TO RECLAIM LAND

Holland Plans to Drain Part of the Zuyder Zee.

Project, if Carried Out, Will Add an Enormous Amount of Territory to Little Country.

The wonderful little country of Holland is maintained as a safe place for human habitation by means of huge pumping stations and miles upon miles of dykes. Were it not for the dykes, the result of years upon years of building, the sea would sweep over the land. If you should take a ride in a motorboat sround the coast, and peep over the dyke, you would discover the roofs of farm buildings just level with your eyes.

At the seaside resorts the only hill in the place is the hill you must climb in order to get to the water's edge. The hill was built by human hands in the age-old fight against the incessant and tireless assaults of the ocean.

Until about 50 years ago the Dutch depended entirely upon windmills to pump the water to the canals which carry off the surplus water, so that the farm lands may not be submerged. Then steam pumps came into general use, and the quaint but cumbersome windmills were pulled down. During the war, it looked for a while as though the Hollanders would have to rebuild their windmills on account of the acute coal shortage.

However, looking upon the other side of the picture, the Dutch enjoy advantages not possessed by other countries. By means of dykes and pumps they may enlarge their domains at will. Today cattle are grazing over wide areas, where 80 years ago fishes were swimming.

A much larger scheme still is now on foot which will add to Holland a whole large country consisting of farming land as rich as the richest portion of many of our states. The whole of the southern part of the Zuyder Zee is to be reclaimed, after being 700 years under the water.

For the redemption of this particular area is in the nature of a counter-offensive by the Dutch. On St. Elizabeth's day in 1223 their hereditary enemy, the North sea, made a big and successful push. Advancing in a huge tidal wave, it swept over 150 square miles of low-lying farmlands, and formed what has since been the southern part of the Zuyder Zee. Many villages vanished beneath the water and 70,000 people lost their lives.

The plan now is to recover all this land, and besides the economic gain, romantically minded people look forward to finding rich treasures there, ancient hoards engulfed with their owners on that wild night when the North sea raced over the land.

Some, however, foretell disastrous results from tampering with nature's dispensations. The Zuyder Zee, they say, forms a great drainage basin for the whole of northern Holland; if it is suppressed the water that would have flowed off there in time of flood may cause inundations. The question is a serious one, for in Holland even great rivers flow to the sea only by artificial aid.

Cliff Timber for Violins.

Valuable violins are being manufactured from wood taken from the ruins of cliff dwellers near Aztec, N. M.

While excavating recently Carl Morris, research investigator for the Smithsonian institution, found a number of perfectly preserved timbers which are believed to have been used in constructing the homes of the cliff dwellers.

The dwellings were estimated to be over a thousand years old, and, due to the dry, hot climate that prevails in the vicinity of the ruins, the wood has become so well seasoned that high class violins are being made from it which have a tone, it is said, equal to that of an instrument that has been in use for a number of years.

The instruments are all of fine quality and are bringing high prices.—Kansas City Journal.

Incriminating Publicity.

"All right, senator," said the newspaper photographer, "just clasp hands with Mr. Grabcoin here and I'll take your picture."

"Young man, Mr. Grabcoin and I understand each other. I'd prefer to be photographed shaking hands with some impecunious citizen. There's no use giving my political enemies another opportunity to make the false accusation that I'm too friendly with the moneyed interests."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

The Poet Laureate.

For many centuries in England the poet laureate was an official attached to the king's household. He was originally called the "king's versifier." In modern times the honor is usually conferred upon a poet of some distinction and is held for life. He has no compulsory duties to perform, but he is expected to compose an ode of honor on special state occasions. Great poets have held the office, including William Wordsworth and Lord Tennyson.

Otherwise Occupied.

One morning a neighbor accosted Gertrude:

"I wonder if your little brother could go on an errand for me?"

Gertrude thought it over for a second and then said: "He might manage to go by and by, but not right away, 'cause he is busy just now getting spanked."

ONE OF MAN'S OLDEST ARTS

Velvet Has Been Made Since the Earliest Days of Which History Has Record.

The art of velvet making was practiced in the legendary days of Indo-China. It is one of the oldest of arts, since it was the first imitation of man's first garment, fur. Even after spinning and weaving had become known, the ocellated pelt of the great felines killed in hunting was the dress for important occasions, and the most beautiful of ancient fabrics shows that the ambition of the weaver was to surpass his model and copy the fur of the animal in something finer by far. The discovery of silk substituted soft threads for hair, and the threads took the dyes as no fur could take them.

Asia kept the art of velvet making secret for centuries, an exchange states. No one wore velvet but royal personages, and it was for the most part seen only in the processions of the rajahs. Even in these times the Chinese and the Japanese rasp their threads with knives in order to give the tissue the aspect of real fur. Indian velvet rippling with pearls as large as birds' eggs, diamond dewdrops and cloudy, red corundrum, was seen in the processions of the durbar.

The Arabs were the first to exhibit velvet to the lands bordering on the Mediterranean. The first caliphs were simple, pious, and savage people; they were not tempted by Asiatic luxury. But the Islam that came after the caliphs drove its roots into the heart of the ancient world and invaded the Aryan lands of the Hindus and the Ganges. The Arabs boasted of their commercial zeal. Their caravans of camels crossed the desert and wound through the mountain passes of Iran, carrying rare tissues, jewels, and perfumes and now and then a carefully protected piece of velvet lay under the folds of a praying-rug.

The splendid court of the Abbasside caliphs loved the silken pile of fabrics of India. Bagdad was a city of silk and velvet, and the conquerors of Africa and Spain contrasted strangely with the iron-clad warriors of the Cross. In all the ages velvet was held sacred by the Mussulmans. At Medina, in Damascus, and in Stamboul, they employed it to drape the tombs of their caliphs and their saints; and when their warriors set out to die upon the fields of battle that part of their trappings that did not gleam was covered with velvet.

Cures Tomato's Ills.

Following our example set in the United States, the British government is aiding an experimental station at Turner's Hill, near London, to eliminate disease in tomatoes. So successful is this station that most of the enemies of the tomato have been vanquished, at an estimated saving to growers of about $220,000 a year, it is said.

Thirty-five years ago the first glass houses for the cultivation of tomatoes were built in the Chestnut area of the valley of the River Lea, near London. This district now presents a vast array of glass houses, being in the center of a thriving industry.

It sends tomatoes, not only to London, but to the north country manufacturing cities of England, and to the continent. Agents in the Worthing and Chestnut districts make good livings insuring the glass. After one of the heavy hailstorms which occasionally visit the British isles, insurance companies are called upon to disburse large amounts to replace broken panes.

Showy Dress Illegal in Olden Days.

Lace and embroideries were prohibited by order of the general court of Massachusetts in 1634. Many people were tried and punished for wearing ostentatious apparel. In Northampton, in 1676, 38 women were brought up at one time in court for their "wicked apparel." Not only did the law makers and courts try to stop the increase of showy clothing, but also the ministers took up the refrain and preached against the display of finery.

Earle, a leading historian of this period, says: "After a while the whole church interfered. In 1679, the church at Andover put it to a vote whether 'the parish Disapprove of the female sex sitting with their Hats on in the Meeting-house in the time of Divine Service as being Indecent.' In the town of Abingdon, in 1775, it was voted that it was 'an indecent way that the female sex do sit with their hats and bonnets on to worship God.' Still another town voted it was 'the Town's Mind' that the women should take their bonnets off in the meeting and 'hang them on the peggs.'"

Believe It or Not.

A big game hunter had just returned from the hills and was recounting some of his adventures.

"The most astonishing experience I had," he said, "was when I fired my last bullet at a bear and missed him."

"Did the bear give you a chase?" asked one of the listeners.

"No. You see he knew me by reputation and was so surprised at my missing him that he fainted dead away."—American Legion Weekly.

Making Tibet Known.

Tibet, it is hoped, will not much longer be the land of mystery, nor the outside world a land of the unknown to the Tibetans. They are to be shown, through movies, the world of other men. In exchange it is hoped they will allow films to be taken of the wonders of Tibet. A British Buddhist mission is on the way to Tibet to take the pictures.

STYLE THEMES IN WRAPS ARE ALL OF RICH THINGS

"SING a song of sixpence," and it will have no word in it about dressy fall coats. Their theme is all of rich things, of luxurious fabrics, superb embroideries and soft furs, but it may be said to their credit that they look even more expensive than they really are. Wraps are handsome and sumptuous, they have never been more becoming, and even those that dispense with embroidery are luxurious and rich looking.

There are many fall wraps that are innocent of embroideries, but furs are everywhere present. They are so universally used that to say "coat" is to mean at least a fur collar. Often there are cuffs to match, and sometimes trimming as well. Furs are so in keeping with the soft-faced, lustrous, pile fabrics used for wraps, the temptation to add them is irrisistible. In the two handsome coats pictured the designers have shown how well suited to one another duvetine, fur and embroidery are. They have selected a warm, deep pile fabric and adorned it generously with things that measure up to its luxurious qualities.

In dressy wraps designers seem to show preference for bloused models. Two impressive examples are pictured, both of them bloused, both embroidered and both elegantly equipped with fur in collar and cuffs.

In the coat at the left, embroidery is massed on the upper portion where sleeves and body, cut in one, make a cape-like expanse of the fabric as a background. The collar and cuffs are of dark marten fur. In the other coat the embroidery appears in panels on the sleeves and on the sides of the skirt portion. Fox fur provides the shawl collar, the deep cuffs and bands at the bottom of the side panels.

Linings in these handsome wraps are often in plain heavy crepe de chine and sometimes two or three colors are combined in them—a light color at the top half and dark at the bottom half of the garment, or three colors are used in wide bands joined by narrow, fancy silk braids.

Among the more expensive wraps, including coats and capes of fur, plain linings of heavy crepe de chine are richly decorated with embroidery of flowers or conventional designs. These are in brilliant colors and so arranged that they form deep borders about the hem line. Other forms of decoration are used in which plaited or fluted ribbons play a conspicuous part in large medallions placed on the lining near the front of the garment and not far above the hem line—nothing is too rich for this season's wraps.

Julia Bottomley

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LITTLE LADIES APPROVE THESE OFF-THE-FACE HATS

AFTER the children's school hats have been bought, their dress-up needs in millinery are usually held in abeyance for a while. The important matter of selecting hats for grownups come first and is engrossing; besides, many discriminating women buy only plain fine hats (of felt, velours or beaver with simple ribbon trimming) for their young daughters. They do not experiment with other styles and wait until the staple lines they choose from are all on display.

If the choice is left to the children themselves they are apt to like hats that are more like those their elders wear. Designers are very clever in mimicking some of the grownup shapes and developing them in a way that is delightfully childish. They have taken the off-the-face hat, for instance, and interpreted the idea in successful models for little girls, and four of them are shown in the group pictured here. These pretty hats have the usual charm of miniatures; small ladies adore them and their elders can't help admiring them.

Duvetine and other suede-finished cloths, silk and velvet, furnish the materials that designers work with, and ribbon remains their main dependence as a trimming, although they introduce cunning yarn flowers and amusingly simple embroidery, with telling effect. In the group pictured a soft hat at the top, with flexible crown, is made of corded silk, the cording appearing in both crown and brim. A saucy rosette of narrow ribbon is posed on the upturned brim at the front. At the left another soft hat of duvetine, has its crown ornamented with braid and a ribbon collar ending in loops and ends, all hanging off the brim at the right side. Velvet makes the smart, childish hat with puffed crown, at the right of the group. It has a rolled-up brim that invites needlework decoration. A flower motif is sketched on it with chain stitch of silk floss. It has a ribbon sash about the crown with falling ends at the back. Velvet is tucked to make the hat at the bottom of the group. Like all the others, it is flexible, both its crown and brim are soft. Silk cords ending in fur balls, fall from the crown and dangle to the shoulder.

In the plainer hats of felt, velours and beaver, the shapes are greatly varied and the colors are exquisite. Wide ribbons, in collars about the crowns, are finished with rosettes or with tailored bows and ends. Yarn flowers of angora wool are used on hats for older girls, and remind one of blossoms veiled in a mist. There are hats of this sort for all ages from the three-year-old to the debutante.

Julia Bottomley

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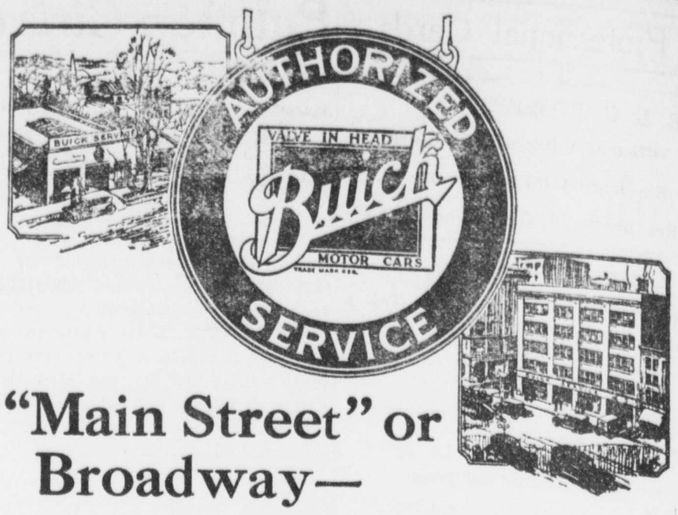

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