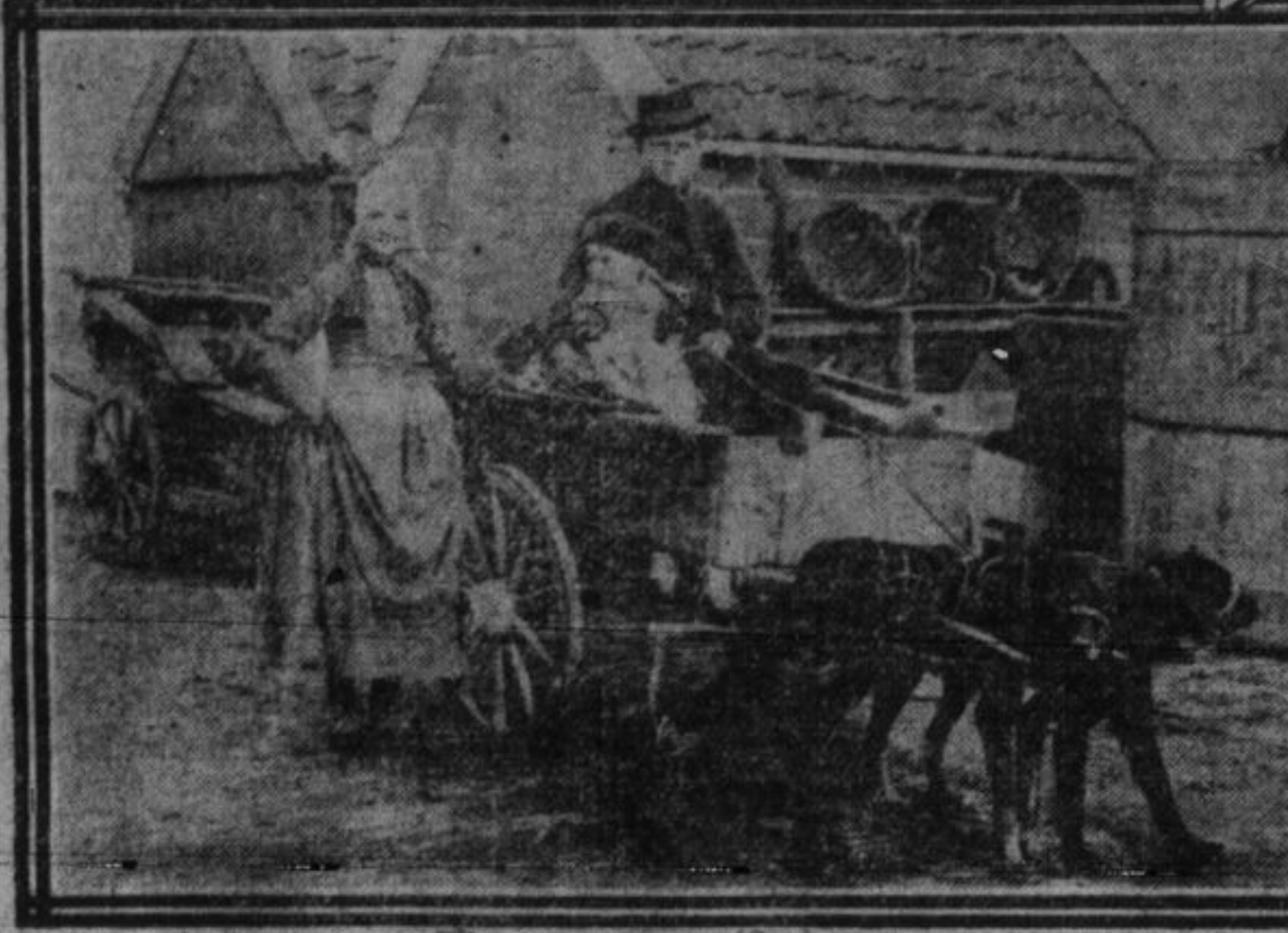


## DOGS The Burden Bearers of Northern Europe

The Milk Wagon of North Belgium

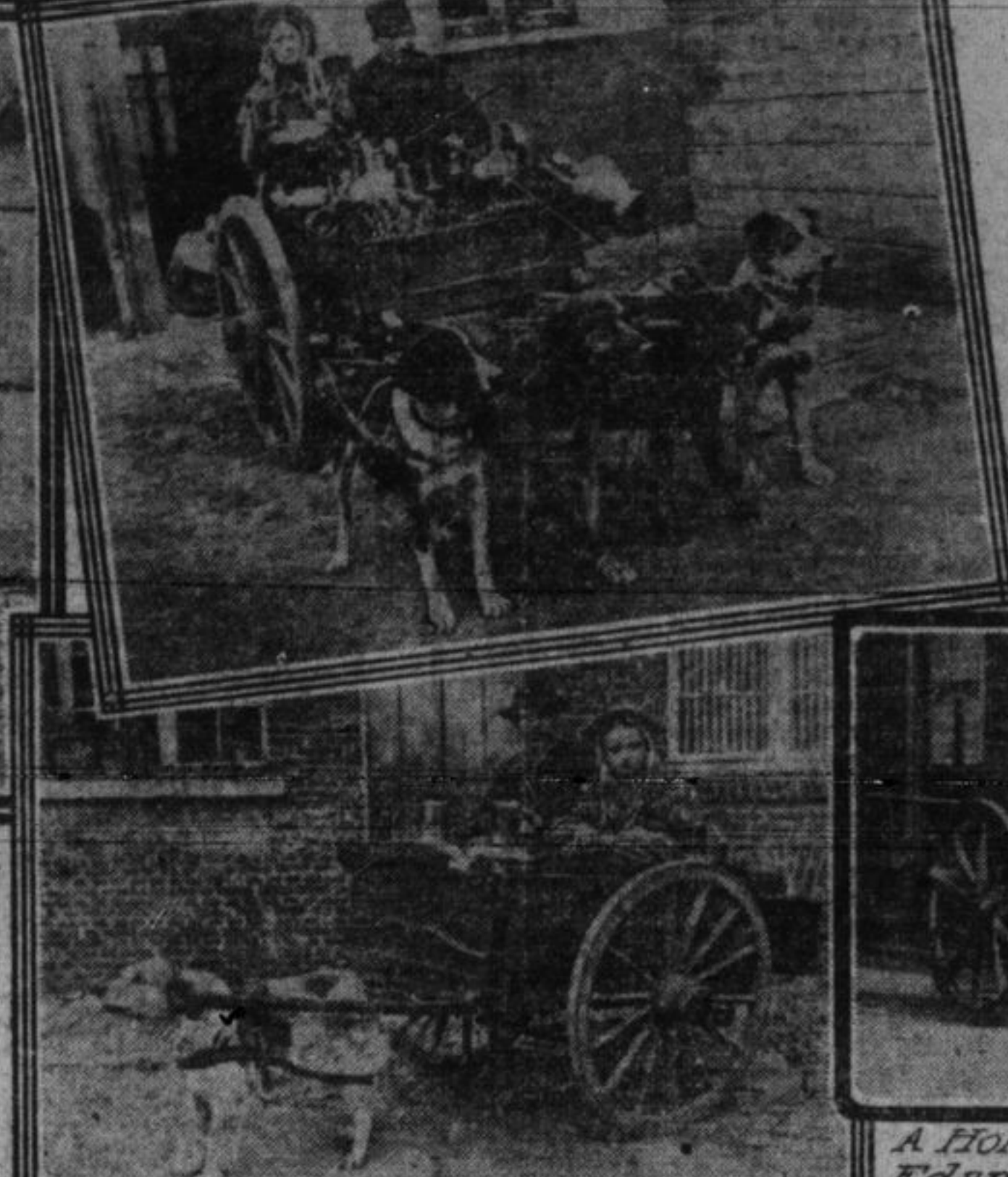


A Happy Family

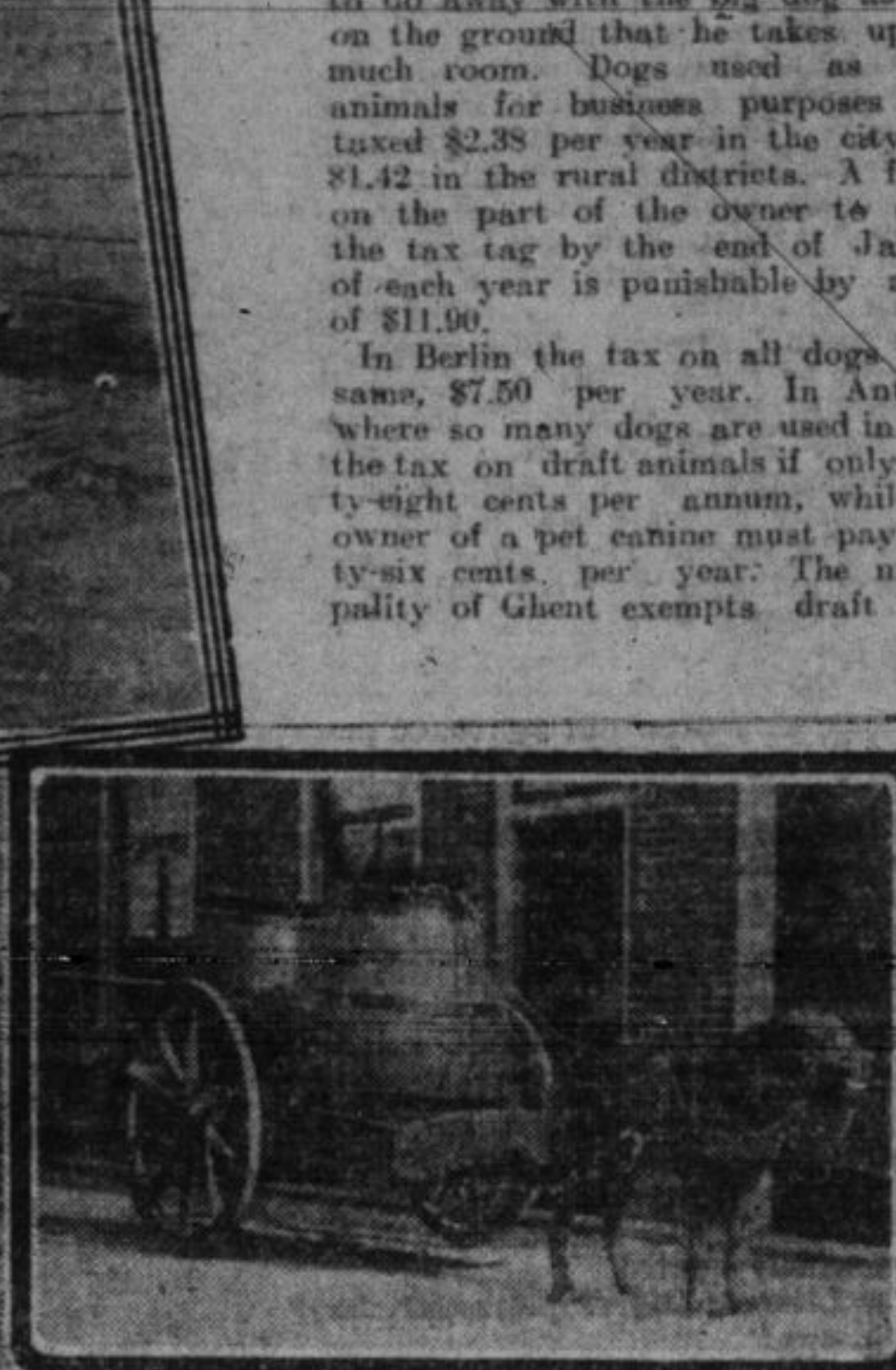
The traveller who visits northern Europe, especially Holland, Belgium and Northern Germany cannot fail to notice the work of the dog as a burden-bearer, for in these countries he takes the place of a horse for all hauling. In such cities as Hamburg and Bremen and in some parts of Berlin the dog is used for pulling all sorts of light carts about the cities. The butcher and the baker and the "coalstick-maker" all depend on the faithful dog for the delivery of their wares. In Holland, too, he is the puller of a numberless small vehicles, and up to twenty-five years ago he assisted in drawing the boats along the canal. The law, however, freed him from this labor, and women and children now assist in the work in his place.

The dog as a burden bearer is more picturesque in Belgium than in any other part of the world. As an animal he is not beautiful, as the "mam-lamute" and "bosky" of Alaska, nor does he make such long journeys over the ice and snow, nor is his driver as cruel as the man who "touches up" the animals when they refuse to "mush" fast enough to please him over the vast ice fields of Alaska. The driver of the Belgium draft dog is a woman, and although the Flemish woman is a hard worker and takes her place beside the man in many occupations, cruelty to animals is as far from her nature as it is from the disposition of her American sister. It is the driver and cart which make the work of the dog so interesting in Flanders. The milk business is almost entirely in the hands of women in that land, and although one of the men of the family may sometimes accompany her on her rounds, she is the proprietor of the outfit and she furnishes her customers with a very excellent quality of milk. Her outfit is not expensive, but it is a marvel of cleanliness and her cans and measures are so well shined that they glitter in the sun. He, like the old-fashioned cups in a Broadway jeweller's window. Her measures of dress is proverbial for there is an absence of that slovenliness which is so common among the working classes of Southern Europe. She is always tidy and

her hair, which is all her own, is done up in a neat, simple style. Her work is not easy but she has a pleasant smile—the cares of life seem to have passed her by, and she accidentally tries to find her pleasure in her simple occupation. Her hours are long, for she must be in the public square of Brussels with milk cart ready for general inspection by six a.m., and often she is compelled to travel seven or eight miles to reach the city. Her dogs are as well kept as herself and make a pretty picture as they stand in the big open market place. Two reasons account for this care of the animals—first, because she is fond of these faithful beasts who obey her every call, and second because the laws of Belgium look upon a dog as a beast of burden and fellow worker of man, and those laws protect them against the ill-treatment of unscrupulous owners. Every day there is a public inspection as to the quality of milk sold, and as to the condition of the animals which drag it about the streets. Great care is taken that the straps and girth are not too tight so as to chafe the dogs. The law also requires that a small piece of carpet shall be carried with the outfit in order that the dog may rest on a dry spot while his driver serves customers or gossips with other milk merchants. A bowl, too, for drinking water must be provided and the animal watered at stated intervals. The draft dogs are strong and healthy, and are a special breed—seen only in that part of the world. They are about the size of the mastiff of the United States, and are trained to harness when they are puppies. The milk business in Belgium is a profitable one, and the milk women know full well that a well-fed, well-housed dog can do better work than one which is neglected and half starved. Besides the food they receive from their owners, the customers save the scraps from their tables for the animals bringing the milk each morning. The dogs are muzzled while in the city, but this does not prevent them from guarding the wagons should their driver go indoors nor let a stranger approach the cart—the series of barks and howls these dogs set up will soon



Father and Daughter Deliver Milk in Northern Germany



A Holland Milk Wagon at Edam. The Dog calls the Customers by Barking



The Dog Guards the Second Hand Clothes Wagon in Amsterdam



Serving a Customer with Milk in a Belgium Town

attract the attention of the owner or policeman. Travelling in the country they are allowed considerable freedom and show fine skills in making splendid time over the roads. Their feet are well-cared for and no sick or lame dog can work under the penalty of a heavy fine. Very light carts are sometimes pulled by one dog, and when such is the case the driver usually walks. With the heavier carts, three, four and five dogs are used, but the reins are only attached to one of the animals—a leader, which the others follow, and it is remarkable how this dog guides the others to the smoothest part of the road. At night the dogs are so tired that they never disturb the peace with their barking.

Lately a sentiment has sprung up among the rich people of Belgium against the use of dogs as draft animals, and steps have been taken to have a law made to prevent their use in that capacity, but the government of that country is slow to make such a radical change, and nothing has been done. With the exception of England, Europe is custom fettered, and changing laws which affect the homely and time-honored customs of the common people is rarely accomplished until a movement in that direction has gained some headway among those directly concerned. While the writer has never seen the slightest cruelty practiced upon these work dogs, there are, of course, some instances where the dog is too small for the burden he is compelled to drag. Fifty years ago England decided that dogs were unfit as draft animals and made a law forbidding them to be used for such purposes. Recently a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has been organized in Belgium and a number of English residents are interested in the work. They have succeeded in having a law passed in Antwerp preventing dogs of a certain size from being worked, and also that weight drawn must be in proportion to the size and strength of the animal.

To the Belgian of the poorer class the dog will always be looked upon as a beast of burden. The pet dog is for the rich alone, although the child of the poor man loves his parents' work dog just as the child of the American will often make a pet of his father's horse.

The milk which is hauled about in Belgium is tested every day by a milk inspector. There is no special time or place for this, and the milk seller must open her cans at any time and all times for this official. The watering of milk is almost unknown, for this offense is punished by a fine. If it occurs a second time there is another fine and a sign to that effect is placed upon the milk dealer's home. A third offense means the withdrawal of the license and a prison sentence. It is needless to add that Belgium has pure milk.

In Holland the dog wagon is less picturesque for the driver is usually a

man, and unlike the Belgium women, he will sometimes overload his cart, even though there is a stringent law against such methods, for the dog is protected by law in that country as well as in Belgium. Milk is delivered from door to door in carts drawn by dogs, and the attention of the mistress of the house is attracted by the barking of the animals. This does away with the hideous milk bell such as is used in the smaller towns of the United States. The milk cans are set in peculiar-looking wooden buckets which are smaller at the top than at the bottom. In Edam, the home of the popular Edam cheese so much relished by Americans, these dog milk carts are particularly interesting.

In Volendam, the picturesque fishing village of Holland, the dog is frequently the burden bearer of the fish cart, and it is not uncommon to see the fisherman himself riding in the cart with his wife in her picturesque dress and wooden shoes walks beside the vehicle. This is really no great hardship, for the Dutch woman is fond of walking, and thinks nothing of walking five or ten miles to the market in Amsterdam twice a week.

In the Jewish quarter of Amsterdam the dog does service for the old clothes man who polishes his trade with an aggressiveness not to be found in America. Amsterdam has a large Jewish population, and the second-hand clothing dealer flourishes as nowhere else in the world. Every morning these men start out with their push carts to which the dog is hitched. In the capacity of a puller of the wagon the dog is not worked to a great extent, for his business here is to guard the vehicle while his master is indoors bargaining. These men sell as well as buy, and are a little different in their methods from the proprietors of the Baxter street shops in New York City. The Dutch boy is quite as mischievous as the American, and were it not for the dog guards the curious looking cart might be upset or its contents carried away. The dogs are always muzzled, but this does not prevent their barking when a stranger approached the cart.

The Hollanders on the average are a happy race of people with a kindly feeling toward man and beast, and the dogs with few exceptions are well cared for and their owners are as proud of the condition of their canine burden bearers as the Americans are of their horses. Holland is the most level country in Europe, the roads are excellent and the streets of the cities well paved. These conditions tend to make the task of pulling light carts easy for the dog. The Dutch are an unusually clean people and this cleanliness extends even to their dogs, for the animals are washed and brushed after the fashion of a working horse.

In Hamburg, Germany, those people who are too poor or who have no place to keep their draft dogs may leave them from the dog levy stables of the town. In that city the peculiar

laws make it impossible for a poor man to keep a large pet dog, for the animal is taxed according to its height. A dog under seventeen and one-eighth inches is taxed \$4.76, while the charge for a canine over the above named height will cost its owner \$9.52 per year. This law applies only to pet dogs and was made to do away with the big dog as a pet on the ground that he takes up too much room. Dogs used as draft animals for business purposes are taxed \$2.38 per year in the city and \$1.42 in the rural districts. A failure on the part of the owner to secure the tax tag by the end of January of each year is punishable by a fine of \$11.90.

In Berlin the tax on all dogs is the same, \$7.50 per year. In Antwerp, where so many dogs are used in carts, the tax on draft animals is only thirty-eight cents per annum, while the owner of a pet canine must pay ninety-six cents per year. The municipality of Ghent exempts draft dogs

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