

LOCAL TRAVELOGUES.

Week-End Notes on Holiday Rambles.

(L.C.M.)

ARTICLE I.

About a year ago the writer finished his last notes of travel, and now he begins the publication of a few more. Those published last year were in reference to foreign travel, but these about to be published now are in reference to our own land—the land we all love, but so few of us know; and the land so many of us misunderstand; and not a few, misrepresent. There may not be much in these notes; but much or little, they will contain the writer's best, and are meant for the common people. For some time I will deal generally with the town of St. John's, and to the picture drawn as Salmonier, we devote our first chapters.

SALMONIER.

Although Salmonier is quite near the capital, and can be reached daily, the writer had never really visited the place. But for long years had done business with its people, and from them had learned much of the history of its early days—and a little of its folklore. It was, therefore, with keen interest that I recently found myself on the spot; and for the first time beheld its scenery, and scanned its landscapes. The harbour—if harbour it may be called—is formed by the deep in-draft of an arm at the head of St. Mary's Bay; and it extends for several miles; but the beautiful river which runs into the harbour, has such a gradual estuary, that one appears as a continuation of the other. These features lend an attraction to the surroundings, which at once captivates the tourist, and makes him pay tribute to the beauties of the spot. The entire scene is primeval, and although the hand of man has made much impression upon it, there is still that rustic semblance which belongs to nature, and to nature alone. The rich foliage of the hills, on either side of the long in-draft, stand out in bold, and yet in fascinating relief, to the dark current which lies between them; and the visitor scarcely knows which to admire the most, the beaches, hills, or waters. The hills, or perhaps we had better say slopes, represent the things that stand, while the waters may be taken as a figure of those things which abide not. The one is solid, and like the "everlasting hills" of which the sacred writer speaks, they stand fast forever; the other is shifting, restless and uncertain; but they both serve their divine purpose, and daily teach the one great lesson—the lesson of creation, and creation's author—God.

LARGER POPULATION NEEDED.

It is no wonder that men sought such a place to make a home; the wonder is that more men have not sought such a place, and that the population of Salmonier is not larger than it is. In our rambles along our coast line we have seen a few places which have caused us to ask ourselves the question why men settled there, but such a locality as Salmonier presents an inviting prospect, and instead of asking why men settled there, we reverse the question by asking why more people have not made home-steads along its shores. True it is that there have been many mistakes made in the pioneering of Newfoundland, and because of these mistakes, our population has not increased as it should; but if all the places colonized afforded the shelter, or the waterfront, or agricultural advantages, as

does Salmonier, then Newfoundland's population to-day would be one-half, instead of only one quarter, of a million. And this is partly what ails Newfoundland. She needs a larger population. A quarter of a million people cannot develop her, nor can such a comparatively small population public service, because our public service is almost large enough for a million people.

Salmonier has two principle settlements, and they face each other in a sort of mutual rivalry. On one side of the river stands Salmonier proper, and on the other side St. Joseph's. The homes of the people bespeak of independence, and the church edifices tell of the higher life; while the schools remind the stranger that education is not being neglected. All these elements of society are essential to good citizenship; hence it is pleasing to find them established throughout our land. Our stay at the place being brief, we did not have much opportunity of personally meeting many of the people; but those with whom we conversed gave us that same warm welcome which we have found in every part of our country. In their fields, or at their gardens, or at their boats, or at their mills, they presented the appearance of people well off and contented, and at peace with the world; and they seemed to be living out the life referred to by the poet Grey, when he speaks of "the even tenor of their way."

It was the rich growth of wood, and the deep greenery of the surroundings, both at Salmonier proper, as well as along the road, that especially attracted our attention. Our journey was made by motor car, and not being limited to time in our tour, we were able to halt and make short excursions into the forest. As our readers are aware the road turns off at Holy-road, and runs in a direct line right on to St. Mary's Bay. This road is indeed a most romantic one, and every lover of the "rural wayside," who may frequent it, will find his soul drawn out, and all his better nature responding to the solitude. A lone canoeist once cried out and said "O! Solitude hath its charms," but solitude hath its charms, and to find them in all their depth, or to feel them in all their profundity, needs but a tour over the Salmonier line. Such, at least, were our impressions, and such we think should be the impression of all who look beneath the surface, and "who have eyes to see."

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SOME INSIDE INFORMATION.

Editor Evening Telegram.

Dear Sir,—

"Let none presume to wear an unwelcome digress." I have no desire to usurp the credit due to others. In order that the public may know, and in order that we may have a complete record of the initial stages of the formation of the Newfoundland Amateur Athletic Association, I am, with your permission, going to put in your paper a few facts concerning the Sports held Wednesday afternoon, which were so successful from a sporting and financial standpoint. Coming as they did after the Methodist Guards Comrades Sports, which, in my opinion, were the most successful sports up to that time, over held here, it was wonderful that they could be followed the following week by another sports which, without any amusing items, or without anybody behind it like the Methodist Guards Comrades, which has behind it the well deserved sympathy and support of the Methodist Church, and in fact citizens of all denominations, equalled, if not surpassed, them in attendance and interest. This was clearly shown when in spite of, at times, a heavy rain fall, very few left the field but stayed on till the last even was finished. The receipts, which were not augmented by the sale of ice-cream, candies, etc., by pretty young ladies, were in the neighbourhood of eight hundred dollars, which was exceptionally large. It clearly shows that when the public realize the importance and necessity of a good undertaking they are ever ready to support it, and in spite of the fact that it was run under no patronage whatsoever. The Public will remember that last year John Bell went from here as Newfoundland's representative to compete in the ten mile road race at Halifax. For some reason or other he failed to finish the course which was a great disappointment to these of his friends and supporters, who believed he should have come in among the first runners. Bell himself was greatly disappointed. When he came back Mr. Harvey Thomas a sporting enthusiast with considerable training in caring for athletes, took Bell in hand and Bell has been under his management ever since. He was anxious that Bell should have another chance. After the formation of the A.A.A. he approached me on the subject, but I did not know Mr. Thomas then as I do now, and thought that he should interest someone who was more conversant with the facts. I had had nothing whatever to do, last year, with Mr. Bell. Mr. Thomas persisted, and at last interested Mr. P. Grace, and Mr. Grace formed a Committee of which he was Secretary, Mr. Harry Phelan Chairman and Mr. Burke Treasurer. The idea was to get up a race between Charley Cyr. of Montreal and Bell, for the purpose of raising funds to send Bell to Halifax. The idea was developed to include other events. Mr. Grace who is Secretary of the A.A.A. thought that that would be a good idea and developed the idea by making it a National Sports. As the Mayor and Councillors had just passed over the Fargue Ground, I suggested that they open the Sports which he kindly consented to do. I was asked to meet the Committee last Saturday night which I did. The programme and other arrangements were finalized at that meeting, which lasted till three a. m. the next morning. Mr. Grace was leaving on his holidays and hence the late hour. On Monday with the consent of Mr. Phelan, the Chairman, was put Chairman and Mr. Phelan Vice Chairman, and under that management the Sports were conducted.

There are a few features in connection with these Sports that I should like to emphasize. They were the first which might be called National Sports. They were held under the auspices of the Newfoundland Amateur Athletic Association and were the first thing, outside the Concert when it was formed, that the Association ever attempted. That they were so successful shows the sympathy the public has with the movement. The measurements and times were official. Mr. Wm. Noel of the Department of Agriculture and Mines gave a signed certificate of the correctness of the distances. Three experienced gentlemen with stop watches kept the time of the different events. After the contestants had lined up, four judges under Mr. Harold Rendell and to the strains of the C.L.B. Band, which under Captain Morris gave their services free, and during the afternoon, delivered the proceedings, paraded round the field and had come to the centre of the Grand Stand where the committee, judges and officials were also assembled. Mayor I. C. Morris from a stand in the field facing the Grand Stand addressed the Association and its objects and saying that it was necessary to preach a gospel of the body as well as a gospel of the soul, and exhorting the contestants to strive manfully and wishing them all success, he declared the Sports open. The Sports then commenced, and were so keenly contested that in spite of the rain practically all the spectators kept their seats till the close. The papers have given an ac-

count of the events, the prize winners and their times. The National Anthem brought these most successful Sports to a close.

The Victor Ludorum was won by Mr. Fred Phelan, brother of the Vice-Chairman, Mr. T. Butler being second. As Mr. Phelan is an outstanding football and baseball player, he must be acknowledged as the best all round athlete in Newfoundland for 1921. The B.I.S. Athletic Association, of which Mr. Phelan is a member, won the most number of points, the newly formed Methodist Guards Old Comrades Association, of which Mr. Butler is a member, coming second. The A.A.A. is presenting a shield to be completed for annually for the greatest number of points scored by an Athletic Association and the B.I.S.A.A. have the honour of being the first winners. The Sports held a meeting the night of the Sports and as the receipts were so large decided to send to Halifax three other besides Bell, and these were F. Phelan, T. Butler and H. Skirving, who won the mile. By a curious coincidence, at every-thing in this country is run on denominational lines, it so happens that these three men belong to the three leading denominations and the choice could hardly be more popular, Phelan being the representative for the B.I.S., Butler for the Methodist Guards and Skirving for the C.L.B. So everybody is happy. I regretted my old association, the C.E.I., did not score more the Total Abstinence which is to me a mystery. Being such a sober people they ought to have the leading Athletic Association of the Country. Everything turned out in our favour, even the rain keeping the crowd in the city. Only one thing more is wanted, and that is that our representatives carry off some trophies from the Halifax Sports, and, believe me if they do the welkin will ring when they return.

This letter may be long but it describes an historic event and therefore I crave your indulgence.

Yours sincerely,
GEO. W. B. AYRE.

Aug. 26, 1921.



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Oh, my life seems gray and dreary, in rebellion off I stand, for my soul is sick and weary of my task of pounding sand. In rebellion off I'm signing, calling on the name of Mike, when the idle rich go flying in their autos, up the pike. Why must one forever labor till his brains are turning sour, while his giddy, gilded neighbor hits up sixty miles an hour? Oh, the auto horns are sounding, and the cut-outs make their noise, and my share of sand I'm pounding with the sad, downtrodden boys. Pounding sand while others gambol where the ocean billows flow, pounding sand while others ramble down some sort of Rotten Row. But, you say, the rich have sorrow, every standard brand of grief, and they'd give a lot to borrow my capacity for beef. And of rubles quite a number: they could give, with great delight, if they could enjoy the slumber that enshrouds me every night. I have all I'm really needing, so you say, to ease my woe, and I am not pinched for speeding every time I let her go. I am sound and hale and hearty, honest toll accounts for that, while the idle, loafing smarties sag around in rolls of fat. I'm encouraged by your spiling, so, with weapon in my hand, I'll forget that weary feeling and continue pounding sand.

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