Monday's Wash and Social Reform

Mildred Loomis
Monday's Wash and Social Reform

Electric dryers are nice, but I enjoy hanging clothes on a line, especially in the spring. One sunny April morn I hung an older sheet alongside a brand new one. "How gray this looks," I thought, "this won't do." I had just acquired this marvelous sheet; I looked it out. But look at the bright sunlight it certainly didn't. Except for the quality whiteness of the new one, I probably would have been satisfied.

Then I got a washboard; soaped and rubbed hard. And for good measure I gave the sheet a half-hour's boiling atop the stove. I'm so pleased with the nearly— but not quite— matched the brilliance of the new one.

So it is with social reform. For lack of something better with which to compare, we view ours as a "pretty good world." They find it hard to understand the feelings and efforts of those who see something "better and whiter.

One reader asked: "Things aren't really as bad as you think they are? You have the government, land, ownership, interest, war, scientists, high prices, low wages, taxes, commercial farming, the food industry, the medical profession, factories, public education—just about every human institution one can name. What kind of a future do you want? You aren't really serious about land reform and decentralization of government?"

To which I answer, "Yes, I'm serious. Isn't this affirmed by 23 years—out of my 27 homesteading years—of editing, meeting people and talking to all the people who have been discussing these matters? And a good many of our readers and our contributors are equally serious.

The experiments and experiences we work with "hang on our line" like a brilliant new sheet. By comparison, the ones our reader enumerates are worn and gray. If I and others bemoan their dinginess—or its cause— it will be because of the sharpness with which better conditions are seen.

**Action For a Human Culture**

Nor has it all been negative. We have reported and discussed depression, the soap and hot water treatments that we believe will change the old to a better, brighter hue. It seems to some of us that School of Living people are in the forefront of the movement toward schools that have evolved from the children's and their families' experience, education of the young up to the local credit, commodity based currency, The International Foundation for Independent Education.

In place of profiteering government, we advocate and practice independence from government via non-payment of war taxes, and development of all kinds of voluntary associations, primarily family homesteads and intentional communities. In place of finance capitalism's inflation, high prices and the majority of families supporting themselves on family homesteads and intentional communities, primarily family homesteads and intentional communities.

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**Letters to the Editor**

**Florida—Pro and Con**

To the Editor:

I don't understand why more would-be homesteaders don't look into Florida. This area is climatic for citrus and shows promise for many other things. You'll find citrus, papayas and mangoes. Fish and oysters and shrimp are abundant. Jacksonville is a good center for vegetation. The state now, however, due to the hot 32° water marine, this morning in 10 minutes, andоор, your children are a rattle, too. I hear of others in the same trouble. On the other side, there is the racial thing and the desire for economic monopoly in the interior. The area around the Everglades is quite different. People of many whom bought up vast amounts of land are in the 40's. One-halfe the emptiness between here and Homosassa, 60 miles north, is owned by the Mormon Church. The rest is owned by the government. School of Human Resources, Okeechobee, Fl., 33472.

**East-West Community Tour**

We are planning a tour of European Communist communities and schools with a view to locating candidates for involvement. We are interested in the social, educational and economic aspects of these communities. We are planning to go out from Chicago in the fall of '66. In the spring of '67, we will head west, and include: Minnestoa Summit Hill Community School, Minneapolis, Minn.; Tolbao Co-operative, Bekkem, Minn.; May Valley Co-op, Benton, Wash.; Black Mountain Co-op, Cheshire, Mass.; Crancy Ranch at Lakeport, Calif.; St. John's School for the Deaf, New Ulm, Minn.; Christian Mennonite Church, St. John's校, New York City; and a community at Conway, Mass. In addition, we will visit: New York City; Heathcote Center, Okeechobee, Fla. 33472

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**The Green Revolution**

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Editor: Mildred J. Probst

**The Green Swallow**

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