

on but ten dollars a week. Multiply that, then, by the cities of the country and figure the wealth that is poured into the Northern States regularly, autumn upon autumn. The victims *have* to go, year upon year, and if they come to like a resort they stick to it.

Once upon a time, some twenty years ago, a hay fever victim from Cincinnati, with somewhat lean purse, went by boat from his Michigan exile to the far shore of the lake, on exploration bent. He chanced on a farmer with an apple orchard, some cows, some sheep. Why not board there instead of at Macinac or Petoskey, where four dollars the day is the best you can do? He made terms with the farmer and stayed there. Next year, in the spring, he wrote the farmer:—

"There is a story in the old primer, you know, about a dog who bruised his foot, and how a man tended it. By and by the grateful dog brought him another patient. I'm the first dog. I've found a dozen others want to board with you. Put up tents, or put some cots on that back porch of yours. Get your wife to hire a cook and a man-of-all work. We'll pay both a fine wage in tips. Give us what you gave me, and we'll sing your praises."

They came, and they showed the farmer that up in the North it pays a man better to cater for the hay fever exiles than it does to try and grow horse-radish, potatoes and apples from the sterile Michigan soil. So, to cut a long story short, he opened a hotel. The next farmer opened a general store, catering for tourists at the hotel. Another farmer opened a restaurant, beg pardon, "creamery," where you could drop in for sweet milk or buttermilk, cottage cheese and so on. By and by a full-fledged resort was in operation, and it has grown to a town.

When a man's on vacation, even if in exile, he spends more than he ever does in the same time at home. So the money made in the States where the rag-weed is blooming goes to these Michigan resort-keepers.

But what of this insidious hay fever?

Authorities define the hay fever as "a catarrhal affection of the mucous membrane of the eyes,

nose, mouth, pharynx, larynx and bronchi, accompanied by difficult breathing, induced by the action of the pollen of various plants, chiefly of the graminaceæ. This is prevalent during the haying season, but subsides at its close, and the 'fever' varies in severity according to certain atmospheric conditions, which probably, in their turn, regulate the amount of pollen in the air."

"The diagnosis of hay fever," says one physician, "is easy, as the occurrence of the catarrhal symptoms only in summer separates it from an ordinary cold in the head; while their combination with difficulty in breathing, in hay fever, prevents it being mistaken for spasmodic asthma, arising from other causes in which there is usually no catarrh."

"Hay fever was originally attributed to local chronic disease of the naso-pharyngeal mucous

membrane by Daly in 1882. In 1883 Roe advocated the same theory, and suggested the removal of the diseased tissue. In the same year Sajous advanced the theory that three conditions are essential: (1) An external irritant; (2) A predisposition of the system to its influence; (3) A vulnerable or sensitive area, through which the system becomes influenced.

"In 1884 J. N. Mackenzie, of Baltimore, stated that for a paroxysm of hay fever a certain excitability of the nasal cavernous tissue is necessary, this brought about by a multitude of external irritating causes, plus an over-sensitive state of the vaso-motor centres.

"As for treatment there is mentioned the removal of the cause. This organic alteration of the surface of the membrane by galvanic cautery or by caustic acids, acetic acid, combined with cocaine, carbolic acid. As palliatives, again, there are certain tonics. Valerianate of zinc is suggested, and, again, outdoor exercise and friction; or cocaine, a ten per cent. solution, applied locally with a brush."

But none of these things seem to bring the relief that a jaunt to the North holds forth to the sufferer. Wherefore folk who live in a flat through three seasons of the year, have their cottages in the North. Their close friends will come to stay,



THE HAYING SEASON.

*previous page*

*next page*