

CASUAL COMMENTS.

It is summer time everyone who can take a holiday, and last week I joined the ranks of the fortunate in this respect. True it was only five days—one of them a Sunday but it was a holiday and I enjoyed it thoroughly. The fact that four years had come and gone since my last breathing spell does not fail to appreciate this one. "Baan's" agent in any place "before untolden by the foot of men," but in the same old "wilde of Muskoka." At Robinson's Point, near Gravenhurst, I gathered my crop of blisters and spread an extra coat of tan over the classic features I gaze upon in my piece of looking glass each morning. As did the members of the party I joined at "Robinson's," we hoisted, battled, fished, beer-picked, bled-barked, loafed, to our heart's content; and it is hardly necessary to say did thoughtful execution each time that "Florida's" genitive voice proclaimed that—a really—

"Robinson's" is one of those places which fortunately still remain—and I hope will always—where you can be well housed and fed at a wonderfully moderate charge and don't have to be "dressed up" and on exhibition three or four days. You can get there and be certain of a jolly good time without any necessity of taking your dress suit with you, and that's why I enjoyed it. When I go on a holiday I want to be able to spend it in a free and easy way, and have no use on either for the people who are so stunningly gotten up that the verandah of the hotel is the only place they can sit on without dangerously damaging their spotless vestment. A holiday is nothing to me unless I can wear "duds" that I can do anything I like in without fear of consequences, and as these were just the conditions that prevailed in our party, I crowded just about as much "solid enjoyment" into those five days as it was possible for such a short time to contain.

Or course there were other reasons for this without which the looting togs would have availed nothing. It was one of the jolliest parties that could be imagined, the weather was perfect, and barring a harmless tumble or two "in the water" there were no accidents. Add to this the fact of us being all congenial spirits, and that no one save one young man who "couldn't fish, shirked any of the duties pertaining to such outings, and it was only to be expected that a good time would result. Then, the now inevitable quines and canons dry, with fish, without fish; in boats, on rocks, in water. In our quieter moments we discussed live present day topics tried to decipher the history of the ages written on the scarred and seated faces of the rocks and indulged in speculations as to the probable solving of some of the puzzling questions connected with the accompanying music of nature's grand orchestra, and all too soon it was "all aboard for Toronto," but the memory of these pleasant days will be one of the pleasures of life though the rest of the summer, and I think that all of us will be better mentally and physically for our short stay at "Robinson's" in Muskoka.

Now this—excepting the shortness of my share of it—in any ideal of a holiday, or for that matter everywhere, were Canada to take just such a rest from the worries of business and the cares of daily toil. Too many of us think we can't afford it, but the chances are that ten or fifteen dollars invested in an outfit like this would soon see two or three times the amount in doctor's bills. That is all it will cost you for railway fare and board for a week or two weeks' trip, and there is absolutely no necessity for it costing you any more. If you can't do it this summer start a "holiday fund" for next year putting by small change saved from other things and you will be surprised to find how easy it is to get a holiday, and how much better you will feel on account of it.

It is beginning to look as though there was more than mere rumor in the hints at attempted bribery in connection with the street railway franchise, when a man like Mr. Kerr makes a statement such as he did before the Street Railway Committee. Certainly he would give utterance to such a straight charge if he had not reasonable grounds for going. In addition to this a report is going the rounds that one of the aldermen who was unsuccessfully approached has given the scheme away. If this is right the man from Rochester and Cleveland will, no doubt, be very much afraid that they have not their foot in it, for if it ever comes out the tenders employing them will rise

"not in it," and of course they'll be responsible for the fact. However, it may be there are at least two aldermen who have come to the right about with a surprising suddenness, and it will take a pretty straight story to satisfy all enquirers at that score.

The whole question of the disposal of the street railway franchise comes up at the next meeting of the Council, and at the risk of wearying you I want to say just a word or two further on the subject. Somehow or other nearly every one has got it into their head that the choice lies between operation by the Council and a leasing of the road. The papers are so persistently repeating this false assumption. Now the contention of those in favor of civic operation has all along been that an electric commission should have charge of the street railway, with a competent manager, who would have full control of the employees and be responsible for the successful operation of the system, acting under their direction. The commission would be directly responsible to the people for this one thing and could not crawl behind anything else to escape consequences of mismanagement, should that occur.

The real point at issue is whether the people should through their men, chosen by themselves, operate the road for the benefit of all, or hand it over to a few self-appointed to make ten millions of dollars to put into their own millions of banking pockets. The road is a public one, and should be so, and if their judgment is not warped by the few dollars it is reported that some of them expect to pocket should a syndicate get the road they will face it squarely and decide for the people whom presumably they represent.

I was very much struck by a remark made to me by a gentleman a short time ago with relation to the attitude of the clergy to the labor question. We were talking of some recent utterances by clergymen to the effect that trade unions "tended towards irreligion and anarchy," when he made the statement that, "for," he said, "what are the Ministerial Association, the various Synods, etc., but ministerial trades unions. Do not they (the clergy) band together to further the interests of their calling, and should they not be called when so united the Clerical Trades Union?" Certainly I think they should, and what else is it? They meet together just as other trade unions do to consider the best methods, the most effective ways and means to be used to lighten their labor and at the same time produce the most effective results.

Probably the elegancy which I think that is intended as a disrespectful remark, but if they do they are entirely mistaken for no disrespect is intended. I merely wish to point out the similarity of the position occupied and the absurdity of the denouncing of one class of workers by another. It is, in fact, worse than that in this case for the members of the "Clerical Trades Union" are by the majority admitted to be what they profess to be—our guides to a better and nobler state of things than at present exists. Instead, then, of crying out against Trade Unions, or scornfully ignoring them, would it not be better if they made the most active efforts possible towards a closer alliance with all bodies of men who would work for the betterment of mankind? We may not all agree in all things as to methods, but the end wished for is the same and it should be possible to frankly admit this fact, and sinking minor differences work together in one grand fellowship. Let it be called by what name it may, so that men are lifted out of fakeness into truth and learn to live, not to themselves alone, but to do others as they would that they should do to them. DR.

SUBSTITUTE FOR A CUSS-WORD. There was a nice and pious old lady, but the pangs of rheumatism proved well-nigh insupportable for her fortitude, and in a moment of agony she was moved to declare that she wished her rheumatism were laid upon the devil rather than upon her. Her small but lively grandson, who chanced to overhear the observation, was very properly shocked, and fell calling upon her to renounce, mildly, but firmly: "Grandma, he said, with great gravity, 'do not like to hear you say devil, it is a bad word, and you must say something else.' You might say Damns. That is a Bible word and it says damn and say and curse all together, and no harm done." The old lady received the rebuke with that meekness which is fitting that the old should show as the youth of the present generation, and therefor when her carnal heart felt any inclination to curse and to swear she meekly pronounced the word "Damns" and immediately did rise great comfort from this exercise.

POETRY

Kaiser William in London. How the trumpet! Beat the drum! See the mighty Kaiser come. Miguers, hungry, asked for bread, "about them down, like dogs," he said. Patriot Wilton, about with pride, See the Prince lead him the file! He whom, Klügke, like we saw Flaming boys at Locarno. Sink into your native slum, Merry, for one day and one day, Poverty! you must not stray Down the decorated way. Copy yourselves! In silence go! Copy thus the Warsaw now, Flung through windows to make dry Streets the White 'Car would pass by. Let the flags and banners wave Over the bent, beautiful and brave! Ye, the bent, beautiful and grey, Would that list in battle array! Telling turn the wheels of trade, Not for those who wealth ye make, But for those whose glory is Fruit of your austerities. —Workers' Cry.

ALDERMANIC RECORD.

THE STREET RAILWAY COMMITTEE AGAINST CIVIC OPERATION. THE KIELY-EVRETT TEMPER. At the meeting of the Street Railway Committee on Monday, the 13th inst., Ald. Hall moved the following resolution: "That this Committee respect and keep the promise made by the electors when voting the money to acquire the street railway—that it should not be operated under civic control." The motion was carried by a vote of eight to seven, as follows: FOR: Hall, Bell, Leslie, Joffile. AGAINST: Mayor Clarke, McDoval, Gibson, Shaw, Hallau.

Ald. Hall moved that the Kiely-Evrett tender be laid on the table and referred to the committee, it be now accepted. A letter from Mr. S. H. Blake was read, which presented the following conclusions: 1. That the city should not operate the Street Railway until it is reasonably sure that the best offer that can be obtained has been made for its property. 2. That the Street Railway should not be operated by the city for any longer period than is necessary to answer the above purposes. 3. That greater publicity should be given in quarters where it is probable that persons would be found anxious to acquire such a property, and that for this purpose fresh tenders should be asked, giving at least three months to reply to the demand of the city in this respect; and perhaps largely simplifying the specifications on which the tenders are asked. Several amendments in favor of tendering other tenders were put and lost, and Ald. Hall's motion was carried by the following vote: FOR: Leslie, Saunders, J. E. Verral, Joffile. AGAINST: Mayor Clarke, McDoval, Gibson, Shaw, Hallau.

SNAPPY SAYINGS.

PERHAPS rich men do not commit murder; it is certain they do not hang. After killing for the Government a few years, a man may forget himself and do a little killing on his own account. The murderer may have some excuse to offer as a palliation for his offense, but the hangman kills for hire. The wiser plan would be for society to stop the law and let the Government on the causes that lead to crime. Society makes the criminal, and after it has made him it is afraid of its own creation and shuts him up. Lawyers may split hairs and logicians dive their syllogisms as fine as gossamer, but the great difference you can show between war and murder is, that the greater crime is committed by the State, the less by the individual. Those who have the hardest attacks of patriotism, know the least about the real interests of the country, and usually the least about everything else. Men who do not have a square inch of ground that they own call their own, unless it is the little prospective lot in the Potter's Field, are louder in their patriotic declarations than the millionaires who control everything we eat, wear, drink, and live on. The leading advocates of the punishment of death, in the United States, have been a mixture of the two classes, and influence more than to any other one cause, except prejudice, that capital punishment has been able to run so far into civilization. —Jesse J. Paine. The workman who talks protection or Free Trade is a infant sucking at a lopiate bottle. —N. J. People.

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