

# The COMMON-GOOD

OF CIVIC AND SOCIAL ROCHESTER

*"Know Your City"*



**"DRUNKS, BUT CITIZENS."**

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

VOL. IV. 3.

DECEMBER, 1910

25 CENTS  
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# The Common-Good

of Civic and Social Rochester

VOL. IV.

DECEMBER, 1910.

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## Editorial

### SOCIAL CENTERS BEGIN

The month of November found quite a little interest in the city on the subject of Social Centers. In a number of the school houses they are in full swing with all their old-time enthusiasm. In a splendid outline of policy given at the City Lunch Club recently by Mr. Weet, it was evident that under wise, progressive direction the school houses will be well used this winter!

The program of activities will be much as it was last year, except that the days of its pioneership being over, fewer men of national reputation will come to our city to see our wonder of democracy. But this may not be a bad thing for it may lead to the greater interest of our civic clubs in local affairs. It is certainly a great pleasure to have Charles Evans Hughes come and tell us that we are buttressing the walls of democracy, but it is really a good deal better with trowel and stone in hand to be doing this without a Governor's praise. If one may judge from the spirit in which the winter's work has begun we need have no fear as to the outcome. Mr. Ward was never tired of emphasizing that "the public school building is the natural Social Center." "Back home in the little scattered neighborhood of the country, the little red school house was the place where the people of the community gathered for all sorts of social and civic activities." The getting together in this way was not at all "as a means of uplift in the 'institutional' spirit, but simply as a means of acquaintance and co-operation in the common interest on a common ground."

That the movement does not depend upon any one man for its life and spirit

was evident to all who attended the opening of the Center at No. 9 School last month.

Nearly one thousand people gathered in the large Assembly Hall and sang heartily the familiar songs of past seasons. Prof. George M. Forbes of the Board of Education, stated that he was greatly pleased with the beginning of the third season of Center work at this school and again expressed his confidence in the people to support those movements which make for progress and the general welfare.

The new leader, Principal Chas. E. Finch, was greeted with no less enthusiasm than that which was called forth by the mention of the names of Edward J. Ward and Kendrick P. Shedd. All of which goes to show that, while these people have enshrined in their hearts the best spirit of the old leaders, they will not fail in loyalty to the new.

In order to bring the Social Center into more definite and mutually helpful relation to the other interests which demand the attention and oversight of our Board of Education, it was decided last summer, when Mr. Ward was called to Wisconsin, to place the several Centers in charge of the principals of the schools where such activities were conducted. It has also been the policy of the Board this season to wait for the people of the various communities to take the initiative in the matter of opening public school buildings; in order that all possible opportunity might be given to the leaders, whom the work has developed, to exercise those functions which are so essential to a real democracy.

Centers are being opened in accordance with this plan in the order in which the requests are received and in so far as the funds at the disposal of the Board will permit.

## THE IMMIGRANT AS A PATRIOT.

A great deal has been written in recent years of the menace of the immigrant to our much prized American civilization. Some of us have talked of restriction laws and others, like Dr. Charles Eliot, have urged that the period of probation before naturalization be extended from five to fifteen years. But this anti-immigrant feeling is largely based on superficial knowledge of the men and women who have come to our land. In one of his campaign speeches in Connecticut recently, Judge Baldwin said, "The man who is born in a place and stays our is not always the man who loves it best. It is those who, coming from somewhere else, have freely chosen it, out of all the world—ready to learn new fashions, a new tongue, a new civilization—it is those often who most deeply feel its worth and are ready to do the most for it." In illustration of these words, the following story is very apt. Not long ago in one of our smaller towns, the inhabitants were discussing the advisability of employing a night watchman to patrol the village. A Pole, who had purchased a run-down farm there and was making it pay, came to the town fathers and said he would be glad to serve as such a watchman one night in every week. "What would you charge?" they asked. "Oh, nothing," was the reply. "I love the town so." Prof. Albert Bushnell Hart tells us that Yankees are becoming extinct. Surely there is nothing to fear, if our most recent immigrants can be so depended on to carry forward the very best of our Yankee civilization.

## ABOUT OURSELVES

Up to date our little magazine has had a splendid reception; subscriptions and words of warm appreciation come to us continually. Not only is it found in a larger number of Rochester homes, but it is now going all over the nation. Orders come from far away places. We do not tell these secrets however to discourage our readers in getting new subscribers, for you cannot send us too many.

One young student has recently received from us a check for five dollars, for fifty new subscribers turned in and we are willing to do the same for anyone else. It is so easy to get men and women to buy such a magazine as this for only twenty-five cents a year. We would suggest to the many captains of industry and heads of departments who

are already on our list, that they extend the civic knowledge and civic idealism of their men, by getting them to subscribe.

We have a number of interesting articles being prepared by various citizens able to write them. The head of one of the departments in one of our largest industries is writing on "Social Welfare Work in Modern Factories," for which a wide investigation has fitted him to speak with much interest. We hope this will appear in our next number. But we must not boast of all that we have in our hopper, for a recent boast of this kind brought an offer from a western editor to one of our contributors to let him have the article spoken of, which to our relief was courteously declined.

## IN PRAISE OF GOLER

There is not much of human interest, as a rule, in statistics. It has to be breathed into them. I found myself one day, not long ago, with a copy of the June report of the New York State Health Department as the only available reading matter. I turned over the pages idly for a time until it occurred to me to look for Rochester and to find out how many babies Dr. Goler had saved of late by his fight for a pure milk supply. Of course the report gave it as the rate of infant mortality, and right there came the chance to breathe in human interest. Change *Infant Mortality* to *Babies Saved*, then imagine you see the babies and it makes all the difference in the world.

First I compared Rochester with all the rest of the state. But that is not quite fair. It is much easier to save babies in a little country village than it is in a city of 220,000 inhabitants like Rochester. On the other hand it is much harder to do it in cities like New York and Buffalo, with their 4,600,000 and 400,000 inhabitants. So I threw out of the count New York City and Buffalo and the rural districts and compared Rochester with the smaller cities of the state only. There are 49 such cities with population ranging from 8,000 to 100,000. I found that Rochester by making itself a better place for babies than the average of these other and smaller and more manageable cities had saved 29 babies under one year of age in June alone, or, while the other cities had lost five babies for every 20,000 inhabitants, Rochester had lost only two. Twenty-nine babies saved in one month! I commend these figures to towns that are disappointed at the census returns and are hoping to make a better showing in 1920.—*La Follette's Magazine*.

# Drunks, But Citizens

## An Appeal for the Conservation of Rochester Men

By the Editor

Go into any Police Court, go into the Rochester Police Court, and so far as the records and the officials can testify, you will find that our drunks constitute a very large percentage of the cases dealt with. According to the last report of our Department of Public Safety, there were 3,373 cases of public intoxication of men, and 278 arrests of women in this city last year. Rochester paid for policemen to arrest these persons, paid for court officials to try and sentence them, paid for their keep after they were committed, and indirectly paid for their loss to the civic welfare of the community. The question comes, are we getting a good return for our money? Is our penitentiary yielding us a good civic dividend? We ask the question from a purely business and humane standpoint. We have reason to believe that as far as possible our public officials are doing their best to make our investment in this particular department of civic life, pay good returns, but we know that they are prevented by an inadequate judicial procedure.

In the October issue of this magazine, Bailey B. Burritt, Assistant Secretary of the State Charities Aid Association, wrote an article on, "What Rochester may do for its Inebriates." The article outlined a fresh procedure for our drunks, which is followed in some other states, by means of which the habitual drunkard is dealt with under medical and "Big Brother" influences, and prevented from becoming a "rounder" at the Police Court and a constant charge to the city. Writing of Rochester, Mr. Burritt said, "When you have demonstrated to the people of Rochester that they have a large number of drunken persons who are repeatedly going through the courts and are repeatedly being committed to the penitentiary

\* \* \* you have half solved the problem." We hope this may be so. A few days ago we visited our Police Court Investigator, Andrew Wiedenmann, and talked over the whole situation of our local "rounders." Record after record, Mr. Wiedenmann took from the filing case which told a dreadful story of municipal helplessness. Month after month we are committing the same men for the same offence of public intoxication and under our present system we shall go on

doing this till death claims the poor fellows. Unfortunately our Rochester records only go back a few years, but they are adequate to demonstrate the stupidity of our treatment. Here is the record of one of our citizens, who is 51 years of age and who is a good workman at a good trade when sober. His record begins nearly six years ago.

Jan. 15, 1905, intoxication. \$5 or 10 days.

Feb. 16, intoxication. \$10 or 2 months.

Apr. 5, disorderliness. Ordered to stay from home.

Apr. 30, 1906, intoxication. Judgment suspended.

July 16, intoxication. \$5 bail forfeited.

Aug. 27, intoxication. \$5 bail forfeited.

Oct. 15, intoxication. Judgment suspended.

Oct. 30, intoxication. \$10 or six months.

Feb. 14, 1907, intoxication. Judgment suspended.

Mar. 11, intoxication. Paroled 6 months.

July 12, intoxication. Sent to almshouse.

Oct. 18, intoxication. Three months.

Mar. 20, 1908, intoxication. Six months.

Jan. 2, 1909, intoxication. Ordered to leave town. Judgment suspended.

Mar. 20, intoxication. Six months.

Dec. 7, intoxication. Four months.

Aug. 8, 1910, intoxication. \$10 or two months.

Nov. 2, intoxication. Six months.

This man, now some 56 years of age, during the last six years has been up eighteen times, and is at this moment in the penitentiary. If we had his complete record we should probably find that he has lived in this way for many years and it is certain he will continue to reside at the penitentiary every few months for many years to come unless we treat him sanely.

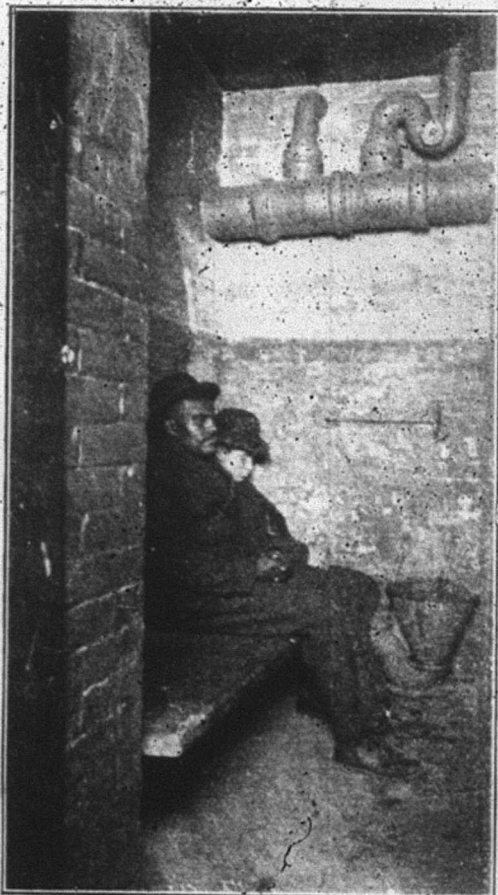
Here is another record, more to our shame, for it is of a young man of 25 years of age, a laborer. His record promises to continue in this way, of course, for many years.

Apr. 10, 1905, intoxication. Judgment suspended.

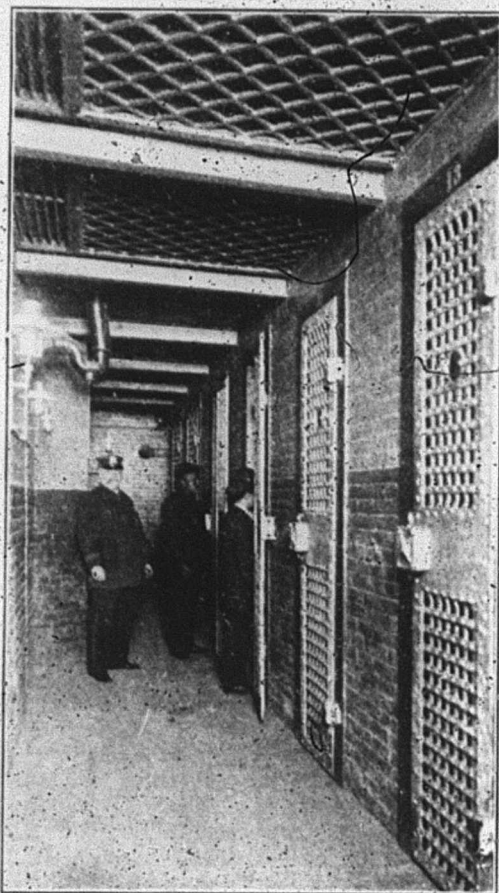
Apr. 14, intoxication. \$10 or 3 months.

Oct. 3, intoxication. Ten days.

Nov. 3, intoxication. Judgment suspended.  
 Nov. 12, intoxication. \$10 or 2 months.  
 Jan. 24, 1906, intoxication. \$10 or 3 months.  
 Apr. 30, intoxication. \$10 or 6 months.  
 June 29, intoxication. \$10 or 3 months.  
 Nov. 30, intoxication. \$10 or 5 months.  
 Apr. 20, 1907, burglary and petit larceny. Dismissed.  
 June 3, intoxication. Paroled 6 months.  
 June 13, intoxication. Five months.  
 Nov. 21, intoxication. Judgment suspended.  
 Nov. 25, intoxication. Held open.  
 Apr. 1, 1908, intoxication. Six months.  
 Oct. 23, intoxication. Held open.  
 Nov. 2, intoxication. Six months.  
 Apr. 21, 1909, intoxication. Ordered to leave town. Judgment suspended.  
 May 4, intoxication. \$10 or 3 months.  
 Aug. 2, intoxication. Judgment suspended.  
 Sept. 13, intoxication. Dismissed.  
 Sept. 17, intoxication. \$10 or 6 months.



THE "ROUNDER" IN THE MAKING



Mar. 29, 1910, intoxication. Six months.

Oct. 5, intoxication. Ordered to leave town. Judgment suspended.

Oct. 8, intoxication. Five months.

Thus his record, which the Court began to put on file when he was 25 years of age, finds him at 30 with twenty-five warrants against him. Assuming that he paid no fines, and omitting all reference to paroles, dismissals, and suspended judgments, this young man has a record of five years all but twenty-one days in the penitentiary, and he is there yet. Of course, he also, will continue to go there, and continue to be an expense to the city as long as he lives or as long as we do not change our methods. Such records as these could be multiplied by others from Mr. Wiedenmann's cabinet, each one an indictment of the system.

Now, the question comes, what shall we do? If we will turn to Mr. Burritt's article in the October issue of this magazine or to the issue of *The Survey* for October 1, we shall find a fully outlined scheme for the creation of farm colonies under the supervision of medical men as well as court officers. The general fea-

Cleveland's  
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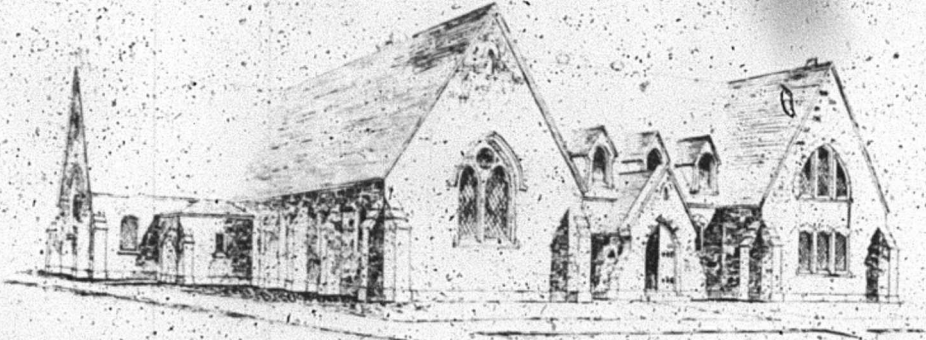


*The intricate  
photos in this  
number are used  
with the permission  
of "The Survey"*

tures of the plan were submitted to the Legislature of this State in March, 1909, for New York City, but did not pass at that session. But in the 1910 session it was introduced again as the Grady-Lee bill and passed and became law, Chapter 551, Laws of 1910. This was the enabling act and requires action by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to make it effective. "The law provides for the creation of a board of inebriety of five members appointed by the mayor, which will have entire supervision of the problem of public intoxication and inebriety."

It is inevitable that in a very few years every city of the nation will have its inebriate and farm hospital and colony for its inebriates. Cleveland, advancing ahead of other cities has provided a

farm of about 1,000 acres to make possible the cure by a favorable environment of all arrested for public intoxication. Iowa has an institution at Knoxville which in four years can boast of 300 out of 774 who have not gone back to the drink. A recital of the benefits of this more scientific treatment, could of course, be extended quite lengthily, but we feel that sufficient has been said to show the need for Rochester to move forward in this matter. We appeal to our citizens to conserve our citizenship and move forward to an economic, humane, and scientific treatment of our drink-diseased fellows. After we had outlined the plan to the Police Court Investigator, he enthusiastically exclaimed, "Now you're talking!" Shall we stop at this?



NEW HEADQUARTERS OF THE ROCHESTER BOYS' EVENING HOME.\*  
One of the Oldest Boys' Clubs in America.

## The Rochester Boys' Evening Home

By Gertrude C. Blackall

Twenty years is a long time to work, to hope, and to struggle, but "the consummation so devoutly wished" is at hand, the dream has become a reality, and the Unitarian Church has a fine new parish building in which to carry on its church activities. Its oldest outside work, and the work that has made the need of a modern, commodious parish house most apparent, is that of the Rochester Boys' Evening Home, which for more than twenty years under the Presidency of the late Eugene T. Curtis, has been carried on by the church, with the assistance of many loyal Jewish friends, and some from other churches.

There were many newsboys in the old days in the Home, and a rather rough crowd used to gather on Monday and Thursday evenings in the old chapel. If

a piece of lead pipe were occasionally missing, the gas left turned on, a window broken, this, considering the character of many of the boys, was not wondered at. The public schools at that time did not afford the opportunities offered at present, and education was not made compulsory as now, or at least the law was not so rigidly enforced, so that many who should have been in school were glad to take advantage of the various classes at the Home, which included spelling, arithmetic, geography, composition, penmanship, as well as carpentry, basketry, clay modeling, pasting, knitting (!), story-telling, elocution, brushwork and drawing, travel talks, singing, stenography, bookkeeping, and the reading of poetry, Shakespeare and even Robert Browning. The incredulous

\*This building, to be known as Gannett House, will be open for public inspection on Thursday, December 15th, from 2 till 10.

can verify this last statement by a visit to a certain home here, where one of the members of the Browning class made and placed on the walls such mottoes as "A man's reach should exceed his grasp. Or what's a heaven for?"

The teacher of that class well remembers the trepidation with which she suggested the poem of "Andrea del Sarto," and how the boys looked over photographs of some of the greatest works of Raphael, Michael Angelo, and Andrea del Sarto himself, to get the background of the poem. It must not be thought that boys, and street boys at that, cannot discriminate in such things, for they got at the heart of this beautiful poem in a most gratifying way, and it helped to give them a grasp of higher things. This class was taken at that time to hear Father Lapham give a Browning reading, and all listened with rapt attention. The reading included the poem they had been studying, and it was the consensus of opinion that Father Lapham's reading was "all right," but that he did not read it as well as one of their number, who on various occasions, even of a social character, was asked to read this, their favorite poem.

There were several classes in Shakespeare, and always each boy wanted to play the leading role. When the "Merchant of Venice" was taken up there was a great dispute as to who should read the part of Shylock. Each one presented his claim, and finally one boy, who was Jewish, said he thought he ought to have it because he looked more like a Jew than any of the rest, and with that each boy began to sound his trumpet, and in divers ways. One said, well, anyway, at school he was the best reader in the grade; another claimed to be the best writer; another that his teacher said he was the best behaved boy in the room; another said he was the only one in the class whose mother was a fortune teller. Finally the climax was capped by one who said he would bet that no one in the class had relatives living as far away from Rochester as he, for he had them in Arabia. Who would not rather be an umpire in a professional baseball game than to have the responsibility of deciding who, under such circumstances, was to be the leading man?

A rather amusing incident, one interesting from a psychological point of view, occurred in a class that was reading "Julius Caesar." It happened that each one of these eight or ten boys was working in a tailor shop. They did not take time to prepare the play beforehand, but would simply read in class. When they came to where the mob cries:

"Burn, kill, fire, slay! Let not a traitor live!" with one voice they yelled: "Burn, kill, fire, slay! Let not a *tailor* live!" Was this mob psychology? Another incident of the same sort occurred with a singing teacher. She was new to the work and did not understand boys very well. She took a large singing class, and the first or second evening some of the boys were unruly. She tried to quiet them, but a spirit of levity was most apparent. Finally she stopped in desperation and said, "Boys, do you know why I come here?" For a moment there was perfect quiet, then various guesses were made, such as the obvious one, "Because you want to teach us to sing," etc. "No," she said, "boys, that is not the reason, it is because I *love* you." With that there was a general shriek, and every boy dropped on to the floor under his chair. "Oh, boys, do get up!" exclaimed the embarrassed teacher, and they finally took their seats again. Then she continued, "Yes, I have a boy of my own, and it is because I love boys that I come here." Again they dropped to the floor, and after that evening the singing teacher was no more seen at the home.

Now these classes were held mostly in corners of a large room, for there was only one very small class room where the helpers left their wraps. There were only four other rooms in the whole building: two downstairs, one used as a wash room or "renovation room," where the boys, under supervision, waged a desperate war on their hands and finger nails with hot water, soap and brushes, and another large room where all of the manual training classes were held, and the two large assembly rooms upstairs, one answering the five purposes of library, game room, place for keeping the games, place for the desk where the records were kept and membership tickets given out, and for monthly entertainments. Of course the game-room was noisy, and thus the classes in the next room could not but be disturbed, so the teacher's task was no easy one, and as a result of the noise and the almost complete lack of ventilation, many went home on Monday and Thursday nights with aching heads and sore throats.

From this plentiful lack of everything now considered necessary for the successful conduct of such work as this, we are about to enter a good-sized building, one of the finest bits of Gothic architecture in the city, a building well adapted to our needs.

It is well lighted, with an up-to-date heating and ventilating plant. The confusion of the old manual training room is avoided by having three rooms, one for

drawing and clay modeling, one for basketry, and a third for carpentry. The games are kept in a separate room, while another room is specially for the library and reading room. A large game room, a beautiful assembly hall, a large gymnasium extending almost the entire length of the building, with shower baths and other rooms for miscellaneous classes, give us plenty of space for all our work. Instead of having a number of groups of boys go downstairs for the chocolate and cookies served monthly on entertainment nights, the ample space upstairs permits the seating of all the members of the Home at one time, in the dining room. Of old it was aching heads and sore throats, bad air and disturbed classes, and now that all this is about to become a thing of the past, we rub our eyes and wonder whether it is really true, for although we have been waiting and working and hoping for this building for over twenty years, to some it is more

of a dream than ever. But it is a dream of delight and satisfaction, which will give a fresh impetus to the social work of the church, *always non-sectarian*, which has been carried on for so many years, and will in all probability result in greater activity along these lines, as well as in a reaching out to help in other ways, perhaps in doing something especially for young women, or bringing in the fathers and mothers of the "Home" boys and the "Friendly" girls, or in resuming the "Neighborhood Meetings," which for several years were held to establish a calling acquaintance with the women of Cortland Street, and to give them an occasional pleasant and profitable afternoon. We enter our new Home with high hopes for the future, and under the continued inspiration of its founder, William Channing Gannett, for whom the building is named, to prove ourselves worthy of the added opportunities that are ours.

## Quarter Million Rochester

By Richard Kitchelt

The large cities of our country have been termed "great sores"; and numerous volumes have been written discussing the menace and the problems they present to our own and coming generations. How large may Rochester become before the recognized advantages of community life are overshadowed by the equally recognized evils of great size? It will be admitted at once that those who have real estate to sell are benefited proportionately to the City's growth, also the manufacturer and the large merchant, temporarily at least.

But these are not "the City." The City means the great mass of its people. To them the advantages of city over rural life lie in its opportunities for social intercourse, its educational and artistic facilities, and its amusements. Its opportunities for excitement and dissipation, which lure so many, can scarcely be included among its "advantages."

That the city is less healthful than the country is statistically proved by its higher death rate, it being 17.7 per thousand as against 15.4 for the smaller towns, villages and country.

Cities have been called "the grave of the physique of the race." Also it is said that were the cities not recruited from

the country population, they would die out in three generations. And the fact that most of the so-called "great men" in every branch of activity are not "city bred" has been explained by the theory that city life is devitalizing and narrowing in its influence, the open country alone affording the health and vitality needed to accomplish great work.

The advantages of Rochester over other cities as a place of residence have been exploited recently in several magazine articles. But it is notable that most of these advantages inhere in the circumstance that Rochester is no larger than it is.

Rochester is referred to as "a City of Homes" because a majority of its people still own the houses they live in; and because most homes are "detached" houses with a little space around them and are on tree-grown streets.

But its growth is making Rochester less a city of homes. The proportion of the people who own their homes is gradually decreasing.

Flats are taking the place of single homes in the older parts of the city, and higher rents and taxes are increasing the burden on those who rent or own the houses they live in. Those who seek

the suburbs in search of lower rents lose in carfare and in time traveling to and from their work.

With the city's growth the land values of neighboring farms increase, or the farms are pushed farther away, making transportation of products more costly; and the increased expense of producing fruits, vegetables, dairy and live stock products raises the cost of living to the city dweller.

The rent of the merchant, who must be near the center of the city, increases and he adds it to the selling price of his goods.

But wages do not rise because of the increase of population that raises the cost to the wage-worker of food, shelter and clothing. By far the larger part of the addition to the population is composed of wage-workers, who are always in excess of the demand. The newcomers usually have emigrated from their former locality because they did not get along well there, and so have but little money and need work badly at almost any wage. Also, many of the new-comers are foreigners whose standards of living are comparatively low, who are unorganized and poor, and who will work for a wage below the prevailing standard.

The city merchant is temporarily benefited by the increased number of his customers due to the growing population; but his rent, or taxes also increase, and competition, stimulated by the larger market, is likely soon to offset all advantages.

The manufacturer whose market is broader than the city soon finds that the increasing population raises his rent or taxes, too, which, unless cheaper labor offsets it, presently places him at a disadvantage with his competitors in cheaper localities.

As the city grows it becomes more difficult to insure purity of its milk supply. To procure sufficient good water for the constantly increasing quantity needed is another serious problem. And the difficulties of sanitary sewage disposal augment even more rapidly than the city's population.

Trees and grass plots disappear from the central section of the city and the oppressive hideousness of brick and stone insidiously penetrates the temperament of the people. Their lives become more sordid, they grow neurotic and they long vaguely for the restfulness of nature's greenness, not knowing just what is the matter with them. The real country constantly recedes and becomes more difficult of access, while the natural beauty and restfulness of neighborhood re-

sorts" is ruined by ugly, nerve-racking merry-go-rounds and roller-coasters, whose construction the efforts of more and more people to get away from the city has made profitable.

The increasing rattle and rush of wagons, cars and automobiles in the down-town streets and the crowded side-walks, levies its toll upon the lives, health and nerves of the people. Smoke from additional factories vitiates the atmosphere. Manufacturing and mercantile establishments become larger, the labor of the workers in them, in consequence, more specialized, and so more monotonous and intense, and the personal separation between the owners and the workers more absolute, resulting in less consideration by the former for the welfare of the latter.

As the population grows the elements which compose it lose their cohesion. It tends to separate into groups and districts and colonies and factions, with separate interests that gradually grow larger and larger and divert more and more the attention of those who are in them from the interests of the city as a whole, with which they often conflict. Civic unity diminishes as ward or neighborhood interest increases; and the crafty politician can use faction against faction for the subordination of the well-being of the whole city to his personal or party advantage.

The government of a larger city is more complex than that of a smaller and opportunities for graft, (and graft in sums worthy the efforts of real ability to graft,) are more numerous and can be more easily concealed. Officials and candidates for office are personally known to a smaller proportion of the electorate and blatant demagoguery may win and hold an office which solid integrity and ability, too busy with its duties to court public notice, cannot attain.

Where the accretions to the population are made up in large part of foreigners, unable to speak our language, ignorant of our institutions and ideals, not yet penetrated by civic love and pride and segregated into colonies isolated from the civic ideals of the bulk of the population, as is the case in Rochester, these evils are greatly augmented.

As cities grow, the contrast between rich and poor becomes more marked. The mansions of the rich grow costlier and roomier; the apartments of the poor smaller and more congested. Poverty is relative; as cities grow larger it becomes more pronounced; and the hope of rising out of it, which sometimes makes it more tolerable, becomes less. So crimes against property, stimu-

lated by the liquor traffic which finds its stronghold in the larger cities, become more frequent.

Personal acquaintance between the needy and the giver of charity grows more difficult; so that professional pauperism is easier and the sufferer is under suspicion.

The criminal, the prostitute, the gambler and the pan-handler find corners in which to hide, because the city is too large for its residents, or even its police, to know all about it. People who live in one part of the city are glad to get home at night, the distance from their work being so great, that they do not visit, nor care much what conditions exist in other parts of the big city. If their own neighborhood is all right, criminals may lurk in the slums. Let the police look to that. But where each policeman, too, has only a small section of the city to look after, perhaps he will presently find himself in harmony with its denizens, if the "connecting link" is regularly provided; and the other sections of the city know nothing about it. Bad spots develop in everything that grows beyond a certain size, and there is a definite limit to healthy growth beyond which sectional decay, defective co-ordination and unwieldiness cause general degeneration.

How large should Rochester be, best to conserve the wellbeing of the largest part of its population?

The writer believes it is already too large to do this and is certain it is growing too rapidly. Its beauties, its comforts, its cheapness, its oneness, are already diminishing. And its rapid growth is developing problems of so grave a nature that their solution demands attention that should make the city a better place for its inhabitants to live in. At present, most of the time and energy of those people who are interested in the wellbeing of the populace, is expended in efforts to cure the ills excessive ingestion of unassimilable elements has caused, rather than in developing and culturing the physical, mental and moral well-being of a full-grown and healthy community.

As a result, Rochester is backward in many things other cities of smaller size have attained. It has been so busy growing and struggling with its increasing bulk it has had no time to acquire the culture necessary to support a good library, art gallery, opera and concerts, or even a complete system of free education. Yet these are the things most needed to offset the material disadvantages of a large city. If a city cannot provide greater culture for its people

than a town, then the last excuse for its size disappears.

Of course, Rochester will continue to grow; no one doubts that. But would it not be well to allow it to grow naturally, at such rate that the increase in its population may be assimilated easily, its people educated and cultured, its civic unity preserved and its social and political welfare promoted?

We need not build a wall around our city nor offer prizes to childless couples; but at least, let us shun less about "300,000 Rochester," and do more towards a better Rochester.

## The Story of the Seven Roasts.

### A True Rochester Christmas Story.

BY PAUL B. CRAPSEY.

At Christmas tide, when the hearts of all are charitably inclined, seven good people casting about for a means of expressing their good will toward all men, decided to furnish some worthy person, at whose door the wolf had been sitting, with a Christmas dinner.

These seven good people each had on their list of worthy persons a certain widow, and as they read their list in search of the most worthy, each said when they came to the widow's name: "Of all she is most worthy of my bounty."

Seven telephones rang and seven butchers entered seven orders for seven roasts of beef for a certain worthy widow. Seven telephones rang again and this time seven grocers entered seven orders for such Christmas provender as they carried on their shelves, for a certain worthy widow.

With the dawning of Christmas Eve came the butchers and grocer's wagons to the widow's cottage. Each left its roast of beef or basket of groceries, and at even-tide, when the last had come and gone, the widow and her two children sat in their humble kitchen surrounded by stores in such quantity that they knew not what to do with them.

Ring, O ye Christmas telephone bells! Away all ye wolves! Come, O ye hosts of roasts to the poor widows of our town! But come, O come, ye Federation of Charities that common sense may accompany all our good will.

# Department of the Rochester Art League

## The American Federation of Arts.

By Frank Von der Lancken

The combination of effort for "Common Good" that is displayed throughout our maturing nation is especially notable in aesthetics which have been so sadly neglected up to recent times. Now that the true and broader meaning of art is becoming better understood the demands of industry are for a more artistic product. The desire for beautifying cities and towns with parks, playgrounds, public buildings, monuments, etc., is being evidenced everywhere. To nationalize this effort and make it effective by combining all the forces, the American Federation of Arts was organized, with the object of uniting in fellowship all institutions and organizations interested in architecture, sculpture, painting, landscape, craftsmanship, collections of art, village and city development; to harmonize and nationalize the art interests of the country; to stimulate the love of beauty and to cultivate public taste. The membership is composed of an association of institutions and organizations each of which constitutes a chapter. At present there are about one hundred such chapters of which the Mechanics Institute is the only one of Rochester. The Rochester Art League will shortly join this Federation.

In the spring of each year the Federation holds a convention at Washington, D. C., at which papers and reports are read describing the work being done all over this country. At the last convention the program was as follows:

- "Address of Welcome,"  
Hon. Franklin MacVeagh
- "Address," Pres. Chas. L. Hutchinson
- "Modern Art Development,"  
Geo. De Forest Brush
- "Architecture in Its Relation to the People,"  
Ralph Adams Cram
- "Landscape Architecture," John Nolan
- "Civic Theaters," Percy MacKay
- "Civic Art," Horace McFarland
- "The National Gallery of Art,"  
Chas. D. Walcott
- "Difficulties and Trials of the Congressmen Concerning Art Matters,"  
Hon. Jas. L. Slayton

- "Government Art," Glenn Brown
- "How to Reach the People,"  
Ed. T. Hartman
- "Industrial Art," Dr. Jas. P. Haney
- "Municipal Art in Chicago,"  
Jas. Wm. Pattison
- "What the Arts and Crafts Movement Has Accomplished," E. Allen Whiting
- "Art Development in the Smaller Cities,"  
F. von der Lancken
- "International Congresses of Art Education,"  
Jas. Frederick Hopkins
- "Art History in the College Curriculum,"  
F. Lindsey Blaviey
- "Art As an International Asset,"  
Hon. Francis Newlands
- "Museum Possibilities," Halsey C. Ives
- "Art in South America,"  
Hon. John Barrett
- "City Planning," Cass Gilbert
- "Ethics and Politics of Mural Painting,"  
Edwin Blashfield
- "Archaeology As an Educational Force in the Popular Appreciation of Art,"  
Prof. Mitchell Carroll

So far the Federation of Arts has, besides establishing a big local influence in our capital city, organized traveling exhibitions of art, loan collections of slides for lecture purposes and publishes an excellent little art magazine to which any one may subscribe by becoming an associate member of the Federation at a cost of \$2.00 per annum. This magazine is called "Art and Progress," and any one wishing to see a copy may do so at the library of the Mechanics Institute.

One of the most important acts of the Federation has been to influence legislation in the appropriation of adequate funds for sending an American Art Exhibit to the International Exposition at Rome next summer. Local artists who desire to join the American Federation of Arts as associate members may get further information on the subject by applying to F. von der Lancken, President of the Rochester Art League, Mechanics Institute.

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## For Beautiful Rochester Gardens.

A Fine Proposal by the Rochester  
Florists' Association.

We have begun our winter, and mother earth is blanketed with snow, but none the less the time for talking about gardens has come. For six months we can lay out our plans to do our share for the city beautiful. We have had commissions for the tilling of our vacant lots, and prizes for the best garden a child could make; now the Florists' Association comes forward to reward those who will make their gardens and lawns the best on the street. It is proposed to establish in all parts of the city community competitions, in which cash prizes will be offered to the occupant of the home who excels his neighbors in the beauty of his lawn and garden. This is to be no paternalistic beneficence, for it is asked that the community co-operate with the Association in offering the prizes. They will duplicate any amounts up to twenty-five dollars offered for prizes. Let us talk about it at the next civic club meeting, and at the next ward improvement club gathering, so that when the spring comes we can go to the Florists' Association, and tell how these few blocks wish to compete and this short street will enter the battle of the soil for the glory of the Flower City.

The following report submitted by W. H. Dildine, A. R. Leitchford, and R. G. Salter, and unanimously adopted by the Association will show how we can co-operate to carry out their proposals.

Your committee to investigate the possibility of arousing interest on the part of owners and occupants of dwellings in Rochester in the improving and beautifying of their streets and grounds, and to report the advisability of taking up this work on the part of the Rochester Florists' Association, have reported from time to time the receipt of various letters, pamphlets, etc., from organizations in other cities working along this line or similar lines. We herewith give a summary of our investigations and the conclusions at which we have arrived:

First—We have not found any plan in use in the United States or Canada which we believe could be adopted in toto in Rochester. In Canada nearly all the horticultural societies engaged in this work

have government aid. In several of the American cities organizations interested along these lines are working in conjunction with the penny packet schemes and various gardening commissions. It is the sense of this committee that in Rochester we ought not to infringe upon the operations now carried on by flower gardening clubs, the Vacant Lot commission or any other organization. It is not our plan to interfere with these organizations or cover any part of the work they are now doing.

Second—It is the unanimous opinion of this committee that there is a clear field for an organization which shall limit itself to arousing interest on the part of house owners and occupants to beautify their surroundings, whether by the use of flowering or foliage plants, or improvement in sidewalks, lawns, fences or in any other manner which will generally improve the appearance of the street and neighborhood. By taking up this work we will not conflict with that being done by any other organization at the present time.

Third—The possibilities along this line are so great, and the benefits to the entire city of Rochester would be so many, that we should endeavor to secure the assistance and co-operation of all the good citizens in Rochester to make this plan a success. The people of Rochester must understand that while the Florists' Association is entirely willing to take the lead in the matter, it is merely the medium through which the citizens may do the work. We should solicit the advice and aid of the many Rochesterians whose travels and experience make them eminently fitted to help us carry out this project.

Fourth—To avoid the slightest suspicion that this association is favoring such a plan for its own gain, either directly or indirectly, we should put this association on record as being opposed to any scheme limiting the kinds or varieties of seeds, plants and bulbs used, or of suggesting directly or indirectly where such stock should be procured.

Fifth—We believe that a system of

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competition and prizes should be arranged. One plan that this committee considers entirely feasible is as follows:

First—To offer, to residents of any section of any street in Rochester, the size to be determined by themselves, except that the minimum length shall not be less than three blocks, to duplicate any amount, not to exceed \$25, raised by such citizens to be awarded to the contestants in their own section; a committee to be selected by the citizens in that section to make all the arrangements regarding the rules of the contest and select the judges to make the awards. By such a plan we will throw a large share of the responsibility upon those most directly interested; namely, the residents of each competing section.

Sixth—To secure funds for the purpose of giving such prizes, or duplicating any amounts offered by any section to the maximum of \$25, this committee recommends that the society puts itself on record at once in favor of this plan and let the people of Rochester know that a part of the profits of the coming flower show will be used to this end.

Seventh—We recommend that a permanent committee of seven members of the association be appointed to take up this work, and that we request the editor-in-chief of each of the daily papers of the city of Rochester to become members of this committee, or in case of inability or disinclination of any editor-in-chief we recommend that he select some member of his staff to represent his paper on this committee.

Eighth—It is the unanimous opinion of this committee that such a project is well worthy the highest ambition and aim of this organization. Any plans which will benefit Rochester will, in the long run, be of benefit to the members of this organization, and we believe that the project will elicit the approval of the entire city and will bring to our aid all the forces which are working so harmoniously and so successfully to benefit Rochester. If we adopt this plan the idea which should be uppermost in our minds is a still more beautiful Rochester.

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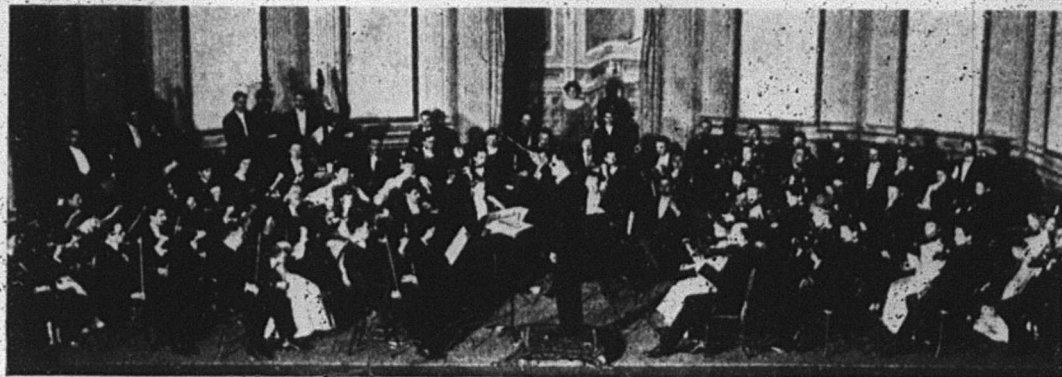
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# A Great Phrase.

[WRITTEN BY PARKER IN 1846, SPOKEN BY LINCOLN IN 1863  
FIRST UTTERED BY ROBERT ASPLAND IN ENGLAND, 1828.]

Let the world have peace for five hundred years, the aristocracy of blood will have gone, the aristocracy of gold will have come and gone, that of talent will also have come and gone, and the aristocracy of goodness, which is the democracy of man, *the government of all, for all, by all*, will be the power that is.

*Theodore Parker*