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## LOCAL TRAVELOGUES.

### Week-End Notes on Holiday Rambles.

(L.C.M.)  
ARTICLE IV.

#### THE MAN CLEARING GROUND.

In my last article I stated that the young French lad who made his home at Salmonier, had cleared some ground and enlarged his homestead. In that act of clearing ground he proved himself a benefactor; and not only a benefactor to Salmonier, but a benefactor to Newfoundland. His industry in this direction brought to him bounteous living, and he always had enough and to spare. His work was really the basis of trade; for the basis of all trade lies in the tilling of the ground, and in the delving of the mine, and upon these industries the great fabric of commerce largely depends. Where tillage of the ground is, there cannot be much poverty; and one reason why there is so much poverty in the world, and so much congestion in the cities, is because so many people have forsaken the rural life, and have crowded into the cities, and over-taxed the city's resources. This is the weak spot of modern industry, and until it be remedied, it is vain to hope for much better conditions. The cities are piling up debt and taxation, and the cost of production is constantly advancing; and in the meantime the question is everywhere heard "What is the matter?" The matter is, we have got to live a simpler life. The present conditions of city life the world over are not congenial to the physical development of the people, nor are these conditions the best for their higher and spiritual development. They cannot be the best, because the extremes are too great, and the statistics of modern life indicate the deterioration of the race.

#### NEGLECT OF AGRICULTURE.

Much could be said upon this matter; but as it applies more to other countries than to Newfoundland, we shall not now treat it further, as our present observations are about our own country, and they apply to our own people especially. We have lots of things in our favour in Newfoundland that we do not avail of; and among them is our soil, which should be a great adjunct to the life and homes of the people. Hence our interest in the man whom we saw clearing ground. We halted in our journey and questioned him, and learned from him his condition. He was an industrious man, and the owner of his house and the ground about it. He was blessed with a healthy wife, and with sons and daughters, and his family was what one would call large. For several summers he had worked at Sydney, but of late he had stayed home. From his ground he got fair returns, and by clearing an acre or two more he greatly increased his returns. The new ground, which he was breaking just at the time we passed, was excellent soil, and the work was done between whistles. Thus he was able to enhance his earnings, and to pull along fairly well. His lot was that of homely living, and one hundred dollars was as good to him in his station, as two hundred would be to one of his class living within the city. By his industry and manner of life he was a producer, and was helping to solve the problem of the day, and to relieve the strain of taxation; but his neighbour who had sold out his little estate, and had gone to the city to live, had increased the strain of taxation, and had done so in a two-fold degree: first by ceasing to be a producer, and secondly by swelling the number of those who produce not. The idle multitudes of the large cities are the parasites of the state, and the over-crowding and congestion of our capitals constitute the menace of the times.

#### THE REAL PRODUCER.

Thus the man whom we saw clearing the ground was helping out the problem of city congestion. Perhaps he was unconscious of the part he was

playing, or of how far-reaching his industry was. It was in this light that we saw him and wrote of him. The man who sold out his little homestead, or who closed it up, came to the city, and being unable to get a house to live in, was obliged to make a shift by getting two or three small rooms. He, therefore intensified the discomfort of some other family, to oblige him, inconveniencing themselves by taking him in. Half of what this man could have earned in the city, would do him at home was comparatively well off. Yes, dependent upon the fluctuations of the labor market, and upon daily wages, and was without any source of additional revenue. His position was that of living from hand to mouth, while his neighbour who worked his ground at home was comparatively well off. Yes, the man clearing the ground was a real producer. His newly-cleared acres added to the earning power of the state, and increased his own means of living. The country and the world at large want more of this class of man; for the congestion of city life has reached its zenith, and sooner or later the line must be drawn. Taxation is almost at its limit, and if financial collapse is to be avoided, the simpler rural life of two generations ago will have to be considered. Men the world over are clamouring for labor; but the cities cannot create labor beyond their regular routine. The cities thus falling to provide labor, the Governments are being appealed to, but even Governments cannot create constant work. They may do so for awhile, but it finally ends in increased taxation, which further increases the burden as the years pass. Taxation has reached its limit, we say. What then is the solution? or is there any solution to it? We think there is; and that among others the man clearing the ground, represented the most fundamental of them all.

#### THE NEW FRENCH REMEDY. THERAPION No. 1 THERAPION No. 2 THERAPION No. 3

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#### USE YOUR HEAD.

A woodpecker pecks Out a great many specks Of sawdust When building a hut.

He works like a nigger To make the hole bigger—He's sore if His cutter won't cut.

He don't bother with plans Of cheap artisans, But there's one thing Can rightly be said:

The whole excavation Has this explanation He builds it By using his head.

So use your head when you require a good tonic and nerve builder by taking Bick's Tasteless Cod Liver Oil. Price \$1.20 bottles; Postage 20c. extra.

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### Hard Facts for Hard Heads.

It is gratifying to find that the appeal on behalf of starving Russia is meeting with a noble Christian response in all lands which can spare a little of their already attenuated wealth for those needs are greater than their own. Britain will do her share, and in doing it she will be sowing seeds of future good-will, as well as helping to save Europe from the pestilence which is always bred from wholesale famine. We did our best to prevent Russia falling a victim to the false doctrines of Bolshevism, but our failure in that respect must not make us hard-hearted in the presence of actual disaster. Our generosity now will prove the sincerity of our counsel in the past.

There is very little doubt, in our opinion, that the tragedy of Russia is having a sobering effect on our own would-be extremists. The Caspian by-election has exposed the numerical weakness of the noisy sect who call themselves Communists, and who derive their inspiration mainly from Clydeside. Barely a tenth of the electors of that somewhat advanced South Wales mining centre have any sort of sympathy with Leninism; the other 90 per cent are solid for constitutionalism, which means progress, but a progress that is orderly and evolutionary rather than violent and revolutionary. It is fortunate for us that it was Russia, not Britain, which made the great experiment that has resulted in such an unparalleled catastrophe. We are in the fortunate position of being able to benefit from the

lesson without having to bear the cost of it. We are at least, there are grounds for believing, getting into a somewhat saner state of mind, politically and industrially. Hard facts are appealing to hard British heads, and it is to be hoped the Irish people will permit us to include them in the compliment. Ireland's reply to the British offer, does not effectually close the door to further negotiations, although we could have wished that it had been couched in more conciliatory terms.

Time, as ever, is on the side of conciliation, and Irishmen, however bitter and unaccommodating, cannot escape the influence of the new era which is at hand—an era, we believe, of peace, friendship, and co-operation, not only between class and class, but also between race and race.—Liverpool Weekly Post.

Brick's Tasteless can be purchased at Jas. Wiseman's, Top Carter's Hill. Price \$1.20 bottle. Postage 20c. extra.—sept 15, 1921

### MUTT AND JEFF



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