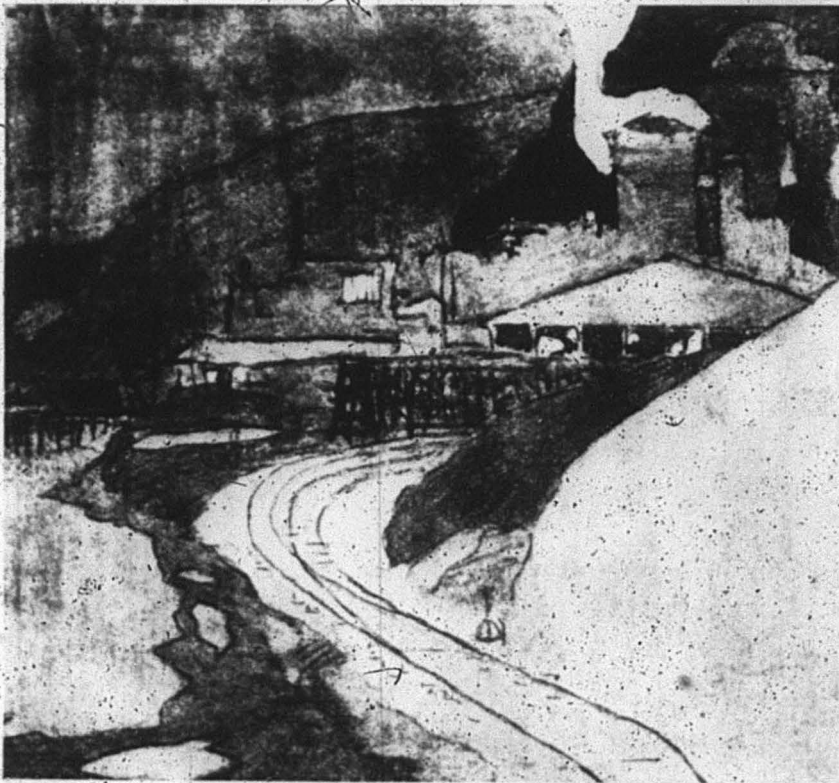


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VOL. 1.

DECEMBER

ONE DOLLAR  
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NO. 3



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—Harvey Ellis.

"A HEAVY FALL OF SNOW DIGNIFIED THE DIGGING OF  
A SEWER ON EXCHANGE STREET"

NOTE. The Painting reproduced in the Cover of this issue  
is "The Erie Station," by Harvey Ellis

# The COMMON GOOD

AN INDEPENDENT MAGAZINE OF CIVIC AND SOCIAL ROCHESTER

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VOL. V.

DECEMBER 1911.

No. 3

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## EDITORIAL

A PROGRESSIVE MUNICIPAL PARTY. Did you read the little article on page 28 of the last number? Steps towards the organization of such a party are already being thought of and being planned. The best way to steal the thunder of the new party is to turn the politics of this city into civics.

WAS IT CORRUPTION? A glance at the steps of the Court House on election morning would have revealed a number of tramp-like looking men waiting. After a while they were beckoned by a man whose name has been given to us, and they followed him to the booth on Fitzhugh Street, where they voted. As they came from the booth, they strangely opened their hands and held them open behind their backs. Into the open hands, the man who led them there placed something. It would seem to have been a two dollar bill. He looked well round before he did it, but next time we advise him and others like him to look up at the office windows that overlook the street. Next time there will be eyes everywhere, they are beginning to open now.

PEACE, WHEN THERE IS NO PEACE. A recent letter to this magazine, commenting on our October issue, says, "I am disappointed in you, why do you say, peace, peace, when there is no peace?" We did not say that there was peace. We might reply, "We are disappointed in you, why do you say, "War, war, when there is no war." But we would rather remind our correspondent that not only are there such things as peaceful revolutions, but there are some things that are not as peaceful as they sound. Perhaps the time has not come to shoot, we may be still tracking the enemy to his ambush, and that is quiet work. Wait.

A WORD TO THE WISE. It is a pity that the representatives of the people and those whom they place in office should be under the shadow of suspicion. There is talk of carrying on many investigations like that which resulted recently in the dismissal of one of the assistants of the Corporation Counsel. Would it not be a good thing for the present administration to at once start a Municipal Research Bureau? Open books, and everything above board, and a willingness to answer all questions and have the accuracy of all answers tested, is one of the best ways of increasing confidence.

**SCHOOL HOUSE VOTING.** It was our purpose to publish this month some pictures of the Barber's and Tobacconist's stores where the citizens of this city, registered and cast their votes at the last election. This we shall have to postpone. But let us say here that the conviction is growing in this country that the dignity of this civic act can only truthfully be preserved by adopting the English custom of using the School House, our first Temple of Democracy. If we cannot do it here on a Saturday, why not give the children a holiday? There are many holidays with less excuse. Perhaps when we have equal suffrage, we shall want to have our wives vote in a more dignified place; even the booth is only a cheap convenience and unworthy of being the altar of American suffrage.

**SOCIAL CENTERS MUST LIVE AGAIN!** A large number of our citizens, more than most of us realize, live constantly very close to the dividing line between good and bad citizenship. These people are temperamentally so sensitive to the environment into which for a time they may be thrown, that it takes very little change in the conditions of their living to keep them safely upon the side of good normal living, or to topple them bodily and sometimes irretrievably into criminality.

The mass of our criminals come from this class of our citizens and it would seem to be the prudent policy for a city to do all in its power to make the living conditions such as will strengthen its citizenship, first, by making it easy for all to live normal lives, and second, by making it difficult for any to fall.

We believe that the Social Centers and Civic Clubs, having their center of activity in the public schools, are among the most potent and economical methods of creating such an environment of strength and security, which any city could encourage. The Chicago Vice Commission has placed itself on record as being strongly of the opinion that the use of the public schools for this purpose will do much to prevent the spread of vice. The American Prison Congress, which was recently held in the West has also come to a similar conclusion. When two separate groups of thinking men arrive at a conclusion like this, it is, to say the least, very significant.

Because of a change in the methods of tabulating the police records, it is not possible at this time to say what effect, if any, the Social Centers of Rochester had upon the criminal tendencies of this city, but we believe this effect cannot be negative.

The Rochester Social Centers created during their life a spirit of fraternalism never before known in this city and fraternalism always has a beneficial effect upon the life of a community.

We do not believe the criticism is true that they were dangerous in that they taught Socialism, because whatever their name or sign the Social Centers of Rochester never for a moment instilled into the minds of the people aught but the most wholesome civic duty and pride.

Special interests and privileged classes do not know the meaning of civic duty and pride; and when the whole story shall have been written we believe that the temporary suspension of the Social Centers will be placed at their door. We say temporary, because the Social Center must live again in Rochester if we are to have a free and enlightened citizenship.



AT THE EASTERN WIDE WATERS IN A RAIN STORM

—Harvey Ellis.

## The Rochester Studios of Harvey Ellis

By M. Louise Stowell.

Several years ago a Rochester newspaper published illustrations of the studios of some of our painters. When Harvey Ellis was asked for a photograph of his, he told the inquirer that it was wherever he happened to be, and after much persuasion, handed out a kodak snap-shot which showed the canal and its banks at the Eastern Wide Waters, a country which at that time was dubbed "Barbizan" by the painter people, owing to its likeness to that part of France.

The photograph showed the umbrella of the artist, shading the customary camp stool, but the painter was missing, having already started to occupy another of his studios, and was wandering along the tow-path making sketches of the wonderful willows, the passing boats and the picturesque old houses which were there at that time.

One favorite working place was in the heart of the city on the aqueduct. Every art student recognizes the paintable possibilities of this; but Harvey Ellis' favorite time for work there was on a moonlight night when a walk over it revealed new allurements, the buildings fusing together into one, dark mass of shadow, recognizable by its characteristic silhouette cutting against the lighter sky, and accented by the ripples in the river where this was struck by the moonrays and furthermore by a light here and there where a window gave out evidence of a belated worker within.

Back of the Lehigh Valley station and on the Erie platform were other studios where the human elements of toil and strife contrasted with the natural one of the flowing river, and especially was this a desirable spot when an in-coming train with its accompanying hurry and bustle, sped along the metal way.

Even to this day, many of this man's studios have remained practically undiscovered. To be sure, the lower river with its suggestions of castles, towers, and old-world buildings has been many times painted; but I wonder how many know that wonderful place on its bank where tall lilies grow and the nuns come in pairs to look at them, or to gaze beyond at the distant town.

Then there is "The Meander," abundant in motifs for painting, which is within a stone's throw of the Ridge Road. You just walk a few paces down the road, creep under a fence and there you are beside the little brook which runs all over the place.

"Station Number Four" was also found to be rich in paintable material; but Mr. Ellis seldom worked in a studio so far from the "Four Corners." A heavy fall of snow dignified the digging of a sewer on Exchange Street into a combination of line, mass and color well worth recording when seen at precisely the right time of day and studied from the right angle; while a glance upward at the roof of Powers' Building when its ledges were beautified by an irregular fringe of icicles and the roof was covered with caretakers hanging out rugs, furnished another motif; all of which goes to show that beauty is in the eye of the beholder and that in the words of Whistler, "Art happens."

## Recent New York State Legislation on Behalf of Our Immigrants

By Isaac Adler

In 1908 Governor Hughes, pursuant to an Act of the Legislature, appointed a Commission to investigate the condition, welfare and industrial opportunities of aliens in the State of New York. The Commission was organized in August of that year by the election of Louis Marshall, a distinguished New York lawyer, as chairman, and Frances A. Kellor, an expert investigator, as secretary.

After a most thorough and searching investigation, made with the assistance of paid experts and with most painstaking care on the part of the Commission, a report was submitted to Governor Hughes and by him to the Legislature in the following spring which clearly and forcibly pointed out many of the evils under which immigrants were suffering and suggested several remedies, many of which have become laws.

The Commission found that when the immigrant landed at the Battery he was promptly surrounded by runners and sharpers, eager to exchange his money for counterfeit or Confederate notes; to substitute a subway ticket for his railway ticket; that unscrupulous agents charged him exorbitant rates for securing employment for him in unsanitary labor camps, with excessive hours of labor and inadequate wages; that so-called bankers accepted his money on deposit or for transmission abroad and failed to repay or transmit it; that dishonest steamship agents sold him invalid tickets and left his family stranded far from home and unable to join him; that notaries, ignorant of law, imposed upon him and defrauded him.

The evils resulting from these conditions were so convincingly set forth in the report of the Commission that the Legislature of 1910 enacted a number of important laws which went a long way to correct them.

A "Private Banking" law was the first of these enactments. To prevent irresponsible individuals from imposing upon ignorant immigrants the law provides that no individual or partnership shall have the right to receive deposits of money for safe-keeping or for transmission to other places without first obtaining a license from the State Comptroller. To obtain such a license the applicant must file a verified statement with the Comptroller showing the amount of his assets and liabilities, designating his place of business and showing that he has for five years been continuously a resident of the United States. He must also deposit with the Comptroller five to ten thousand dollars in cash, or satisfactory securities and execute a surety company bond in a sum of from five to fifty thousand dollars, for the faithful performance of his undertakings either to hold money or to transmit it and providing also against his insolvency or bankruptcy. The application is then posted in a public place for two weeks, and if granted, a license is issued for fifty dollars, which authorizes the licensee to transact his business in the place designated and no other, and the license certificate must be conspicuously posted in that place. The transaction of business anywhere else is prohibited.

The money, or securities and bond, deposited with the Comptroller are made a trust fund for the benefit primarily of depositors and those who deliver money to the licensee for transmission to others.

The licensee is required to keep full records of all business transacted and four times a year must file with the Comptroller a statement of assets and liabilities which is open to the public. The license can be revoked by the Comptroller at any time for cause.

The transaction of such a private banking business without a license, the use of the word "banking" or "banker" or any similar term without authority, any violation of the provisions of this law; and any advertisement intended to convey the impression that the licensee is in any way approved as to his responsibility or solvency or qualifications by the State is punishable as a misdemeanor.

A false statement in the application or in any report made or in any affidavit required under the Act is perjury, and failure to submit the required report is punishable by a fine of \$100.00 for every day's delay.

In an action against the licensee to recover money deposited for transmission the burden of proving the transmission and receipt of the money by the person to whom it is payable rests on the licensee. Such transmission must be made within five days of the receipt of the money.

There are certain exceptions to this Statute: corporations or "individual bankers," authorized to do business under the banking law, or the National Banking Act, hotel keepers receiving money for safe-keeping from guests; certain express and telegraph companies; persons receiving money for deposit or transmission in amounts averaging not less than \$500.00; and those who file bonds with the Comptroller in the sum of \$50,000.00 (\$100,000.00 in New York City) are exempted from the provisions of the Act.

It would seem as if the careful provisions of this law should effectually protect the innocent new-comer from the clutches of the unscrupulous "banker".

Dishonest ticket agents have been similarly guarded against by Ch. 349 of the Laws of 1910 (amended by Ch. 578 of the Laws of 1911).

No person other than railroad companies or transatlantic steamship companies and their agents duly appointed in writing can sell steamship

tickets without a license from the Comptroller. The application for a license must designate where the business is to be transacted and must be accompanied by satisfactory proof of good moral character. An annual license fee of \$25.00 is charged.

Furthermore, no person can hold himself out as agent without written authority, which must be conspicuously posted in his office, and such agent is prohibited from giving any false or misleading information concerning transportation tickets.

A serious evil was found to exist in connection with notaries public. In this state a notary is purely a ministerial officer with authority to administer oaths and take affidavits and acknowledgments. He is appointed by the Governor, with the consent of the Senate, upon an application which sets forth simply his age, residence and occupation, and which is endorsed by some reputable person; no further inquiry is made as to the character or qualifications of the applicant and many illiterate persons, unable even to speak and write English, are appointed, especially in New York City.

In European countries, on the other hand, the office is one of dignity and importance, and in consequence a totally false impression prevails among the new comers, and the notary obtains an influence wholly disproportionate to the legitimate function of his office. He prepares bills of sale, deeds, mortgages, wills and other legal papers, procures passports, and through his ignorance, misrepresentations and fraud, has been enabled to do great harm.

This problem has not yet been adequately met by the Legislature, but an Act was passed (Ch. 471 Laws 1910) making any fraud or deceit practiced by a notary in the performance of his duties a misdemeanor.

Perhaps the most important recent legislation in this State touching the immigrant problem was the creation of a bureau of industries and immigration (Ch. 514 of the Laws of 1910). This is under the general direction of the commissioner of labor, but under the immediate charge of a chief investigator.

The general purpose is to make full inquiry, examination and investigation into the condition, welfare and industrial opportunities of all aliens within the State. The commissioner of labor is authorized to collect information regarding the demand and supply of alien labor, to investigate applications for labor and treatment of laborers; to cooperate with the agencies in the distribution and employment of labor; and to devise and carry out suitable methods to relieve congestion and obviate unemployment.

Authority is given the commissioner to procure and distribute lists containing the names, ages and destination of alien children of school age, in order to aid in the enforcement of the compulsory education law; to assist boards of education in devising methods for the instruction of aliens in the English language and in respect to the duties and rights of citizenship and principles of our systems of government and otherwise to further their education; to inspect all labor camps, employment and contract labor agencies dealing principally with aliens; to investigate conditions at landing places of aliens and protect them from frauds, crimes and exploitation; to investigate complaints on account of frauds, extortion and improper practices by notaries public, interpreters and other officials, and to present the result of their investigations to the proper authorities for action; and to look into the general social conditions of aliens and devise remedies for their improvement.

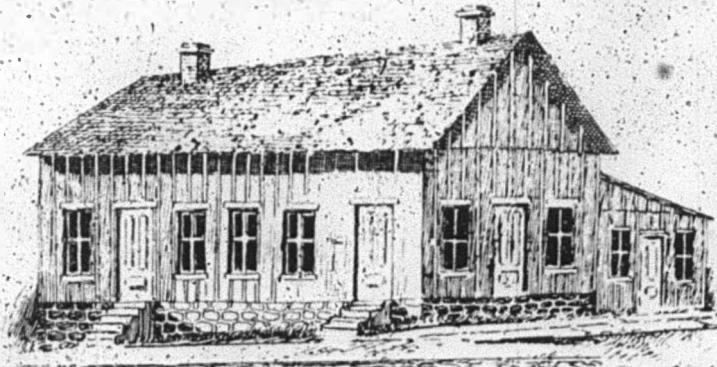
The Act further regulates employment agencies requiring registration with the commissioner of labor of the names of persons conducting such agencies and places where conducted. Such agencies are required to keep books and records concerning the persons for whom places are secured and compensation to be paid, which books and records are at all reasonable hours subject to examination by the commissioner of labor.

This important bureau has been placed in charge of Frances A. Kellor, Secretary of the Commission of 1908, as "chief investigator," an appointment which guarantees an efficient administration and a scrupulously careful consideration for the rights and betterment of aliens within the State.

The only criticism to be made of this Act is that it does not give to the bureau sufficient power to act. It is mainly an investigating bureau. To the power of inquiry should be added authority to enforce such improvements as it finds necessary and to compel the observance of the law. An amendment to this Act giving greater executive power to this bureau would seem to be highly desirable.

Only one Statute of 1911 calls for special mention,—the licensing and regulation of immigrant lodging places. Under this act no person is permitted to keep an immigrant lodging house without a license from the commissioner of labor; and to obtain such license an application must be made, designating the location, the number of boarders or lodgers received at any one time during the year preceding, or the number to be accommodated. Proof must also be furnished of good moral character, and in case of a corporation a bond is required, conditioned for the observance of all laws and payment of all obligations. Every such licensee must post conspicuously in the public rooms and in each bedroom the rate of charges for lodging, meals, transportation, guides and other services, which scale of charges must be filed with the commissioner of labor and must be adhered to. This Statute applies to all lodging houses or hotels resorted to principally by immigrants or emigrants in transit, or aliens. A violation of this law is a misdemeanor.

Such are the principal Acts of recent New York State legislatures in behalf of our immigrants. The establishment of the bureau of industries and immigration under such excellent supervision is the surest guarantee we could have that the evils still remaining will be given due publicity, and that vigorous efforts will be made to remedy them.



BAUSCH AND LOMB'S FIRST FACTORY, CORNER OF ANDREWS  
AND N. WATER STREETS.—1864.

# Notes on the Early History of the Industries of Rochester

## III.—Optics

By Josephine Shatz



BAUSCH & LOMB'S STORE—1853.

In the middle of the last century Rochester was a town of some forty thousand inhabitants. Today a city of that size would offer a fair field to the optician. It seemed to in that day, and so J. J. Bausch, then a youth of twenty, finding it impossible to make any headway in Buffalo where the cholera was raging, came to Rochester and after a time opened an office in the gallery of the Reynolds Arcade, renting the front half of a shoemaker's store, the latter retaining the rear as his own workshop.

A table and two chairs formed the office equipment. The spectacles were strung on a wire in the window, glass show cases being an unknown luxury in those days of simple living.

"Eyeglasses" and spectacles, while they had been in use for many years, were crude affairs with horn, gold or German silver frames. The lenses were of indifferent accuracy, ground mostly by hand and with comparatively few foci at the disposal of the optician. Eyeglasses were all made with horn or metal frames, the modern rimless glasses being unknown. Even the nosepiece which today seems so indispensable, was lacking.

There were no lenses made in America and but few spectacles or eyeglass frames. Microscopes were still largely regarded as toys and were not generally used in the scientific work of our educational institutions as they are today, in fact there were no science courses to employ them. The same can be said of the microtome, the projection lantern, and many other appliances which are now used in so large quantities.

Photography was in its infancy, and the amateur picture making outfits, which are so common a feature of today, were undreamed of. It is needless to say that photographic lenses or shutters were not made in this country at this time except in an experimental way. The manufacture of field glasses in America is of so recent a date that it hardly needs mention.

The pioneer life of the people did not demand the eye strain and the consequent use of spectacles and eyeglasses of the present day, and the difficulty of obtaining them and their unfashionableness still further deterred the general public from making use of optical improvements.

The sale of a pair of spectacles was a great event in the little Arcade shop. Some weeks there was barely enough money taken in to pay for the newspaper announcements. Dark as the prospects for the future appeared, the founder of Rochester's optical industry stuck to his purpose with that dogged tenacity so essential to success. Every opportunity to piece out the very meager, irregular income which the optical business yielded or failed to yield was eagerly seized upon.

Thinking that a ground floor might prove a better location, an arrangement was entered into with a manufacturer of hair goods just arrived from Germany, who, in return for assistance in the English language, agreed to pay the rent.

The store was number 20 Arcade, next to the Western Union Telegraph office and opposite the Post Office. It was a better location than the former. Many people passed by, but alas, those who bought spectacles but seldom.

Buffs to

All orders for Stone and street lamps promptly attended to, when addressed to Thos. Hathorn, Buffalo; Wm. W. Whitmore, Lockport; Wm. Carson, Rochester; or by having them at our quarters, at Lockport or Medina. Wm. Carlson, Agent, Rochester.

**J. J. HAUNDT & CO.**

OPTICAL INSTITUTE, No. 20 Arcade, (opp. the Post-office) continue to keep on hand a large assortment of



**SPECTACLES,**

of every description, with glasses scientifically ground, and of the best material, suitable for long, short, or other eyes impaired sight.

Being in possession of the genuine FINEST (extra crystal) Lenses, which for their clearness, hardness, and beneficial results for vision, are acknowledged in America and Europe, as the best in use, and superior to any glasses from which refraction may come—and having had much practical experience in optical business, they can confidently assure the public, that they are able to suit any eye, and to attend diseased vision, as far as it can be done by glasses.

From the great number of our references, we only name the following, justly and highly esteemed as clients and able judges:

- |                        |                               |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| C. Dewey, M. D., D. D. | J. W. Ely, M. D.              |
| E. M. Mearns, M. D.    | J. W. Dunn, M. D.             |
| H. Barrow, M. D.       | J. H. Hall, M. D.             |
| H. Ely, M. D.          | W. W. Reid, M. D.             |
| N. S. Barock, M. D.    | J. B. Vetter, M. D., Oculist. |

Rochester, April 27, 1856.

EARLY ROCHESTER OPTICAL ADVERTISEMENTS. 1856-18.

**Opticians.**

**J. J. BAUSCH—OPTICIAN.**—No. 6 West 1st St. (opposite Dewey's Bookstore), invites the attention of the citizens of Rochester to his large and carefully-selected assortment of SPECTACLES—the lenses are warranted to be scientifically ground, and of every variety—perspective, double convex, and concave—suitable for long, short, or irregular eyes.

J. J. B. has also a large stock of neat Gold, Silver, and Steel Spectacles, Opera Glasses, Telescopes, Microscopes, Lorgnettes, and other articles in his line.

N. B.—A new assortment of Pebble Glasses, which are acknowledged to be the best in use, constantly on hand and fitted to every description of frames.

[COPY.]

I certify that Mr. J. J. Bausch, Optician, has executed work for many of my patients, to the entire satisfaction of myself and them. I have carefully examined his stock, and can confidently recommend the Glasses, &c., as being ground on the most approved and scientific principles, and suitable for any eye or impaired vision.

1857 A. D. J. B. WALKER, M. D., Oculist.

**Engraving.**



**VALUABLE INFORMATION.**

Having frequently had my sympathies appealed to by those who have got into a second or third rate establishment to have their Engraving executed—being requested to better their picture for less than the usual price for the reason that they had already paid enough to get good pictures, I hereby inform you and all that my Engraving Establishment is in "Keyhole's Arcade, East Gallery, directly over the new Post Office."

It is one of the first class, emphatically so. My skill is superior, my instruments are extra, bought at great expense, my assistants are experienced, and my terms of the best quality—and I warrant all my pictures.

All sorts of experiments were made to ascertain what might be salable commodities, but without success. A mechanician was engaged who affirmed amongst other qualifications that he understood photography, so a gallery was equipped. This, too, proved a failure and was eventually sold, but the purchaser had no money, and so Mr. Bausch was obliged to take his pay in photographs. For several years thereafter whenever any of his friends desired to have photographs, his successor in the gallery did the work and he received the money.

It was about this time that the association was formed with Mr. Henry Lomb which lasted until his death. Trips were now made to the surrounding towns and gradually the young optical firm became known. This recognition came but slowly, for although they were recommended

by some of the leading physicians of that day, the public had not yet been educated to go to an optician.

In 1857 business conditions were very bad and the owner of the Arcade presented the struggling optical company with two months' rent.

Shortly after the outbreak of the war Mr. Lomb went to the front leaving his partner to carry on business alone. Mr. Bausch had made eyeglass frames of American horn which looked like tortoise shell. This material was too brittle to stand wear and he was constantly seeking a substitute. This was supplied through the accidental finding of a piece of hard rubber, then a new material, which he immediately recognized as particularly well adapted for this purpose. For a long time the eyeglass frames were sawed out by hand, a slow process, but rapid enough for the needs of the business. The pressing and turning were done at night in the home. The rubber was heated on the cook stove. The lenses were ground by hand.

The demand gradually increased and an upper room in the Arcade was rented for a shop. Workmen were engaged as soon as the opportunity was found to teach them the trade; foot-power was employed for turning and polishing; the shop became too small and in 1864 a building with power was secured on the corner of Andrews and Water streets.

Negotiations were entered into with the India Rubber Comb Co., and in 1866 the Vulcanite Optical Instrument Co. was organized with the exclusive right to manufacture instruments of vulcanite under the Good-year patents.

Methods of manufacture had to be originated, tools and machinery devised. Mr. Bausch constructed a power grinding and polishing machine which was the first power lens grinding plant in America.

The evolution of power machinery was very gradual. Improvement succeeded improvement and the product steadily gained in quality until it not only supplanted the foreign make in this country, but also gained a strong foothold abroad. The demand likewise increased and in 1874 it was necessary to seek larger quarters and a new factory was erected at the corner of St. Paul and Vincent streets. By this time the business had begun to be remunerative and the cherished plan of branching out into higher optics could be essayed. A scientific optician was engaged and under his direction the first American-made microscopes were constructed, and were exhibited at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia.

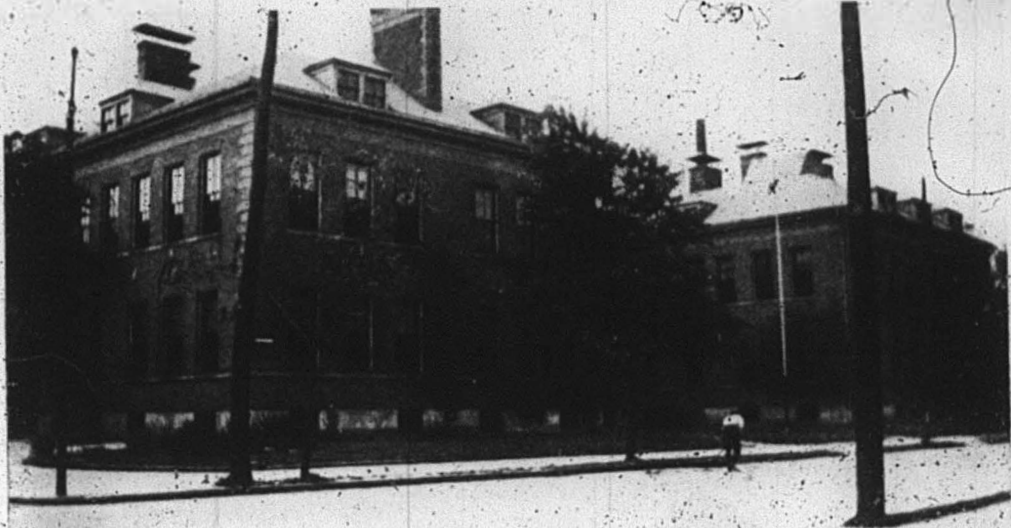
For several years they were manufactured at a great loss and in the face of great difficulties, but the tide finally turned and today microscopes made in Rochester are sold not only all over the American continent but also in Europe, Australia and the orient.

Photographic lenses had been made in America but the attempts had not been attended with much commercial success. In the early eighties the evolution of dry plate photography greatly stimulated the art and the Bausch & Lomb Optical Co. which was incorporated in 1876 as the successor of the Vulcanite Optical Instrument Co. undertook the manufacture of photographic lenses with great success. Today there are in Rochester three other companies manufacturing them, increasing the optical output and adding to the prestige of our city as the optical center of the world.

Rochester now supplies practically all the lenses used on cameras and the motion picture machines; search lights and range finders for the navy; the gunsights for the army; mirrors for automobile lights; lenses

for many special purposes; field glasses, projection and all other kinds of optical apparatus.

Very nearly three thousand people are employed in the optical industry in this city and it is the proud boast of the manufacturers that working conditions in their respective plants are well nigh as good as it is possible to make them.



THE WADSWORTH SCHOOL, NUMBER 12

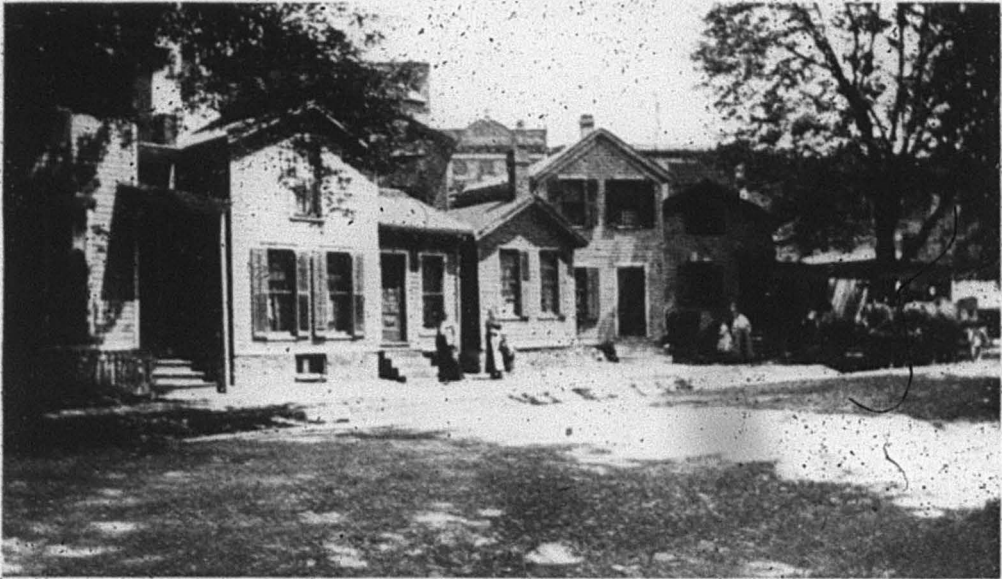
## The Fourth Ward Survey

### III.—*The Children*

By Edwin A Rumball

"Being a baby is an extra-hazardous occupation." This will be the judgment of all who know the evil living conditions of our modern cities. The soldier who goes to some terrible battle or enters upon a long period of bloody war, the sailor who faces the dangers of a long voyage on unknown and stormy seas, the miner who takes his life in his hand into the bowels of the earth and the aviator who lifts it into the dangers of the upper air, all possess less hazardous occupations than the little baby who comes to live in our modern cities. It has been written that "one-third of the population of our cemeteries consists of children under five years of age. . . . The little tots could not have walked the distance if we had not pushed them all the way." And yet the most pitiful victim of our modern city life is not the baby who dies, but the slum child who lives. The child who dies robs the nation of a citizen, but very often the child who lives gives to the nation one more tuberculosis victim or one more criminal.

The survey of the Fourth Ward was undertaken very largely in the interest of the children. Most of the questions that we asked as we went from door to door had reference to the children. If the City of Rochester were feeling the fundamental importance of the child life of our city



"ONE CHILD IN EVERY THREE HAS NO WHERE BUT THE STREET FOR PLAY"

as we hope one day it will, it would have been possible to have included far more useful information of the children in this chapter than we here present. There is a lamentable lack of Vital and Social Statistics regarding the children of this City. We found that it was impossible to know the birth-rates, or death-rates of any ward in the city. We could find out nothing of the nationalities of the parents of those born. The infant mortality records by race and section—a very important element of civic knowledge and absolutely necessary for a scientific correction of the evil—it was impossible to obtain. The reason for this seems to be that the City of Rochester is trying to make one registrar do the work of at least three. In other words, when the work was one-third as great as it is today, one registrar did the work. That registrar is still trying to the limit of her ability in a conscientious careful manner to care for this recording work. To annually register some 5,000 births and some 3,000 deaths and care for the other work incident thereto, leaves little or no time for the other statistical work which modern cities find to be so essential to the scientific working of municipal life. How many children are sick every year in the city? No one knows. Why are they sick? No one knows. Where do they die at the greatest rate? No one knows. What is the correct birth-rate of the City? No one knows. Why is the law not enforced more than it is against doctors who fail to promptly report births? No one knows. How many children in this city have nowhere to play? No one knows. How many children live in tenements? No one knows. How many children go to school every morning with a stomach inadequately fed to do the learning of the day? No one knows. We know of one little chap who started each day with a glass of beer from his mother and was a puzzle to his teacher; but how many mothers are ignorantly following such un-American standards of living, no one knows. So we might go on and extend our list. If the School Census Bureau could be made to see that the answers to such questions as these were as important and even more important than some of the work they are doing, a great step in the right direction would be made.



"THERE REMAINS SOMETHING YET TO BE DONE WITH  
THE HOMES OF THESE CHILDREN."

If the City could be made to see that the Health Bureau needs far more support than it is getting to enable it to find out many of these things and apply the proper remedy, we should be building up a citizenship which would do the community far more credit than it does at present.

So much by way of introduction to the life of the children of the Fourth Ward. Some of the questions which no one knows about in the City as a whole we were able to find out of this ward. There are about 550 children in the ward; of this number about 200 are under five years of age. It is almost a babyless ward for we only found 31 children under one year of age. These children are living mostly where there is enough garden round the house to romp upon; but one-third of them live in tenements or in flats which fill the entire lot and thus provide nowhere to play but the street. Forty-five per cent of these children were found in tenements on South Avenue, twenty per cent of them found in the tenements on Monroe Avenue. We ought to have added to this large group of children those who live in the numerous rooming houses, for a child has very little of the freedom and joy of home life who has to share home, sweet home with a number of lodgers, whose mothers' time is taken up by long hours of housekeeping for them. Some years ago the women of the city began a movement which resulted in beautiful works of art being placed in our school buildings. How much benefit this has been to the children of these congested wards it may be impossible to ever tell, but it must have been immeasurable. To compare the interior beauty of our school houses with those of England, for example, makes one proud of American school ideals. But there remains something yet to be done with *the homes* of these children. There can be very little thought of beauty in the mind of the child whose eyes look out on bare walls enclosing ash heaps and garbage piles, loathsome outbuildings and other marks of ruin and decay, filth and grime. Our leading psychologists tell us that everything which makes an impression on the five senses of the child, helps to stamp the soul with its power, and if anything should receive the care of a city it should be the environment of its children.



"THE BOYS TRIED TO PLAY UPON IT, BUT THEY WERE TURNED  
OFF BY THE POLICE"

It is not a great many years ago that New York City thought it had no housing question and the environment of the children was neglected with results that have made that city a by-word and a horror. In a recent article, Jacob Riis, has written this word which is beginning to have terrible meaning in our own city. "The tenement without privacy spews out the boy to the street and the saloon with its gambling and its license, where the brazen prostitute goes in and out, defiant of the law that says that she shall not, flaunting her tawdry finery before the tired girls whose bitter toil hardly suffices to feed and clothe their half-starved bodies. I can hear yet the mother of one, as I stood at her window and looked out upon an airshaft that was her daily outlook, all there was of it. 'Mary does not like to sleep here.' Mary had gone on to the street. That was her story and judgment died on my lips." The cry for better homes is no dreamer's cry, and until the housing code of Rochester is made in the interest of the people who have to live in the houses instead of in the interest of the persons who own the houses, we may expect that the ethical tone of our city will be gradually lowered. The press is already beginning to speak of the "Underworld of Rochester." Where did it begin? We feel sure after seeing some of the places where the children of Rochester were born and what they were expected to call *home* that their houses killed their homes.

There is no Playground in the Fourth Ward for the play of these children—Remember one child in three only has the street. There are very few vacant lots left. We give three exhibits of them to show where something might be begun. The best is probably the corner of the Wadsworth tract near No. 12 school, between Marshall and Griffith Streets and bounded by Broadway. This land is the property of the city but it is unfenced and barren and of no use to any one. Last year when the boys tried to play upon it, they were turned off by the police. Doubtless their play was of the unsupervised kind and proved a nuisance; but there is no reason why a few swings and see-saws and sand-piles, etc.

might not be placed on this vacant city lot at once and some one put in charge to supervise it. What better place could there be found for a playground than next to the Schoolhouse? Then there is another good place for the things that children love behind the Universalist Church. It is not large, but until some use is found for it, we feel sure that the Church will be glad of the suggestion to loan it to the children of the section. Another lot, which is being held for a large price, is next to Gannett House, and ought to be obtained for the children as a place for their play forever. This lot is large enough for many things and half-a-century hence will be a boon in this neighborhood, if only it can be obtained for the children. It has been said that a Republic without sunshine, without grass and flowers, without fun and frolic in the young years is a fraud on the face of it. Be that true or no, we do not hesitate to say that it is as important that the Fourth Ward have these playgrounds as for it to continue to have the Convention Hall, the Chamber of Commerce, the Y. M. C. A. or any of its seven churches.

Most of the children of the ward go to the Wadsworth School, better known as No. 12. Some 300 children—which is about half of the number registered at that school—come from this ward. The other school in the ward is St. Mary's Parochial School. The children in this school come from long distances and actually only about 60 or 70 come from the ward. We made a careful analysis of last year's school records of the Wadsworth School, to discover how many children were sick and how many days were lost in such sickness. The results can be tabulated as follows:

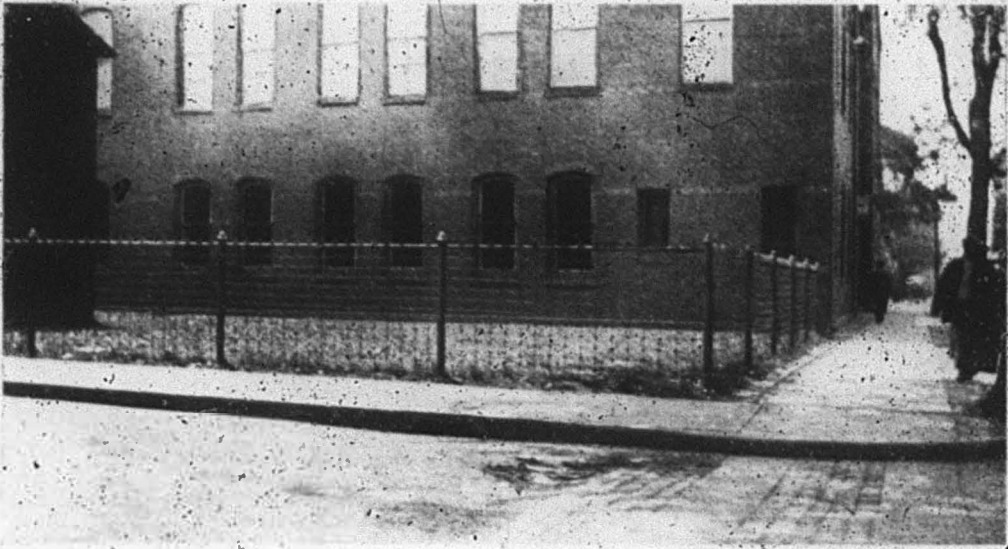
FIRST SEMESTER: SEPTEMBER TO FEBRUARY, 1910-1911.

Number of pupils from the ward: 304.  
 Number of these who were sick: 159.  
 Number of School days lost by sickness: 985 days.

SECOND SEMESTER: FEBRUARY TO JUNE, 1911.

Number of pupils from the ward: 293.  
 Number of these who were sick: 150.  
 Number of school days lost by sickness: 1028 days.

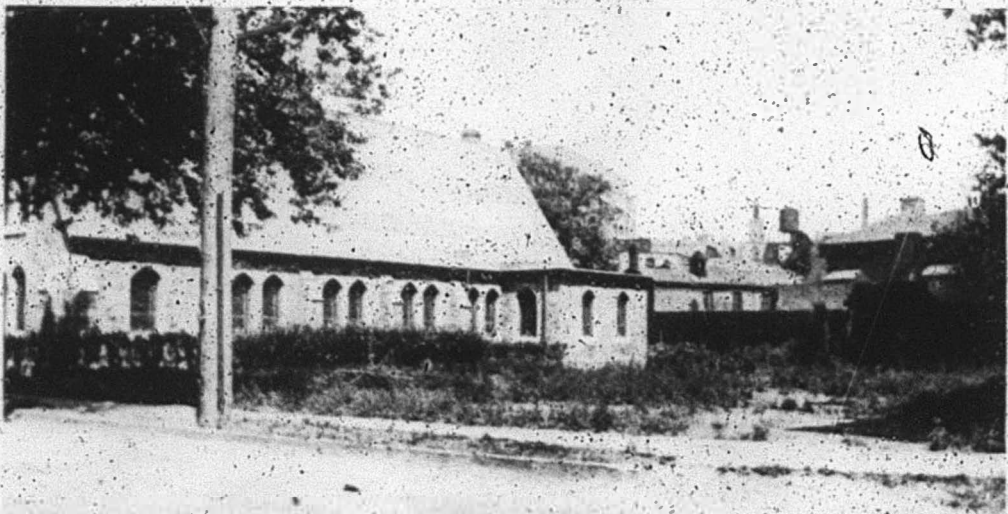
During the first term the greatest amount of sickness was in the first grade—the little tots—where out of 50 children 32 lost 294 days by sickness. During the second term, the greatest amount of sickness was again in this grade where out of 40 children, 31 lost 344 days by sickness. We did not study the Parochial School records, so cannot add their figures, but these alone are serious enough to provide work for a school nurse and school visitor who if they did not give their whole time to No. 12 school could at least give part of their time here and part to some other school. In an exhaustive examination made of some seventy thousand school children of the City of Glasgow, it was found that those who were living in one room were of lighter weight and shorter stature than those whose homes consisted of from two to four rooms. If what we have written will only lead some of us to prepare against such figures ever being found true in this city, it will have been worth while. Of course there is no poverty like the poverty of the English and Scotch cities, but there is no telling what there will be if our children in the down-town wards have no better chance than many that we have seen seem to have.



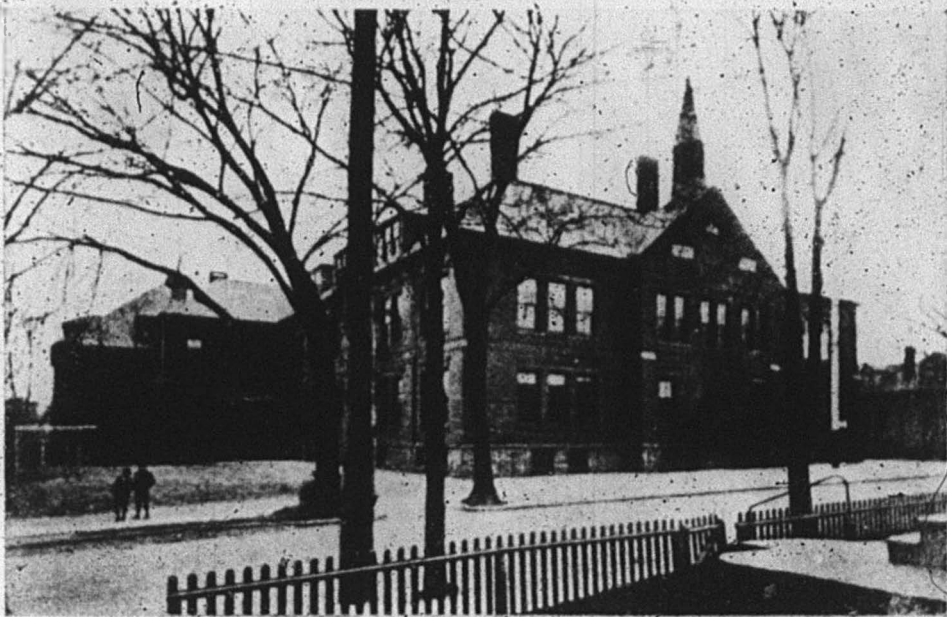
THE CHURCH WILL BE GLAD OF THE SUGGESTION.

There is a great deal which ought to be written of the splendid work which the Principal and teachers of the Wadsworth School are doing for these children. It is the greatest social institution in the ward, but the report of our findings at the school belong properly to the next chapter which will speak of the agencies which are at work in the ward for its betterment. Let us be patient till then. It may be that when that is written for our eyes that some of us who have long lived in the Fourth Ward and are inclined to resent some of the publicity which this report is giving to it, will change our tone and be proud of some of the things that the people are doing for its citizenship and its welfare.

NEXT MONTH: THE CIVIC ASSETS OF THE FOURTH WARD.



FOR SALE: LET THOSE WHO BUY PUT IN THE TITLE DEEDS,  
 THAT THE CHILDREN SHALL PLAY HERE FOREVER



-NO. 14 SCHOOL, THE FIRST SOCIAL CENTER OF ROCHESTER.

## Echoes from the First National Conference of Social Centers

Our City is challenged by Country to again open the  
School Houses freely to the People.

### SELF-EDUCATION FOR OLD AND YOUNG

BY CHARLES R. VAN HISE

*President of University of Wisconsin*

Many regard the equitable distribution of wealth as the essential feature of a democracy. Note that I say equitable, not equal. The latter has been proposed but as yet the proposal has not won general support. I wish to suggest that there is a more fundamental test of democracy of wealth—equality of intellectual and spiritual opportunity for every normal human being. To secure this will mean that each shall have his natural powers developed to the limits of his capacity. If this can be accomplished we need have no fear but that the question of conservation and aggregation of capital, the questions of politics and society which so puzzle and disturb us will be wisely solved to the advancement of the race. If we could but reach this state of education, or even approximate it, I have the faith to believe that reason and justice would be the controlling factors in the conclusions reached; and if this be realized, we may be assured of the continuance of a true democracy in this country.

The burning desire to advance the happy day has caused the University of Wisconsin to undertake upon a broad scale the work of carrying out knowledge to the people, rich and poor, in country and city alike. This understanding has made it necessary to abandon old standards as to the scope of a university and to adopt a new standard—that the uni-



## FROM THE CORNERS TO THE CENTER

versity shall expand to include all lines of educational work for which it is the best-fitted instrument. This ideal has caused us at the university to become deeply interested in all the movements for the improvement of education, from that of the university to the continuation of trade schools recently provided for in Wisconsin by wise and comprehensive legislation.

The regents and faculty of the university are committed to this broader ideal of education. Also it is the plan to use our physical plant with the greatest efficiency not only for the special purpose of instruction of the students at Madison and for investigation, but for these larger ends. The property of the university belongs to the state and should be so used as best to advance the highest interests of the commonwealth. Similarly,

the school house and the town hall, are the property of the community; at every center they should be available to the largest possible number of people for the greatest number of hours in order that in these centers may be accomplished the education of which I speak. If these buildings be available, the men from the university, the men from all the walks of life in every part of the state and nation who have a message to give may freely bring their offering to the community. And even more important, these centers may be used for the self-education of the people, old and young.

### CIVIC CENTERS STEADILY DEVELOPING

BY CLARENCE A. PERRY

*Russell Sage Foundation,*

*Author of "Wider Use of the School Plant"*

Under the leadership of the University of Wisconsin, the state universities of Virginia, California, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma have adopted the propagandism of social centers as a regular part of their extension programs. In Texas the state university is sending out plans for social center rural schools. The leading men of that state have realized that the preservation of the prosperity of the farmer depends upon the social centers in the country school-house. The city of Houston has resolved to skip the social settlement stage entirely. It is going to furnish its citizens at once the kind of school buildings and social equipment which can be used by the grownups as well as by the boys and girls. It has recently voted a bond issue of \$500,000.00 for the purpose of constructing five school houses, every one of which will have all of the modern conveniences necessary for comfortable community use.

In Lexington, Kentucky, where the school board had exhausted its bonding capacity, the Civ League was able to raise funds for the construction of a model school house through popular subscriptions because it was asking the support for a social center house. In at least eleven American cities recreation centers are maintained in one or more school buildings entirely by municipal funds.

### LESSONS LEARNED IN ROCHESTER

BY GEORGE M. FORBES, L. L. D.

*President Rochester Board of Education*

The public elementary school, our only non-exclusive institution, can not adequately meet the ethical demands of democracy. Its limitations are too great. One serious limitation is the fact that it is confined to very immature minds, with very narrow and very simple experience. Another is that all school work is by necessity artificial, isolated from life, even from the life of the family and so ABSTRACT. The school, as such, is not an ETHICAL community. It is not a DEMOCRACY. It is an absolute monarchy. It is an institution framed to furnish every child with some mastery of the fundamental TOOLS of civilized life, reading, writing, and the elements of number and measure. Hence, no matter how excellent the ethical teaching of the elementary school, it is utterly inadequate to develop the ethical attitude of the mature citizen to the problems of the whole community. It is utterly unable to fortify the child against the selfish appeals of real life. Democracy must have its

distinctive institutions for the stimulation and development of the community spirit. These institutions must be free from the limitations of the public schools, i. e., they must appeal to relatively mature minds dealing with the actual experiences of community life. Furthermore, they must be in themselves a realization of democracy, not merely non-exclusive, but positively all inclusive, the one institution within the state that takes in everybody solely by virtue of his living in the community, and lastly the relation of these institutions to the community school as a whole must not be artificial or abstract, but vital, exercising real initiative, dealing with real problems with a view to real betterment of community life.

### MOTION PICTURES AS EDUCATORS

BY MRS. MARY L. STARKWEATHER

*Women's Department, Minnesota Bureau of Labor*

We made a thorough canvass of all the schools in St. Paul, Minneapolis and Duluth and found that there was expended during the annual scholastic year in motion picture shows \$80,480.30 by children in the public schools. The bulk of this, of course, came from the children of families of small means, for the others could afford to attend operas and high priced theaters.

The films shown in many of these places were of a nature that were injurious to children and when I asked the managers of motion picture houses to substitute better films they threw up their hands and said it would mean a big loss. Upon my urgent request, however, they experimented for a week and when I again saw them they stated that they had larger attendances than ever before.

Motion pictures have been installed in the public schools of St. Paul as an educational factor. I believe that the time is not far distant when the study of geography, botany and history will be facilitated by pictures. In St. Paul they have proven a successful venture.

### CHICAGO SCHOOLS CLOSED TO DISCUSSION

BY MARY E. McDOWELL

*University of Chicago Settlement*

In Chicago the settlements offered a limited accommodation for a limited amount of money, but the churches, the schools, and even the park centers were never free for meetings and discussions. Free speech is out of the question in any institution, but the settlements. The people may not freely discuss political, social or industrial questions in the Chicago public school centers, nor in the park centers. Questions the most interesting and vital to the citizens are discussed in the halls back of saloons. The American citizens' boasted right to vote is a noble, patriotic deed done in a barber shop or some other small, stuffy, undignified place for such a sacrament. The foreign born citizen who never had a public school education as a preparation for citizenship is introduced into our political life by the saloon entrance. The saloon is the school of citizenship opened hospitably to the new citizens, whether they are American or foreign born. Why not have our public schools social and educational centers of citizenship? Why not have the school house built so that it stands to children and parents as a symbol of civic life, the voting booth

a dignified, beautiful place, where the citizens are held to the highest test—not the lowest. Why should our citizens of America, or foreign birth be compelled to get their first political ideas in a saloon hall? Why should we not demand that our preparation for voting on public questions or on public men be made in the school halls? All parties should be welcome and the party that will not come out of the low place on to this higher one, must stand the criticising that the public will make. When a group of young socialists or a labor organization comes to a settlement house and asks if they may rent a room for meetings, because they do not wish to be under obligation to a saloon for a meeting place, the settlement does its best to find a place for such organizations. It would be an interesting matter of speculation at least to consider what the result would have been in Adams county political parties if they had discussed public questions with citizens in places where women and young people might have listened. If the environment for the political education of adult citizens had been more carefully planned for as we plan for the education of our children, would we have had the humiliating results we have seen in Chicago and other communities this past year?

### CLEARING HOUSES FOR IDEAS

BY PROFESSOR DUNCAN MCGREGOR

*Private Secretary to Governor F. E. McGovern*

One great purpose of your efforts, as I see it, is to make the schoolhouse the real people's college, where all are colleagues or partners in the benefits, as the word college originally meant. You propose that the schoolhouses at the crossroads as well as in the centers of wealth and population should be clearing houses for the ideas that are treasured in the community. Money hoarded in vaults, or carefully hidden away in discarded hosiery, or antiquated teapots is valueless in promoting business. Only as it is poured into the arteries of trade does it minister to the world's industrial or commercial advancement. Ideas, too, however excellent they may be, are valueless until they are poured into the arteries of thought for instance, into the discussions of a neighborhood.

### "ALL THE PEOPLE GETTING TOGETHER."

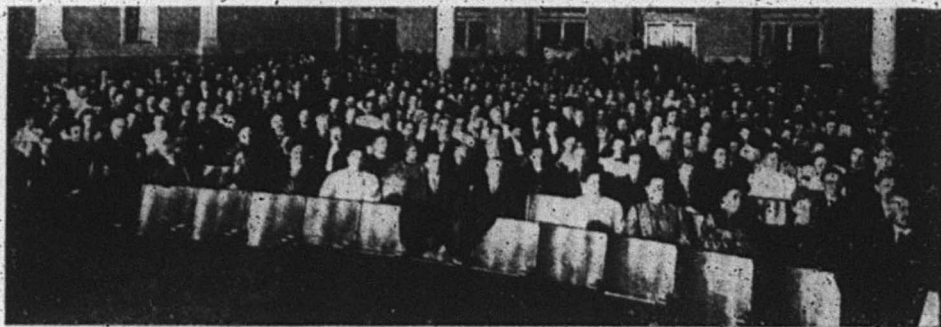
BY LINCOLN STEFFENS

I have successively pinned my faith to three hopes of salvation for the city. First, hope of salvation of the city through one good man, a man exerting such an influence for righteousness as will galvanize the whole municipality into righteousness.

But I saw that good men die and that their ideals do not live forever after them.

Then I thought that salvation would come by all the good people banding together and fighting shoulder to shoulder. But I found that it wouldn't work. The hypocrisy that permeates the ranks of those whom it is conventional to call the good people always works disaster to such movements.

Lastly I have come to hope in all the People getting together. I am convinced that it is the only way. That is the idea of the Social Center Movement.



GENERAL EVENING AUDIENCE AT WEST HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL CENTER

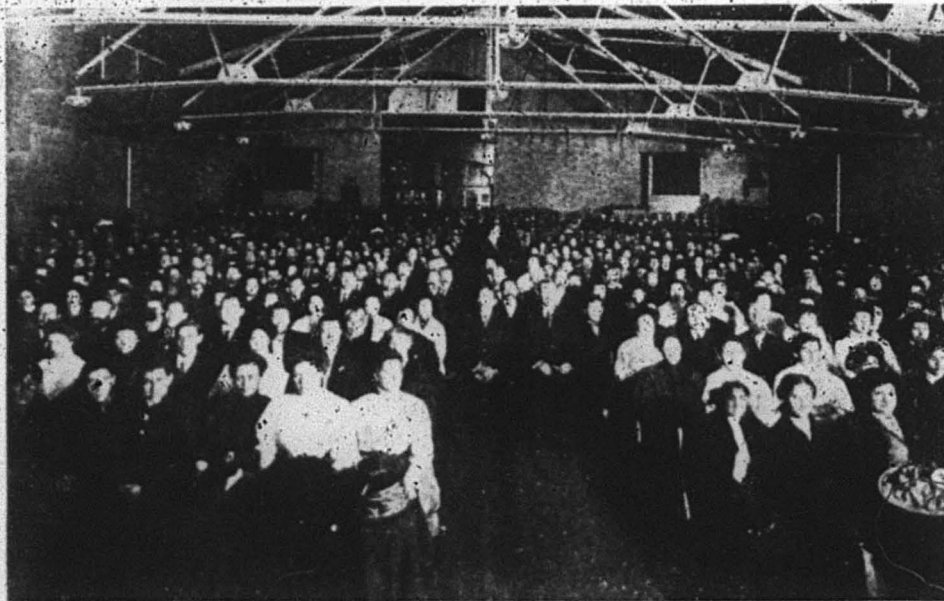
### NEED OF CITIZEN ORGANIZATION

BY WOODROW WILSON

*Governor of New Jersey*

Not a few of our social and political difficulties arise out of the lack of a common understanding, out of a genuine ignorance on the part of one class or set of interests of the point of view and objects of another class or set of interests. Nothing but mutual comprehension can cure this and mutual comprehension cannot be brought about except by intimate intercourse, by conference, by sharing a common life.

This is certainly the significance of a movement like this, which seeks to make the school the civic center of the community. By the free intercourse it promotes, by the constant conference it produces, it breaks down misunderstandings, it effects a genuine release of the real common feeling and a genuine impulse that is capable of moving a whole city or a whole people at the same time that it keeps it within the bounds of a genuine comprehension of what is involved.



SATURDAY EVENING AT NO. 9 SCHOOL SOCIAL CENTER  
THE HALL ONLY HOLDS 1000 PEOPLE

It will appear at a glance why this movement has had such noticeable and radical consequences. The old law of our life, which produced such unhappy results, particularly in politics, was the law of management, of plans formed in privacy, of interests segregated and concentrated by the private exercise of power, and the social center movement is in line with the essential principle of modern political reform. The remedy is to admit other elements, upon all channels to the action of public opinion, in brief open the floodgates of life. Do this and you have made communities and disclosed the common interest. There is no other way in which it can be done.

## Schools to Teach Polish and Italian

Mrs. Ella Flagg Young, the energetic superintendent of Chicago schools, has courageously introduced the study of Polish, and means to follow it up with other languages if the experiment is successful. The course is mainly for children of Polish families, but open to others, though Mrs. Young does not expect it to be popular like French and German. The step was criticized on the ground that Polish has no commercial value, but she does not think French or German, as now taught, of much commercial value, while there are special reasons for teaching children of foreign parentage their home language:

"Children of foreign-born parents are likely to know nothing of the fatherland and care nothing for it, to believe that there is little good out of America and to be ashamed of their alien parentage and alien parents. The cause lies in their own ignorance of what the old country has given to the world. Poland has an extensive literature as well as a long history of civilization. Many of its modern novels are widely read in this country in translations. I am sure that it would be beneficial for Polish-American children to know something of this culture, and I am equally sure that such knowledge would not prevent their assimilation with the American nation."

The same may be said of Italian, perhaps the most beautiful of languages, and with a literature which good critics have rated even above those of France and Germany. It used to be objected that if children of foreign parentage studied their home language in school assimilation would be interfered with. But this fear now seems groundless. The greater danger is that young people, quite eager enough to learn English for its practical utility, will miss adequate culture in any language. Why teach a smattering of French or German to boys and girls who need only a little help to get a really valuable knowledge of Italian, Polish or Bohemian? The plan may not be generally practicable, but in a great city like Chicago there is room for the experiment, and Mrs. Young is to be commended for her courage in making it.—*Springfield Republican*.

AN INTELLIGENT MALE VOTER. At the recent election one Rochesterian was not sure how to vote, so he tightly shut his eyes, and we suppose turned round twice, and then pulled the first lever his hands caught. It registered a Republican vote for him. We wonder whether the disfranchised women of Rochester could vote as intelligently as that!

## Where Commission Government Governs

Thirty-two States in this country have cities which are ruled by Commission Government. The following list is the last that we have seen:

Alabama:	7 Cities.	Nebraska:	1 City.
California:	7 "	New Jersey:	4 Cities.
Colorado:	2 "	New Mexico:	1 City.
Idaho:	1 City.	North Carolina:	3 Cities.
Illinois:	17 Cities.	North Dakota:	3 "
Iowa:	8 "	Oklahoma:	14 "
Kansas:	24 "	Oregon:	1 City.
Kentucky:	1 City.	South Carolina:	1 "
Louisiana:	1 "	South Dakota:	10 Cities.
Maine:	1 "	Tennessee:	2 "
Maryland:	1 "	Texas:	16 "
Massachusetts:	4 Cities.	Utah:	5 "
Michigan:	4 "	Washington:	4 "
Mississippi:	2 "	West Virginia:	3 "
Minnesota:	2 "	Wisconsin:	2 "
Montana:	1 City.	Wyoming:	1 City.

NEW YORK STATE: NONE!

**MECHANICS INSTITUTE HANDICRAFT and TEA ROOM:** In connection with the Applied Arts Shop in the Cutler Bldg. This shop is provided to permit an outlet for the work of the Students of the Institute and thus help them financially in getting through the School.—Opened November 27th.

### The THIRD ANNUAL PICTURESQUE ROCHESTER

Contest of sketches in any  
non-mechanical black  
and white medium  
closes February  
first, 1912.

Sketches should be delivered to  
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Institute before noon.

First Prize \$30.00

Second Prize \$20.00

The purpose of this contest is to encourage  
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IS!

# The Civic Social Worker



Of all the social workers of the town, the greatest of them should be the Government at City Hall, which is beginning to thoroughly recognize its duty through means of special committees and commissions, taking up the matters which have too long depended upon private philanthropy. I hope that in future all those interested in social betterment will recognize an ally in the municipal government.

*George McAneny,*

*Pres't. Borough of Manhattan  
New York City.*