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THE CHERRY CARNIVAL AT BEAR RIVER (1890 Digby Courier)

Notwithstanding the fact that Tuesday morning dawned a little dark and cloudy, with a mild suggestion of rain, the staunch little steamer *Evangeline*, with the old veteran Capt. Robinson at the helm, conveyed a goodly number of people to Bear River to attend the Cherry Carnival held in that village.

The trip up the river proved delightful. The scenery is very grand; on either hand are towering hills far above our heads; at the very summit and upon the hillsides we catch a glimpse of pretty little white cottages, peeping modestly down from among green trees. As a young Broad Cove lady remarked, the scenery is very suggestive of the Rhine. Frank, one of our party - a young gent who had been up the river before related to a very attentive audience, how, on a former occasion, the steamer had grounded on the east bank of the river, listing towards the shore, when a huge boulder of granite came tumbling down the steep cliff and entered the smoke stack of the steamer, strange to say, causing no damage whatever. Hearing no "groans" after the thrilling narrative, we came to the conclusion that it was accepted as a fact.

"Cos.," the funny man of the crowd, amused the passengers - and himself as well - and doubtless believes that the ardor of an experiment should not be dampened by the anticipation of consequences.

Arriving at Bear River the excursionists were met on the wharf by the Bear River Brass Band. At 10:00 the steamer *W. M. Weatherspoon*, in command of Capt. Corbitt, arrived from Annapolis with a large number of excursionists, accompanied by the Annapolis band. Many persons came in carriages from all parts of the county, and fully 2000 people were present. The push, energy and go-aheaditiveness of Bear River people is universally known, and every citizen worked hard to successfully carry out the day's sports. The day was everything that could be desired in the way of fine weather.

A notable misfortune was the absence of the luscious cherry, the fruit not yet being ripe, but by the latter part of the week they will be in abundance. However, we managed to secure a few boxes. This pleased our funny man and he got very generous. Seating himself under the shade of some trees by the roadside he invited everybody in a very earnest manner, to "Help yourselves, ladies and gents. This is the only place in Bear River where you can enjoy a real, live, cherry carnival".

The aquatic sports and running races came off in the morning. We noticed the absence of Bear River or Digby aspirants of the "sprint", the foot races being contested only by Annapolis amateurs. In the afternoon the athletic sports were continued until about 3 o'clock, after which everybody betook themselves to the horse races.

The ladies of the Methodist church held a tea meeting during the day, where the wants of the inner man were supplied. Dinner was served on the European plan, proving quite a novelty in the way of tea meetings. The handsome sum of \$100 was realized.

Altogether a very enjoyable day was spent. We felt sad though, when we heard some young ladies declare they had not enjoyed themselves. They have our sympathy. We also extend our extreme sympathy to the young man who, after lavishing his time - to say nothing of his loose change - at a fancy table presided over by a pretty girl, got so badly "left" when she went off with another chap.

The Hillsdale Cornet Band, of Annapolis, under the leadership of Mr. N. F. Ritchie, discoursed sweet music during the day.

At 8:00 in the evening the whistle of the *Evangeline* sounded, warning us that the time had arrived when we must bid au Revoir to Bear River, its pretty girls and - cherries! -- carrying with us pleasant recollections of an enjoyable day well spent.

The following were the winners in the sporting events:

FOUR OARED BOAT RACE:

1st: Crouse crew: W. Crouse, bow; Milberry, fore mid; Langley, aft mid; Morgan, stroke; A. Dunn, coxswain.

2nd: Wentzell crew: J. Wentzell, bow; Parker, fore mid; Long, aft mid; Rice, stroke; C. Dunn, coxswain.

INDIAN CANOE RACE:

1st: L. Luxy, M. Pictou, J. Luxy.

2nd: A. Tony, J. Pictou, M. Sloane.

100 YARD DASH: Leavitt 1st; Thompson 2nd; Hughes 3rd; Withcombe 4th.

Half Mile Run (illegible)

220 YARDS: Leavitt 1st; Hughes 2nd.

QUARTER MILE RACE: Mitchell 1st; Thompson 2nd.

BOY'S RACE: Robbins 1st; McClelland 2nd; O' Brien 3rd.

RUNNING HIGH JUMP: Thompson 1st; Mitchell 2nd.

STANDING HIGH JUMP: Thompson 1st; Mitchell 2nd

TROTting RACES:

1st Race: Dunn 1st; Tupper 2nd

2nd Race: Feltus 1st; Shaw 2nd

3rd Race: Simpson 1st; Dunn 2nd

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