

BEATS THEY ALL DREAD

ENGLISH CITIES HAVE DISTRICTS HARD TO POLICE.

In Some of the Slum Sections It is Customary For Two Constables to Patrol the Streets Together and Often Three Are Engaged—Hoologans Whose Chief Ambition Is to "Bash the Cop"—London's Evil Quarters.

That the policeman is ever ready to risk his life for the country he serves is illustrated by the conduct of the constables who were leading a party in the Houndsditch burglary and the Sidney Street siege in London. Furthermore, it will probably surprise many readers to learn that about one in every six London policemen is injured during the year, either by accident or through assault when making arrests.

It might be said without fear of exaggeration that the average constable who patrols the East End of London has more dangers to face than a soldier on a battlefield. There are unsavory streets in Whitechapel, Stepney, and adjacent districts, where it would be deemed an act of gallantry to appear alone, even in the daytime. Constables generally patrol these criminal-infested quarters in pairs.

Almost equally dangerous to the "man in blue" is the area that extends from the back of the Borough to the Tower Bridge, bordered on one side by Tooley Street and by Long Lane on the other. This district includes a great number of what are known as "warehouse beats." In all the great cities there are certain districts given over to the warehouses, and these are deserted and silent as churchyards in the nighttime. The policemen on duty have to walk down the passages that separate the warehouses and try each door, and probably they will not meet a human being, unless it be a burglar taking his bearings, or a man might to do some "tunnel beats," that is, districts which comprise subways and arches, are almost as nerve-trying to constables as "warehouse beats." They are often the scenes of murders, robberies with violence, and similar crimes. One of the most "tunnel beats" is said to be in Leeds. In the heart of the city there are numerous arches, and the police authorities have found it advisable to have them closely watched, both by night and by day. The arches are haunted by these characters, and most of the "tunnel beats" have been found there during recent years.

The haunts of the "peaky blinder" of Birmingham—the type of character known in London as the hoologan—are almost as bad as the worst districts in Whitechapel. Gangs of "peaky blinders" infest Digbeth, Deritend, and the neighborhood of Lawley street, and were beside the unwary constable who upsets one of the members of a gang unless he is well supported by some comrades. In the twinkling of an eye heavy buckled belts will be swinging in the air, and one or two cracked skulls are generally the result of affrays with this Midland type of hoologan.

In the Ardwick district of Manchester, where the slums are thickest, the police might daily walk about with their lives in their hands, and the same might be said of certain portions of Salford, which want a lot of beating for general lawlessness and antipathy to the society of the police. There has been considerable outcry lately against certain districts of Liverpool, in which foreigners—mostly Chinamen—have settled down to carry on certain nefarious practices. The police have to use considerable wariness in tackling such aliens, who have no compunctions about using a knife when necessary.

Perhaps the worst beats in Liverpool, however, are on the long road extending from Bootle Dock on the north to the Hercules Dock on the south. Running into this road are numerous small streets occupied by dock laborers, foreigners, and questionable characters, amongst whom robbery with violence is by no means uncommon. The police patrol this district in strong numbers, but many have met with ill-treatment there. Various streets in the neighborhood of the Sailors' Home and Marybone, too, are noted for the lawless characters who frequent them.

In Glasgow, around about the Green, are certain spots which the police do not consider particularly desirable. Neither are some of the streets in the neighborhood of the Overcades exactly what policemen term pleasant localities, and it is no unusual thing for two or three policemen to patrol the beats together. In these districts of Glasgow the police have some rough encounters, and it was only a short time ago that one constable, while trying to arrest a gambler who was creating a disturbance at a football match on Glasgow Green, was so badly knocked about that he was rendered unconscious.

In Dundee some of the streets off the Greenmarket used to have an unenviable notoriety, and the Scouring-burn, Fish street, and Overgate used to appear frequently in police court cases. One of the most notorious women drunkards in "Bonnie Dundee," who was convicted hundreds of times, was, years ago, always to be found in the Overgate when she was not being looked after by the prison authorities.

A Statesman's Queer Ambition. The great Lord Grey had an ambition far above politics. He had passed the reform bill, but that did not satisfy his soul. There was talk of Tagliani, and Grey said quite earnestly, "What would I give to dance as well as she!" The statesman who had been Prime Minister and had left an indelible mark on the history of his country was envious of an opera-dancer—London Saturday Review.

Gets its Material Here. The United States leads all other countries in the manufacture of asbestos, but has to depend altogether on Canada for the raw product.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Funny Things You Didn't Know About Our Nomenclature.

Surnames are not what they seem, and some of the most distressing contain a wealth of meaning. Take, for example, the surname with which many people think they are cursed—Snooks. This, by no means, seems to be an imposing cognomen; but, as a matter of fact, it is a name of great antiquity, and one of which nobody need be ashamed. In reality, it is a contraction of "Sennock," which was first corrupted to Sennock, which, in its turn, was corrupted to Snooks of to-day.

The original bearer of the name of Legless was so called merely because he was a lawyer. Originally, the name was spelled Legless, the expression signifying "learned in the law." Strangely enough, Lawless is derived from exactly the same source, and signifies exactly the opposite to its apparent meaning.

Take the case of the surname Heart. It is really a corruption of Hard, which was a name given to about that the owner was a man of firm character and resolute bearing. One must extend pity to the poor individual burdened with such a name as Gumbold. Yet those who possess the name may be interested to know that it, too, has nothing at all to do with any part of the anatomy. It denotes that its first bearer was a man of considerable importance and great power in the state. It is derived from the Norse word "gunbold," which itself has nothing to do with any affliction, but means "bold in war."

It is quite wrong to assume that the name of Smith is derived from the fact that the original bearers were workers in metal. In reality, Smith is a very fine old name, far more ancient than Anglo-Saxon. The oldest-known bearers of the name were a family of that name in use many thousands of years ago in mighty Egypt. Such names as Swearing and Gambling show how the original meaning has become corrupted. Swears and Swearing are derived from the older Swoor, which comes from the Saxon word meaning "honorable."

"Gambling comes from Gamling, which comes from a Norse word signifying "old descent." The ending "ing" to a surname simply means "son of." Thus, Browning means "son of Brown," and Dunning, "Dunn's son." Apparently, a very ignoble surname is Tremble, a name which might make one imagine that the ancestor of Mr. Tremble was a craven-hearted creature. Still, the exact opposite is the case, for the name is only a corruption of the ancient word "trumbald," which signifies "steadfast and bold."

Any individual rejoicing in the name of Mr. Karwig may be proud in the fact that originally the name meant "bear of battle." The surname Mouse denoted at first a man of great courage; while Mr. Ratt gets his name from the fact that the first bearer of the name was a wise person, who gave "counsel" to the king. Goose, Gosling, and Jocelyn are corruptions of a word which originally denoted the "Goths." The first Mr. Gander was an individual called "the wolf"; while the original Mr. Duck was a "doughty" man.

No; surnames are not what they seem. For instance, Lid appears to be a somewhat "impetuous" name; all the same, it is derived from a Teutonic word meaning a "snake." The apparently quiet and harmless surname Wren comes from a word which denotes "rapine." Then, Fish, though such an innocent name in appearance, originally meant "impetuous." That common surname Haddock is derived from a word meaning "war." Never judge a person from his name!

Zena Dare's First Appearance.

This popular young actress, who is engaged to the second son of Lord Esber, confessed to the writer a short time ago that, like her sister Phyllis, she suffers greatly from stage fright, and that before her first appearance as a leading lady in "The Catch of the Season" at the Vaudeville, London, in 1904 she was literally petrified with fright. "First I grew hot as the hour of my debut approached. Then I grew cold. My knees shook and my teeth chattered. Then I became hot again. In fact, altogether I must have experienced every variation of temperature between zero and 104 degrees in the shade. I am perfectly certain that no criminal sentenced to death ever experienced such mental torture as I did on my first appearance in London."

Swimming for Actors.

Perhaps the most amusing of the stories in the Era Annual is the following, narrated by Mr. Edward Terry: "Some years ago, when playing at Leeds, I started a swimming competition among the members of my company, and, to encourage them, offered as a prize a silver loving cup (won, by the way, by the late Edward Lennen). The event apparently created some interest in the town, and a friend heard two men engaged in a discussion as follows: First Man: 'I say, do you know this 'ere Terry's given a coop to best swimmer in company?' Second Man: 'Ay, ay. What's that for?' First Man: 'Oh, I suppose it's to keep them play-actors clean!'"

Pat's Retort.

A one-legged Welsh orator named Jones was pretty successful in bantering an Irishman, when the latter asked him: "How did you come to lose your leg?" "Well," said Jones, "on examining my pedigree and looking up my descent I found there was some Irish blood in me and, becoming convinced that it was settled in the left leg, I had it cut off at once." "By the powers," said Pat, "it would have been a very good thing if it had only settled in your head."

Paper Belting.

Paper machines belting, protected on the edges by leather, is being tried out in England with a measure of success. One advantage claimed for it is that it does not stretch.

THE MEUX MUMMY.

Fears For the British Museum on Account of Hoodoo Relic.

Believers in the supernatural are rather concerned in their minds at the moment regarding a mummy which is included in the Assyrian and Egyptian antiquities bequeathed to the British Museum by Lady Meux. The mummy is that of Neo-Amsu, who died about 2250 years ago, but does not seem to be able to rest comfortably unless he is doing somebody a bad turn. Neo first came into the possession of the late Mr. Walter Ingram, younger brother of the founder of The Illustrated London News, who bought it while serving in one of the Nile campaigns.

Owing to a misunderstanding, Mr. Ingram did not pay the price the dealer expected, and in his wrath he heaped an ancient curse on Mr. Ingram's head. And when the mummy came home, and Mr. Ingram presented it to Lady Meux, who was never getting her collection together, certain hieroglyphics were found to read thus: "If any person of any foreign country, whether he be black man, or Ethiopian, or Syrian, carry away this writing, or if he be stolen by a thief, then whoever does this, his offering shall be presented to their souls, they shall never enjoy a draught of cool water, they shall never more breathe the air, no son and no daughter shall arise from their seed, their name shall be remembered no longer upon earth, and most assuredly they shall never see the beams of the Disc (the Sun God)."

Curiously enough, two years later Mr. Ingram was killed while elephant shooting in Somaliland, while in 1900, Sir Henry Meux died childless, and his baronetcy became extinct, another clause of the curse therefore being fulfilled. And now some people are wondering what is going to happen to the directors of the British Museum if they accept the bequest.

English Gambling Schools.

Obtain an entry into some of the many gambling schools in the North of England, and you will probably find out how it is that men manage to live without work. Hundreds of these men attend the gambling schools regularly two and three times a week and risk their all on the tossing of two coins. Rings are formed. Copper is used at one, silver at another, gold at another. A man is paid to toss up two coins, and the "punters" wager their pounds, shillings, or pence, as the case may be, on the coins dropping heads or tails. "Crows" keep a look out for the approach of the police.

One week a man may be in the gold ring, the next in the silver, and the third in the copper circle. A gambler in the West Riding of Yorkshire was pointed out to The Astor's correspondent as having lost over £2,000 in these schools, whilst another makes a point of speculating the whole of his rent-money every week. Some men, of course, do well, but there are hundreds of Northern wives and daughters who would delight in the abolition of these "schools."—Answers.

The "Silent Admiral."

For the first time in his life Sir Arthur K. Wilson, First Sea Lord and chief expert adviser to the Admiralty, has entered into the public controversy regarding the strength of the navy. A man who prefers deeds to words, "Tug" Wilson, as he is popularly termed in the service, is recognized as being without equal as a strategist and tactician. He is one of the few naval officers who have earned the coveted V.C. This was at the Battle of El Teb in 1884, when the Arabs broke the square formed by the Naval Brigade, and he sprang into the breach and engaged the enemy with his bare fists, having broken a sword. Sir Redvers Buller described the act as "one of the most courageous he had ever witnessed." Sir Arthur is known in the navy as "the man who never takes a holiday," for he rarely goes ashore, even when his fleet or flagship visits any port. He regards every moment spent away from the service as wasted.

That "Cursed" Weed.

In his book of reminiscences, "One City and Many Men," Sir Algernon West, the defendant in the recent society case, who for some time was Mr. Gladstone's private secretary and most trusted confidential adviser, says that the G.O.M. "hated the smell of tobacco, and once accused me of bringing the odious aroma of the 'cursed' weed into his room. Meantly anxious to excuse myself, for I never smoked before going into his presence, I said I had been sitting for half an hour with Sir William Harcourt. Such was Mr. Gladstone's innocence that he said, 'Does Harcourt smoke? I am sure if he does he must always change his clothes before he comes to me, for I have never perceived that he smokes.'"

Feet of the Nations.

Anthropologists assert that the Frenchman's foot is long and narrow and well proportioned. The Scotchman's foot, according to these authorities, is high and thick, strong and muscular and capable of hard work. The Russian's foot possesses one peculiarity, the toes being generally webbed to the first joint. The Tartar's foot is short and heavy, the foot of a certain type of savage, and the toes are the same length. The Spaniard's foot is generally small, but the Russian's foot is in most cases short and rather fleshy and not, as a rule, as strong proportionately as it should be.

Stamps in Rolls.

English stamps are to be issued in rolls as well as in sheets as at present. Ribbons of postage stamps wound on a reel are expected to save time for business men, and the stamps need be perforated only on two sides.

Back to Adam.

A parchment six yards long and a foot wide, tracing in quaint fifteenth-century writing the descent of King Henry VI. from Adam, has just been placed in the Welsh National library at Aberystwyth.

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