

A Visitor's Impression of Llano Colony

My dear Morris:

Well, I have "gone and done it" and, thanks to you, I have enjoyed the best treat of my life.

Got to Llano Thursday a.m., and spent five days, Saturday and Sunday inclusive, and will as briefly as possible tell you all I found there.

In the first place will say that I went there expecting to find myself disappointed (having heard, as you have also, reports that the venture was not the success claimed for it by the colonists) and was never more surprised and agreeably so, to find that all my fears as to the truth of such reports were entirely groundless. I found a body of men, women and children the like of whom would be very hard indeed to find were one to travel the world over.

I found them solving a problem to-day which must and will become a Universal Feat; solving it ever so willingly, unselfishly and practically.

More than once, during my visit, I felt tempted to thank them from the bottom of my heart for what they were doing, but, on second thought refrained, knowing that they expect none, feeling more than repaid in the satisfaction of simply doing it.

I think it is useless and a waste of time and paper to go minutely into all they have accomplished, and are still accomplishing. All that you have read in the "Colonist" from time to time and will find in the literature accompanying this letter. No doubt some mistakes were made and no doubt will be made again, but such mistakes are of so trivial a nature they cannot effect the certain success of a glorious undertaking.

Their success is the more remarkable when one considers that, two years ago, they were practically down and out, owing to a number of irresponsible and trouble-making individuals among them.

Also taking into consideration the demoralized conditions of the country during that time, I feel fully justified in saying that they have done WONDERS.

Now as shortly as possible I will answer the questions you other comrades in Chicago are interested in:

1: The school system is as near perfection as I can conceive it to be, and they are fortunate in having teachers who instruct for something more than the "wages" that are in it. During my stay I did not meet one child, boy or girl, who did not measure up to my ideal of youth. In their various mental and physical occupations their elders are with them, and proves (at least to me) my ideal of what youth should have.

2. The sanitary conditions are much above the average to be found in any part of the country; the topographical condition of the land being rolling, making drainage an easier matter there than where I am at. They have hot and cold shower baths and a fine swimming pool fed by a natural spring.

There is a fine Hospital, but the only patient I found there was the Doctor, which you must admit speaks a good deal for both climatic and hygienic conditions.

3. Their agricultural developments are progressing along modern methods (I wish I could say as much for ours) and they have an abundance of green stuff the year round, making it their chief diet. They are developing herds of fine bred cows and hogs and have plenty of milk, although, as yet, not sufficient to make butter, but as they produce the best grade of peanut-butter they do not miss it much. They were unfortunate in not having the right man in their poultry developments until lately, but (it being my line) I can say that they now have the right men on the job, as it appears to me, and it is only a matter of a short time until they will have an abundance of eggs and meat.

4: And now, Morris, as to the Industrial end of it: To me, a product of some 33 years duration in factories of Chicago, it was a "Revelation". I have worked under men, with them and over them and therefore feel myself efficient in judging those I found there; and, tho it may be hard to believe with no "bosses around, not a man or woman is lying down on the "job."

Were it not for the lack of having their own cloth making and tannery, they would be in position to let the outside, greedy grasping profit-making world "go hang".

5: Their social life runs a close second to their educational development. I attended a Saturday night dance and I defy any of your "High Brows" to beat it. Sunday night, a concert and dramatic program was a treat in itself and as good as any similar entertainment by a lot of amateurs I have ever seen.

Morris, in reading all the above, do not for a moment imagine that I am too enthusiastic; if I am so, it is because I found things as described, and can you blame me for it?

Had a good long talk with Comrade Pickett about the 125 Club idea and

think just what is wanted. They must have money and have it quick, in order to be ready for the thousands who are bound to be forced by circumstances to join them; and you and I know it needs no prophet to foretell what is certain to happen in the near future.

As to the Co-op. Farm plan, I believe that the literature on the subject explains it far more clearly than I could.

So Morris this is what I have seen and learned. I have seen "Integral Co-operation" and found it "good" and can well exclaim: "I have seen the Glory of the Coming of the Lord."

Should anything occur to come to me that I may have omitted in this letter, will surely inform you of it. I am as ever, yours.—Max Modjeska.

THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF MASTERING YOUR TONGUE

Experience has conclusively shown that a mischievous and indiscreetly wagging tongue can create more discord, dissension and general disaster in one brief sentence than years of patient circumspect endeavor can remedy. Students of psychology have learned that there is a great power back of the tongue and that this power can be wielded both constructively or destructively. If a person talks all the time about sickness, her body will become sick. If she talks about being well and thinks and lives healthful, she will very soon become healthy.

Anyone, who has ever been deeply hurt by a sharp, stinging word or sentence should certainly begin to curb a disposition to give vent to any and every impulse to explode with words of condemnation and bitter invective on any situation of which no correct deduction can have been made. We should not estimate and occurrence or phenomena in social life superficially. Ill-natural gossip is hardly ever valid evidence that there is something wrong; it is more often proof of an idle mind and a suspicious disposition, not only harmful to the possessor, but also to the community that harbors such a person.

Experiments have demonstrated conclusively that circumstances can be molded in conformity with intelligent planning and the words spoken. Therefore, the wise are guarding their tongues and are profiting in many ways. Says an exchange:

"The habitual use of slang, or indulgence in swearing, is inimical to health of both mind and body. For this reason, our every-day speech should be carefully scrutinized, that only the seeds of what we desire to have manifest, may be sown.

"Our lives are like storage batteries. Much taking draws heavily upon the power within this battery. The careful use of words conserves this power, and when we use this power with deliberation and constructively, the results are swiftly effective. Therefore, the conservation of soul power by the correct use of words and wasting no vitality in idle speech, should be a person's chief aim, day and night, until it becomes a matter of habit.

"There are often other leaks in our life battery, which a study of this subject will reveal; but the one under discussion, is one of the most important, and often the least suspected. Stop one leak at the time and then tackle the next one that you get "on to."

There are some people whose tongues wag all day long from morning till night, never saying anything worth while, and very often these people are chronic invalids. If these people would simply stop their foolish gossip they would conserve enough strength to run all the functions of their physical organisms in perfect order and regain superb health.

In a community like Llano Colony, the practice of controlling one's tongue is even more important than in any other community. We have come here to exemplify the practicality of the Golden Rule. We claim that the incentive of mutual service efficiently performed is the highest compensation that anyone can desire.

Man's individual capacity for wholesome physical enjoyment is very limited. To seek greater gain than the necessities, day by day, require, originates in no other motive than to place oneself in a position where others can be exploited. Properties produced by associated, co-operative effort in the nature of things must be owned jointly and consequent intimate relations arising under such circumstances can be satisfactory only when the attitude and conduct of the co-operators to each other is mutually courteous, respectful, trustworthy, reliable and friendly.

"Little self-denials, little honesties, little passing words of sympathy, little nameless acts of kindness, little silent victories over favorite temptations—these are the silent threads of gold, which, when woven together, gleam out so brightly in the patter. of a perfect life."

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FIRST STEP NOW

(By Henry Ford in Dearborn Independent)

A man is never so certain to be right as when he stands on principles, and he never has so many chances to be wrong as when he goes in for personalities. The descent to details, except in the thing next to be done, is always fraught with danger. The thing proposed to be done is either good or not good for the immediate place or task. When we go farther than that we are in danger of entering the realm of untruth.

It is very significant that most of the impeding disagreements among the people have nothing to do with the thing immediately at hand, but with future extensions of a theory or a program which no one knows will be the best theory or program when future tasks are reached.

To take an illustration: There were probably never so many minds exercised about our money system as there are to-day. Judging from the mail of one office, there are tens of thousands of people in this country who have discovered that a system which once served as an aid has now become an obstacle. In the most unexpected places there is exhibited an amount of zeal and labor on this problem which cannot but mean great good to the country at large.

One characteristic, however, is quite prominent in all this work: the minds thus exercised have run ahead of the actualities and have spun out of logic and imagination scores and hundreds of complete theories and systems which look forward to a thousand years of practice. With few exceptions, each laborer in this field has spun his own system which he is ready to put into operation, tomorrow morning, if given the opportunity.

Now, when most of these proposed systems leave the facts of to-day and soar into the long future, they take different tracks. They begin their work almost at the same point, but diverge as they extend it. Then they fall to arguing with each other, because the far-future phases of their schemes do not agree. No one of them knows what the future condition is to be, not one of them knows whether his system will meet the needs of the changed future, they only think so; that is, they only imagine so, and because their imaginations differ, they are separated into opposing camps and the public comes to regard them as cranks who cannot understand each other.

Our duty is not to prophesy but to do the next thing which stands to be done. If this were our rule, action would take the place of theorizing. Action is the judgment bar of all theory, anyway. Suppose there are one thousand steps to be taken before we reach the condition desired; does any one assume that he is able to say what Step No. 897 will be? But we may know what Step No. 1, or even Numbers 2 and 3 should be.

Society has no wings by which to fly at one flight from the present deepening tangle of things to the desired improvement which we are sure is coming. Society can only cut steps in the stony Mountain side and mount higher by sheer effort. To see where the next step of the ascent can be cut, and rigidly to bend ourselves to hew it out that men may mount by one step more, is the duty laid upon The Men Who See. And, having cut that step, the place for the next step will be apparent.

Alexander Del Mar, founder of the U. S. statistical bureau, and a deep student of the money question, years ago traced the infernal financial influence in American public affairs back to the Bank of England. He said: "The Bank, as an industry, as a board of directors, sometimes pursues a policy or influences a course of legislation, of which even its governors are not permitted to perceive the object sought to be attained. I have traced the crime of 1872-3 [the demonetization of silver] back to 1865 and find at the foundation and inception of it all—what? The bank of England."

Mr. Del Mar had intended to make his discovery public but passed out before he could do so. Albert Talmon Morgan, in the Denver Labor Bulletin, of April, 1922, wrote:

"Had Mr. Del Mar lived to witness the consequences of our 'World War,' called by the New England Journal 'a trade war,' he would doubtless have agreed with me that present 'chaotic conditions in Europe' are primarily due to a determination by the owners of the world's gold to make that privately-owned, single product of the world's 'productive energy,' the standard measure of value of whatever the world produces. If so, would he not also agree with me that the Bank of England and her allies in Wall Street, New York, as principal owners of the world's stock of gold (coined and uncoined) should carry the blame for that war, as well as for the present economic conditions, and hence, the Bank of England, the 'foundation and inception of it all,' is the greatest evil in our modern world?"

Once a Month

Every day we receive letters from friends of the Colony who express a desire to help us in some way, but who are unable to take out a membership or join the 125-CLUB; and, until now, there has been no way for them to do so. Now comes a comrade with a suggestion for a systematic plan by which our many supporters of small means may assist in the up-building of the Colony.

We are now compelled to spend much of our time and energy in producing articles for sale in the local markets in order to meet current expenses. There would be no objection to this, if we were building only for ourselves; in fact, we should then extend such business to the limit. But we are not building for ourselves alone; our plans are far greater than that—we are building for the thousands who are to come—we are building for YOU, Comrades. And every hour we spend in manufacturing products for sale outside of the Colony retards just that much the progress of the Colony as a whole. Every minute of our time; every ounce of our energy, should be put forth in the actual work of building and clearing and preparing for you, who are to come later. The more we are able to do this, the sooner you will be able to join us.

There are also many of our friends who, for various reasons, will not make Llano their permanent home, but who, nevertheless, wish to see it grow and be a successful demonstration of the theories they have always believed in. Now it is possible for them to assist the movement in a practical way

Llano Dollar-Up Club

Acting on the suggestion of this comrade, the LLANO DOLLAR-UP CLUB has been formed, and we now invite our thousands of well-wishers throughout the country to take advantage of the opportunity thus offered them.

The LLANO DOLLAR-UP CLUB is composed of comrades who pledge themselves to give a dollar or more a month, the money to be used to meet current expenses. These expenses are comparatively small, the most of our food and necessities we produce for ourselves; but there are some things that we must buy and pay cash for.

The LLANO DOLLAR-UP CLUB will do this for US and allow US to keep on steadily building for YOU.

We are expecting you, comrades, to help us prove to the world that we are right. You may depend on us to do our very utmost—may we depend upon you?

If You Can't Help a Lot,
HELP A LITTLE!

LLANO CO-OPERATIVE COLONY
Newllano, via Leesville, La.