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Gathered by the Reporter Scribe
Just before going to Press.

—See Banta's ad, for girl wanted in another column.

—Rev. W. E. Reynolds is attending conference at Sherbrooke, Que., this week.

—Mr. Hilton M. Moore, of Queen's Medical College is home for a short time.

—Miss Lillie Lyng, of Smith's Falls is visiting her cousin, Miss W. Elliot, here.

—Samuel Lucas and Rob't, Conlin Smith's Falls, spent Sunday in Athens, guests of Wm. Conlin.

—S. Y. Bullis and family enjoyed an outing on Monday at Sunnyside cottage, Charleston lake.

—Mrs. Christman, of Swedsboro, N. J., has just completed a bed-quilt containing 12,296 pieces.

—Mrs. Spencer and children and Mr. Chisholm, of Kingston, were at Charleston on Monday.

—An Ohio man has 112 great grand children, 22 great grand children and is himself 102 years old.

—Mr. G. Davis and sister, Miss Ouida, of Brockville spent Victoria Day visiting Miss Jessie Taplin, here.

—A picnic party composed of the friends of Messrs. E. Pickersell and S. Manhardt spent Monday at Charleston lake.

—Lord Wemyss has invented a combination pick, mattock, spade, chopper and saw, called a multiplement.

—Mr. Hiliard Jones has been chosen by his class as Valedictorian for the next High School Commencement.

—Messrs. W. H. Godfrey and A. J. Weart, former students of the A.H.S., are in the honor list of first year in Trinity Medical College, Toronto.

—Mr. Edward Tennant has purchased an invalid's chair with which he can propel himself about. It drove him to the polls to vote on Thursday.

—The members of Farmersville I.O. O.F., 237, and visiting brethren are requested to meet in their lodge room at 1:30 p.m. to attend divine service in St. Paul's Presbyterian church at 2:00 p.m.

—In the report of the Art School examinations the Athens High School receives 90 certificates. This should be very satisfactory as it is only surpassed by London and Toronto Collegiate Institutes.

—Mr. N. Kendrick and wife, formerly visiting their nephews, Messrs. T. S. Kendrick and A. E. Donovan, here, this week. They spent Saturday at the lake in company with Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Kendrick.

—To further increase our subscription list we will send the Reporter for 1902 for only 50c in advance and to any old subscriber sending us in \$1.00 for 2 new subscribers as above we will give them as a premium a copy of Crawford C. Slack's book of "Village Verse Stories" selling at 50c each.

UNCLE RUBEN'S VIEWS.

By Crawford C. Slack, Author of Village Verse Stories.



UNCLE RUBEN.

I reckon yer swell city dinners would just be a little bit tough. If you couldn't go down to your grocers en' stock up your cook with our stuff. Say, how do you think you would like it; just cast a reflection or two, En' I guess you'll find Uncle Ruben's a pretty good feller tew you.

Now, s'posen' us hayseeds quit sellin' our breadstuffs, our cheese en' our milk. How long would you gander shank critters exist on your broadcloth and silk? If old Uncle Ruben stopped raisen' his poultry, his beef or his pork, How long would you "Smart Eleck" fellers hold your little job you call work? You'd be out on the street in a jiffy, guess you wouldn't be feelin' so cute. Ner you wouldn't put on so much swagger ner swell in yer tailor-made suit. When the boss would call in your time checks, fer he wouldn't have cash to pay off.

Then you'd have lots of time for yer humor en' plenty of time for to scoff. When you'd have to set down to a dinner of codfish, bananas and prunes. I guess yer'd come down from yer perches and welcome the country gosscons. Don't believe that you'd feel quite so funny in your cutaway, claw-hammer coats.

Should old Uncle Ruben stop growing the grub for your linen bound trousers,

Should we take a rest for a little en' just laze around on our oars. Say, what would become of you fellers that "counter-hop" there at the stores. Should we stay at hum en' keep storin' en' heapin our stuff in the bin. En' eatin' the choicest of victuals from garden, dairy and pen, I reckon you'd sigh to be livin' with old Uncle Ruben a while. En' you wouldn't make fun of his manners, his grub ner his garb ner his style. But you say "What about the high dollars we pay you each year for your stuff." En' twit us of alus a kickin' 'bout not receivin' enough. We admit that you pay us some money but about it you make a big fuss. En' then you go to schemin' en' planin' to steal every dollar from us. Yes, it's nature for you to be crooked; why you'll swear that it's black when it's blue. If you thought you were only a doin' old Rube for a nickel or two.

I hear that you moisten your sugar to make it hold out in its weights. En' you claim that your tea is imported when it's grown right here in the States.

They say that you put peas in yer pepper, burnt beans in yer coffee en' such. En' say it's the genuine Java and charge altogether to much. Then in trade should we bring you our butter yer alus a findin' some fault. You'll say that it's colored with carrots with a large percentage of salt. Should we pack it all nice in a fittin to fault it you'll prod it with holes. Then tell us we'd get better prices if only we'd brought it in rolls. Yes, its nature for you to be crooked en' galls you a bit to deal fair. So if sometimes we're shy just a little we do it that we may keep square. We don't claim to be saintly honest while dealing with you it is true. If we were we'd be swindled completely, so Rube tries to get even with you.

Course, we don't look any too stylish in our five dollar hand-me-down suit. But there's one consolation, they're paid for along with our cheap squeaky boots.

En' we don't have to dodge around corners ner go slyin' up any back street. Ner we don't have to run from the merchants or tailors we happen to meet. We admit that sometimes in yer city we often go goppin' around.

En' perhaps set the "Smart Set" to think in that mentally we are unsound. Well when we stoggy in from the country en' go rubberin' round here en' there.

At some big fake city swindle, at a motor or go-devil car. Don't raise any fuss or excitement pretaining to our mental state. Just take it for granted that Ruben he knows the way hum as any rate. Needn't shout ner raise any disturbance, never mind tellin us what to do. Just keep right on sellin your peanuts, Ruben is sure to get through.

I s'pose now you chaps think yer snobby huddled up in yer rooms eight by ten. Lettin on that yer rich as a banker en' pannin' yourselves off as men. Say, I hope yer don't think yer livin' up there in yer germ breedin' flats. With yer slender en' baby-faced women, with your scrawny and poor little brats. Now I ain't no high bettin' feller but with you I'll wager a five. That yer darsn't go down to the court house and swear that yer really alive. Why in order to see you have a tustle down there with my old fallow plow. Sakes, I'd like to see yer dyspepsia en' the rest of yer city nursed ill. I guess it would cure yer dyspepsia en' the rest of yer city nursed ill. 'Twould be better for you than a drug store with its patent mixtures and pills. Come away with me then to the country, to the lowlands that sparkle with dew. To the home of yer old Uncle Ruben and he'll make a new man out of you.

And too bring the dear little children, let them scamper away o'er the hills. They can gather the tall pussy cat-tails that grow by the murmuring rills. Let them wander away through the woodlands where the song of the nestling is heard.

And play on the mounds green and grassy by the loam which the ploughshare has stirred. Where the shy-water hen is secluded in the wild flags of purplish hue. And the hen-hawk is loudly callin' aloft in the hazy blue. Where the sunbeams can shower on them kisses as they mingle in shout and in song.

And their brows will be cooled by a breeze which bears a fragrance along. There to gather the roses and daisies, the tulips and sweet jessamine. And make pretty wreaths of the crocuses which there in the brambles entwine. Come along with me then to the district where the lowlands they glisten with dew. To the home of your old Uncle Ruben and he'll make happy children of you.

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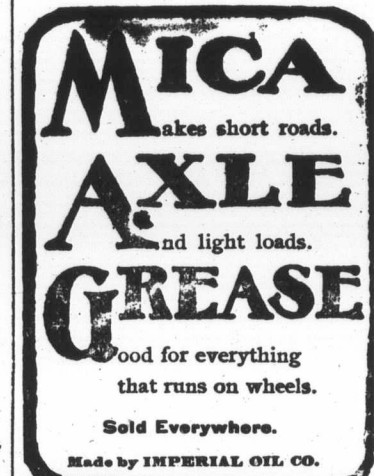
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