

QUAINT CUSTOMS.

The Widow's Sixpence and the Widow's Bun on Good Friday, as Observed in Greater London.

A number of quaint customs peculiar to Good Friday were observed in London and other parts. The origin of many of them has been lost, but so far as two that were observed in the metropolis are concerned, the events leading up to them are well known. They are "The Widow's Sixpence" and "The Widow's Bun."

With regard to the former, a number of poor widows assembled in the churchyard of St. Bartholomew.

Following a service in the church the old people, headed by the senior church warden, made their way to the tombstone selected for the purpose, and there each recipient picked up her sixpence, to which was added this year through the kindness of a well-wisher at Westgate-on-Sea, a hot-cross bun, a half-crown and a shawl.

These sixpences (twenty in number) are now subscribed for by private individuals, but formerly they were provided out of a fund left by a lady, who, in the early days of the Reformation, bequeathed a certain sum of money, and directed that the interest on the sum left should be placed on her grave in sixpences and given to the poor widows of London. This charity recently was disapproved of by the Charity Commissioners, and the money was directed to be spent in other channels.

The second custom took place in the east end, at what might be termed a wayside inn, and known by the sign of the Widow's Son, in Devon's road, Bow. Precisely at one o'clock, when the house opens, the landlord placed an ordinary hot-cross bun to a bunch already blackened with age hanging from the ceiling of the bar. There was at one time an element of seriousness about the ceremony, though now it is made in a measure an excuse for jollity.

The origin of the custom dates back many years, when a widow kept the house. Being so close to the neighborhood of the docks, her only son chose to go to sea, and the last letter he wrote home stated—so the story runs—that he would be home to eat the hot-cross bun on the Good Friday if she had one. She got one, but the son did not return, and the mother, believing that her son would return later, he not having stipulated any particular Good Friday, announced her intention of providing a hot-cross bun every year until he did come home. This she did to the day of her death.

Then the sign of the house was changed to "The Widow's Son," and every year this custom is kept up by the landlord of stringing a bun up to the one placed in position the previous year.—London Daily Mail.

A British Co-operative Society.

The annual Workingmen's Co-operative Congress, recently in session at Middlesborough, listened to an extraordinary tale of its marvelous development. In 1844 28 men combined to pool their capital of \$140. Their trade the first year was \$3,550. At the close of 1900 there were in Great Britain 1,434 distributing societies, having a membership of 1,709,371, with a share capital amounting to \$102,831,155, doing a trade of over \$250,000,000, and handing back to its members \$38,756,690, a net saving of 15 per cent. of the spending power of the consumer.

An English Cliff Dweller.

Something like the pre-historic cliff dwellers of the Southeast is John Barney, another English freak, who for seven years has lived, moved and had his being in a niche in a disused quarry in what is known in England as the New Forest. His carpet is pine boughs and his table is a flat stone. His household goods consist of a tin mug, a knife and an iron plate. He gave up the trade of carpenter because he wanted to be more free. His wants are so simple that he earns more than he can spend by collecting faggots and snoring and stuffing weasels, which he sells in town.

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STANDARD TIME.

A Table of the Hour reckonings of All Nations.

The difficulty of appreciating the difference in time that prevails between different countries is very general, and the following list is printed for the purpose of a ready reference guide by which to calculate the time of any occurrence in another country. All nations, except Spain, Portugal and Russia, calculate their time from the meridian of Greenwich, accepting as standard some even hour meridian, east or west of Greenwich. For instance:

Western European time, or that of the meridian of Greenwich, is legal in England, Belgium, Holland and Luxemburg.

Central European time, or one hour east of Greenwich, is legal in Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Congo Free State, Denmark, Italy, Serbia, Sweden, Norway and Switzerland.

Eastern European time, or two hours east of Greenwich, is adopted by Bulgaria, Roumania, Natal and Turkey in Europe.

Eight hours east of Greenwich applies to the Philippines.

Nine hours east of Greenwich is adopted by Central Australia and Japan.

Ten hours east of Greenwich is official in Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania.

Eleven and a half hours east has been adopted by New Zealand.

The United States, Canada and Mexico have adopted the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth hours west of Greenwich.

The Hawaiian Islands adopted the meridian of ten and a half hours west. In Spain the meridian of Madrid, fourteen minutes, forty-five seconds west of Greenwich, is legal; in Portugal, that of Lisbon, or thirty-six minutes, thirty-nine seconds west, and in Russia that of St. Petersburg, or two hours, one minute and thirty seconds east of Greenwich.

When Knighthood Was In Flower.



Sir Percy—See, fair one, I kneel at thy feet.



The Lady Corisande—Arise, rash knight, my father comes!



Sir Percy—Confound these spoked wheels! I can't get 'em out of the floor!—Chicago News.

What is

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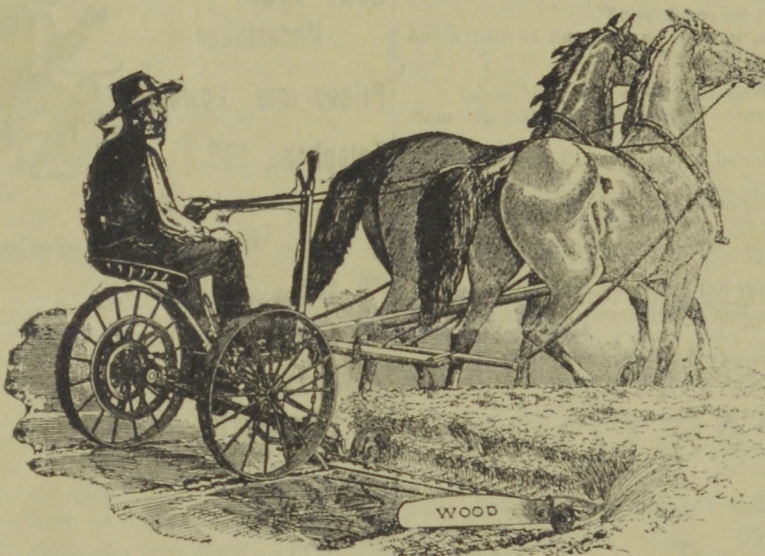
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BYE-LAW.

L. 8 (Signed) Wesley Vanwart, Mayor of Fredericton

Be it Enacted by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonality of the City of Fredericton, as follows:—

1. Every person who is within the City of Fredericton the owner, possessor or harbinger, of a dog or bitch, shall pay a yearly license for each such dog or bitch, as follows:—

For each male dog.....\$1.00
For each female dog or bitch.....\$3.00

2. Every person who is in the City of Fredericton, aforesaid, the owner, possessor or harbinger of a dog or bitch, shall before the first day of August in each year, procure and cause such dog or bitch to be described, in the year ensuing, in the office of the City Treasurer, and shall cause such dog or bitch to wear around his or her neck, a collar of metal, or of leather with metal plate, on which metal or plate shall be inscribed the name of such person, and to which collar shall be secured or attached a metal check upon which shall be inscribed the letters F. T. P. (Fredericton Tax Paid) and figures indicating the year for which such tax has been paid, and a number corresponding with the number under which said dog or bitch is for the time being registered in the books of the City Treasurer.

3. Every person shall on payment of the tax imposed by section one of this law, and registering his dog as provided in section two, be furnished free of charge with the check mentioned in the next preceding section.

4. Any police constable, city marshal, or other person authorized for that purpose by the Mayor, City Council, or Police Magistrate, may seize any dog or bitch found running at large or elsewhere than on premises of the owner, possessor, or harbinger thereof, contrary to the provisions of this law, and it shall be the duty of such police constable, city marshal, or other person so to do; and every such police constable, city marshal, or other person shall forthwith after making such seizure, deliver such dog or bitch to the Pound Keeper of the city; and it shall be the duty of the Pound Keeper to whom the same shall be delivered to impound such dog or bitch in a suitable box or stall, to be by him provided for that purpose, and supply it with food and water while so impounded; and in case it shall not be reclaimed as hereinafter provided within six days after it shall have been delivered to the Pound Keeper, it shall be the duty of the Pound Keeper to kill such dog or bitch.

5. The owner, possessor or harbinger of any dog or bitch impounded under the foregoing section may reclaim his or her dog or bitch on application to the Pound Keeper and proof of ownership, and on payment to the Pound Keeper of the sum of twenty-five cents for each and every day the said dog or bitch has been impounded, and the further sum of three dollars, one dollar of which shall be retained by the Pound Keeper, one dollar paid to the person or persons by whom such dog or bitch shall have been impounded, and one dollar to the City Treasurer to form part of the city revenue.

6. Any person or persons so keeping or harboring or allowing to be kept or harbored, any dog or bitch within the City of Fredericton, neglecting or refusing to comply with the provisions of the first section of this bye-law, shall be liable to a penalty of three dollars for each and every dog or bitch so kept; and in case any person or persons shall neglect or refuse to take out a License for any such dog or bitch within four days next after any conviction, under this bye-law, said person or persons shall be liable to a further penalty of four dollars for each and every subsequent offence.

7. All licenses issued under the provisions of this bye-law shall expire on the first day of August next following the date of the issue thereof.

8. Dogs and bitches under the age of six months are excepted from the provisions of this law.

9. This law shall come into full operation, force, and effect, on the first day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five.

10. The bye-law passed on the fifth day of August, A. D. 1896, entitled, "A Law to impose a tax on the owners or harborers of dogs, and otherwise restrain the keeping of dogs in the City of Fredericton," and any and all bye-laws passed in amendment thereof and in addition thereto are hereby repealed. Passed and enacted this twentieth day of June, A. D. 1895.

(Signed)

Chas. W. Beckwith, City Clerk.

July 15 d eod

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