

THE GREATEST CROWD IN THE WORLD

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"A CROWD collected." "The crowd was large." In all likelihood you will run across these statements quite a number of times in your favor.

the jam the night before along certain parts of Broadway and in Newspaper row. Chicago is openly proud of this pushing crowds that surge in its State and other central streets on special occasions. They are remarkably large crowds—for America. But they would not secure even passing comment in Northern India. There the streets of

ered to watch the election returns; they have been astonished at the way in which supporters of victorious and defeated candidates vie with each other in making election night noises. The lack of silliness on the part of the defeated is indicative of American character. The crowd that daily surges from

packages did not go around, the reply would be that every effort was made to serve the crowd, but it was much larger than any one had thought of planning for. It is a fact that packages of food and mugs were thrown at the people by men in the booths, but this may have been done in the hope that under such



SEASIDE CROWD, ON THE BOARD WALK AT ASBURY PARK



PART OF CROWD THAT WITNESSED LAST CHAMPIONSHIP BASEBALL GAME



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WHERE THE MIGHTY MULTITUDES FOREGATHER ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS AT SEASIDE RESORTS, BALL GAMES AND RETURN OF CONQUERING HEROES AT END OF THE WAR.

the newspaper from now on, for warm weather is pretty certain to bring crowds in its train. It is crowd weather, par excellence. The greatest crowd that ever collected is that one which comes together once every twelve years at the festival of Kumbh Mela, at Allahabad, India.

It is a religious affair, this bathing festival, and it is estimated that not less than a million Hindus form the crowd that comes from all over India to bathe at the juncture of three rivers—the Ganges, the Jumna and the Saraswati. Do not be disappointed if you are not able to locate the last named stream on your map of India. Only a Hindu fanatic can see this river joining with the other two. It exists only in the figments of superheated religious imagination.

It is proper to take a dip in the Ganges at all times, for the river is sacred day in and day out. But every twelve years one's sins are to be washed away by a plunge into the water where the three rivers join, hence the crowd that undoubtedly holds the world's record for size.

It doubtless also holds the record for piousness, noise, fanaticism of a religious character and types. On every side are to be seen religious fakirs smeared with ashes, others doing penance for their sins on beds of sharpened spikes, while still others torture themselves in the numerous ways characteristic of the Hindu fanatic. Turned caterers to the wants of the inner man are plentifully sprinkled about, bargains are driven at the edge of the sacred waters, and the noises of traffic mingle with the groans of penitents, the shouts of bands marching to the bathing, the shuffle of hundreds of thousands of moving bare and sandal-covered feet. There are thousands of sightseers, of course, many being travelers attracted to the spot through desire to get a view of a million people, which is possible from the roofs of buildings not very far distant.

THE LAND OF BIG CROWDS.

India is, indeed, the land of big crowds. New York reads with wonder, the morning after an important election, of

the cities are jammed from house line to house line from early morning till late at night in the mere transaction of the day's work. A view of one of these every day crowds going about its business cannot fail to inspire one with a feeling of awe at thought of the vast, compact population which makes such crowds common.

Northern India's real crowds collect on the festival days. Then, in the words of an English officer who has grown weary trying to convey some idea of the size of these crowds, "they are monumentally enormous." The thousands of every day become tens of thousands, side streets as well as the principal thoroughfares are jammed, and to an Occidental it would seem that all the swarthy Caucasians of the universe have been brought together in one spot.

AMERICA'S RECORD CROWD.

One of the world's record-breaking crowds was that which assembled at the Chicago world's fair on Chicago day, Oct. 9, 1893. It was the largest crowd this country has ever known, and this also holds true of Europe, at least as far back as the records reach. The crowd began forming long before dawn, and by 6:30 o'clock as many as a thousand persons were packed about each of the gates to the grounds. By four in the afternoon over 400,000 had passed through the gates, and those who flocked fairward after that hour brought the attendance up to 700,000 round figures. In fact, every Chicagoan who could crowd into the great enclosure to help along the celebration of his city's greatness.

Perhaps the two men of this vast crowd who attracted the greatest attention were Simon Pokoron and Chief John Young. Pottawatomie Indians, Chief John Young, facing a sea of upturned palefaces, told how his father, of the same name, had given Chicago its name, and with true aboriginal candor he interpreted it to mean "where the skunk dwells." Simon Pokoron stood by Chief John Young's side because he was born on that September 27, 63 years before, when his father decided to government agents the land on which Chicago has been built. The Chicago world's fair was notable for its great crowds. Illinois day

THE GREATEST CROWD IN THE WORLD.

It Assembles Every Twelve Years, and it is Made Up of a Million Hindu Fanatics Desirous of Bathing Where Three Rivers Unite—Chicago Day, at the Chicago World's Fair, Saw the Biggest Crowd Ever Assembled in This Country—Our Presidential Inaugural Crowd Has Been Called "One of the Most Inspiring Among the Events of the World"—The Catastrophe That Befell a Half Million Moujiks Gathered to Celebrate the Czar's Coronation—The Best Natured, the Noisiest and the Most Colorful of All Crowds is the Big College Football Crowd—Crowds That Are Noted in This Country Would Not Be Noticed in India, Truly the Land of Enormous Crowds.

brought out nearly 244,000 persons; Independence day, 283,000; Transportation day, 231,000; Polish day, 222,000; Railroad day, 202,000. Prior to Chicago day, the greatest crowd ever at an exposition numbered 397,000, to a man, and it collected at that Paris exposition made famous by the Eiffel tower. The record-breaking crowd at the Philadelphia exposition numbered 217,526.

OUR MOST FAMOUS CROWD.

The most famous of all American crowds assembled once every four years. It is the presidential inauguration crowd, and an English writer who beheld the patriotic tens of thousands standing about the inaugural stand, and standing patiently in a downpouring rain during the ceremonies, wrote that it is "one of the most inspiring among the events of the world." Many persons who would fight shy of a crowd at any other time travel long distances to become component parts of this crowd, and the average American under no other name would witness an inauguration.

Our sea resort crowds ever grow larger. It is no longer uncommon for Cony Island to have 350,000 visitors on a hot summer day. In midsummer the

great board walk and the mammoth beach of Atlantic City are jammed the whole day through. The annual baby parade at Asbury park always brings out thousands of gaily bedecked spectators.

Philadelphia is famous for its trolley line company's amusement park crowds. Over a tenth of the city's population has been known to collect on a holiday at beautiful Willow Grove park, and as many as 60,000 persons have squeezed into Woodside Park on the Fourth. All summer long great crowds flock to Fairmount park for fresh air, but that municipal institution is so large that the crowds are dissipated almost as soon as they enter the gates.

Thirty-five thousand persons have congregated in one place to witness a game of football. Indeed, a championship game of football is sure to bring out a large crowd of Americans, young and old. A football game crowd is perhaps the best natured of all this country's crowds. It is certainly the most colorful with the gay dresses of thousands of women, and the college colors in evidence in the shape of flags, banners, hunting and rosettes of ribbon. And what American crowd can make more noise and keep at it longer, seemingly without becoming fatigued? The somber appearance of our base-

ball crowds is explained by the presence of very few women. The baseball crowd is about the only one of our pleasure-seeking crowds that is not made up in good part of members of the colorful sex. It is a strictly masculine crowd, with a harsh masculine way of expressing its pleasure or displeasure. The least thing aways it, it is just the sort of crowd that a silver-tongued orator delights to seize with a strong sentence or two and carry with him to the end of his speech.

Though baseball has been popular many years longer than the great autumn game, it is only within recent years that the record baseball crowds pressed the record football crowds close. The biggest baseball crowd ever assembled was that which witnessed the final game in last year's world championship series. It numbered about 34,000, and took complete possession of the Polo grounds.

As a general rule the American crowd is well behaved, giving little trouble to the police and others advantageously placed for emergency work. Foreign visitors have remarked on the good nature of the crowds gathered to witness the football game on the Brooklyn bridge is the most notorious of all our perennial crowds. Its behavior is scandalous, its good nature nil. In the struggle for car space

the finer instincts are forgotten, and the crowd is brutish in the extreme from the time the rush homeward begins until it dies out two hours later. Probably more persons have been injured on or near the Brooklyn bridge since its dedication than in any other spot in the world, having battles between armies, of course.

DEATH DEALING POWERS OF A CROWD.

One of the greatest crowds of modern times assembled on the Hodynysky Plain, Moscow, on May 30, 1896, to participate in the popular fete incident to the present czar's coronation. It numbered half a million, and when it was dispersed by soldiers a few hours after it had collected, it left dead behind variously estimated from 1,100 to 2,000, and seriously wounded to the number of 1,200.

All the night prior to the fete day the horde of people, mostly peasants from Moscow and the provinces, streamed to the vast plain on which Napoleon had massed his army before marching into Moscow. By 6 o'clock in the morning they were packed about the five hundred booths from which free food, drink and souvenir mugs were to be distributed to one and all. Barriers had been erected in front of each booth to prevent undue crowding. There are various explanations as to why the fete was turned into a day of mourning. One is that the crowd was greater than anticipated, the crush in the rear plied those in the van against the barriers, which finally gave way, and the people, finding themselves free, swept forward in a great wave, trampling under foot all who were not strong enough to keep their feet.

This was the first story. Later, it was said that there had been much stealing of the funds set aside by the czar for gifts to the populace, and with the idea of covering their guilt the officials in charge of the food distribution instructed the 1,000 attendants to throw gifts at the crowd. Then, when complaints were received that the bombardment the fearful press would cease. However, it served only to increase the horror, those in the rear leaping forward all the more eagerly to

get their share of the food flying about. There was a hollow in the ground at the point of the greatest crush, and this proved a veritable death trap for scores of moujiks. So furious was the rush of feet that in places the plain looked as if it had been freshly turned with plow. Hundreds of the dead were never identified. The czar defrayed the funeral expenses of the victims, and to each family that lost a member a substantial sum of money was paid by his direction.

A FAMOUS CROWD OF THE PAST.

In the days before the French capital of a colony of Madagascar, the capital of that island was the point of assemblage for a great crowd whenever the grand kabary was held. The last ruler to issue her commands to and receive the homage of the chiefs at this ceremonial was Queen Ranavalona III. Swarming around the dais on which she sat with her chief councilors, and the secondary platform, holding the chiefs, was the great crowd filling the spacious sacred enclosure, a half mile distant from the royal palace. To swell the crowd on these occasions, thousands of natives traveled from all parts of the island, and the capital turned out practically en masse.

The grand kabary crowd was one of the most interesting that ever collected; so was the multitude that witnessed the Durbar; while in this country the crowds that took part in the peace celebrations in our large cities following the close of the war with Spain will be remembered for many years for their size and patriotic enthusiasm. The crowd that assembled in New York to celebrate the centennial of the adoption of the Constitution was enormous for that day.

THE DEWEY PARADE CROWD.

Excepting the two inaugural crowds that have assembled since then, the Dewey parade in New York, in 1899, brought together our latest famous crowd. It was even greater than the one that collected to take part in the celebration of Columbus day, seven years before. And that was a record breaker for the metropolis, tens of thousands coming from near and far to gaze and cheer in unison with the natives.

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