The COMMON-GOOD

OF CIVIC AND SOCIAL ROCHESTER

"Know Your City"

NEW CITIZENS—EVENING CLASS IN ENGLISH.

See Article on Page 5

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Send Subscriptions to: ELMER ADLER, Treas., Adler Place, Rochester, N. Y.

VOL. IV. 4. JANUARY, 1911 25 CENTS TEN ISSUES

The Common-Good

of Civic and Social Rochester

VOL. IV. JANUARY, 1911. No. 4

ORGANIZED CIVIC RELIGION.

While a multiplicity of agencies for the common good is not always a wise thing to encourage, it has long been our conviction that there can be no true civic and social efficiency as long as so much of the best spirit in our religious organizations is not being put to the best use. Probably no section of the people hear more urgent and earnest appeals to live unselfishly than those who go to church, yet no where is the harvest of civic righteousness in proportion to the sowing. What is needed is the getting together under the name of no one church or religion, in order that by mutual knowledge the few great fundamentals of all religion may find a greater expression in our city life. Such an organization should include Jewish and Catholic churchmen as well as Protestants in order to fill our ideal, and accomplish the largest possible good. We have obtaingd a bad habit of thought in regard to the relation of religion to citizenship. If we will not have a state religion, it is no reason why there should not be a religiousness in the state. Truly, churches as churches are best out of politics, but every churchman because he is a churchman should be in politics. Would it be impossible for each of the one hundred and fifty churches in this city to appoint, say, twenty men to a Citizens Council, righteous men, men who seek no political favor, men who would not take a bribe, men who fear no party's threat, men who know how to be uncompromising in the enforcement of the law, who can have as much of the spirit of real religion in a political meeting as in a prayer meeting, aye, and more? Such a body of three thousand men ought to be not only a splendid conscience to the community, but an efficient power to lead in the bettering of many things in our city. As the ministers would be a minority on such a council we should look for fairly representative activity.

The city of Chicago, "almost as wide awake as Rochester," as we say, has opened its eyes a little sooner in this matter and Boston has followed suit. In Chicago's first Congress, there were representatives from all the layman's organizations, from Catholic to Jewish congregations. The platform that they adopted was one in every way worthy of religion. We append their declaration, and for value in the cause of righteousness, it is worth more than any number of finely phrased creeds:

"We declare that the responsibility for civic righteousness rests with the men who, according to their own free choice, profess a religious faith and that if such men do not vigilantly perform the duties of citizenship they have no right to expect those duties to be unselfishly performed by others.

"We believe that every religious organization should have a men's club connected therewith and that such clubs should study in some earnest, practical and definite way the needs of their own locality, of the city, and of the commonwealth; and we declare our positive conviction that such efforts will speedily exert a strong influence for good and eventually result in making such clubs the civic rallying points of their immediate neighborhoods. We therefore urge the religious organizations which at present have no men's club connected with them to organize one forthwith and we also urge all men who desire a better Chicago to join the men's club of that religious organization which is most convenient for them.

We declare for the right of individual judgment in all matters of religion and shall scrupulously refrain from any interference with the autonomy of individual churches, congregations and denominations, but we shall labor to provide a central body by which all these men can unite in the interest of the essential elements of good citizenship."

CLASS IN MILLINERY IN ONE OF OUR EVENING SCHOOLS

Citizenship and the Evening Use of School Buildings.

By Herbert S. Weet.

Assistant Superintendent of Schools.

It is at first glance an interesting fact that while the standard defense of the free public school system of America is to be found in the dependence of a successful democracy upon education, the school systems of this country give little training that has as its immediate object a preparation for the duties of citizenship. To be sure we have courses in American History and civil government, but at best these demand only a small share of the pupil's time and attention throughout his public school career. Furthermore, the comment is frequently made that these courses seldom leave with the pupil at the end of his public school life many deep and lasting impressions of his responsibilities as a citizen; that he possesses but a meager knowledge of his duties as a citizen and that he is inspired even less with a desire to perform these duties.

Does this necessarily mean that those who are charged with the administration of our school systems are not conscious of their responsibilities to the state or that they are not striving to meet these responsibilities? By no means. It obviously means that there is much to be done in the way of making such courses in our public schools as deal directly with training for citizenship, more vital and forceful in the life of the pupil. But the problem here is extremely difficult, and serious attempts are being made to solve it. The pupils of our public schools are not of an age when they are easily impressed with the duties of citizenship, an end which is to them at best very remote. Neither are they sufficiently mature to grasp to any great extent the theories and principles of government.

Its larger and more hopeful meaning, however, is to be found in the fact that the most perfect training that can be given in all the subjects that deal primarily with the duties of citizenship, constitutes but a small part of the training that results in a good citizen. Any training that strengthens the power of a human being and directs these strengthened powers towards a useful and worthy end makes for good citizenship. If it is industrial training, and that training has resulted in the ability and disposition of the young man or woman to earn a livelihood and thereby to become self-supporting, then the school has provided one of the indispensable qualifications of good citizenship. If it is intellectual training and that training has inspired the student to search for the true in any realm of human activity, it is training for citizenship. If it is moral training, it is training in essential qualifications of citizenship. Of the relation of moral training to citizenship, and of the power of the school to give moral training, our State Commissioner of Education, Andrew S. Draper, has written these inspiring words: "Moral development must inevitably accompany intellectual growth in training humanity for good citizenship. Every influence of the schoolroom promotes moral growth. A system which commands regularity and punctuality and cleanliness and studiousness and obedience; which exacts politeness and generosity towards associates and respect for authority; which arouses ambition and inspires courage; which exalts the truth and is administered with justice; which rests upon the hearts of a Christian people and which reaches up into the realms of heaven, can, in its beneficent operations, produce nothing less than moral growth and development."

And so the man trained to self support, trained to the search for truth, trained to regard his fellow man as one with whom he is to go hand in hand in the co-operative work of securing equal rights for all, whether those rights pertain to government or any other human activity, is at the same time trained to citizenship in a democracy. Any influence that makes to these ends is an influence that may well emanate from the public school building, and so fulfill the purpose for which that building was established.

Keeping in view then the fact that citizenship and the public school building are linked together, what opportunities does the evening use of school buildings afford and what needs does it meet?

The school buildings of the city of Rochester are used in the evening for two different, though not unrelated purposes. Each use contributes to good citizenship. Though the paths are different, they nevertheless lead toward the common goal. The one use is for the Evening School; the other, for what has

come to be known here as the Social Center and Civic Club movement.

The evening school resembles the day school in that there are definite periods in which formal instruction is given in various subjects. The evening school periods are from 7:30 to 9:15 on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings. These schools extend over a period of six months, beginning in October and closing in April. There are ten evening grammar schools and one evening high school. Each school is in charge of a male principal. These principals are, without exception, principals of the city day schools. There are upwards of three hundred and fifty teachers in the evening schools and at the present writing there are 8,915 students enrolled.

Aside from the fact that the time given to the evening school work each year is much less than that given to the day school, the essential differences between the evening schools and the day schools lie in the age of the students, the nature of the subjects taught and the principle by which these subjects are determined. Day school pupils are not admitted to the evening schools save in exceptional cases, and then only upon the written consent of the principal of the day school. The evening schools are filled with young men and women, with adults, and even with men and women of advanced years, who had meager opportunities when young, or who neglected such opportunities as were given them. They are an earnest, serious-minded group. No person can see them at work in the school without having the conviction that the evening school is doing a most valuable work in the life of the city.

Any subject is taught that will meet a real need, provided only that the number interested is sufficiently great to warrant the formation of a class. Some find in the evening school a means of advancing themselves in positions in which they are employed during the day; others, the means of preparing themselves for positions that will be more remunerative and more to their liking than positions which they already hold. These ends are met by grade subjects, by shorthand and typewriting, bookkeeping, draughting, penmanship, etc. Some find here the means of bringing into homes already established a skill and ability in household arts that will enable them to provide families with the necessary things of life in a more wholesome and satisfying way than they could otherwise be provided with the meager income available; others find means of enabling themselves to prepare for the duties of homes yet to be established. To these ends courses are provided in dressmaking, plain sewing, shirt waist making, millinery, embroidery, the preparation of foods, etc. It is worth one's time to visit No. 18 School at any evening session and there find a group of young women, sixteen years of age and upwards, learning the simple arts of the home. A model flat of five rooms has been equipped there, and under the direction of competent instructors the young women of the class are trained in those processes that make the home clean, healthful, attractive and comfortable. Courses in raffia, basketry, and other manual arts provide for the making of things that are serviceable and that add further the touch of the aesthetic with all the inspiration that comes from it.

The evening high school employs a force of 62 teachers and has an enrollment of 1,078 students. Here courses are provided in science, mechanical, architectural and freehand drawing, manual arts, advanced work in stenography and the commercial branches, advanced forms of mathematics, foreign languages, English in its elementary and advanced forms, etc. All courses in high school subjects are up to the standard of the same subjects in the day high schools, and full credit is given in the day high schools for courses completed in the evening high school work. Thus students who have been obliged to leave the day high schools before the completion of their courses are enabled to continue college preparatory courses in the evening schools.

Of all the work done in the evening schools none is more valuable nor more interesting than that done among the non-English speaking people of our city. Approximately twenty-five per cent of the students enrolled in our evening schools are of this class. For the adult foreigners, the evening school in its power that makes for good citizenship is of prime importance. These people come to the school, many of them unable to speak, read or write a word of the English language, and others possessing only the simplest grasp of it. They bring with them a zeal, a perseverance and an intelligence which combined with systematic and intelligent work on the part of the teachers bring results that are little short of marvelous. They are alive to their needs and they see in the evening school an opportunity. This being true, it is not so surprising that their progress is great. As soon as they have made their way in the language far enough to use the printed page, then

books which tend to bring them into sympathetic touch with American ideals are used. They are given a familiarity with the great lives of our country and the places that these lives have filled in the development of American institutions. Books are also used that inspire higher personal ideals, in body, mind and heart. In the process of time they are brought into touch with our naturalization laws and a conscious attempt is made all along the line to inspire them with a desire to become true American citizens. It is perhaps needless to say that during the whole process the utmost respect and consideration are given by the teacher for their sentiments of love of the home-land and loyalty for it.

In short, then, the evening schools are a most important factor in the making of good citizens. The human mind instinctively reaches out for higher and better things. The upward striving is the mark of the true man as well as of the true citizen. The evening school represents this upward striving among great numbers of our citizens, and it makes possible the attainment of the ends for which they are striving.

An International Step Towards Beautiful and Well-Planned Cities.

By Chas. Mulford Robinson.

A good many people have the idea that town planning is not a very practicable matter, and that there are only a few cranks who are interested in it. Perhaps in Rochester this idea is not as prevalent as in some other places. But we must try not to have it at all. This is the more important, because experts have been working for a year to make for Rochester some of the best and most interesting plans to guide the city's future development, that have ever been made for any American municipality.

In October, there was held in London, an International Town Planning Conference. And if any one has the idea that town planning is a visionary project confined to a few cranks, he should study the reports of that conference. One of the Americans who went to it, has lately contributed to *"The Survey"* a brief chronicle of the affair. From this the following extracts may be taken:

The conference, he tells us, was under the auspices of the Royal Institute of British Architects, with the king as patron and the famous John Burns as honorary president. It brought together 1,500 delegates representing not only the British Isles but France, Germany, Italy, Holland,—in fact all the countries in Europe, and also Canada, the United States and even Australia.

The conference was opened on Oct. 10th, and for a week every day was filled to the brim with the meetings, town planning excursions and social functions. And all the time three exhibitions were inviting the attention of the delegates. One of these was in the ancient Guild Hall of the city of London; another occupied the whole of the Royal Academy, and the third filled the Galleries of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

The official program—merely the program—made a pamphlet ten or fifteen times as large as this number of "THE COMMON-GOOD." The catalogues of the exhibitions made other large pamphlets. The social functions included an evening reception by the lord mayor and his wife at the Mansion House; an evening reception at the Royal Institute; a great banquet at the Hotel Cecil; a reception and dinner by the American ambassador, and the countless informal luncheons and dinners which were to be expected where 1,500 delegates of many nations, but all of one faith, one hope, one great interest came together. Then, in addition to all this, there were eighteen conducted excursions to see town planning work in various parts of England. One of these went as far as Liverpool; another to Birmingham.

It was interesting to note, our "Survey" writer says, that while the main emphasis was naturally placed on the architectural and pictorial side of town planning—as was to be expected since the conference had been called by architects—yet its social-welfare aspect was not forgotten. Indeed there was a great deal said on this point, largely because John Burns, in the great address with which he opened the conference, laid his special emphasis on this side of the question.

Briefly summarized, the program provided for an inaugural meeting at the Guild Hall on Monday, Oct. 10th, at which the principal address was by John Burns; then for a big general meeting every morning, at which the principal papers were submitted; and for two afternoon meetings each day, at which were given papers on special phases of the morning's general subject. To the two Americans who presented papers places were given on the morning programs, and such audiences did these sessions draw that the great gallery proved insufficient and overflow meetings had to be held. The general theme of Tuesday was The Cities of the Past; of Wednesday, The Cities of the Present; of Thursday, City Development and Extension; of Friday, Cities of the Future. The paper of D. H. Burnham of Chicago came Friday morning; that of the other American, on Wednesday. Mr. Burnham discussed democracy and town planning, finding in the power of the people the great hope of the future.

It may be explained that the special reason for holding in London at this time an International Conference on Town Planning was that parliament has recently passed what is called the Town Planning and Housing Act. This makes it possible for any community in Great Britain to prepare a comprehensive and well thought out scheme of development, not only for the built up portions of the city, but particularly for its outlying sections, so that the community's further growth may be intelligently directed. This plan, before it becomes binding on the community, has to be approved by a branch of the national administration, which is called the Local Government Board. Of this John Burns is president, and he was the father of the Act to which reference is made. This accounts for his interest in the subject. Thus to those who have long labored for a better ordering of cities and towns, the whole conference was a splendid justification of something that was said by Sir Aston Webb during one of the discussions. "Seen things," said he, "are temporal; unseen are eternal. Cities that are beautiful will last; those that are ugly will be pulled down. The ideal is of greater importance than the real, for the ideal becomes the real."

Another interesting feature of the conference was the full consideration of the Garden City movement, which is better exemplified in England than anywhere else. This is the movement which transports the working people into garden surrounded homes in the suburbs. It is of great economic as well as aesthetic interest, and some measure of its success may be gained from the fact that probably more than a score of such cities have been established in England in the last three years. To Americans the movement is particularly interesting just now, because of the gift by Mrs. Russell Sage of two and a half million dollars to create such a community on Long Island.

The New Housekeeping Center.

By a Member of the Executive Board.

One of the grave problems in the assimilation of immigrants in our cities is found in the fact that when the foreigner comes, the American leaves. It matters not what are the associations and traditions of his homestead, if he finds that around him there is a growing Italian or Polish population, he packs up and moves to a more American section. If only fifty per cent of our citizens were to remain in these immigrant sections, they would not only be performing an heroic patriotic duty, but they would largely prevent the formation of colonies which never help the civic democracy of a people. As it is almost invariably, hundreds of men, women and children are to be found in our cities who know nothing of the land or the people with whom they live. We have known of Italian women in Rochester who have lived for years in our Italian colonies on the north side and have never been outside the limits of the colony, in some instances have never even ventured farther away from their houses than the length of their own streets. They arrived at the Central station, years ago, saw Main Street, went to the colony and have literally lived there, night and day ever since, never once venturing to visit the "wilds" of "down town" again.

But "when the half gods go, the gods arrive," when the timid American leaves the real American comes. The House-

keeping Centre is simply the home of the real American woman who without fear and splendid democratic comradeship lives in the colony not only because she is paid to do so, but because she loves to do so.

Such a home we have had in Rochester for three years. It was first started by a group of young women who with much civic idealism and social earnestness raised enough money to have workers of the calibre of Miss Florence Cross, Miss Rebecca Oliver and Miss Margaret Manning as teachers and workers among our Italian women and children. Miss Cross and Miss Oliver are no longer connected with the work, but Mrs. Manning during the little while that she has been in charge has made herself the Queen of the Sicilians, reigning in the hearts of increasing numbers of people. The little rooms that were rented of an Italian family on Davis Street have been outgrown and the work has extended so much, that we are almost ceasing to *ask* the confidence of the men and women who have stood behind the work; we feel that we have their confidence. The demanding days are over. Every appeal we now make for support will be for a work that has made good. They have seen our experiment, they have watched the struggle and now the days of permanent establishment have come. From the little rooms on Davis Street we have moved to a house of our own on Lewis Street which will give us large kitchen arrangements for the cooking classes, and ample quarters for Mrs. Manning. The whole house has been renovated and adapted to our needs, and in the rear, bathing facilities have been installed to meet the tremendous summer demands for baths. A wide lot belongs to the house so that there is not only room for the inevitable expansion, but a chance meanwhile for a playground and outdoor classes.

No longer is the work an experiment, it is an experience which promises to last for many years, linking the real Americans of our city by personal gift and service to the would-be Americans who wish to be of the quality that is "Rochester made."

The Municipal Concerts of Rochester.

By Frank G. Newell.
Park Commissioner.

It is not often given to a man to see in the short space of eight years the splendid results of a movement for the public good that have resulted from the efforts of those responsible for the first public band concert given in Rochester parks.

To no one is more credit due for his great foresight and courage in this department of Civic work than the Hon. A. B. Lamberton, President of the Board of Park Commissioners of this city. Early appreciating the great possibilities of this work, he promoted the first Season of Concerts held in the parks through the medium of the Chamber of Commerce and personal solicitation and contribution. The small wondering audience, listening to the stereotype program of our Military Band, has grown so that now one of the problems confronted with is how to properly take care of the tens of thousands who attend the splendid concerts of our own Park Band, an organization controlled by the Commissioners exclusively for the people and rendering programs that are the despair of nearly every band master, resident or transient.

It has been, in this as in about every other department of Civic life, a matter of evolution. Those first concerts were as useful in their day, no doubt, as the beautiful musical treats of the past season, but as the seasons pass, a new high standard is set owing to the public's thorough appreciation of what has been done and the laudable ambition of those responsible for the concerts to do better each succeeding year.

Of all the various means employed to attract our people to and keep them in their playgrounds, nothing has yet equalled the Band Concerts. A brass band is not the last word in instrumental music, as all well know, but it is the most attractive to the greatest number of people. The boy, who is not at all interested in an orchestra, no matter how fine it is, will go to hear the band play and

the boy's father still likes to hear the crash of brass and beat of drum, especially if the selections are of a high order and the band composed of high class musicians under a superb leader.

Rochester is, in some ways, a pioneer in the matter of Municipal Music. She is one of the first and still one of the few cities to use a special Municipal Band for this work; Boston, Baltimore, Philadelphia and recently Buffalo comprising the others. Most of the leading cities including New York and Chicago are following the old method of engaging private bands. In most cases, this means engaging only the leaders who have no regular organization of their own and who simply divide the appropriation and give as little as possible in return. Rochester soon discovered this was not the kind of effort that would lead to any great success and it was decided to form our own organization, which would be directly engaged by the Park Commissioners. We were most fortunate in securing for a director, Mr. Theodore Dossenbach, who is a thorough musician and dependable leader and who is quick to feel and respond to the wishes of the vast audiences which attend his concerts.

Starting with twenty picked men, the first season was not so much of an improvement as was hoped for, but the band was a unit in their desire to do better work, to play better music and to stand by their director; and the winter following was devoted to rehearsing new and classical compositions of the highest merit, so that the next season, with twenty-five men, the concerts greatly improved and the audiences as well. Slowly but surely, the people turned from the bay and the lake resorts to go to their own parks and listen to fine music from their own band. The American people, Rochester Americans particularly, do not like to be patronized and, from close observation and reports, I am convinced that it is the great sense of proprietorship, more than any other thing, that has placed this band and its concerts on the high plane it now occupies in the people's estimation.

It has been the policy of the Commissioners to have the band composed as nearly as possible of Rochester talent and it has been a source of great satisfaction to find what a wealth of good musicians belonged to our city.

It was only through concentrating our efforts and money into one channel that it was possible to offer an engagement that would attract the best of these men who each season engaged with Sousa, Conway, Kilties and other famous concert bands. Naturally there has been a large increase in the expense. The first season the concerts were few and I believe one thousand dollars or less covered the expenses. Last season with forty-five men, three soloists of national reputation, and including the expenditures for the Annual Music Festival in Seneca Park and the great opening of Genesee Valley Park, the entire cost was about $11,000; of this amount the Rochester Railway Co. contributed $3,500, the Park Commission the rest. When one considers that the average cost of parks, music and all, is about $1.00 per year for a taxpayer, who is paying on a property assessed at $1,200 and that, based on the average attendance, it would be about 3 cents each for those attending the concerts, it will be seen that the people are indeed getting fine returns for their money.

But there is another side to the matter of these concerts. Our city has an ever increasing foreign element, thousands of miles from their distant homeland, amongst strangers whose language they are unable to speak and who do not hesitate to show their dislike, these poor people haunt the concerts and drink in each number eagerly. Music is the one universal language and, as they listen to a masterpiece of Verdi, Rossini or Mascagni, they forget the hard things they have endured for the day or week and again live in the atmosphere of the best place on Earth—Home. The result is not a matter of speculation. Individual instances of positive reform have come under our notice, but it is a matter of record that crimes of assault and drunkenness have decreased materially in spite of an increase in population of five thousand a year.

There are fewer resorts at the Bay and Lake; some of the largest places are now prohibition and are making efforts to attract the "Park Crowd" but the people are evidently content to spend their nights and Sundays out of doors in listening to their *own* band in their *own* Park and in their *own* way.

LEGAL PROTECTION

By Fannie R. Bigelow

The need of legal protection for poor people does not at first glance appear very urgent to those outside of philanthropic work. A moment's thought however, will convince one that if the well-to-do sometimes require the law's strength to establish their rights, those oppressed by poverty are much more apt to suffer wrong and injustice; that their very helplessness makes them an easy prey for the unscrupulous employer or the omnipresent money shark.

The inexperienced, the timid, the unfortunate, are our clients, and our duty is to understand their need, to advise, and with the help of our lawyers to supply the legal redress for which our aid is sought.

For seventeen years the Woman's Educational and Industrial Union has had a legal protection committee, which has furnished legal aid to poor working women, unable to secure such assistance elsewhere.

In the early days the committee met once a week in the old Watson house on Clinton Street, usually on Thursday afternoons, to hear cases. These were mainly nurses and domestics who wanted to recover wages that had been withheld; sometimes justly, often unjustly.

The complaints were frequently settled after a visit of one of the members of the committee to the home of the employer where the rights of the employee were clearly set forth, and rarely was it necessary to ask the aid of an attorney to secure such settlement.

During the last few years "The Woman's Union" has moved its headquarters several times, which has meant a change in the location of the committee, somewhat hampering its activities. This fall we decided to open an office in the business section of the city; to enlarge the scope of our work, and extend its benefits to working men as well as women.

Since the fifteenth of August we have had room 214 in the Wilder building, where a member of the committee may be found every morning from ten to twelve o'clock.

This opening of a central bureau has, of course, multiplied our work, and our calls upon the lawyers who are generously giving their services free have grown far beyond what we feel we have a right to demand.

We keep a card catalogue and register every case we accept, for which we ask a fee of ten cents. After careful inquiry, and if possible, a hearing of both sides, the member who has charge of the case, consults one of the attorneys if she finds that she cannot handle it alone. Often there are complications that require much time and labor, and the work is done as conscientiously as if it carried the same fee an ordinary client would be asked to pay.

We sustain all court costs and any necessary outlay of money, and as the business of the office increases, this presents a serious financial problem. The only considerable gift we have ever had was one hundred dollars from the late Mr. Albert O. Fenn, to whom we went one day some four years ago, to borrow that sum for a needy woman.

When he heard the story he insisted on giving us the money to use as we wished, and as part of this amount was paid back, it became the nucleus of a fund which supported our work until very recently. Later a few friends and members of the committee added small sums to our treasury, however, if the work is to continue, we will require a reliable income to pay the expense of our office.

We are told that in some parts of Germany legal aid is supplied to poor citizens by the municipality. We are not yet so far advanced; but that the need here is a positive one, our experience has proved long ago. Private philanthropy in many communities is studying this problem with great interest, for it reveals cruel and oppressive business methods—protected by the letter of the law,—designed to attract the patronage of working people who are promised many flattering opportunities and benefits, and who finally find themselves enmeshed in contracts that bind them body and soul.

In despair they turn to us for help, to realize only too often that the law is against them; that their ignorance, their immediate want and the cupidity of business have combined to entrap them. We do our best to relieve the situation, always wishing that we could have been called upon to prevent the difficulty rather than to cure it. The variety of cases with which we have to deal can best be illustrated by citing a few taken at random from our cards:

A. Mrs. L., a widow, had to borrow twenty-five dollars to tide her over an emergency. She went to the office of a local broker and by leaving goods valued at $100, secured the loan at a rate of $2.50 a month. This she paid for ten months, by which time she had given back the full amount and still owed the original sum, without any prospect of reducing it. With our help she discharged the loan, and agreed to give us fifty cents a week until our loan was paid. On this she still owes four dollars.

B. Mrs. M. had bought $150 worth of goods on the instalment plan. She owed but $22.00, when sickness in the family made it impossible for her to meet her regular payments. The agent waited a few weeks, receiving a dollar occasionally, finally the firm demanded the return of the goods according to their contract, and the house was almost emptied of its contents. At this stage Mrs. M. came to us. We persuaded the firm to let her have the goods, by paying the balance due and cost of transportation, and she has paid back every dollar of that loan.

C. Mrs. Y. had borrowed $150 on her house upon which there was a bank mortgage. She paid twenty-five dollars for the loan and something extra besides the interest whenever it was due. The loan was made as a second mortgage, and with taxes soon swelled to $350. She was threatened with a foreclosure and we were asked to prevent this. We were able to find a generous friend who paid the debt and assumed the mortgage at the legal rate of interest. Up to date this has been paid when due, and the loan promises to remain a good one.

D. Tony worked for a street contractor and lost his eyesight by a blast of dynamite which was set off without the proper warning. He was taken to a hospital and followed by an agent of the company who told him that he would be all right in a few months, and offered him several hundred dollars in cash to provide for his family during the illness. Tony, to whom so much cash was a gold mine, signed a paper which relieved the firm from all responsibility.

We could do nothing to set aside this contract when he came to us totally blind, a few months later, and unless the wife, who has two small children, becomes the wage earner, this little family will become a charge upon the poormaster.

E. A peddler driving a wagon was run into by a street car, thrown to the street and badly injured. An attempt was made to settle the case outside of court. This failed, but our lawyer secured a judgment of $300 which was promptly paid.

SCHOOL EXTENSION

By Edward Joshua Ward

SUMMARY OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL EXTENSION, PRESENTED AT THE CONVENTION OF THE NATIONAL MUNICIPAL LEAGUE, BUFFALO, NOVEMBER 10TH, 1910.

"We have the public school plants, but most of us no more appreciate what it means to have these possessions than the people in Europe, before 1492, appreciated what it meant to have the earth. There was a whole hemisphere of incalculable wealth and opportunity about which they knew nothing. And in the public school plant, there is a hemisphere of value unrealized, undiscovered by those who think of it as simply a building for the education of children, with the added use of an occasional evening school."

This paragraph opened the report of the School Extension Committee, which occupied with the discussion that it brought forth one of the most interesting sessions of the Convention of the National Municipal League, at Buffalo, Nov. 14th to 18th. This Committee on School Extension was appointed as a result of the account of the civic and social uses which the people of Rochester, N. Y., make of their public school buildings, which was given at the 1909 Convention of the League at Cincinnati by Edward J. Ward, at that time supervisor of Social Centers in Rochester, and now Adviser in Civic and Social Center

Development in the Extension Division of The University of Wisconsin.

The report began with a definition of the term Social Center as "The public building or group of buildings and grounds which form the capital of the neighborhood, the focal point of its common educational, recreational, political, and social life, the institution which is to the neighborhood, or smaller division of a city, as the Civic Center is to the City as a whole." It was pointed out that the complete, fully equipped neighborhood or social center has not yet anywhere been realized but that in every community in country and city the public school plant is the present, easily available nucleus of such a center.

The fundamental importance of the social center as a place for the development of intelligent public spirit through the open presentation and free discussion of public questions was pointed out in two papers on "The Historic Antecedents of the Social Center." One by Prof. Charles Zueblin; the other by Dr. Samuel Crothers, each of whom traced the line of ancestry of this modern institution from the primitive gatherings of free men in ancient Greece and Rome and Palestine, down through the Folk Note and the Landesgeminde of Northern Europe, to and through the old New England town meeting, and the citizen gatherings in the little red school house back home. "The larger use of the schoolhouses and the organization of Social Centers are not novelties. They are the twentieth century revival and expression of that democratic spirit which has been vital at intervals, for more than two thousand years," said Prof. Zueblin. While Dr. Crothers closed his paper with the words, "Those who are opening our schoolhouses for the largest public service are simply carrying on the tradition of freedom."

The strongest emphasis in the report of the Committee was placed upon the use of the school buildings for non-partisan gatherings of citizens for public discussion. In his paper on "Public School Buildings as Neighborhood Civic Club Houses," Henry C. Campbell, President of the Milwaukee Federation of Civic Societies and managing Editor of one of the leading papers in the Northwest, pointed out the feasibility and need of this fundamental use. Speaking from his observation as well as theory he said, "It is no exaggeration to say that, in making the school house the forum of the people, lies the chief hope of perpetuating the republic and of perfecting its institutions."

"The Public School Building as Non-partisan Political Headquarters" was the title of a strong paper written by Livy S. Richards, Editor of the Boston "Common," in which he compared the benefits of this use of the public school building with the present results of the use of saloons for this purpose. Mr. Richards, like Mr. Campbell, wrote from personal observation, for he was formerly in Rochester and was acquainted with the movement there. His conclusion was that "The Public Schoolhouse is the appropriate Headquarters for Non-partisan Politics."

In this connection was noticed the advantage of the permanent installation of voting machines in public school buildings and the use of these buildings as polling places, from the educational viewpoint, in the teaching of Civics to the children and particularly to the foreigners in the evening schools; from the point of view of economy, (it being shown that this use of the school buildings would effect a saving of $7,500 or more a year in a city of the size of Buffalo), and from the viewpoint of the Woman's Suffrage movement, in providing a place fit for women to vote in.

The paper on "The Relation of the Civic Use of School Buildings to Public Service" was made up of statements from such public officials as former Governor Chas. E. Hughes, Mayor Gaynor, Mayor Whitlock, Mayor Seidel, and from Aldermen and Councilmen in various cities. The words of Mayor Seidel expressed the common opinion of these public officials. "As a Public Servant, I welcome the opportunity that this sort of gathering gives, for a free and open discussion of topics of common interest upon a non-partisan platform. Such a discussion will help the servants of the people to learn what you desire and it will furnish a chance for the public servants to talk over with the people the matters in which they seek to represent them. I hope that your example may be followed in every neighborhood until misunderstanding and prejudice shall have been removed by the development of civic friendliness and intelligent public spirit."

In a paper on "The Public School Building as a local Health Office," Dr. G. W. Goler of Rochester outlined the health program for the modern city, making use of the public school system as a base. As one of the leading health officers of the country, his paper will be received with serious attention, when it is published.

In a paper on "The Public School Building as a Branch Public Library," Miss L. D. Stearns, perhaps the leading

exponent of Library distribution in the country, starting from the fact that "Experience has shown that where no efforts are being made along the lines of Library Extension only ten per cent, or at most, twenty per cent of the people in any community are reached," made a strong plea for the establishment of a local Branch Library in every school building.

Upon "The Public School Building as a Free Lecture Center," Dr. Henry M. Leipziger, the head of the great lecture system in New York, wrote, giving an account of the successful use of school buildings for this purpose.

"The School Building as a Recreation Center," was treated of by Dr. Edward W. Stitt, also of New York, and the fact was pointed out that the provision of wholesome recreation under wise supervision is on every account, economical, and that the public school buildings afford the ideal places for this provision.

John Collier, Executive Secretary of the National Board of Censorship of Motion Picture films, furnished a striking paper upon "The School Building as a Motion Picture Theater," and the benefit of this development, both in education to the children and older people in the various communities, and in the elevation of the tone of the whole motion picture world.

Hon. William D. Foulke, who was the next day elected President of the League, gave a very interesting account of "The Use of the Public School Building as a Public Art Gallery," in which he told of this development in his own town of Richmond, Indiana.

"The School Plant as a Center for Civic Festival and Holiday Celebration" was the title of a suggestive paper by C. S. Martin, Superintendent of Public Recreation in Columbus, Ohio.

The relation of the social center development to the problems of rural life was treated in a comprehensive paper on "Social Centers in the Country," which gave the results of an extended investigation by Chas. W. Holman of Dallas, Texas.

Following this separate treatment of the various uses which are being made of the public school buildings in addition to their prime use, Clarence Arthur Perry of the Bureau of School Plant Utilization Inquiry of the Sage Foundation, gave a survey of the present actual developments throughout the country, saying that there are now something over a hundred cities in which a wider use is being systematically made, and speaking in detail of the work in some eighteen

the wider use. His article was supplemented by the statements of several school principals who spoke of the practical benefits which came to their schools through the extension of their use as neighborhood centers.

Mrs. Edwin C. Grice, President of the Philadelphia Home and School Association treated of "The Relation between Social Center and the Home," showing that this development does not rob but does benefit and supplement the home.

In a paper on "The Relation of the Social Center to the University," Prof. Louis E. Reber, Dean of the Extension Division of The University of Wisconsin, gave the various ways in which, through social center development, the various communities may take advantage of the resources of the University in lectures, discussion material, selected libraries, moving picture films, and lantern slides.

"The Relation of the Social Center to the Church" was presented by Rev. Richard Edwards, University Pastor of the Congregational Church of Wisconsin. In it he pointed out the promise of the social center movement, to serve the great end toward which the church aims, of developing a better social condition.

Robert A. Woods, of South End House, Boston, writing on "The Relation of the Settlement to the Social Center" showed that, as in other social developments, the settlement furnishes simply the pioneering experiment station, blazing the way for the broader and more democratic developments in connection with the public school building.

Prof. George M. Forbes, President of the Board of Education of Rochester, wrote out of his home experience upon "The Relation of the Social Center Development, and especially the Neighborhood Civic Club Gatherings to Progressive and Educational and Reform Movements of all Kinds," showing how this sort of gathering furnishes the medium through which the people may be easily reached and in which such movements may find ready popular understanding and consideration.

The report closed with an article by Chas. F. Knowles, formerly secretary of the Buffalo Social Center Association on "Some of the Difficulties to be Overcome." Mr. Knowles wrote from the point of view of the Buffalo movement, which seems to have encountered more difficulties than the movement in any other city.

The large number of persons interested in the Social Center development in Buffalo as well as the interest of the delegates furnished a live audience and

cities in which there is extensive development.

In a series of papers the relation of the Social Center to various existing institutions was considered and set forth. Prof. Edward C. Elliott in a carefully prepared paper on "The Relation of the Social Center to the Regular School," pointed out the advantages in equipment, support, and interest which come through the discussion which followed the presentation of the report showed a unanimous feeling on the part of those present that the wider resources in the use of public school plants as nucleus for social center development is likely to be carried forward rapidly in that city as in other places over the country.

The full report of this committee will be published in book form in the near future.

Dance Halls and Theaters as Public School Adjuncts.

Dance halls and theaters as public school school adjuncts were advocated recently by Mrs. Harriette Taylor Treadwell, Principal of the West Pullman School, Chicago, in an address on "The Public School, the Melting Pot of America."

Plunging into the broader phase of her subject, Mrs. Treadwell reviewed Israel Zangwill's play, extolling its conception, and said:

"The public school is the real melting pot in America. There the children of all nations and all creeds meet on one level. There they play, work, study and achieve together. The result will be the production of a stronger, more cosmopolitan race."

"To make this melting pot the means to the greatest good certain things are needed. Children have an innate taste for, and inevitably must seek excitement. We should have school dances, under proper instruction, to satisfy the desire of children for dancing and overcome their search for excitement in questionable places.

"School theaters would form another worthy purpose. Proper plays could be presented by and for the pupils, appeasing their appetite for shows and saving them from the perils of some plays and shows of the day.

"In fact the school should be made more the gathering place of the neighborhood. Instead of from 18 to 20 playgrounds in Chicago for 600,000 school

children, we should have between 200 and 250. And why not have trees and rocks and real nature all about our schools?

Mrs. Treadwell also took occasion to oppose the "boy scout" movement which is so popular in England, and is being introduced in America in general and Chicago in particular.

"We no not need the boy scouts," she said. "Make the schools more homelike and all the training in patriotism the boy needs will be supplied."—*Selected.*

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SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION
411 Buckley Building, Rochester, N. Y.

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on presentation of notice on or after September 1st of each year.

Signed _____

Address _____

Per _____

The Tragedy of the Age

Herein lies the
tragedy of the age.
Not that men are
poor: all men know
something of poverty.
Not that men are
wicked: who is good?
Not that men are
ignorant: what is truth?
Nay, but that men
know so little of each other.

—*DuBois*