

On The Side

By E. V. Durling

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The Hague—There is a very apparent shortage of glamour girls in this part of Holland. I haven't seen a smart looker yet. I always check on the beauty of the feminine population of a newly visited city. This, of course, is in the interest of any of our bachelor subscribers who may visit the city referred to. However, this is not the final report. I will check the shopping section this afternoon, the race track tomorrow and later in the week the dance halls and night clubs.

Sidelights
Housing shortage is so acute in Rotterdam that thousands of people live on houseboats docked at the side of canals. . . . A Hollander never leaves his house without his raincoat. Showers come up suddenly and without much warning. The Dutch don't care to be bothered with umbrellas. . . . The trolley cars in Rotterdam and The Hague have both motormen and conductors, but the buses are one-man operated. And always packed.

Asides
There are flowers everywhere you go here. A flower stand on practically every corner. For 25 cents you can get all the flowers you can carry. . . . In one of the parks in The Hague the deer run wild. That is, they are not fenced in. . . . The money unit in Holland is the guilder. It is worth 26 cents in United States currency. The Dutch money is easy to understand. In my opinion, the most complicated of foreign money is the British currency.

Please Note
Desiderius Erasmus was born in Rotterdam. The oldest public high school in the United States, Erasmus Hall High school of Brooklyn, is named in his honor. Incidentally, more graduates of Erasmus Hall High school have become film stars than those of any other high school in the United States. Hollywood High school is not excepted.

Cigars
The Hollanders are great cigar smokers. The Dutch cigars are

made of Sumatra tobacco. I have tried a few. I have not been able to cultivate a taste for them. I always try the cigars of every country I visit. I even made a valiant effort to smoke Italian cigars. Not only that, I gave French cigars a trial. I am very courageous that way.

Asides
No gifts are exchanged in Holland on Christmas day. The occasion for exchanging gifts by the Dutch is on St. Nicholas day, Dec. 5. . . . There are no Sunday newspapers in Holland. It is against the law to print a newspaper on the Sabbath. Monday newspapers can't start printing until after midnight Sunday.

Drinks
The favorite drinks of the Dutch are beer and gin. Or perhaps I should have said gin and beer. The Hollanders really go for that Dutch type gin. They drink it by the jug. They handle it very well. After consuming a jug of gin a Hollander is not inebriated. Only a little gay.

Health
The Netherlands are a very healthy country. It has the lowest mortality rate in Europe. It is claimed this is because of the climate. I think it is due to the exercise the Hollanders get riding bicycles. I am going to rent a bicycle tomorrow and ride out to Scheveningen. I was quite a bike rider in my youth. I used to ride one from our home in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, to high school in the Bedford section of the beautiful borough across the bridge. Also was a regular rider on the bicycle path from Prospect park to Coney Island.

Traffic
The traffic adheres to the right in Holland just as in the United States. The racehorses also run the same way as in the U.S.A. I just put that last sentence in for the benefit of that blonde who once exclaimed at a cocktail party: "No matter what subject you discuss Ed Durling will get a horse into it."

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