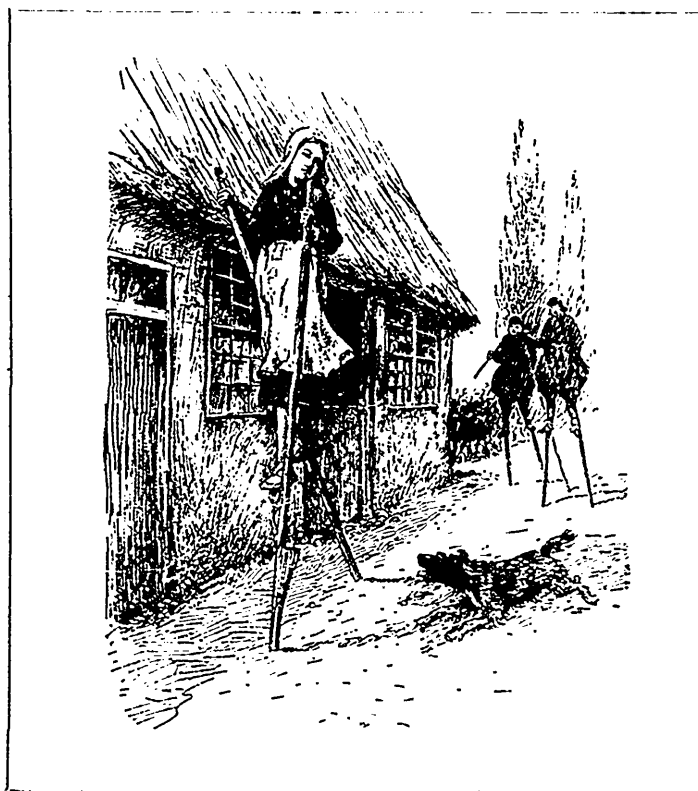


the size at least of Manitoba on the one hand, or of Victoria on the other. It is only in this way that it is possible even imperfectly to convey an idea of the value of land to the subjects of Queen Wilhelmina. Of course, the entire reclamation of the sea will come gradually, though the present undertaking is an immense step forward.

95,000,000 fl. (\$41,800,000), which amount is to be raised by loans, and it is proposed to pay off the principal and interest by an annual increase of the budget of 2,000,000 fl. (\$880,000) during a maximum period of sixty years.

The backbone of this tremendous engineering project, says Mr. Wellman, is the great sea-dike, which



STILT-WALKING IN HOLLAND.

As for the area of the principal polders, they are to be as follows: The Wieringen Polder, 54,000 acres of fertile land, and the Hoorn Polder, about 77,000 acres, containing about 68,000 acres of fertile land. The entire work is to be completed in eighteen years.

The cost of this gigantic work is estimated in round numbers at

is to perform the all-important function of shutting out the North Sea—keeping the ancient enemy at a safe distance. The total length of this dike, the “afsluit dijk” is 24.8 miles. Massive it must be, firm as a rock, to withstand the attacks of the storms which will beat against it from the North Sea, to resist the pressure of the ice which in winter