

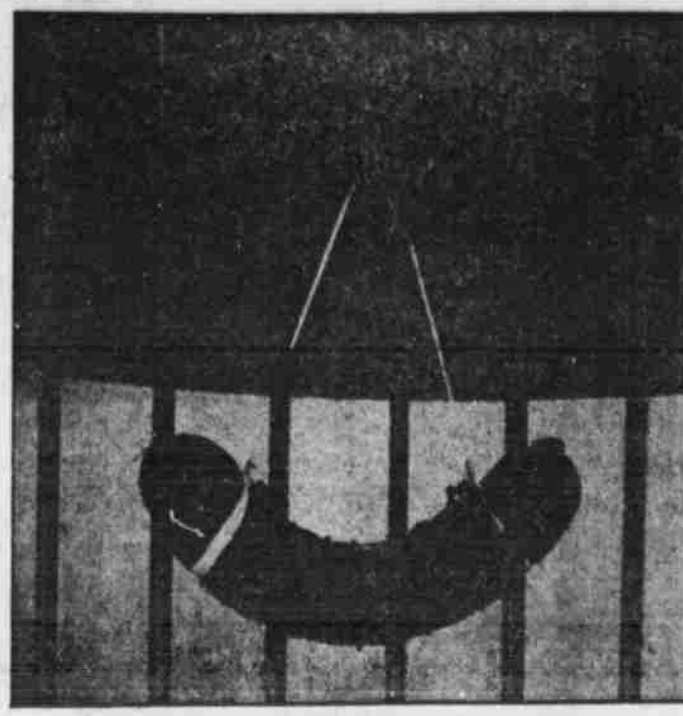
Variegated Ups and Downs of the Street Fair Freaks and Fakes



PEARL—THE FAT GIRL.



BEAUTIFUL BRIDAL CHAMBER.



FAMOUS ABYSSINIAN GROUND HOG.



MILLIE CHRISTINE—THE TWO-HEADED WOMAN.

WHERE do all the street fair attractions come from? Thousands of people have no doubt asked themselves the question. There is scarcely a side show, state fair or street carnival that is without its freaks and fakes. In fact, an attraction of this kind without a fat woman, living skeleton, two-headed monster or an armless wonder, would lose half its charm for a great many people.

A fake may be just as strong an attraction as a freak or a novelty. It was P. T. Barnum who said that the American people like to be humbugged. It is doubtless a fact that no other people exhibit such a consuming desire to be faked. The average American will patronize a fake just to see how bad a fake it is. There is a wide difference between the fake, the freak and the novelty. Sometimes it requires a fine discrimination to see the difference, but the average person doesn't know where to draw the line and sums them all up under one title by calling them all fakes.

No Freak Factory.

The average person has a hazy idea that the human freak is captured somewhere and afterward domiciled by those who make a business of hunting them. There are, however, no freak ranches. The idea that the freak habit is acquired, in other words, that these attractions are trained for the business in about the same manner that the actor trains for the stage, is also a misconception. The average freak is a freak because he can't help himself. If he could have been consulted in the matter he would have been something else. There is also no particular part of the world which is more prolific in the production of freaks than another. They come from the four quarters of the earth. Pearl, the fat girl at the carnival, came from Council Bluffs, where her parents live. Prince Nichol, the dwarf, came from Russia, and he is still a subject of the czar. The Lilliputian was 30 years old before he was unearthed by the side show manager.

The prince has an interesting history. His father was a Siberian exile. In Russia a record is kept of all male children from the day of birth and when they are old enough they are pressed into military service. When the conscript officers went after Nichol they found a dwarf who couldn't lift a gun, much less carry one. He was taken before the czar, at the czar's orders, who bestowed upon him his own name, with the title of prince, and pardoned the little man's father.

A Russian Case.

His manager, who is also a Russian, was in Texas when he read of the incident in

one of the papers. The dwarf's home was in his own neighborhood and he immediately saw a fortune in the little man and started abroad. With the aid of a friend he finally located the place. Nichol was playing in the yard, but when he saw the strangers he made a dive for the house. They found him sitting back of the stove turned to the wall. At first he could not be coaxed to face the strangers, who, he expected, were going to press him into the military service. A coin was handed him and he grabbed for it much like a monkey. Other coins were given him and he began to warm up toward his visitors. A rouble finally did the work. The idea of coming to America caught his fancy, but it required considerable red tape to get permission to take him out of the country. Prince Nichol picked up English quickly, but even now there are words and forms of speech which bother him.

He has a keen sense of humor. Mentally he displays the temperament of both the child and the man. His first question invariably was, "Are you a republican or a democrat?" If the visitor was a republican he held out his hand in a droll fashion. If the visitor was incautious enough to proclaim himself a democrat, the prince turned his back with a look of disgust that always brought a laugh. Someone asked him one day if he liked beer.

"You bet," was the quick reply.

"You like small glasses, I suppose," continued the inquirer. The prince made a wry face, opened his arms very wide and said: "I'm no kid."

Freaks Should Be Intelligent.

A good freak must be more than a curiosity. At least it adds to his value if he is a conversationalist and can entertain the crowd. A manager on the midway during the carnival said:

"I wouldn't give a nickel for a freak that can't talk. People are curious. They want to ask questions. They are not always satisfied with merely looking at a curiosity. They want to hear from the freak's own lips whether it hurts or whether he enjoys being a freak. There is not a more sensitive class of people in the world. As soon as they are able to notice that they are different from other people they avoid society and sometimes it takes pretty big inducements to shake off this timidity. Naturally they outgrow this sensitiveness and do not mind being stared at."

Oftentimes the giant, the living skeleton and the other peculiarities are not developed until he is pretty big. Some freaks are money makers; some are not. Much depends on the "speller." If he can con-

vince the people that it is the one attraction they have been waiting for all those years and that their happiness depends upon visiting this particular attraction, it is pretty apt to be a success. Otherwise it may be a money loser. It depends upon the humor of the crowd. Millie Christine, the two-headed wonder, made a half million dollars in the business and has made her managers rich besides. She owns the farm where she was born in slavery fifty-two years ago. Captain Smith, a son of the man who once owned her, has been her business manager at different times. Every freak is not a Millie Christine when it comes to drawing qualities.

Tricks of the Trade.

All of the shows have a "shilliverer," or runner-in, whose business it is to make a mad rush for the door and buy tickets as soon as the "shouter," or "speller," has finished his announcement of the wonders within. If the "shilliverer" is on to his job he knows the instant to make the dash, but at that acute moment when the spectator wavers on the brink of uncertainty and wonders whether to give way to his curiosity and put up the requisite coin or wait. This is the crucial moment. If the runner-in plays his part well the crowd is apt to follow at his heels. If the crowd don't bite he passes out under the tent and waits for the next galing through. Sometimes a woman is employed to do this work and not infrequently both a man and a woman are employed.

"Watched at once," bearded lady and other freaks and novelties for Faveville carnival, week of October 1. Wire man-

agers and name lowest salary first time." Newspaper accounts of monstrosities usually reach the eye of the manager sooner or later and the curiosity is snapped up if the price is within reason. Good prices are paid, but not fabulous ones.

The booking of attractions is an art. A novice may think he is booking novelties and find when the time comes that he has booked a job-lot of fakes of the first water, and pretty poor water at that. There are regular carnival companies which furnish any number of attractions. Usually a manager who knows the ropes books his own attractions. In booking for the carnival, Penny Moore, who has had charge of this work for Ak-Sar-Ben for several years, begins about the first of July.

"I book my own attractions," he said the other day. "The carnival company usually wants too much. We get from each attraction a percentage of the receipts. I have a personal acquaintance with a great many managers and get attractions in this way. It would be impossible to get by the ordinary methods. It took me two years to get Millie Christine. Advertisements are also put in the dramatic papers. This brings bushels of replies. The next thing, however, is to sift out the good from the bad. If a man is not on he is up against it, for he may have all sorts of inferior attractions rung on him and they will take advantage of him in other ways, especially in the matter of receipts."

How a Street Fair is Stocked.

"I have to contract with about fifty attractions to get twenty-two exhibitions.

The strength of the attraction may have nothing to do with it. The biggest fake may be the best drawing card. The financial success of the thing depends largely on how it is worked upon the outside.

The market, whether it is for a freak or a novelty, is never overstocked. The demand is usually greater than the supply. Promoters are always on the lookout for an advertisement in one of the dramatic papers will turn up any number of them. It is no uncommon thing to see an advertisement like the following in the dramatic papers:

"Wanted at once, bearded lady and other freaks and novelties for Faveville carnival, week of October 1. Wire man-

This year I got twenty-two attractions out of the forty that I contracted for. What becomes of the others? Oh, they back out, some of them at the last minute. After a contract has been signed and double-riveted with all sorts of conditions, they may get a chance to go somewhere for bigger money, perhaps, and off they go. We can't hold them to the contract until they get here and have their traps on the ground. Until they are here we are never sure of them. We have to keep tracers out for them until they arrive and even then they give us the slip at the very last minute. If every attraction came that we closed contracts with we might be up against it, but we know they won't come. When they come they pay us a percentage of what they take in. They have to take their chances with wind and weather the same as we do. We promise to furnish the crowds. They have to do the rest.

"They may get the nut and they may not. This is a term used to express the fact that they have covered their expenses. 'A meal ticket' is a star attraction. 'A derby,' means a good-good show, or a winning show. 'A bloomer,' is an attraction that has not met with success and a 'come along' is an easy mark in Midway parlance.

"Some of these attractions made a jump of 500 or more miles coming and going. These jumps cost something and they have to take chances. Most of my attractions this year came from the St. Louis suburban gardens. It cost that centrifugal swing several hundred dollars to make the jump here from Kansas City. It is almost all iron and besides weighing a good deal it takes about a car and a half to move it. I think the apparatus weighs twenty tons.

"Almost all the attractions that were here were packed up and loaded by Sunday morning. Some of them are bound for southern states, where they make the fare in the winter. Some jump as far as Georgia. Others will do the museums and winter resorts in the larger cities. It pays? Of course it pays or their expenses would eat them up in a short time."

Good Fakes Go Well.

There is a general impression that the sidewalk novelties are purchased from some firm which makes a business of this kind of work. The reverse is true. "The Galveston Flood and 'The Cave of the Winds' were made by the geniuses who exhibited them. The laughing mirrors, Galathea, who changed from flesh and blood into stone and vice versa, are effects which can be purchased. Often, however, they are made to order.

Prof. Bessey's World's Fair Observations-II

ONE afternoon I went over to see the out-of-door map made by the bureau of plant industry of the United States Department of Agriculture and covering several acres of ground. Here on a sloping hillside is an immense map of the United States, showing every state and territory. The boundaries are narrow walks which separate the states. Each state is a plot of ground on which are grown samples of its principal crops, in proper proportions. Thus on the Nebraska plot there is a large area planted to corn, and another to wheat a little smaller, and another still smaller to oats, etc. North Dakota has large areas given to wheat and flax, and a much smaller one to corn. In the south the "cotton belt" is shown by cotton plants covering large areas, while in Louisiana, South Carolina and North Carolina there are considerable areas of rice. It was an exceedingly instructive exhibit.

The School Gardens.

And right here I found one of the prettiest things in all the grounds. It seems that some one in the bureau conceived the idea of having a school garden in actual operation during the fair and having it cared for by children from the public schools of St. Louis. Thirty plots were assigned to as many groups of school children, and these have been planted and attended to by them during the season. While I was there the children still came daily to look after their gardens, as they had done for months. No more helpful or suggestive thing could be imagined than such a garden as this, and those who designed and carried it out are entitled to a great deal of credit. I am sure that if the teachers in the public schools could see these garden plots and the care of the children, and especially if they could talk to Prof. Wheeler, who had charge of the garden, they would be as enthusiastic as I am over this work. I should like to see school gardens in connection with every school in the country. They would do much to make school life more enjoyable. They would do still more in awakening a love for out-of-door life.

"I am here primarily to attend the 'Inter-

national Congress of Arts and Science," which is to bring together from all parts of the world men eminent in all departments of knowledge, from art, philosophy, history and literature, to mathematics, physics, chemistry and biology, to medicine, technology, politics, education and religion. So I go to the registration room, where I find many familiar faces and many strange ones. I enter my name, and an duly badge and supplied with such credentials will admit me to any part of the grounds during my stay. Then I sally forth to see and hear. The purpose of the congress is to bring together men prominent in many lines of theoretical and applied science, and through a discussion of the mutual relations of their work to promote unification. 'Tis this end about its "sectional" and "departmental" meetings were provided, at which nearly 300 carefully prepared papers were read. The program began on Monday afternoon and continued until Saturday evening. About 500 men took part in the great gathering.

It is impossible to give the names of even a small per cent of the eminent men who were present. I select a few at random—Ostwald of Leipzig, Picard of Paris, Mahaffy of Dublin, Brewster of Washington, Hozumi of Tokio, Jespersen of Copenhagen, Fortwangler of Munich, Harnack of Berlin, Ramsey of London, Baskind of Russia, Farrow of Harvard, De Vries of Amsterdam, Bower of Glasgow, Drude of Dresden, Hertwig of Berlin, Bryce of London, LaFontaine of Brussels, Biagi of Florence, Butler of Columbia and Wheeler of California. This score of names must suffice to show the kind of men who made up this notable gathering.

Notable Botanical Addresses.

I was especially glad to hear Prof. De Vries, the noted botanist of the University of Amsterdam, who discussed some of the recent views as to the method of evolution. He was followed by Prof. Whitman of the University of Chicago, the well known zoologist, who took issue with his predecessor and proved himself fully his equal in mastery of his subject. Next day Prof. Bower of the University of Glasgow and Prof. Goebel of the University of Munich discussed with great profundity certain problems in plant structure, while later in the day Prof. Wiesner of the University of Vienna and Prof. Dugger of the University of Missouri took up plant physiology. The forenoon of another day was given to that part of botany which deals with the

diseases of plants, with Prof. Arthur of Purdue university and Prof. Waite of the United States Department of Agriculture as the principal speakers, and in the afternoon the mutual relations of plants to each other were discussed by Prof. Drude of the Royal Technical High school of Dresden and Prof. Robinson of Harvard university. The meetings were well attended and proved very instructive.

Banquets of the Scientists.

During the congress two notable banquets were given in honor of the members. One was the "Annual Shaw Banquet," founded by Henry Shaw in order to perpetuate his memory. It will be remembered that he founded the "Shaw Gardens," and when he died he left orders in his will that his executors should set aside annually \$1,000 to provide for a banquet in his memory. This was the fifteenth banquet, and I can assure the readers of The Farmer that Henry Shaw was gratefully remembered by 200 or 300 hungry and appreciative scientific men on that evening. The second banquet was a special one given by President Francis of the Louisiana Purchase exposition to the officers and speakers of the congress. Personal invitations were sent out early in the week and fully 500 of the scientific men accepted. You may talk of the absorbed and absent-minded scientist, but there must have been very few such in St. Louis, for while there was a good deal of absorption noticed in the banquet, it was not of the kind we read about. Nor was there any absent-mindedness, but on the contrary a keen appreciation of the good things on the table.

Among the after-dinner speakers was the renowned James Bryce of London. The first toast of the evening to the president of the United States was received with enthusiasm. It was followed by many others appropriate to the occasion. The beautiful room, brilliantly lighted, decorated with costly plants, festooned with the flags of all nations, with the French National band occupying the south end and with the galleries filled with bright-eyed women, all made a scene never to be forgotten.

CHARLES E. BESSEY.

Plans for Commander Peary's New Ship

COMMANDER Robert E. Peary, the Arctic explorer, has been at Verona, nineteen miles down the Penobscot from Bangor, Me., consulting with Captain Charles P. Dix of the New York firm of McKay & Dix concerning changes in the model of the ship which is to be built in McKay & Dix's Verona yard this winter and in which he will make his fourth attempt to reach the North Pole.

Great secrecy is maintained as to the design of the vessel, and photographers are not allowed in or near the model left. Commander Peary will not allow any photographs to be made of the model until after the ship has been framed out, nor will he allow sketches or drawings to be made.

A crew of carpenters is at work building a shed, 20 feet long, 10 feet wide and 50 feet high, under which the vessel is to be constructed. This building is to be heated by steam and lighted by electricity, so that no time may be lost, as the contract calls for the delivery of the vessel at Portland, ready to receive its machinery, on February 15. Shipbuilding out-of-doors in Maine winter weather is pretty slow and rather uncomfortable work.

Thus far a little work has been done on the stern frame, but no great progress can be made until the arrival from Virginia of the oak timbers for the keel, and these timbers have been delayed by an accident on a railroad near Washington.

The keel will be very heavy, consisting of three sawed oak timbers, each 8 by 8 inches, making when joined a 24-inch keel.

These are to be planked with six-inch hard pine, planed and calked, and outside of that there will be oak sheathing, planed and calked, with iron sheathing over that.

Commander Peary said in an interview that his voyage this time would probably

occupy not less than fifteen months, and should the weather be severe might be extended to twenty-seven months. He continued:

"This new ship will be 134 feet long on deck, 35 feet beam and 16 feet 9 inches depth of hold. It will have an extra heavy frame of Virginia oak, with double bottom frames, and heavily bunked up with timber fore and aft.

"It will not be a three-masted schooner with auxiliary steam, but a steamer with auxiliary sail—about 2,000 square yards on three pole masts. We shall depend chiefly on the steam power, using sail only when convenient or in case its coal should become exhausted.

"Its engines will be of 1,000 indicated horse power, but capable of developing, for limited periods, 1,500 horse power. That will make it by far the most powerful ship ever constructed for the Arctic voyage, the best ship before this having had only about 450 horse power.

"I shall fit out in New York and probably sail from there in the early part of July. We shall have only one substitution for this expedition, that being at Cape Sabine, in 73 degrees north latitude, and I shall leave supplies there in care of the natives. Then we shall go north in the steamer as far as 83 degrees, which will be within 50 miles of the Pole.

"Probably we shall be frozen in there, and then we shall leave the vessel and make the dash overland by sledges for the Pole. We may be able to get further north than 83 degrees with the steamer. That will depend on what kind of a season we have.

"There will not be more than fifteen men in the party this time. My daughter may go as far as Cape Sabine, but if so she will return at the end of the summer."—New York Sun.



THE GRASS GARDENS OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN THE BACK GROUND AND THE LEFT IS THE LIVING MAP, FLORIDA MAP AN EMBROIDERED MAPS THE BIG MON.

Wierd Fascination of Money Making

THE vast majority of visitors there is no room in the Philadelphia mint so fascinating as the premises in the room where the marked pieces of gold and silver are stamped by the thousands. Twenty-four presses do all the coining for the mint. Pieces of small denominations, like quarters and dimes, are coined at the rate of 100 pieces a minute, while those of the larger denominations are coined at the rate of eighty a minute. The largest output of money in one day in the Philadelphia mint was \$600,000. There can be no calculation of an average daily output, as no two days are exactly alike in the kind of coining that is done. Sometimes all presses do not work at once, sometimes all work on silver or all on gold, so that there is nothing that will serve as the basis for calculation.

Until very recently women employed in the mint were entrusted with all kinds of work. The coining room or the stamping room, especially, was occupied by women workers. Women sat at the presses and fed the machinery, and they did it as well as men. Now, when it has become necessary to accumulate votes the women are dismissed and men put in their places. Surely, this is a field for the suffrage enthusiast, which also offers a striking ex-

ample of the economic value of women's work, for, besides suffering the indignity of being thrust ruthlessly from their positions the women know that the men receive higher wages for doing the same kind of work. With women work in the mint in this respect is not exactly enviable, for political conditions increase or lessen their influence in retaining their positions.

The counting board has attracted considerable attention from all the visitors to the mint. It is rather a unique device for counting money that has come into vogue within recent years. All the coins are placed upon the board and when every niche is filled it is emptied. Some of the counting boards measure out as many as 500 worth of quarters at a time. It takes but a couple of seconds to fill the board and then it is turned into a box, and 500 more is added to the money stored up in the inaccessible regions of the mint's safe deposit vault. Nothing could be simpler, nothing could be quicker than this modern device for counting money, yet for a great number of years the employees labored over the counting, which was done in a way that was both cumbersome and expensive.

Besides the mint here there are three mints in this country, one in San Francisco, one in New Orleans and one in Denver, but Philadelphia leads them all—Philadelphia Record.

SOME OF THE CHILDREN WHO PLANTED AND CARED FOR THE SCHOOL GARDENS, WITH THEIR TEACHER. AT THE RIGHT IS PROF. WHEELER.

THE LIVING MAP AND THE OUTDOOR EXHIBIT OF THE BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AT THE WORLD'S FAIR, '04.