

Even such economy as this could not prevent the distress and impoverishment from becoming alarming, when in 1844 the great sources of income dried up — the factories having either ceased work or shortened time and wages. The authorities and leading citizens of Glarus cast about for ways and means by which the consequent distress could be relieved. Public meetings were held to discuss the subject of emigration as a remedy. The matter was discussed pro and con in every cottage and household. The timid and conservative freely quoted the old saying, "*Bleibe im land und Ernähre dich redlich*" (Remain in the land and support yourself honestly). But the courageous and progressive invented another saying to match it, "*Bleibet im land und fresset einander*" (Remain in the land and devour each other). The prospect was, that the latter saying was in a fair way to be exemplified. Human labor was daily becoming plentier and cheaper, and food scarcer and dearer.

Selection of a Site.

The agitation finally culminated in the idea that an organized emigration, under the care and control of the government, would be the best, surest, and most reliable method of affording the necessary relief. At a public meeting called at Schwanden, a committee was appointed to confer with and ask the aid and co-operation of the government of the canton. The council of the canton approved of the project so far as to appropriate fifteen hundred florins (about six hundred dollars), for the purpose of sending to America — as the children of Israel did to the land of Canaan — two men who were to view the country, and if they found it suitable, to locate a tract favorable for a colony. An Emigration Society was at the same time formed, composed of intelligent and prominent men, who took charge of this fund, which was increased by subscription from the parishes and individuals to two thousand dollars. This society appointed as pioneers to look up a location, Judge Nicholas Duerst, then forty-eight years old, and Fridolin Streiff, a blacksmith, twenty-nine years old, both