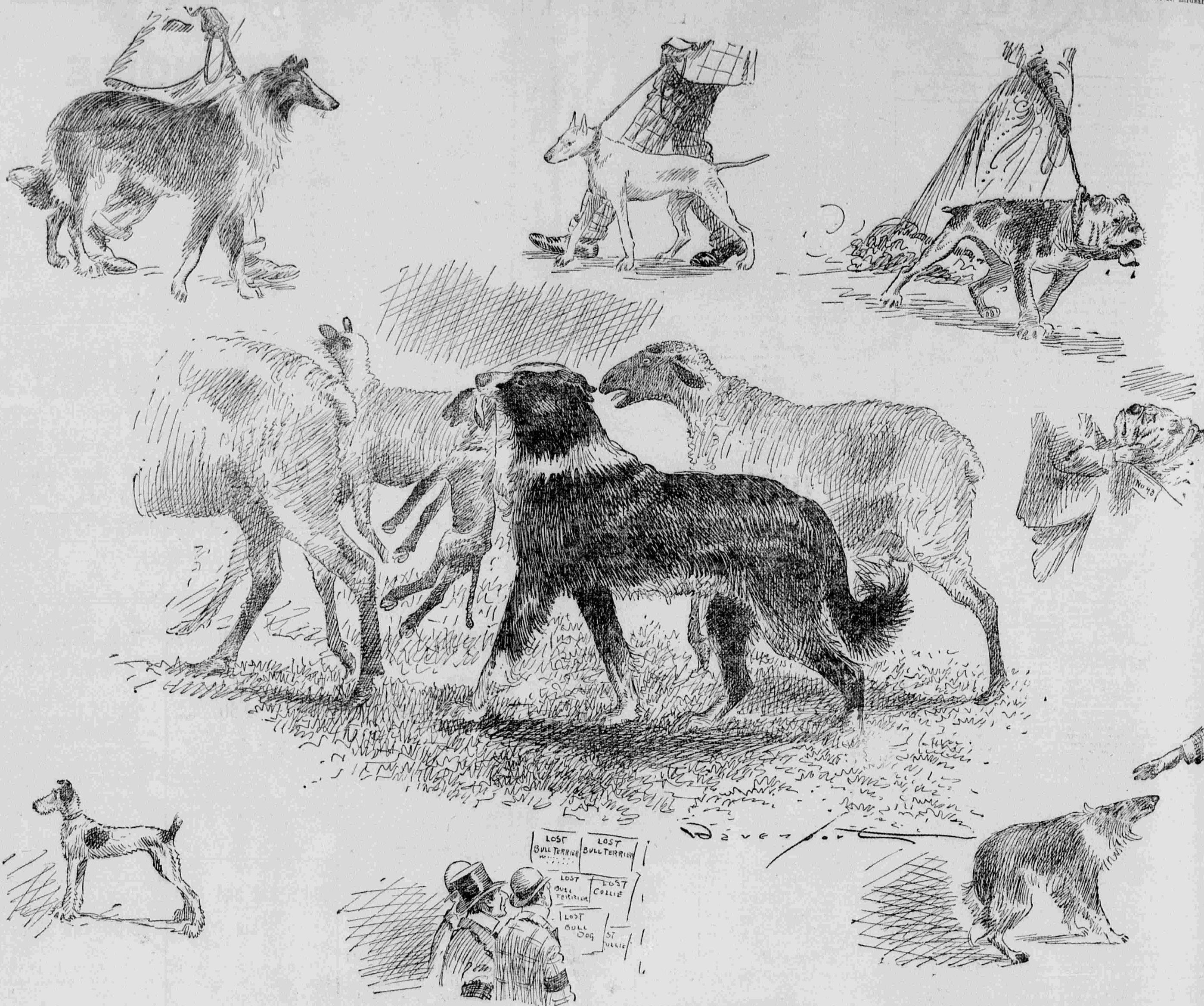


DAVENPORT PLEADS FOR ANIMALS TORTURED TO MAKE MAN'S PLEASURE.

IX. DOGS ONCE COULD DO REAL WORK.

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Dogs suffer from practically the same kind of cruelty that pigeons and chickens have to endure from fancy breeders. The same forms of degeneracy result when collies that were once very useful are bred for "style," until they are no longer of any real service except to exhibit at dog shows or to lead around on a leash.

It would be the height of cruelty to change a once thoughtful race of men into a very suspicious class of people that would suffer from lack of courage. That is what the present dog-show collie is—as nervous as a coyote and almost as certain to snap you if you go to pet him. He hasn't intelligence enough to follow you, though he descends from a race of dogs that could go miles and bring from a bunch of cattle only the milch cows. I show in my picture a collie, or sheep dog, which I once knew to carry a newly born lamb to the fold while driving sheep.

To-day's conditions are brought about by thoughtless judging and breed-

ing of dogs, and by the fact that there is a class of people in cities willing to pay thousands for a useless dog if only his color and shape are correct according to a standard made regardless of the really valuable points. The effect on the useful qualities of dogs that such standards of alleged excellency has wrought is truly remarkable. If this fashion of breeding dogs is in vogue another fifty years, dogs will be useless except for fleas.

If you want to judge of man's intelligence relative to breeding dogs, go to-day or any day this summer and ask some one with a prize bulldog to lead him a mile in the hot sun and listen to the poor animal gag and choke in an effort to get his breath. To imagine he could travel and follow you as you walked would be preposterous.

Still, the English bulldog was once a dog capable of taking care of himself in any company. His jaws were heavy, but muscular; his eyes were bright and alert. But since society and fashion has adopted him as a fad, he has been a dependent animal, suffering greatly owing to the thoughtless "fanciers" who breed his kind.

If there is any one thing dogs like to do, it is to follow their masters, and this was once easy for any dog, because nature supplied them with good noses and eyes. Of late years "the standard of excellency" has required the bull terrier to have smaller eyes and a longer nose.

To-day this formerly capable dog is almost helpless. He cannot use his scent, and cannot recognize the man that feeds him from a stranger if he is over fifty feet away. He tries, but in his efforts to focus correctly with his unnaturally small eyes, he runs here and there, and is soon lost. He tries hard to follow, but it is a physical impossibility. His ears have been cut so close to the drum for so many years that his hearing is much affected. It is not uncommon to find pups of this breed born deaf.

Many other kinds of dogs have suffered from this abuse of "fancy breeding." In fact, I have come to believe that the worst place to buy any variety of dog is at a dog show.

There is one thing apparent—the degeneracy of our various animals is the fault of men that put fashion above brains.

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