants are vigorous. Practically every point heard from reports the soil in splendid condition, and the seed well put in. All that is wanted is warm weather and later a little rain.

It is just thirteen days since the last batch of seeding reports. At that time (May 10) only fifteen per cent in Manitoba and ten per cent in Saskatchewan of wheat land had been seeded. Today over ninety-five per cent of the wheat is seeded, and fully fifty per cent of the coarse grains in Manitoba, and about thirty per cent in Saskatchewan, and seventy-five per cent in Alberta, where enormous areas of wheat and barley are grown. The fall wheat at the points heard from is in prime condition.

Taking the reports as a whole, the prospects for a good crop are fully thirty per cent better than they were ten days ago. The season is late—every one admits that—but with the growing possibilities of the west a fine season from this date on will insure an excellent if not a bumper crop, such as the country has reaped in two past years. This great improvement in crop conditions may have the effect of temporarily depressing the over-active wheat market, but that will do no harm. It will not jeopardize the chance of dollar wheat in the future, and in the meantime it will have the effect of restoring general confidence in the country, which had been somewhat shaken by the unprecedented seeding time.

London, May 24.—Mr. Morgan, the British consul at Rome, in a recent report declares that, after a protracted period of economic depression, Rome has awakened to a new existence. The population by gradual amalgamation with newcomers from the rest of the peninsula and from abroad, has been changed into a different race, largely composed of enterprising men, anxious to place Rome on a footing with other prosperous European capitals. The visitors to Rome, by spending large sums of money in the city, have substantially contributed to the revival of its financial condition. According to the last general census of 1901 the resident population of the whole province of Rome was estimated at 1,142,526, and the fluctuating population, Italian and foreign, at 54,933. The increase since the annexation of Rome to the Italian Kingdom in 1871 has been very considerable. At that time the aggregate population amounted to only 335,704, so that within thirty years the inhabitants of the province have increased by fully 355,822. The number of foreigners in Rome in 1901 was 9,855, the Germans numbering 1,841, the British 1,739, and the French 1,336. The population of Rome itself is put at 523,196.

Another Larder Lake Strike. New Liskard, May 24.—Another strike has been made in the Larder Lake district. It is on the Lucky Boys property, which adjoins the Red-dick and Larder Lake Proprietary Company's properties. A vein was found exposed at the surface, on a ledge on the side of a hill, where the lead ore could plainly be seen. This lead ore is about 40 feet in width, and gold shows in many places.

TOO MUCH DRESSING. Fine Clothes Held To Be the Cause of Woman's Bondage.

Cleveland, May 24.—The members of the Cleveland branch of the National Woman's Suffragist Association declare woman's bondage was due to fine clothes. Mrs. W. G. Rose, widow of former Mayor Rose, voices the sentiments of the other members when she said: "We condemn the conventionalism of American women. Clothes are woman's bondage. They have made her conventional from the beginning."

"As a girl I couldn't drive a wagon, climb trees and do the things my brother did because I would tear my clothes. A woman spends so much time and energy in dressing that she doesn't have either for anything else. Neither would a man if he had to fix up as we do."

"Why, the only reason man buys so many fine clothes for women is because he knows they will keep her down. But they won't. The working women and independent women will solve the question here, for the working men are all with us. They know that the person who works should get pay."

Mrs. Rose's remarks were heartily applauded.

EDISON ADVISES A SANE VACATION

The Wizard of Electricity Tells Clerks and Shop Girls How to Rest.

New York, May 24.—"What are you going to do this year to get relaxation from work that has taxed your strength and brain so many months?" Thomas A. Edison was asked today. "That's a mighty hard question to answer offhand," he replied. "I suppose every man and woman who has to labor for a living has had to solve the same old question every year since vacations were invented."

"Well, as to what kind of a vacation it is perhaps a little different with me than with most people, for my work does not tax my energies in the slightest degree. You see, I have arranged my life scientifically, and I go about my work scientifically. Although I work about eighteen hours a day, I am never tired and do not feel the need of a vacation, and so I have not given the matter a thought."

"The majority of wage-earners do not make up their minds where they are going until the last minute. Then they rush off to some summer resort and plunge into the gayeties and frivolities of the place with great zest," continued Mr. Edison.

"What is the result?"

"Why, their return to their work more exhausted than ever, and with their vitality wasted, instead of being strengthened. They are tired and ill-natured for several weeks after they get back, for they realize they have really not had a good time. It is like the dark brown taste of the morning after."

Vacations and Vacations. "Well, what would you advise them to do?" questioned the reporter.

"I would advise them to take a vacation. The country is the place for this young man. He should go where he can get away from everything that suggests the city to him. He should go where he can have fresh eggs, fresh milk, fresh air and fresh water. He should get next to nature and stay there every minute of his limited holiday."

"On the other hand, take the farmer. He should go to a place like New York, where he can see the tall buildings and visit places of interest, like the Statue of Liberty, Madison Square Garden and Grant's Tomb. The farmer should also visit Coney Island. He should take in all the show places and have a lively old time."

"The important thing in all this is the vacation of the shop girl and the girl who is compelled to work in the stuffy sewing room of some factory all day. These plucky young women certainly should give careful thought how they intend to spend their holidays, for they have need of good health."

For the Working Girl. "Shun summer resorts, I say to these young women. Go to the country, take the rest cure for your tired nerves. Take a stock of light novels with you and spend your time out in a hammock or lying on the lawn reading. Take long sun baths. For exercise take walks through the fields, and if there is a lake near by go rowing."

"Don't under any circumstances go to resorts, where you will be up late at night dancing and overeating your strength. Get a real rest. You need to get away from this or you will shorten the length of your life."

"Of course, all depends on the environment and surroundings of every person as to what kind of a vacation is most suitable. But there are few who do not need the absolute rest they can get in the country. It is an unfortunate fact that not many of our shop girls do this. They are a splendid class, fighting with courage the battle to support themselves and their families, but they are silly when they select summer resorts and seaside places for the holidays."

"I would suggest as a vacation for the business man who has been under a constant mental strain for a year, that he take up some line of sport he is interested in, like golf, baseball or boxing. Any of these sports will distract his mind from business worry, for in a few minutes a man forgets everything but the sport he is engaged in."

"Every business man should have a hobby. A man who has a hobby to ride is fortunate, for it relieves his mind of worry and always gives him needed rest."

"Business men also should get away from the city. A trip to Europe is good if he will only forget the stock market and other interests at home. An ocean trip is healthful and gives needed rest to those who know how to take it."

"To those who are fortunate enough to own automobiles there should be no difficulty in getting an enjoyable, and helpful vacation. I like this kind of a vacation myself."

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A YOUNG GIRL RUNS A STATION

Vermont Miss of Nineteen Fills All the Positions at a Railroad Depot.

East Granville, Vt., May 24.—Nineteen, and a girl, yet station agent, mail carrier, express agent, baggage master and freight agent for the Central Vermont Railroad—that is Miss Bessie Elizabeth Hanley, of this place, in the Green Mountain range. And she has held all these jobs since she was 17 years old.

Admiring friends claim that Miss Hanley is the only young woman in New England holding such a position, or such a multiplicity of positions that are so distinctively the sphere of the male species. Although just emerged from childhood when appointed, she has done the work of her office for two years without a black mark against her record. Failure to be on hand at train time is unknown not only to Miss Hanley, but to most of the residents of the hamlet, for there is not a great deal going on in East Granville during the four months of the year that are delightful, and still less during eight months, when the place is about the dreariest spot in all the wide area of New England.

East Granville is near the uppermost portion of the pass in the Green Mountain range through which the Central Vermont Railway makes its way from one side of the state of Vermont to the other. A lumbering community, extending for eight miles back into the mountains to the west, finds a point of connection by the road with the world and its market places.

The amount of business transacted probably makes no appreciable difference in the dividends which the stockholders of the station receive, but it is of considerable moment in the operation of traffic through the great ravine and to the safety and convenience of thousands of passengers on the through trains between Boston and Montreal, as well as to the hundreds of cars of freight which daily pass the point. For the care and watchfulness of the girl in charge of the company's depot, under the sheer cliff of the mountain side, depends their safety.

No difficulty is experienced by Miss Hanley in handling everything that comes her way. She finds the railroad men all anxious to assist her. Although not many trunks are taken on at the little depot of which she has charge, when one does show up it has as much in it as the railroad will carry without excess rates, and the station agent's heart sank when she saw the old-fashioned Saratoga intended for transportation.

There are no baggage trucks for the use of the agent, and she did not feel equal to the task of carrying the heavy boxes from the station platform three car lengths up the track to the express car. Willing to brave her dilemma, she came to her aid, and four powerful arms made short work of it. So also with much of the express matter billed to the town. One man would have difficulty in handling it, but Miss Hanley's volunteers solve the problem in a few minutes. The station agent's heart sank when she saw the old-fashioned Saratoga intended for transportation.

Not many difficulties have been encountered by the young woman in the discharge of her duties. East Granville is not regarded as a particularly healthy location for tramps under any circumstance, and in the winter time it is too cold for them.

NOT ENOUGH DISCIPLINE. Former Commander Scores Present French Army and Navy.

Paris, May 24.—Gen. Brugere, the former commander-in-chief of the French army, has been heard in a discussion of the condition of French naval and military discipline, in his recent conversation with a Parisian editor. He was asked to say as regards the French army and navy. He said he was obliged to admit that for the last five or six years discipline both in the navy and army had been much relaxed. A large number of officers and non-commissioned officers were discharged. That was the truth. It was easy to say as regards the French army and navy. He said he was obliged to admit that for the last five or six years discipline both in the navy and army had been much relaxed. A large number of officers and non-commissioned officers were discharged. That was the truth. It was easy to say as regards the French army and navy. He said he was obliged to admit that for the last five or six years discipline both in the navy and army had been much relaxed. 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