

# AMERICAN INDIAN DANCES

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BUFFALO DANCE BY MANDAN INDIANS

**T**HE word "dance," as applied by the Indians, has a meaning very different from that which it carries in our own language. When we hear of dancing, we think, first of all, of music and steps. These features are, of course, not lacking in aboriginal dancing, but they are completely overshadowed by other aspects of culture with which they are associated. To put it briefly, our dancing appears in the same context with restaurants, hotels, debutantes, attempts at a social rapprochement of the sexes. In Indian society, dancing is largely connected with war and agriculture and the chase, with processions, magical performances and religious observances, in short, with the serious affairs of life.



ASSINIBOINE INDIANS IN A SOCIAL DANCE

while the Mandan okipa illustrates the great tribal festival type of dance.

The Crow grass dance, or, as the native call it, the "hot dance," is regarded as the joint property of four clubs, to some one of which nearly every man of the tribe belongs. In a sense these are mutual benefit organizations, for whenever a member is confronted with a difficulty his comrades are expected to help him in every way. In each of the districts of the Crow reservation, these four societies share with one another a substantial dancehouse. When the time for dancing comes, a committee of men proceeds from lodge to lodge, planting a stick in front of each. This means that each household is to contribute to a feast to be held by the clubs after their dance. A crier rides through camp heralding the performance and calling on all members to present themselves at the dancehouse. On one occasion I have known four marshals to be appointed to punish the laggards; those who had disobeyed the summons either had to pay a fine or submit to the indignity of being thrown into the creek. In the meantime, the people assemble until the dancehouse is charged to its utmost capacity. Then the musicians, seated in the center around a big drum, strike up a tune, later re-enforced by the voices of some of the women, and the members of some one of the four societies rise to perform the vigorous turns and bendings characteristic of the dance. They give vent to penetrating cries in rapid succession, they brandish weapons at an imaginary foe, and thus proceed around the lodge until the ceasing of music makes them come to a sudden stop.

A very different phase of dancing is presented by the Pawnee iruska. The members of the society practicing this dance were supposed to be masters of fire, and their attitude toward it was to be like a Pawnee's attitude in facing the enemy. Spectators were invited to their gatherings, their songs were chanted and the members began to dance. After the third set of songs had been sung, the attendants built a big fire and hung a kettle of water and dog meat (or buffalo) over it. The leader advanced to the kettle when it was full of boiling soup, plunged his arm into it and took out a piece of meat. All the other members followed suit and unscooped pulled out meat, for they had secured medicine power that enabled them to overcome the force of the fire. An evidently related ceremony occurs among other tribes. In the hot dance of the Mandan and Hidatsa, the performers not only executed the trick practiced by the Pawnees, but also danced with bare feet on glowing embers until they had stamped out the fire. This was like wise a usage of the crazy dancers of the Arapahoes, who indulged in other queer antics, such as doing everything in reverse fashion and expressing the

opposite of their intended meaning, thus lending to an otherwise solemn performance an aspect of buffoonery.

While the activities just described seem to have had no object beyond the exhibition of the performer's supernatural power, the dance of the Mandan Buffalo Women's society was intimately connected with tribal welfare. Whenever the supply of buffalo had failed and the village was threatened with famine, the members of this organization were called upon to execute their dance in order to attract the herds. According to an early observer, they never failed, for they simply never ceased dancing till buffalo had been sighted. Prince Maximilian of Wied-Neuwied gives a good first-hand account of a performance witnessed by him in the early thirties of the last century. There were two men acting as musicians, with rattles and drums, one of them holding a gun. The leader was an elderly woman wrapped in the skin of an albino buffalo cow.

The Mandan okipa represents again a wholly different type of dance, it was the great several days' annual festival that corresponded to the sun dance of neighboring people. Ostensibly it was a commemoration of the subsidence of the deluge recorded in native mythology, and some of the important characters of the myth were impersonated by performers. On the other hand, there was a great deal besides. A marked dramatic feature was supplied by numerous mummies representing animals and closely mimicking their peculiarities. Prominent among these were buffalo masqueraders who imitated the wallowing of the animals represented and whose actions were expected to entice the game to the village. Many tribesmen voluntarily submitted to torture.

The wide scope of activities embraced by the dances of our native American population makes perhaps the main point of interest over and above all special features. For what must strike every observer of primitive cultures most forcibly is that things which we consider quite distinct, men of a ruder civilization join. Thus the stars are to us a subject of purely scientific study, but even our ancestors invested them with all sorts of mystical properties, and the North American Indian personifies them and identifies them with the heroes of his folk-tales. Thus, too, we have ornamental designs and often do not give them any symbolic interpretation. Primitive man is indeed less given to symbolism than perhaps has been supposed, nevertheless his tendency to invest a geometrical pattern with meaning remains greater than our own. So dancing, which to us is merely a form of amusement and exercise, becomes in primitive communities an important social function, an opportunity for sleight-of-hand performances, for religious ritualism, and may become charged with an atmosphere of supreme holiness.

### Unearthed Old Coins.

While digging trenches in the forest of Champenoux, French soldiers discovered a hoard of ancient French coins of the early seventeenth century, evidently buried at the time of the French entry into Lorraine under Louis XIII. Under the provisions of the law the treasure will go to the state and the other half to the finders. The prefect of Nancy has undertaken to have the soldiers' share of the coins sold at auction in their behalf. The remainder will be placed in the Nancy museum.

### Fire Starts Lilac Blooming.

A white lilac bush in the rear of E. L. Taylor's yard at Torrington, Conn., bloomed for the second time this season. This unusual occurrence is due to the fact that the bush was exposed to the extreme heat of a big garage fire.—Hartford Courant.

### Copper Production in Russia.

The production of copper in the Ural region of Russia during the first four months of this year reached a total of 6,460 tons, an increase of 600 tons over the corresponding period of last year.

## THE EUROPEAN WAR A YEAR AGO THIS WEEK

Nov. 29, 1914.  
Allies captured important positions near Ypres.  
Montenegrins defeated Austrians in Bosnia.  
Russians split German army and defeated relief column at Gombin.  
German aviators bombarded Lodz.  
Princes Abbas and Osman banished from Egypt for anti-British conspiracy.  
Germany paid \$37,500 indemnity to Luxemburg.

Nov. 30, 1914.  
Three big battles were fought in Poland.  
Russians captured ten miles of German trenches near Lowicz, but failed in attack on Darkehmen.  
Russians won successes in the Carpathians and Galicia.  
British ships again bombarded Zebrugge.  
Germans were expelled from Petrograd for raising funds for warships.

Dec. 1, 1914.  
Germans prepared for new dash toward the sea in West.  
Battle on the Yser was renewed.  
Germans broke Russian wing near Lodz, capturing 12,000 prisoners.  
Russians seized German ammunition barges on the Vistula.  
Serbians captured 1,500 Austrians on River Djid.  
Premier Ruschi Pasha of Egypt declared for Britain.

Dec. 2, 1914.  
British, re-enforced, took over command of the Yser region.  
Austrians took Belgrade.  
Russians won at Szczercow and entered Wieliczka.  
Montenegrins repulsed Austrians.  
Hungarian chamber of deputies voted war bills.  
Prince of Wales fund reached \$20,000,000.

Dec. 3, 1914.  
Germans took offensive in Flanders but lost heavily trying to cross the Yser on rafts.  
French occupied Le Mesnil.  
Tete de Faux in the Vosges and Burnhagen in Alsace taken by the French.  
Germans attempted to flank Russian right wing.  
Austrians repulsed assaults on Przemysl.  
Russians took Bartfeld.  
Riots in Belgian concentration camps.  
Italian parliament opened, Premier Salandra saying Italy would preserve armed neutrality; Belgium was cheered.

Dec. 4, 1914.  
Allies made repeated attacks on German line in Flanders.  
Russians won a victory at Lodz.  
Allies landed troops in Montenegro.  
France called youths eighteen years old for military examination.  
Mohammedan soldiers from Tunis sent to fight in army of allies.  
Turkey proclaimed holy war against Serbia and her allies; rioting in many towns.  
American students at Oxford took up relief work in Belgium.

Dec. 5, 1914.  
Allied aviators bombarded Baden.  
Italian chamber of deputies passed vote of confidence in government.  
British steamer Batisca sailed from America with food for Belgians.  
French made gains in Alsace and attacked Germans at St. Mihiel.  
Germans in Poland, re-enforced, formed new battle line and moved on Piotrkow.

### Dickens Drew From Life.

Smike, Charles Dickens' character in Nicholas Nickleby, seems to have been drawn from the life. Said the author in a letter apropos of that novel: "The rascality of those Yorkshire schoolmasters cannot be easily exaggerated. I have kept down strong truth and thrown as much comicality over it as I could rather than disgust the weary reader with its fouler aspects."

### Case of Hating Oneself.

Proprietor of a Concert Party (engaging a soprano)—"Now, I want you to understand, Miss Deery, that I like my boys and girls to be one big family—no quarreling, no jealousy." Miss Deery—"Oh, that's quite all right. I've never heard anything in the work of any other singer to give me the slightest cause for jealousy."

### Fool's Paradise.

Originally, in Christian mythology, a region "near the abode of the blessed," but not a part of it, a sort of borderland, "where dwelt the praiseless and the blameless dead." Today used to denote the mental condition of those who, by their vain hopes, are "fooling" themselves.

### Stretching Steel.

By the modern process of spinning metal thread it is possible to make a single pound of steel stretch a distance of 70 miles.

### Daily Thought.

There is an idea abroad among moral people that they should make their neighbors good. One person I have to make good—myself. But my duty to my neighbor is much more nearly expressed by saying that I have to make him happy—if I may.—Stevenson.

### Unfortunate Men.

Some men are so constructed that they simply have to swindle somebody, and rather than be idle they will bunko their friends.

## ONE ON THE OLD SQUIRE

Child's Misconstruction That Must Have Been in a Slight Degree Disconcerting.

The kindly old squire was giving a little treat to the village school children. After supper he stepped on to the platform and announced, with a beaming smile:

"Now, I am going to perform certain actions, and you must guess what proverb they represent. The boy or girl who succeeds first will receive a quarter."

That did it. Instantly every eye was fixed on him.  
First of all the old gentleman lay down on the platform. Then one came forward and tried in vain to lift him. Two others came to his aid, and between them they raised the squire, who was rather portly.

The actions were meant to represent the motto, "Union is strength." When they had finished, the squire stepped forward and asked if any child had solved the puzzle.

At once a grubby hand shot up and an eager voice squeaked:  
"Let sleeping dogs lie."

## BEHIND THE RUSSIAN GUNS

Writer Sees War and Peace Go Hand in Hand in the Great European Conflict.

The road slanted down till we were close to the crashing batteries. For hours we drove along behind a desultory but gigantic artillery battle. Gun after gun, each in its raw pit, covered with brush to shield it from aeroplanes.

In the very field of the artillery, peasants were calmly plowing with oxen, and in front of the roaring guns a boy in white linen drove cattle over the hill toward the pastures along the river. We met long-haired farmers, with orange poppies in their hats, unconcernedly drooping to town. Eastward the world rolled up in another slow hill that bore curved fields of young wheat, running in great waves before the wind. Its crest was torn and scarred with mighty excavations, where multitudinous tiny men swarmed over new trenches and barbed wire tangles.—John Reed in the Metropolitan Magazine.

### Their Achievements.

A promoter and a politician were boasting.

"I sell something I haven't got to people who don't want it," said the former.

"Huh! I have your best effort whipped to a quivering custard," replied the latter. "I sell them, for all the revenue they can rake and scrape, something that is worth nothing, and then get paid for making them like it."

### No Iron Cross for Officers.

Washington, too, had his iron crosses. However, they were merely badges, known as badges of military merit. This decoration was established by Washington in 1781, and was conferred upon noncommissioned officers and soldiers for three years' good conduct, or for specially meritorious service. They entitled the wearer to pass and repass all guards and military posts as fully and amply as any commissioned officer whatever.

### Assassins a Vicious Tribe.

The Assassins, or Assassians, a band of fanatical Mohammedans, came into Persia and settled there about 1090. They also possessed themselves of a large tract of land in Syria. They trained up the young to assassinate persons designated by their chief. From them came the word assassin. After making way with quite a number of rulers they were run out of Persia and Syria.

### One Exception.

"I can see the dollar behind the dime every time."  
"Not if it's a Mexican dime."

It's all right for a man to wake up in the morning fresh as a daisy, but it isn't right to let his freshness get too fresh.

There's nothing like being ready when opportunity knocks.

## DEMAND FOR PURE ENGLISH

New York Publication Criticizes the Style in Which Street Car Notices Are Worded.

"Public notices ought to be examples of the best writing. They should be written by masters of style. Take, for example, the notice in the street cars:

"Passengers requiring transfers must request same from conductors at the time of depositing fares in box."

Of course that is understandable. It is about as good English as one would expect in a judge's opinion. But it is not good enough for a notice that hundreds of thousands of people are to read every day. Here is New York spending forty millions a year for literature and other instruction for children who, when they ride in the street cars, are exposed to managers' English and taught, as to transfers to "request same from conductors."

Shocking! Of course the notice ought to read:  
"Passengers who want transfers must ask for them when they put their fares in the box."—Life.

## WOMEN DOING POLICE DUTY

Take the Places of Berlin Night Watchmen Who Are Serving Country at the Front.

Berlin, before the outbreak of the war, employed a force of men whose duty it was to patrol the less lively streets of the city at night to keep the peace. Men of good physique and tried integrity were selected for these positions. Each man learned his territory and knew the people of his streets. He was given a bunch of keys, a revolver and a sword. With the keys he was enabled to enter any house where he might suspect a robbery to be taking place, and sometimes it became his duty to accompany those belated wanderers who forget and lose their keys. The revolver and the sword, worn with the consent of the police, were seldom called into use.

Since the beginning of the war these night watchmen are women. The men who once filled the places are now serving their colors at the front. In most cases women whose husbands have been called to perform their military duties are selected.

### How He Saw the Louvre.

A French literary man fell in with one of the new order of American commercial men the other night and asked him if he had seen the sights of Paris.

"Yes," he said, "but I find that the police have closed most of the sights."  
"Oh, no," said his literary friend, "the real sights of Paris, the monuments, are always open—the Pantheon, Notre Dame, the Invalides, the Madeleine and the Louvre."

"Ah, yes. I have seen the Louvre thoroughly."

"Thoroughly?" said the French homme des lettres in surprise, recalling the labyrinthine vastness of the Louvre collection, "and how long did it take you?"  
"Fully an hour," was the reply, which has left the Frenchman puzzled ever since.

### Mouth-Breathing Danger Signal.

Of a child that habitually kept its mouth open people used to say that it had "a foolish look." They let it go at that. Nowadays understanding persons are quick to recognize the fact that the child needs medical and perhaps surgical treatment. The nasal passages, through which it should breathe, are obstructed, perhaps by adenoids.—Philadelphia Record.

### Not Particular.

"Jones says he's for peace at any price."  
"Oh, Jones would be for anything at any price."

### How Could He?

Doctor—Stick out your tongue farther.  
Boy—Can't. It's fastened to my back.—Judge.

Spending a dollar before it is earned is like eating an egg that is to be laid tomorrow.

# PERUNA

A STANDARD FAMILY REMEDY

For Ordinary Grip;  
For All Catarrhal Conditions;  
For Prevention of Colds.

## An Excellent Remedy

For The Convalescent;  
For That Irregular Appetite;  
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## Ever-Ready-to-Take

## WOMEN MAKE WAR MUNITIONS

Experiment Tried in England Has Been Satisfactory to an Extent That Pleases Authorities.

Women have proved to be very excellent machinists in England, pressed into this service by the exigencies of warfare. About 800 girls are now employed in the munitions factories of that country, and at an early date a great many more will be so engaged. Some of these have been at work four months, and were trained by such skilled operatives as were available for the work of instructors. These girls were found to be capable of a good output on many of the operations after only a week's instruction. Lady superintendents are in charge of the place night and day and a good mess-room is provided for meals. All the operations, with one exception, in the making of 18-pound shells are carried out by the girls. There is plenty of such labor available in the country, and all the women are moved by the keenest spirit of patriotism.

Many a man's future has been spoiled by his wife's social success.

Beautiful, clear white clothes delights the laundress who uses Red Cross Ball Blue. All grocers. Adv.

There is no more fallacious theory than the one to the effect that one man is as good as another.

To keep clean and healthy take Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets. They regulate liver, bowels and stomach.—Adv.

Nothing is so fatal to the romance of a stolen kiss as to have the girl sneeze at the wrong time.

Not Gray Hairs but Tired Eyes make us look older than we are. Keep your eyes young and you will look young. After the Movies always Marjine Your Eyes—Don't tell your age.

No Limit.  
"What do you do with your car when your wife is away?"  
"Everything."—Life.

Most of Them Should.  
"I'm a self-made man."  
"And you suffer no remorse?"—Boston Transcript.

Unanimous.  
"I wish and wish again I was in Michigan," sang the man with the barber shop tenor.  
"So do I," remarked a man in the front row.

His Lavish Linguipotence.  
"Those sonorous sentences that the Hon. Bray Lowder rolls forth with such an impressive display of mastodon pomposity and overpowering orotundity—"  
"Yeah! Sounds like the water coming down at Lodore in McGuffey's old Third Reader, doesn't it? The honorable keeps a large collection of portly platitudes preserved in glass jars for the obtusation of the unthinking."—Kansas City Star.

Could Not Understand Capacity.  
During the public inspection of a Red Cross hospital train on tour through Scotland thousands of people passed through the barrier at one particular station and came out at a different exit.

Open-eyed, a countryman stood at the entrance watching the crowds. At length he burst out to a bystander:  
"Great Scot! that man be an awfu' big train that's gawn the France. I've been standin' here for twa solid hours seein' the folk gang intil it, an' she's not filled yet."

# The Breakfast Shapes the Day

Load the stomach up with a breakfast of rich, greasy food, and you clog both digestion and mind.

For real work—real efficiency—try a breakfast of

# Grape-Nuts and Cream

Some fruit, an egg, toast, and a cup of hot Postum.

Then tackle the work ahead with vigor and a keen mind. There's joy in it.

Grape-Nuts is a food for winners.

## "There's a Reason"

Sold by Grocers everywhere.

