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A TRIP TO ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON.

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Leaving Sydney we pass out of the harbor round the south-east section of the island, passing the collieries of Lingan, Caledonia, and Little and Big Glace bays, and arrive at Cow Bay where we remain one hour taking balker coal. This place has a population of about 2,000 and, like the other places mentioned, does a heavy coal trade. At all these places we find the people exceedingly kind and sociable, doing all in their power to make the stay of strangers pleasant. We ramble around a short time but are soon made aware that it is time to return to the steamer by the tooting of her whistle. Again we are on board and leave British soil, heading direct for St. Pierre, 160 miles distant. It is about 4 p. m., the sea is smooth, and we enjoy the sail. In a short time we are ready for a good hearty supper and then, there not being much of anything to do, we soon after retire to our staterooms where we are ere long wrapped in the arms of Morpheus, where we slumber until early morn, when we are suddenly awakened by the voices of some of our comrades calling out "land ahoy!" We bounce out of bed and are soon on deck to find ourselves quite near the coast running along a narrow strip of land on the point of which (called Point Gallantry) is a lighthouse and a fog whistle, and scattered around in the vicinity are three other lighthouses. In a few moments we turn the Point and are in full view of the town, a picturesque place from the water, situated in a vale with high hills both behind and North. A bar runs along in front of the town, and the steamer can only approach at high water, but, unfortunately, the water was low and the steamer had to anchor in the roads until the next rise, some ten hours later, and we passengers go ashore in small boats. This place is a French possession consisting of three islands, viz., St. Pierre, Miquelon and Langlade, all near together and situated 15 miles from the nearest point of the Southern coast of Newfoundland. It is used as a fishing station, and the principal of the three is St. Pierre, on which the town of the same name is located. Near by is Columbia Isle, about 1,000 feet high, and, during the summer, thousands of birds called paroquets congregate on the surface. The island of St. Pierre is a barren rock, in area 7 x 3 miles, not a tree to be found within its limits, and only a very small patch of arable land and that very rocky, but made quite productive by the immense quantities of fish offal and kelp used as a fertilizer. A range of hills run through the centre of the island, the highest of which reaches to an altitude of 800 feet. On these hills are several small lakes, and little rivulets are constantly rippling down their sides. On entering the town we find it as quaint and peculiar as we found it picturesque from the water, with its narrow streets of about 40 feet in width, no sidewalks, two story cottage roofed buildings, &c., it presents a very antique appearance, probably more so than any town north of Mexico. It is purely French in every respect, as much so as any of the coast towns of France. The interior construction of the houses is peculiar to the French. The walls and partitions are made of one thickness of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch board, and floors double, all tongued and grooved and the ends set in grooves; when set up they are left loose for about one year or more and then the house is re-set, as they term it, that is closing up and securing the walls and floors where any shrinkage has occurred. The houses appear warm, but the noise resounds terribly through them. The walls are nicely papered, presenting as tasty an appearance as the finest plastered walls. There is generally no covering over the beams in the ceiling, but they and the upper floor are exposed to view, being well finished and painted a pure white, giving a prettier effect than can be imagined. The windows are on hinges

opening outwards from the centre, and the sash tongued and grooved so on closing one fits securely into the other. In summer I much prefer this arrangement to the English windows, but for winter they are not so warm. The town has a population of 5,028, and Dog Island (Isle de Chien) about one mile distant, 643, and Miquelon 629, making the total number of inhabitants 6,300. The public buildings are one Roman Catholic chapel, a Church of England, a commodious and well regulated hospital, smallpox hospital, Government buildings, post office, custom house, bath and wash house, slaughter house and a prison used as a French Military Penal Station; it is usually filled with soldiers from France who have been guilty of some offence, many of whom belong to excellent families, but the French military laws being so strict that often for the most trivial offence a soldier is sent to St. Pierre for from two to five years. The Government hires them to private individuals to work for ten cents a day which sum they (the soldiers) retain; however, notwithstanding their exile they appear rather contented. A gendarme (policeman) always attends them; sometimes one escapes, but in so doing he forfeits all property and citizenship. The public wash house is provided by the authorities with hot and cold water, and those who wish may utilize it for the moderate sum of two cents per day, but in summer most of the washing is done with cold water in the little streamlets on the hill sides. The women make a little dam and provide themselves with a rest for their knees, and a large flat stone as a substitute for a washboard and with this and a flat mallet to beat the saturated clothes excellent washing is done, often the slopes are pretty well covered with drying articles; under the circumstances it is surprising how white the clothes are made. As fuel is expensive one woman will do a great deal of washing and another the ironing; laundry work is remarkably cheap. Only a few hundred English are to be found among the whole population. Until within a few months no foreigner could become a French citizen, and constantly any alien doing a fish business in St. Pierre was compelled to do it in the name of some French resident, but at the present time provisions are made for conferring citizenship upon anyone desiring it. The business of the town is immense, probably larger than of any town of the same size in North America; it is nearly all done through agents who have charge of large establishments in the town, but, unfortunately, nearly all the proceeds go home to France. Last year 371 vessels were engaged in the fisheries, sailing from St. Pierre, and 188 of them were owned there; besides these, 750 small boats and a number of foreign ships were employed. To man these, 9,300 men were required; most of them go home in winter. On shore a great number of men, boys and women, (all called Beach Boys, including the women) are at work handling the fish; they get sum total for the season, seven or eight months, from \$18 to \$20 and board; their living is of the coarsest kind and their habits are anything but cleanly, however, when they go home, stand on their dignity, having travelled abroad to the wonder land of St. Pierre, it is said that they tell great yarns of their adventures. The exports and imports last year amounted to \$6,000,000. Last season green fish sold for from 18 to 22 francs per quintal, but so far this year only 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ have been offered. The merchants calculate on 10 francs to clear all expense, and anything above that is profit, so this year the loss will be heavy. On all dried fish sold in a foreign market the government pays a royalty of 10 francs per quintal, but the weather is so unfavorable that the quantity will be limited. During the season three different baits are used in the following order:—1st herring, 2d copling, and 3d squid; the latter resembles the dreaded octopus, with their long tentacles; when brought to the surface a very black liquid is thrown from them and in a short time the unlucky fisherman is literally covered. During the busy season the men are very energetic, often having their stores open at 4 a. m., and not closing until 8 or 9

p. m. Work continues in full blast 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ days out of the week and if a Frenchman is asked if he goes to church, he will answer, "Oh, no! I have no time; too much business; the woman must attend to that." It fact, Sunday morning appears the best business day of the week. Numerous cafes (restaurants) abound on every hand, the principal being Cafe du Midi, and Cafe Joinville, in connection with which are halls having a seating capacity of some hundreds each. On Sunday afternoon and evening these halls and cafes are usually crowded with persons engaged in drinking, dancing, billiard playing, &c., having a gay time, but no gambling is permitted. I believe every man and woman partakes of liquors in some form or other; even the mothers make a brandy pap for their babies. They appear to have the happy faculty of drinking without becoming intoxicated. Liquors are extremely cheap. On the hotel tables are always to be found rum, brandy, claret wine, spruce beer, seltzer water, tea and coffee—quite a variety; you see we are well provided with drinkables if nothing else; however, the French are pretty good providers. Although so much drinking is done, I don't think a more orderly town can be found. A small excursion steamer goes to Miquelon every Sunday morning, and a number generally go over to shoot or trout, returning in the evening. The only drive is out to Savoyard farm, some three or four miles distant, but there being only about eight horses and six yoke of oxen owned on the island, most all go on stanks' mare; this farm is the patch of arable land mentioned before. On the road, a mile and a half from St. Pierre, is a house owned by Madame Barnay, used as a public rendezvous for parties out on a stroll or residents wishing to treat some of their visiting friends to a good meal. She can speak no English, but nevertheless can get up an excellent dinner. The people are a genial, good hearted class and treat strangers very kindly. There are two large telegraph cable offices viz; the Anglo and French employing about 30 operators, all English with one exception. They are jolly, large hearted fellows, and at once take hold of a fellow making him feel at home immediately. They are paid good salaries and given a vacation of one month each year, or, as most prefer, three months every third year, with £25 sterling to go on a good time their salary continuing the same. Each man at marriage gets £60 for furnishing and £24 for rent each year. Many of the operators have been in offices all over the world. Each office has a Library, Reading and Billiard room attached. A marriage among the aristocrats of St. Pierre is rather a tony affair and as much style can be got up as in New York. The couple is always doubly married, first by the mayor and then by the church, the former being compulsory but not the latter; if one of the parties is a Protestant they are trebly married, viz: by both churches and the mayor, but all done on the same day, and not like the Mexican marriage which requires three months if the parties happen to belong to different churches. At funerals the corpse is always carried in the hearse, accompanied by the clergy and choral boys, chanting all the way to the cemetery. The government officials, clergy, and physicians are all appointed by the home government for the period of two years; many of them have been in every colony belonging to France; just the other day two officials were married and soon after one went to French Guiana and the other to Nossey Bay, on Mozambique Channel, east coast of Africa.

The site of the Dominion model farm is selected at two miles distance from Ottawa city, near the crossing of Rideau river by the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Railway. The area of the farm is 400 acres, but the principal owner, Thomas Clark, declines to sell on any terms. The government threatens to expropriate.

The winter is past, spring is here, and house cleaning will soon be the order of the day; buy an Eagle Smeam Washer, and make a thorough cleansing of bedding, clothing, etc., and note how pleasant it will make the women folks.

CONVENTION OF W. C. T. U.

The annual session of the Maritime W. C. T. U. Convention, held at Windsor, N. S., last week, was largely attended, and the work before the convention, some of it of a highly practical character, appears to have been done with expedition and amid the prevalence of the best of good will. The election of officers resulted in the re-election by acclamation of the former President, Mrs. Dr. Todd, St. Stephen; Treasurer, Miss Lockhart, St. John; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Steadman, Fredericton, the remaining officers were filled as follows: Mrs. J. D. Chipman, St. Stephen, Assistant Recording Secretary; Mrs. T. G. Allen, St. John, Auditor. A representative from each Union in the Provinces, was appointed Vice President.

Among the items of business transacted we note:—The white ribbon was adopted as the W. C. T. U. badge.

The following resolutions were submitted and unanimously carried.

Resolved.—That the Maritime Union employ a lady lecturer and organizer for the space of three months, to travel through the Provinces instructing Unions already organized, re-educating others, and working in whatever way and wherever it may seem best by the Committee of Arrangements who shall be appointed at this Convention to take the matter in charge. Receipts and expenses to be borne by the Maritime Union, the local Unions pledging themselves to work as heartily as though the burden rested upon them.

Whereas.—The two great evils, Intemperance and Impurity, being so closely allied and so destructive to the welfare and happiness of society, to the growth of true religion and the advancement of true Christianity,

Resolved.—That the Women's Christian Temperance Union of the Maritime Provinces do endeavor by all means possible, with God's assistance, to advance the "White Cross" movement by making "Social Purity" one of its departments of work.

Resolved.—That we, the Women's Christian Temperance Union of the Maritime Provinces respectfully ask the editors of all daily and weekly papers that reports in detail of criminal cases and confessions of depraved convicts, may not be published in their columns. In the opinion of this Union the effect of such reading is demoralizing in its tendency, and not only as members of Christian Temperance Union but as mothers do we plead, that such reports may be withheld, for the sake of our young sons and daughters; carried.

Whereas.—There are laws for the punishment of crime in our Provinces, very little is being done for its prevention.

While jails and penitentiaries are supported at the public expense, yet there is no other where the offender may be placed with an opportunity to reform, and the youthful criminal must be sentenced to the over-crowded jail or penitentiary, to mingle with those who are hardened in sin and vice, to graduate from those places far more degraded than before, the last state worse than the first.

Whereas.—It is the generally acknowledged duty of the Government to provide for the education and protection of its people,

Resolved.—That the Women's Christian Temperance Union of the Maritime Provinces are in favor of a Provincial Reformatory where youthful offenders can be placed under proper restraint and taught some useful employment, thereby giving them an opportunity of becoming a help instead of a curse to Society.

Further Resolved.—That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Dominion Parliament and Local Legislatures, at the next sessions, asking the support of these bodies forwarding the object sought by this Union.

Eminent scientists have given it as their opinion, that the effect of habitual tippling, or what we call moderate drinking, is more deleterious in its effects upon offspring than occasional drunkenness. Let those champions of individual liberty who contend for the right to sell liquor to moderate drinkers reflect upon this, and ask themselves if we have the right, by law, to entail disease, idiocy and premature death, upon generations yet unborn.—The Watchman.

High Cut Kid Button Boots, latest American styles, at R. B. Belyea & Co's.