

A FIDDLER WANTED.

HE WAS FAMED AND AT DANCE MUSIC DID VERY WELL.

Fun and Frolic in a Washout on the Oregon Short Line—Millionaires and Immigrants Attend a Dance and Experience a Musical Surprise.

On St. Patrick's day, 1894, five through trains, bound both to the eastward and westward of the Oregon Short Line of the Union Pacific, were tied up at Glens Ferry, Ida. They had been caught between two serious washouts, one at Pocatello and the other at Indian Creek, three days before, and had to wait at Glens Ferry for track repairs along the line before they could proceed. Glens Ferry is a bleak little railroad and sheep herders' town of 100 or 400 inhabitants, situated on a sagebrush bluff overlooking the unspeakably dark and dreary Snake river.

The five stalled trains carried 600 passengers of as miscellaneous a character as could be gotten together at a carefully selected congress of types. There were emigrants and millionaires; soldiers on the move; dainty women in palace cars and women bound for Creede and Cripple Creek in day coaches; miners who killed time during the wait in shooting magpies circling over the Snake river; Shoshone Indians traveling to the limits of their reservation; well behaved and quiet people, noisy and tumultuous people. But all were stuck alike, and they made the best of it.

Lines of social demarcation were for the time erased. All hands mingled easily on the little station platform and in the little station waiting room. The supply of food on the dining cars gave out the first day of the hitch, and everybody was fed, and well fed, too, in the station eating room. They sat down at the tables in relays and patiently awaited their turns.

The railroad employees and their wives were to give a dance at the little town hall on St. Patrick's night. The switchman who had been customarily employed to fiddle for them had been switched to another division. In a quandary, the dance committee toured the trains and station to ascertain if any of the stalled passengers happened to be carrying a violin and was capable of producing music on it. In one of the sleeping cars they came across an artistic looking man, with very long hair, a seraphic, oleaginous countenance and exceedingly baggy clothes. They were looking for a fiddler, they said. Did he know of any on the train? Well, he didn't know (in outrageously bad English); he played a little himself once in awhile, and had rather a fair fiddle with him. The long haired man accented the "fiddle" rather curiously. But the railroad men were overjoyed. Would he play for them to dance with their wives and sweethearts? Certainly! Did he know dance music? Well, some.

All of the stalled passengers were invited to the dance, and they all went. A good many of them could not get in. The "baggy clothed" turned up in good time. The pianist was waiting for him. So was the railroad dance committee, one of the members of which slipped \$3 in one dollar bills into the fiddler's hand as payment in advance for the evening's work. It was smilingly accepted. The dance began. The fiddler's wife, who played the piano, produced an old bethumbed violin and piano tune book and turned to the launchers. She told the fiddler, at the end of the first dance, that he did pretty well, only he went too fast. Then there was a waltz. The fiddler was informed by his accompanist that he was getting along finely, and everybody in the room began to pick up his ears at the sweetening of the violin music, although the dances were common enough and lawdy enough.

Another waltz—the "Beautiful Blue Danube." All of the dancers on the floor stopped dead at the first bar, and the travelers with cultivated musical ears moved close to the piano. The pianist ceased. She wished to listen. The violin music was marvellous. The player away from side to side as he phrased. He appeared to be oblivious of his surroundings. He improvised variations of inspiring tenderness. He out-Strasened Strauss. His violin sang, throbbled with passion. When the last note died away, the people in the hall appeared to be in a dream—all but one.

"M. Ysaye," said Charley Fair, the son of the late United States Senator Fair, stepping from the throng, "won't you play that lively, rattling thing you gave us at the Bohemian club in San Francisco the other night? It's been running in my head ever since."

M. Ysaye played Berlioz' "Pizzicato" as he perhaps never played it before.—Washington Star.

The Du Maurier Woman.

In an article which the late Mr. Du Maurier wrote some years ago for the Magazine of Art apropos of the typical "pretty woman" of his drawings, occurs the following quaint and characteristic passage: "I do hope the reader does not dislike her—that is, if he knows her—I am so fond of her myself, or rather so fond of what I want her to be. She is my piece de resistance, and I have often heard her commended, and the praise of her has sounded sweet in mine ears and gone straight to my heart, for she has become to me as a daughter. She is rather tall, I admit, and a trifle stiff—but English women are tall and stiff just now—and she is rather too serious, but that is only because I find it so difficult with a mere stroke in black ink to indicate the enchanting little curved lines that go from the nose to the mouth corners, causing the cheeks to make a smile."

In the Omnibus.

Conductor—Beg pardon, madame, but these coppers are counterfeit.

Lady—Oh, excuse me! Keep those for a fee. Here are some good ones.

Conductor (with a deep bow)—Many thanks, madame.—Paris Figaro.

His "Sheer."

The distinction of being the richest and meanest man in the town in which he lived belonged to old Andy Scraggs. No one questioned his right to this honor when old Andy's wife died, and he went to four different undertakers, trying to get them to make him a coffin for \$5 out of some worm-eaten old black walnut boards he had kept in his barn for 20 years "for that very purpose," as he admitted.

When he was worth over \$150,000, a committee went to him to solicit something for a widow with six little children who had been lamed out of house and home and who had not a penny in the world nor a change of clothing for her children or herself.

"I'm dreadful sorry for her," said old Andy, "dreadful sorry, and I agree with you that it's right for her friends and neighbors to help her out. I'll do my sheer, gentlemen; I'll do my sheer."

He was making his usual five or six tons of maple sugar at the time, and after a few moments' reflection, he said: "I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll send her over two quarts of maple sirup if she'll be sure to send back the jar I'll have to put it in. I think that'll be 'bout my sheer, gentlemen."—Detroit Free Press.

Experts have come to the conclusion that what kills trees in London is not the soot flakes or the want of air or the drought, but the sewer gas, which attacks the roots so that the tree soon withers and dies.

The lad who accidentally sat down on a red-hot stove pensively remarked that he was reminded of the retreating general who burned his bridges behind him.

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Words of Encouragement From the Leader of the Silver Forces.

Hon. William Jennings Bryan, in an address delivered at a luncheon given in his honor at New York, among other things, said:

"Now, a word of encouragement. I want to say to those who have fought that the fight is not done. I want to encourage you by saying that I have not found any person who was with us who is sorry that he was with us, and of those who have fought under the allied forces I do not know of any one who to-day regrets the part that he took on election day and during the campaign. I know that the people who were with us treasure as one of the most delightful of recollections that they took part in this memorable campaign. I have found a great many who had not been with us before election who have come to us since the election. If your experience has been the same as mine, you will find that there has been a profound disappointment among many who were led to believe that the maintenance of the gold standard, or the positive declaration that it would be maintained, would restore confidence, revive business and bring back prosperity. This has not been the result.

The gold standard is doing now just what it has always done. It is helping those who own money and hurting those who are producing wealth. I have no doubt that the agitation which was begun in earnest this year is going to go on and that the experience of the American people will lead them to the conviction which argument was not able to secure. After all, experience is the best test in politics.

During the campaign the people listen to arguments, but doubt them. Somebody wins, and that somebody attempts to put the principles in practice, and the people are able to compare the goods furnished with the samples shown during the campaign.

The people are intelligent enough to be able to tell whether the goods are up to the sample, and they are intelligent enough to determine whether the policy which has been prescribed is a benefit or not. I have no doubt in my mind that the more experience the United States has with the gold standard the more bimetalism there will be. You must make people think, and then they will see what it is necessary for them to do. I think the best campaign has made people think, and the result of this thinking is going to be the right settlement of the money question and all questions that surround us.

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