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RAMBLING NOTES for 1915.

(L. C. MORRIS.)

CHAPTER VII.

From Victoria Village in Conception Bay to St. George's on the West Coast, is quite a jump; but having written about the intervening places before, we will therefore confine these notes to what may be termed "new territory."

St. George's is an interesting district, and it presents many features that are not always met in Newfoundland. In this district are the Table and Anguille Mountains, between which lie the rich alluvial levels, and splendid waters of Little and Grand Rivers. I do not profess to know which is really the best part of Newfoundland; but it cannot be denied, that among its choicest areas, the flats and slopes of St. George's District stand foremost. To study the rich forestry of the locality, and to consider the richness of its soil, is to be convinced that it is intended to become the home of tens of thousands of families in the future. This is no mere visionary statement. The conditions which such a place offers, and the possibility of large industries being instituted, and the further possibility of its rural settlement, all indicate, that as the century grows, it too will increase in population, and in commercial significance. For such development it has everything in its favor, and already there are signs of the "moving of the waters!"

The portion of the district which particularly came under my notice, is that which lies between Cape Bay and Deer Lake, but especially the locality of Little River and Codroy. Like all parts of Newfoundland, its fisheries are rich and offer safe returns to honest industry; but in addition to its fisheries, it offers an equally profitable reward to those who till the soil. That it has not long ere this date attracted more people to its banks and glades, seems difficult to understand. But after all it is not to be wondered at, when we bear in mind that Newfoundland was chiefly colonized as a fishing country. The out-cry of its discovery was mostly in reference to its fisheries, and from first to last, fishing was the principal industry for which it was famed. Men came to fish for the summer season, and then go back to their homes in the British Isles. They dreamed not of abiding here; thus a century or more passed, and as the new country became better known, and as its industry developed, it assumed a one-sided policy, which warped the opinion of emigrants.

A false idea of Newfoundland existed at first; and in no small degree it exists at present. Much could be written upon the sources of present-day misunderstanding, one of the greatest of which is the snap-shot fiend. This applies especially to those people who drop along here for a holiday, and take a photo of a few straggling places, or of a few fishing stages, and also of the humbler people; and then return to their own country, and publish their opinions, and claim to be authorities on Newfoundland. As well visit any large city and take pictures of some of its slums and alleys, and because of that profess to know such city. Unfortunately Newfoundland has been basely libelled in this same manner. There was, however, one particular mistake made, or fallen into, in the earlier days of our settlement—it was the fact that colonization was chiefly confined to the peninsula of Avalon. Had the Western part of the island been settled at the same time as its eastern promontory, it would have made a very great difference in the history and trade of the entire country; and it would have had a tendency to save the country from developing the mistaken, one-sided policy of fishing, to the neglect of everything else.

The peninsula of Avalon is the most exposed of any, to the mists and fogs of the Atlantic Ocean. A glance at the map, at once certifies this statement. Our fogs and mists have been one of our drawbacks; but they are mostly local, nor do they extend to the more beautiful spots of the island. Some people write and speak as if the fog covered the whole country, but such a statement is another libel. The country is greater than we think it, better than we know it, and has a future far beyond our present-day limited impressions of it. There has got to come a big change sometime, and whatever source it comes from, or whatever aspect the trend of affairs assumes: whether it be Colonial, Provincial, or Imperial, it will mean the entry of Newfoundland into wider industrial and commercial relations with the world at large—to this she is adapted, and for it she is destined.

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Three Regiments of Australians Were Wiped Out

But one Man of the Entire Force Remained Alive Reports Turk.

The Dardanelles, Nov. 10 (Australian official eye-witness.)—Some of the press details regarding the famous charge of the Australian light horse brigade against the Turks on the Nek, in which the best part of three Australian regiments participated and only one man remained alive, have just reached British headquarters through a Turkish prisoner. The prisoner was able to state positively, what many Australians who witnessed the charge has suspected, that during the attack the Turks lost not a single man. They received a special complimentary order from their general and several medals and a good many promotions.

The Australian charge followed a long period of bombardment.

"As soon as the bombardment stopped," said the Turkish prisoner, "the English (the Turks call all the British troops whether home or colonial by the name English), leaped over their parapet and charged down upon us. They came on very well. As soon as they appeared, every rifle in the place opened upon them direct across the Nek, and a machine gun with its cross-fire from the right swept them sheer off the face of the earth. Three of them managed to reach our trenches and fell dead over the parapet into the bottom of it.

"As for the men of the light horse brigade, after three months in the trenches, with many of them sick and some of them weak, with every officer and man at his appointed place, the instant the word was given they leapt from their trenches and rushed on death, the first line may not have known it was death, the third line must have known it, and they died."

Odd Items.

One of the saddest finds recorded was that of a St. John's, Newfoundland, fisherman, who discovered a wedding ring in the entrails of a cod in 1871. It was eventually proved to have belonged to Pauline Burman, an Englishwoman, who was lost in the steamship Anglo-Saxon, wrecked off Chance Cove, Newfoundland, in 1861. The lucky fisherman received a present of fifty pounds for restoring the highly-prized memento to the woman's son.

A Havre fisherman's wife, drying codfish caught by her husband on the coast of France in 1904, noticed that one fish had a hard substance inside. On investigation she found in the fish a golden bracelet. How the ornament came into its strange receptacle, is, of course, not known; but it is conjectured that it must have slipped from the wrist of some fair passenger leaning over the bulwarks of a transatlantic liner, and been seized by the cod.

Last year the greater part of the male, and part of the female, population of the village of Portishead, at the mouth of the Avon, in England, turned anglers for a while. Fishing tackle and bait boomed for some time, and all because one of the local anglers shortly before had landed a good-sized fish, and when it came to be dissected on the domestic table it was found to "include" a diamond ring declared to be worth one hundred and fifty dollars.

Owing to the fact that cod seek their food on the bottom and are voracious feeders, their stomachs, when opened, frequently present a curious and sometimes amusing collection of odds and ends. Bits of leather, marlin-spikes, iron bolts, a ball of twine, leaden sounding plummet, hooft of deer, scissors, brass, oil cans, potato parings, corn cobs, the head of a rubber doll, stones, and big shells have been found in them. A codfish caught at Vineyard Haven was found to have in its stomach two full-grown ducks. When taken out they were quite fresh, having most of their feathers on.

Because the heel of a rubber boot, and fragments of a rubber coat, together with a knife, were found in the stomach of a cod one day, a Gloucester was reported, and the story was taken seriously for a time, that the fish had eaten the fisherman to whom they had belonged, and that these were the undigested fragments.

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Fads and Fashions.

Fancy colored neckbands are to be seen in all the new shades besides Roman coloring.

The big black velvet hats must be worn with an air, or they can't be called successful.

The simplest of chiffon evening gowns may be made rich by adding bead embroidery.

Even young girls are wearing fur coats with flaring skirts and broad bands of skunk fur.

Skating caps and scarfs of soft wool to match are among the prettiest things of the season.

No matter what the fur, it must be worn high, covering the mouth and reaching to the ears.

A touch of embroidery on the ends of the sash will give a point of interest easily acquired.

Handbags are many and varied, but for good general use the one of leather or is always best.

There is nothing prettier than white wool sweater with cap to match.

There are delightful low shoes made without buckles or trimming of any kind and to be worn with spats.

Stripes are used for separate skirts and there are very smart limousine wraps made of striped velveteen. White fox fur, black velvet and white cloth embroidered in black and white and gold makes a charming color scheme.

Colored handkerchiefs are now more dainty than plain white. They are sometimes of silk, but always in pastel shades.

The large hat is clamoring to be first in fashion; but it, so long as there are wind and motors, the close-fitting hat will hold its own.

The tailored shirtwaist exists, but it is softened somewhat by being made of soft taffeta, and the turnover collar and cuffs are plicated.

Veils are playing a very important part in fashionable winter outfits. They amount to hat trimmings, so elaborate have they become.

Unless you are tall and slender, be careful how you place trimming on the bottom of your skirt. Things running round the skirt tend to thicken the appearance.

Common Sense

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A. & S. Rodger's.

A Doctor From the Dardanelles.

(From the Manchester Guardian.)

A regimental doctor just back from the Dardanelles has told me some interesting things about life at Helles. The difficulties which the medical staff have to face on the peninsula and on the island where the hospital camps are have been largely decreased, but the work is still carried on under many handicaps. Many of the troubles arose from want of any special communication between the medical staff and the store ships of the island. That has been largely overcome by

the arrival of a number of pinnaces, which allows them no longer to be dependent on the naval staff of the launches. The sanitary troubles have been big and vexatious, and before the hospital camps had been laid down nothing had been done to prepare the engineering operations which should have been considered as soon as the site of the camp on the island was fixed. Among the minor questions was the absence of aerated waters for the sick. So far it has been impossible to get anything but the smallest supply. Many descriptions of life at Helles have been given—the plague of flies, the dug-outs in tiers, the constant sniping. My informant emphasized the point of the clean

fighting of the Turks. Only twice, he said, have the Red Cross vans been fired on, and it was on an occasion when the vans were so turned that the Red Crosses could not be seen by the enemy. After the position of the vans had been altered and the marks made clear there was no more firing. Once or twice shots had come into the hospital camp, but these were clearly accidents. There is a Turkish graveyard at Helles which is never fired upon by the enemy and is never used by us for any military purposes. A strong barbed wire fence has been put around it to prevent any trespass.

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