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2059

End-of-summer festivities in Germany

25th Sept. 53

The chief industry of Munich is brewing beer. So every <sup>Autumn</sup> ~~October~~ they ~~in~~ celebrate the "Harvest of the Hops" with a fortnight of festivity. ~~And even the~~

And even the grand parade holds promise of one long round of pleasure. It's the biggest festival in Europe and over 200,000 visitors invade the city on the opening day. Every beer-hall becomes a miniature theatre, and every beer-garden a fairground, with merry-go-rounds, swings and side-shows adding to the spirit of festival.

And spirits rise still further, as the new season's brew is handed round - ten foaming tankards at a time. The first barrel was tapped by the Lord Mayor of the City.

The Toast is "Beer, Beer, Glorious Beer" - a sentiment that certainly makes for a merry festival.

Strange as it may seem - the National sport of Bavaria is not beer-drinking but a trial of strength known as the "Hooked Finger".

In this festival contest - strong-finger artistes came from all over the country.

One competitor was a waitress who holds the world's championship for carrying beer-mugs. ~~She built up the strength to pin through~~

Another giddy past-time in Bavaria is Gyro-Wheeling, and at Wurzburg, they staged the first championships to be held since the war...

The wheel was designed by a German, in 1925 - perhaps to prove to his wife that he wasn't tipsy after the <sup>Autumn</sup> ~~October~~ Festival. ~~Frankly it probably proved that he wasn't so~~

And in case this story gets too out of hand, we end on an arresting note - the annual display of the West Berlin Police in the Olympic Stadium.

~~and for a time the police of the force seemed to hang in the balance.~~  
All branches of the service were represented - including the dogs - who performed their tasks with burning zeal. (2)

Finally, a torch-light procession wound up a day of glowing pride for Germany's men in blue.