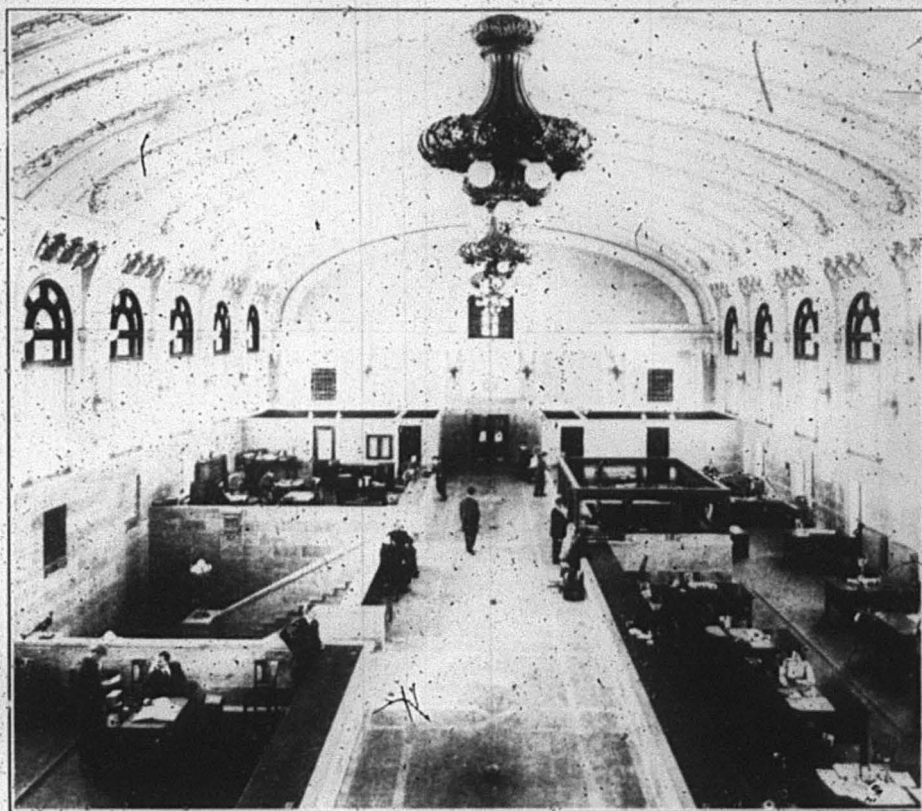


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VOL. VI. No. 2

NOVEMBER 1912.

NEW SERIES:
VOL. III, No. 1.

IN PRAISE OF QUIGLEY

You doubtless vote a different ticket to him or you may vote the same, you may not go to his church or you may, you may be radical where he is conservative or conservative where he is radical, but you are doubtless one of the men and women who in Rochester are beginning to say lots of good things about Police Chief Joseph M. Quigley. He has just begun good work on our dance hall problem and now he is recommending separate quarters for the 16 to 18 year old boys and girls who are not as yet separated from our hardened criminals while they are under arrest or detained. We say it in all sincerity that no man has a greater opportunity to serve his fellow men than he has, and we all ought to be big enough to say so —E. A. R.

OUR SEVENTY THOUSAND FOREIGNERS

There are some in Rochester as in other cities who talk about the menace of recent immigration and ask for greater restriction. There are some in Rochester as in other cities who learn all they know of immigrants from sensational news items about passionate Italian murders. There are some in Rochester as in other cities who do not believe that our immigrant factory hands and laborers should protest in strike against the low wages and evil labor conditions under which some have to work. There are some in Rochester as in other cities who think that anything will do for a "Dago" or a "Sheeny" and that one of our laborers killed is only a "Wops" or a "Ginny." But there are some in Rochester as in other cities who, at the sight of a Greek bootblack, think of him as a young fellow from Socrates' land, "fresh from the master Praxiteles hand." There are some who, at the sight of the Poleander, dream of Chopin and the wild Czech melody with which Dvorak used to make the heavy faces bloom. There are some who, when they see the Italian ditch-digger, go four centuries back, "when a world from the wave began to rise," who remember that when Italy dreams, Caesar, Dante and Angelo come with us to dwell. It is our firm conviction that in 2012, a century hence, it will be the pride of Rochester that the wealth of some of the richest bloods on earth has contributed to its fuller life. Let us remember this now.—E. A. R.

Our readers must have noticed that the October number appeared very late. We were very busy with many things, and beginning as it did our new volume, we unfortunately allowed the extra work to cause an unwise haste in getting out our copy. The result was that three or four serious mistakes and extreme statements went past us, that would have been corrected had second thought been given. As we value the reputation for Truth that we have obtained in this city, we frankly admit the wrongs and ask patience and pardon of all affected.

The extreme character of our reference to the dances held in the High Schools was not only unjustified by the smallness of our evidence, but was unjust to the Board of Education. We wish that the persons who are spreading these rumors and all who believe themselves possessors of facts for which they can vouch, would go to Mr. Weet, the Superintendent. It is our belief that they will find in him, a gentleman willing to co-operate to the fullest extent to eradicate all cause of complaint.

A second reading of the editorial; "Just a Number," would have led us to have indicated a little of the difficulty attending the registration of foreign labor, and kept us from so sweeping a condemnation. More time at proof-reading would have led us to credit Prof. Ford's able article to our helpful exchange, "The American City"; and on our last page we would not have made Mrs. Kitchelt's poem speak of "miserable" stores, when she had written "perishable" stores. We are very sorry for all this, especially for the first. Because we want to have "The Common Good" believed on all occasions when reference is made to fact, we take this early opportunity of correcting the effects of our haste.—E.A.R.

FREE TITLE PAGE

We have a few title pages for binding with volume V—1911-1912—of the Common Good, that closed with the September number, one of which we shall be glad to insert in our next number, addressed to you, if you wish.

LET DIRTY STREETS BENEFIT FROM EXPERIMENT

The political campaigners have been saying a good deal about the State Highway Commission of late, claiming that they have been building roads to private residences. Perhaps the Commission has a good excuse.

Recently in Rochester a very serviceable brick pavement on that part of South Goodman Street where Mayor Edgerton lives was beautifully resurfaced with asphalt and the cost charged, not to the abutting owners, but to the street repair fund, the excuse being made by Commissioner Elwood that this was in the nature of an experiment.

We wonder why the experiment could not have been tried on some of the many streets which really need repair.

Perhaps the State Commission is experimenting also. It is surprising how much can be accomplished with the people's money if one only experiments.—F.W.B.

Rochester's Dangerous Meat Supply

By Caroline Bartlett Crane

No Slaughter House Inspection: Hogs fed on Offal.
Clean Meat Companies deserve Public Thanks when City sets no standard.

Next to milk, meat is the food commodity most needing to be placed under strict regulation. The records of condemnations and pathological exhibits to be found wherever effective meat inspection has been established, constitute proof presumptive that, in the absence of such inspection, considerable quantities of diseased, immature and otherwise unfit meat are eaten. The mere perusal of the long list of dangerous and revolting animal diseases against which Federal meat inspection is presumed to protect us, should awaken cities to the necessity of examining into and strictly controlling the local supply. Federal meat inspection, such as it is, extends only to meat designed for interstate trade, and does not give protection to consumers of meat from local slaughter houses. I did not learn of any places in or near Rochester which ship outside the State, but I found local slaughter houses, some of them in a most unsanitary condition, killing animals which are subject to no inspection and handling the carcasses and meat in a manner to arouse the intense disgust of the Rochester people who accompanied me. One place was found well equipped and clean, and perfectly willing to make the few improvements suggested. But here, too, there is a lack of municipal inspection by which diseased and otherwise unfit animals are eliminated from the meat supply.

Rochester has no meat inspection ordinance. The general "food ordinance" gives the same protection against rotten or spoiled meat found in the market, as against rotten or spoiled vegetables. But, while the actual condition of potatoes or strawberries can be judged by their appearance in market, the actual condition of milk and meat cannot be so determined. Dressed meat reveals little or nothing as to its antecedents. The only way to prevent the sale and consumption of meat from diseased animals is, to subject each animal, previous to and during slaughter to expert veterinary examination; to stamp all unfit meat "condemned" and destroy it; to stamp all good meat "inspected and passed" and prohibit the sale within the city of any meat which does not bear either the federal or local meat inspection stamp. Meat slaughtered on farms should be brought to the city with certain internal organs attached, and submitted for inspection and stamping before being marketed.

On the pay roll of the Rochester Health Bureau is a "Meat and Assistant Milk Inspector." One-half of the time of one man is given to such so-called meat inspection as is authorized by the general food ordinance. In the report of 1909 are 376 markets visited and 800 pounds of beef destroyed. This is market inspection and not meat inspection. The latter is carried on in slaughter-houses, not in meat markets, and one-half of one man's time is obviously inadequate. Four slaughtering places were visited, as follows:

No. 1. From this place a stench came out to meet us on the road, notwithstanding lime had been spread recently over the blood and offal in the yard. Slaughtering is done in an old wooden building, never white-washed, the ceiling and upper walls gray with accumulation of dirt and cobwebs. Lower walls dark with filth and putrefying blood, and floor coated with a thick, sticky grime of unidentified composition, notwithstanding water supply and sewer connections. The blood from the floor

flows to the pig troughs in the yard. Against the walls, on rough and filthy iron hooks, hung livers and other edible organs. The saws and knives had accumulations of rotten meat on the blades next the handles. Knives, when not in use, are stuck behind cleats against the wall. There are no fly screens, and meat hangs in this slaughtering room for some time, to lose the animal heat, before it is dispatched by trolley to the cooler, a room with wooden floor and sides, apparently without provisions for ventilation, but much cleaner than any other part of the establishment.

The offal room, opening from the slaughtering room, was unspeakably filthy, with chunks of rotten meat adhering to floor and walls. Intestines and other offal are cut up on the floor and bench in this room, and raw offal is fed to the hogs, which means that the lungs or entrails of one tuberculous cow, for example, may infect a whole herd of hogs. Only cattle are slaughtered at this place, and the meat, we are told, is wholesaled all over Rochester. The hogs are kept here for the purpose of feeding the offal, and are slaughtered later at the plant next to be described. The owner of this first place thought he was "pretty careful about things," and didn't see "what we wanted better."

No. 2. About 650 hogs killed each week. (Manager confirmed the statement that some of his hogs came from No. 1.) A good building, well lighted and ventilated, quite well adapted for its uses, and in excellent sanitary condition. Floors, walls, tables and utensils clean; no odor. Slaughtering room has metal facing on lower part of walls. Filtered water supply from Lake Ontario, and sewer connections. A good ammonia-cooled refrigerator with cement floor, separate clean lard room and pickling room. No offal rendered on the premises. Clothing and general appearance of the workers clean. Hog yard has a stone floor connected with the sewer. Hogs kept here but a short time and no evidence of offal feeding. Very clean premises generally, but with the following defects noted: Part of the surrounding ground, on which hair is spread to dry, is low and poorly drained, and I would suppose it to be a nuisance, especially in warm weather. Some of the tables had cracks which cannot be properly cleaned. Edible meat scraps are kept in wooden, not metal containers. Knives, when not in use, are slipped into wooden slots that cannot be opened for cleaning. There are no provisions in the meat cutting room for men to wash hands, and provisions generally for washing hands are not adequate. Fly screens had not yet been placed in the windows and a few flies were about. The manager acknowledged the justice of these criticisms, and told me that the hair-drying matter and the cracked tables were already under consideration for remedy. He cheerfully indicated his willingness and intention to put in the fly screens, to furnish metal vats for meat cuttings, and to install in the meat room, and at the toilets, a proper number of lavatories with hot and cold water, liquid soap and clean towels. The company and manager which voluntarily build and maintain so clean and well-conducted an establishment as this in a city which demands nothing and sets no standards, deserve public thanks.

But it is to be remembered that there is no federal or municipal inspection of the animals slaughtered here.

The illiteracy of children of native white parents is 5.7% while the illiteracy of the children of our immigrants of the first generation is only 1.6%.

No. 3. Kills about 200 cattle and 150 to 200 sheep a week, and sometimes kills for Rochester butchers in addition. Good building, in fair condition of sanitation, except that the chilling room was very dirty as to walls and floor, and a badly cracked and very dirty table in the hallway is used for resting meat on, on its way to this cooler. The refrigerator proper was clean. Filtered water from Lake Ontario, and sewer connections. Clothing of men very dirty. No sink or bowl for washing hands. We were told that the men can wash "in a pail, or anything." Fly screen had not yet been put in. Much rendering of tallow, etc., is done at this establishment, but in a place detached from the rooms where meat is handled. This place is much above the average of uninspected places generally. I did not visit the yards.

No. 4. Kills about 70 head of cattle a week, also some hogs, and sells to the Rochester butchers. A very dirty place; floors, walls and surfaces generally coated with filth; very bad odor, though fresh lime was sprinkled about. Livers, etc., hung in contact with filth-coated wall. Drilled well, but no sewer connections. Blood flows into hog trough, and general drainage from slaughter-house goes into an open ditch, along the course of which it soaks gradually into the soil. Raw offal is undoubtedly fed here. A new cooler, with a wooden floor and walls, was fairly clean, but the place is an entirely unfit one in which to slaughter and handle meat for human food.

There are other small uninspected slaughter-houses in the neighborhood of Rochester which time did not permit me to visit. There are many farmers bringing in uninspected carcasses slaughtered on the farm.

The people of Rochester eat all the locally slaughtered meat. It is high time that some steps were taken towards sanitary and hygienic control of the local meat supply. Any such step will be of advantage to the honest and capable butcher. If any butcher objects to meat inspection it must be because he wants the hideous privilege of slaughtering diseased animals for human food, or because he is unprepared or unwilling to handle the meat in a cleanly way. In either case, he should be required to do these things or get out of the business. There are other occupations for a man with small capital, than handling, in a filthy and incompetent way, one of the most important and most easily infected food products. For it is proved that perfectly wholesome meat, smeared by careless handling with some of the contents of the intestinal tract, may become the soil for development of millions of bacteria which convert it into a virulent poison, which hours of cooking do not render safe.—See "Disease Producing Organisms and Toxins Found in the Flesh of Animals used for Food," by Prof. Victor C. Vaughan, published by Michigan State Board of Health, Proceedings of 1904.—while a knife that has cut into an abscess or a tuberculous lesion, used (as it commonly is without even washing) will carry the infecting material to other parts of the carcass.

If the citizens of beautiful Rochester could see some of these little uninspected slaughter-houses in the environs of their city, I believe that the lack of elementary provisions for decency, to say nothing of the more serious lack of meat inspection, would induce them with one voice to cry out for municipal supervision.

A fact for those in fear of Immigration: There are fewer foreign-born persons in the United States to-day than when Lincoln called out the troops.

For details as to methods of establishing local meat inspection, which there is no room to outline in this Report, the reader is referred to "The Argument for Local Meat Inspection," and "A model Meat Inspection Ordinance," by the author, the former published in 1904 by the Michigan State Board of Health.

A few meat markets were inspected. In every instance the sales room was clean and there were good marble counters and clean wooden blocks. Some clean and orderly refrigerators were found, but casks and crates were placed directly on the floor so as to interfere with frequent cleaning, and sometimes sausage meat, etc., was found in uncovered vessels sitting on the floor where persons would have to step very close to it if not over it, in reaching meat hung beyond. Scraps to be used for sausage are almost invariably kept in wooded barrels which become black and foul and cannot be properly cleaned. The rooms in which the sausage meat is made are seldom well lighted, and very great improvement would have to be made to bring the unseemly sausage rooms up to the sanitary standards which prevail in salesrooms.

In one very large and popular market (where, I was informed, only Federally inspected meat is sold) small cuts of meat and chopped meats were exposed on trays upon a counter fifty or sixty feet long, where they were subject to contamination from street dust, flies, and the fingering, breathing and coughing of patrons all day long. Such exposures are needless and should be prohibited. In the cluttered and disorderly cooler of this establishment were many fowls soaking in water. The excuse was given that "the fowls had been frozen" and they were drawing the frost out." The natural presumption is that they were soaking to give them artificial plumpness and weight. This is a common practice which should be prohibited.—*Sanitary Survey.*

The death rate among working men at their most productive age—25 to 35—is twice as great as those engaged in other occupations. This does not include the high death rate of those in extra-hazardous work.

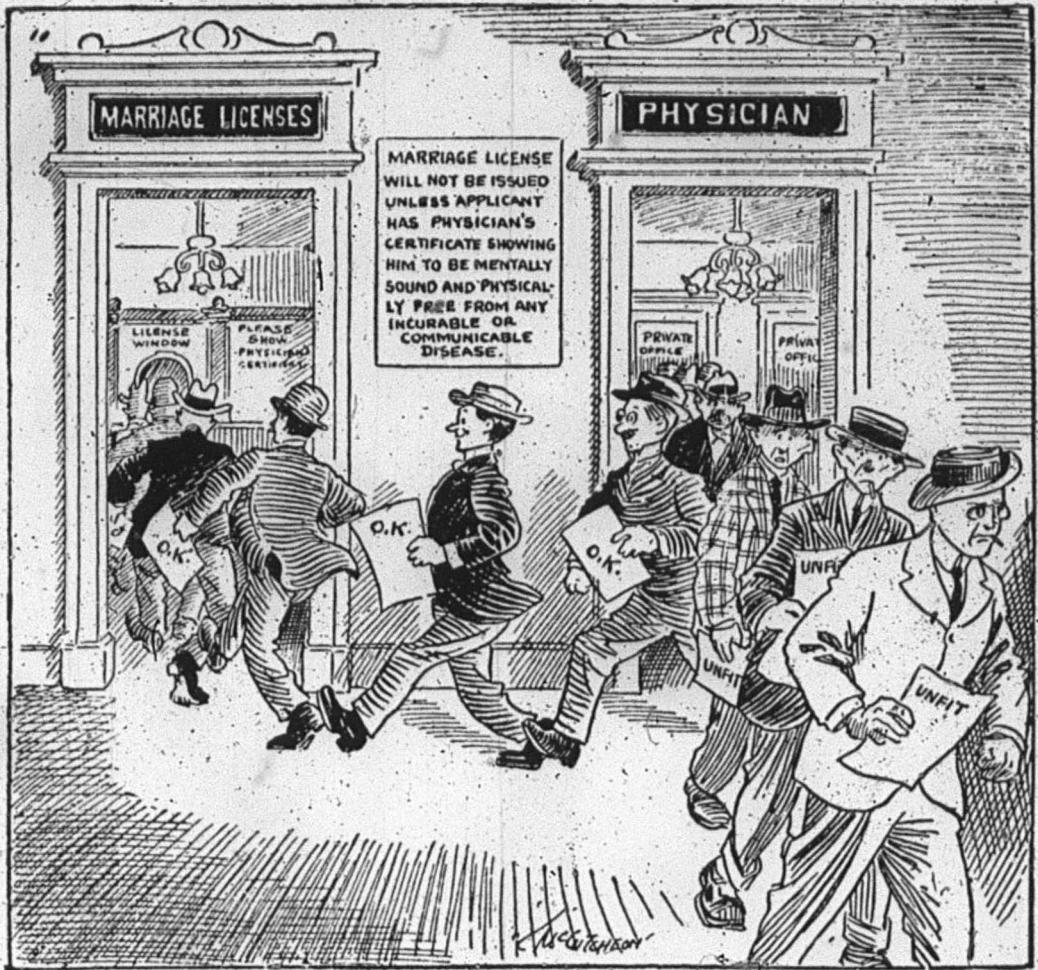
THE CORONER'S JURY

Somebody saved a few dollars unfairly in building a wall;
Somebody skimped a foundation, but no one was guilty at all;
People were crushed in the ruins; 'twas a pity, a crime, and a shame,
But, of course, the coroner's jury was unable to fix the blame.

Somebody saved a few dollars by nailing up windows and doors;
Somebody made a nice profit by laying inflammable floors;
People were caught in the death-trap and instantly wrapped in the flame,
But, of course, the coroner's jury was unable to fix the blame.

Somebody's swelling his profits by daily imperiling lives;
He is breaking the law and he knows it, but gladness is his, for he thrives;
Some day there will be a disaster, and people will call it a shame,
But, of course, the coroner's jury will not know who is to blame.

—S. E. Kiser.



Health Certificates for Marriage

Rochester Ministers favoring and beginning to ask for Physician's O.K. before performing Weddings.

One of the morning papers some weeks ago published in its columns that some of the Rochester ministers were looking with favor on the new custom of requiring Health certificates of all who came to them for marriage. Since then we have heard of one minister who has asked for such certificate and received from the young man a clean bill of health, signed by his own physician. We know of another minister who has decided to refuse all weddings where such certificates are not presented, however large the fees offered.

We recently heard of a young man who asking permission of a father to marry his daughter, referred the father to his doctor for report of his physical condition. We do not know how many of the young men of this city have done or are planning to do some such thing. It is noble and shows worthy manhood, and any girl who marries such a man, will always have a MAN to be proud of. But we cannot expect yet awhile that every youth will thus freely offer such a certificate, and it would greatly help matters if all the ministers and judges who perform marriage in this city could commonly and separately agree to perform none without it.

When we consider the evident success of "doctors-for men" who advertise in our local papers, by no means to the credit of the papers, there must be a lot of new homes blasted. It is our belief and the belief of thousands of others who are not frank to say so, that the true reasons for the many divorces and separations, unhappy homes and hospital operations on women, come directly from an evil that might be prevented by every minister demanding a Health Certificate. Most young people are ignorant and careless about the relations and obligations of marriage and thus it comes that they get married first and call the doctor in afterwards.

The Chicago Tribune recently published a number of telegrams on the subject from prominent clergymen and we quote some of them:

"Bishop Whitehead of the Episcopal Church of Pittsburg indorses the plan to require men and women contemplating marriage to furnish Health Certificates before wedlock. Government action is urged."

"Bishop Rhyntelander of Philadelphia favors the Chicago plan to safeguard marriage with medical requirements."

"Milwaukee preachers agree with Chicago plan to prevent 'damaged goods weddings.' They say that the rule should be enforced by law instead of by church edict."

The first step publically taken on this subject seems to have been taken by Dean Walter T. Sumner of Chicago, and it met with instant approval from ministers and physicians all over the nation. Dr. J. W. Beveridge of New York who is an enthusiast on Eugenics, said that "as society and the state are founded upon the home unit, so the State has a right to bar disease that would enter the home through marriage, just as it would bar disease that would enter the country through the ports."

Dr. Max G. Schlapp, professor of nervous diseases at Cornell, said "The idea is right, but it will meet with tremendous practical difficulties, and if they prove too great, and the experiment fails, then it may be looked on as a black eye for eugenics."

Some one has suggested that this is but another plan to put more money into the doctors' pockets. We believe that it will have just the opposite effect. It will reduce the number of people, especially innocent women who go to the doctors for relief from the effects of their husband's wrongs. The proper way would have the City Health Department give free examination.

In our own city of Rochester a number of ministers have gone on record for it. Rev. Chas. H. Rust of the Second Baptist Church says, "I think that it is the right thing to do, because the home is the foundation of the country and health is essential to the development of the nation. Personally I should welcome the time when, in the interest of this city and the home, this law could be enforced. I believe that a Health Certificate should be demanded from the man and from the woman also. If any one objected to it, it would be pretty sure that he ought not to marry."

Rev. Franklin F. Fry went on record as saying, "I should think that all denominations would be favorable to it, Protestant and also Catholics. It would safeguard the home and protect future generations. Rochester is so far advanced in movements for public betterment that it would seem the right thing for us to take it up."

The native population furnishes a larger proportion of criminals than the foreign-born. In proportion to their numbers, the Italians show a slightly larger number than the native.

We would suggest that no minister wait for the new law to come before they begin to practice what is here preached. It is their personal matter whether they marry those who come to them or not and we think that if the matter is rightly presented to any man wishing to be married, if he is led to see that it is something due to the girl that he is to marry, that it should be the action of love, we believe that the request coming from the minister would be welcomed. Some ministers might hesitate to require such certificates from young men in their churches, whom they have known for some time and simply confine the requirement to strangers. We believe that by making the requirement general, of those supposed to be clean as well as those of whom we know nothing about, we remove the question away from personalities and away from embarrassments that might be hard to endure. If all know the rule, there need be no explaining called for, if there be no rule, exceptions will cause offence and trouble. And above all, the pure will not mind presenting a certificate of their cleanliness.

THE COWARDS OF PEACE

Patriot: "How many of your boys, Mr. College President, would enlist in the Army if we got into a war with Germany about the Monroe Doctrine?"

College President: "About 80 per cent. of them."

Patriot: "Would they be willing to do that if they knew that it really meant some sacrifice? Suppose they knew that they were all going to give up two years of their time, and that one-fifth of them would never get home again. Do you think they would go just the same?"

College President: "I am sure they would. Our young men in college and out of it are fine fellows, a brave and patriotic lot, and you will find them ready to make sacrifices for their country in time of need."

Patriot: "Now, Mr. President, you know much of history. Tell me, what is it that most often caused the downfall of nations. Is it foreign armies pounding at their boundaries, or is it graft, injustice, greed and oppression within?"

College President: "Much reading of history has convinced me that a nation sound within is in about as much danger from foreign enemies as a healthy man is from the microbes that meet him every hour. Undermine the man's health, and he catches every disease that comes. Fix a nation within so that the plain two-handed man has not a fair show, and you pave the way for the conqueror from without. It is not bayonets that overthrow nations, but graft, injustice, greed and oppression—inequality of opportunity among the people."

Patriot: "Will your young men sacrifice as much to drive out inequality of opportunity which is here as they would to beat the Germans who are not here?"

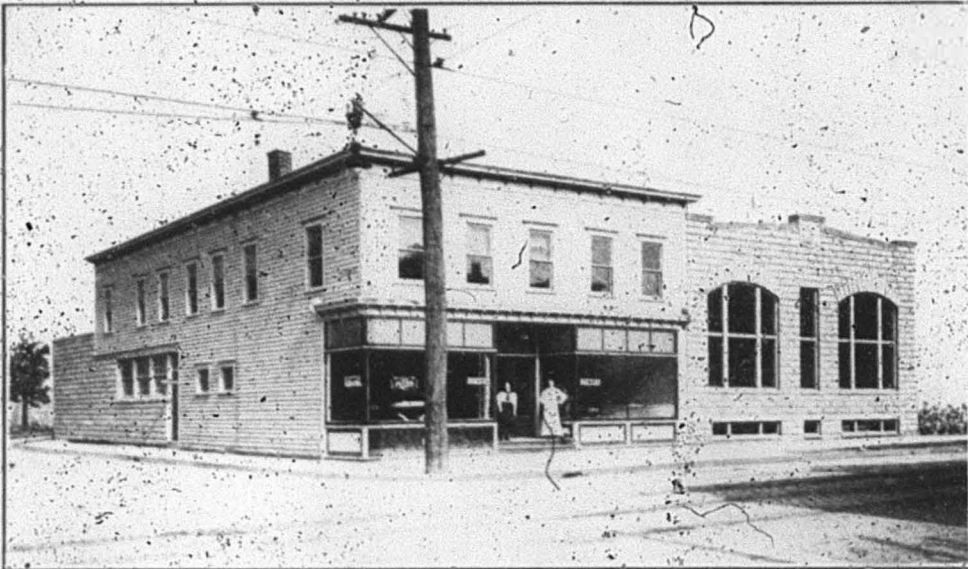
College President: "Sir that is a very direct question. We preach to our young men a great deal; they mean well, they are fine fellows, but most of them will soon be getting salaries and dividends out of Special Privilege—Tories, I fear; and if the truth must be told, they will not fight for the common good within as they would fight the Germans without."

Patriot: "Then these are the Cowards of Peace?"—*The Public.*

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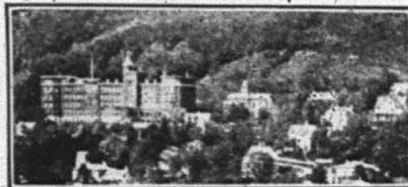
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When To Use United Charities

Our confidential exchange bureau is a place where every person and agency affiliated with United Charities may enroll the names of families in whom they are interested, with the idea of learning if other persons and agencies are interested in the same families.

All social workers know how constantly families are visited by sympathetic friends and neighbors, and by occasional workers who have heard only rumors of distress. Frequently a family in trouble is fairly besieged by inquiries of all sorts from well-meaning persons, who innocently enough annoy the family with embarrassing questions. This may easily be avoided by finding out from the Confidential Exchange whether or not others are interested in a particular family.

When an inquiry is received from a co-operating agency, the identification catalogue is consulted to find if anyone is already interested in the family. If the family name is found, the inquiring agency is at once referred to the worker or agency whose name appears on the identification card, and that worker or agency in turn is notified that a new agency has become interested in the family. The Confidential Exchange, therefore, by putting the inquiring agency directly in touch with the sources of information, protects the applicant from repeated questionings, from conflicting advice, from the necessity of telling personal, intimate details to several investigators, and from the temptation to magnify his distress.

To identify a family quickly and with certainty, we should have in addition to the surname, the first names of the man and woman, their birthplace, the names and ages of the children or other members of the family, the present address and one or two previous addresses.

Daily registration is very desirable. If you allow your records to accumulate and then register families in large numbers, it may be very difficult to give prompt and useful service.

If you wish to have a trained visitor from the United Charities investigate any family, look up references in this and other cities, make inquiries of other charities or perform any other service in relation to needy families, we will, upon request, do the best we can. Through our corresponding societies in two hundred and thirty-two cities of America, we can secure prompt, reliable information concerning the relatives, references or previous records of families who have such connections in other communities.

No information concerning a registered family will be given to anyone who has not a legitimate, charitable interest in the home. Until someone inquires who wishes to help, the information will be lost among our forty thousand and more records, as one name is lost in a city directory.

Applicants whom you do not aid should be registered immediately, as they will probably apply elsewhere.

A street directory has been prepared comprising every registered family under the street and number of its residence, in addition to the record filed under the name of the family. By using the street directory, mistakes due to different spellings of foreign names or to the presence of various surnames in the same household may be detected, and the location of needy families and neglected communities may be studied.

We are striving to eliminate fraud and waste, to avoid overlapping, but above all, we are anxious to share information, to secure harmonious co-operation, to promote adequate constructive treatment of each family problem—in a word, to enable each charitable agency to do its own work in the best way.

The value of this confidential exchange to you largely depends upon the promptness with which other agencies in the city record the families under their care. Therefore, if you will report your families promptly, every other agency in the city will find the Exchange correspondingly valuable.

If You Know People, Things Look Different

By Zona Gale

A wonder of the day is that the social instinct—the instinct for getting together for wholesome recreation and talk—should for so long have been left to satisfy itself by chance and mischance. It has been left to the more idle folk in the community, and has become a silly passion or a stupid paying of obligation, or, for the young people, a stolen thing, subject to reproof and "correction." Only of late has the truth grown to recognition that the health of the community depends largely on the wholesome satisfaction of this wholesome need, and that the way to that satisfaction, it is the province of the community to work out. And Social Centers have arisen.

I have a friend who says:

"When I saw the Oriental rugs of the professor of our new red brick high school building's wife hanging on the line, I says to myself, 'No. Not that woman. I won't never vote for her for president of the Ladies Aid. She ain't one of us.' And while they was votin' that day I set over in one corner, feelin' mean, and thinkin', 'No. You don't get no ballot out of me. You ain't folks.'

"And then the next mornin', while I was gettin' breakfast, she come walkin' across the yard between our houses, and she says:

"Oh, Mis. Arthur, I'm makin' johnny-cake, an' I can't tell whether you put in soda or baking powder. Which do you?"

"And when I'd told her how, and she'd started back, I stood inside the screen door just looking after her. And I thought:

"Why, my land! Underneath your Oriental rugs you was like that all the time! Why, you're folks!"

And once in a little town a team ran away, dashed across a trim lawn, overturned the latticed well-house, injured a young catalpa, and came to a standstill by a flower-bed. The householder emerged furiously from his castle, unhitched the team, and led it into his stable. And to his assembling neighbors he breathed out the threatening that he would be paid by whoever owned that team, and paid well, for this damage, before the owner should ever have back his horses.

A while later a tired man came hurrying up the little street and saw his wagon marooned by the householder's tulip-bed. He came to the man's door. And the neighbors who were thereabout heard what the owner of the injured property said. It was:

"Why, hello, Cal! Was them your colts? Never recognized 'em. Oh, they're all right now. I've got 'em in my barn. Dinner's just ready. Come on in!"

In these incidents lies a part of the rationale of the Social Center Idea. Namely, that, if you know people, things look different. We have always felt this. We have agreed that the Colonel's lady and Judy O'Grady are sisters under the skin, and that a touch of nature makes the whole world kin. But we have never institutionalized that universal feel-

ing. The Social Center does that. It consciously seeks to express and to develop the common humanhood. For this, it says, is the basis of democracy.

Here and there among the people who watch life and help it to live there is the spirit that rejects the conscious notion of clearing up the world. Perhaps more people have this spirit than ever may show it, because the stress and conflict of things most worth while constantly make the talk take to itself terms more or less militant. But deep within the insufficient things said about right and reform and improvement lives this spirit which knows that unless the thing done is done for its own sake, for the joy of the doing, and as a spontaneous expression of the human being behind it, then it is born without wings.

It is precisely this spirit that the Social Center Idea expresses. It says that the common thing about people is that they are human beings and want to be with other human beings. It says that to bring this about in right relations, and to let people act upon it and express it spontaneously, is to let more result for humanity than can result from the conscious nurturing of specific "reforms." It instills, not the rules of democracy, but the zest of the game.

In more than one hundred cities and towns in the United States social centers have been developed within the last few years: in Rochester, New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, Pittsburgh, Milwaukee, Baltimore, Cleveland, Columbus, Minneapolis, Cincinnati, and Toledo. Now the University of Wisconsin has a Department of Social Centers and Civic Development, in charge of Edward J. Ward, who was director of the Rochester social centers and who instituted the movement. That is, the Wisconsin University has created an office whose duties are to develop neighborhood centers throughout the State, and to assist in their activities. One result of this has been the recent National Convention at Madison, with delegates from sixteen States, and the formation there of the National Association of Social Centers and Civic Development, with headquarters now established in New York City. And the University of Virginia has followed Wisconsin in the establishment of a Social Center Department; and other universities have afoot similar plans. It is felt to be eminently the province of the universities, since their occupation is the making of citizens. Thus the little towns and villages are growing into the movement, too. And it is as if the adventure of being human were something new. It is not new. It is the ancient and simple way to accomplishment.

The Social Center, then, is the place in any community where the people of that community meet, discuss, enjoy, co-operate upon a common ground as citizens in a democracy, as members of a neighborhood, as human beings, without regard to party, creed, class, or difference of possession.

With the need for such a place as this arises the realization of citizens that they have made a certain investment which could pay more than it is paying. The public schools are open only about six hours a day. The rest of the time they lie useless, making no return on the billion-dollar investment which taxpayers have made in them. The schoolhouse is the logical place for social center activities. It is giving the citizens the use of their own property, long subject to the "permission" of school boards. The Legislature of Wisconsin lately passed a bill granting the use of all school-houses for free discussion and recreation purposes, on application by an organization of citizens. Wisconsin is the first State to write such

a bill on its statute-books, thus recognizing its function as a State to minister to the social needs of its citizens just as it ministers to their other vital needs.

The idea having arisen and the place having been opened, the development everywhere proceeds along the same natural lines: the organization of a Recreation Department in the school or in the town, the engaging of a salaried civic club organizer or director who helps with the various club meetings, with the public lectures, the motion picture entertainments, dramatics, orchestras, choruses, and the gymnasium. The spirit of the social center is the spirit of neighborhood, and its method is the method of Christmas and Thanksgiving extended to take in the family of the neighborhood of the town.

As in every other movement, the appeal varies with the community. In one the need is recognized as the demand for social life. In another the need is for recreational life for the young people, "to keep the young people off the streets," they say. In another it is satisfy the instinct for organization. In another too many organizations have rent the life of the town until a common meeting-place is needed to win back the town's dignity and its unity—And in these days of social readjustment the blunders committed because some folk are the first by whom the new is tried and some are the lingering last by whom it is laid aside would be far less frequent, the Social Center Idea maintains, if there were some place for general discussion of new community and State measures besides saloons and partisan political meetings—if there were a citizens' forum. But whatever the specific appeal, always the starting-point is everybody's starting-point: being human, needing to meet as citizens, as neighbors, as human beings, for wholesome recreation and talk.

Being human is everybody's starting-point. And, some relevant—or irrelevant—cycle having been run, being human is, of course, the great goal. Only children and sages know that folks are folks. The relevant cycle is simply the course of the Great Adventure.—*The Outlook*.

OUR SMALL VALUING OF LIFE

In one American city, during the past ten years, the number of persons dying over 70 years of age has exceeded the number of those dying under five years of age. No, it isn't Boston. It is Rochester, N. Y., which has in George W. Coler a Health Officer who will not let the politicians prevent him from reducing the death rate. If human life is the most valuable thing in the world, the inhabitants of Rochester ought to be very proud of Dr. Coler, who has had such unusual success in conserving it. But as a matter of fact most of them aren't; most of them think he is a fussy, cranky fellow who is pernickety in his interference with the sale of dirty foods. It won't be until Coler is dead that he will be appreciated—and who knows? Maybe not then.—*The Boston Common*.

See page 56; if your dealer's name is not in the list telephone the Health Bureau and find out if it means he was supplying "bad" milk during the cool summer just past.



AT REST

Why The Babies Are 'At Rest

A Plea for Milk Dealers and Health Bureau to Bury the Hatchet instead of the Babies.

It is not wholly a baby question, as Dr. John R. Williams has pointed out in a previous issue of this magazine. Babies die from other causes than bad milk. But when all is said and done, the milk problem which confronts the Health Departments of this country is pre-eminently a problem of fighting for babies lives. We can fight the other causes of infantile mortality in other ways, but this cause, which in Rochester is not so much impure milk as quarrelsome dealers and officials should be fought at once. Our Infants' Summer Hospital and School Welfare Stations are going to be an increasing burden to tax-payers, if this matter is not fought at once and fought to a finish.

Renewed interest in milk legislation can be found all over the country, in many cities the old ordinances are being repealed in favor of more stringent ones, and laws are being placed on our books that are planned to protect our milk in ways that our fathers never dreamed of. The war on infant mortality is on, and as we say, it is on to the finish. Incidental to this new legislation we find that dairying as a side issue of

farm life is being repressed and the whole business is being encouraged as a specialty.

The last issue of the National Municipal Review sums up some of the new legislation in this way: we choose for illustration the regulations of the Board of Health of New York City.

"Modern ordinances deal first with the dairy. Regulations of the city board of health of New York City, approved April 13, 1910, afford a good illustration. The cows must be kept clean, be groomed daily, the udders and teats washed before milking, fed only good food, and they must be healthy, the latter to be proven by a veterinary surgeon's test at least once a year.

The stable must be located in a clean spot, at least 100 feet from other stables or cess-pools; there must be ample ventilation with good windows and ample room for the herd, cement or brick floors, ceiling dust proof and to be kept clean, walls and ledges thoroughly swept, cow-beds clean and sanitary, stables to be white-washed at least twice a year, all manure to be immediately removed from vicinity of stable, lime scattered on floors—and the stable to be used exclusively for milch cows.

A milk house also is required, this likewise to be located at least 100 feet from any cess-pool, it must be kept clean and well ventilated, with running water, and ice for cooling the milk and equipment for the thorough washing and sterilization of all utensils used in handling the milk.

There are further specific regulations concerning cleanliness and good health of milkers and their method of milking; concerning the milk, its quality, methods of immediate cooling, handling and shipping.

These regulations are by no means drastic. A number of cities have required that all milch cows must be tuberculin tested and that all utensils be thoroughly sterilized—neither of which are required in New York.

Concerning means of distribution the newer ordinances are eliminating the use of cans for all retail deliveries, providing that all milk must be delivered in sealed bottles or jars; that these bottles shall have been thoroughly sterilized before they were filled and that bottles shall not be refilled or milk exchanged from bottle to bottle except at the dairy or milk-plant. There are also careful specifications concerning "refrigerators, compartments, or other places" where milk or cream is kept, stored or handled." The delivery wagon must be clean, the driver must be free from any contagious disease, and the milk must be kept at a temperature not exceeding 50 degrees while in process of delivery."

Chicago also, during the last five years has given considerable attention to its milk supply.

A new ordinance was drafted by Dr. Geo. B. Young, commissioner of health, and recommended for passage to the city council by the committee on health, of which Dr. Willis O. Nance is chairman. After considerable agitation and opposition it became a law on August 14. It provides that all raw milk sold in Chicago shall be of a grade defined as "inspected" and shall meet the following requirements:

- (a) Farms on which it is produced must score 65 per cent "good" and after January 1, 1915, the score must be 70 per cent "good."
- (b) Cows must be clean and healthy, free from tuberculosis and other infectious diseases.
- (c) Milkers must be clean and healthy.

(d) All steps in the production of the milk must be carried out under cleanly and healthful conditions.

(e) Milk must be promptly cooled and kept at temperature of 60 degrees Fahrenheit, or below, until delivered to the consumer.

(f) Shall only be sold in tightly capped bottles and shall bear date of production.

(g) Shall be free from dirt and disease-producing bacteria or other matter detrimental to health; the high limit of bacterial content to be 100,000 per cubic centimeter from October 1 to May 1, and 150,000 from May 2 to September 30.

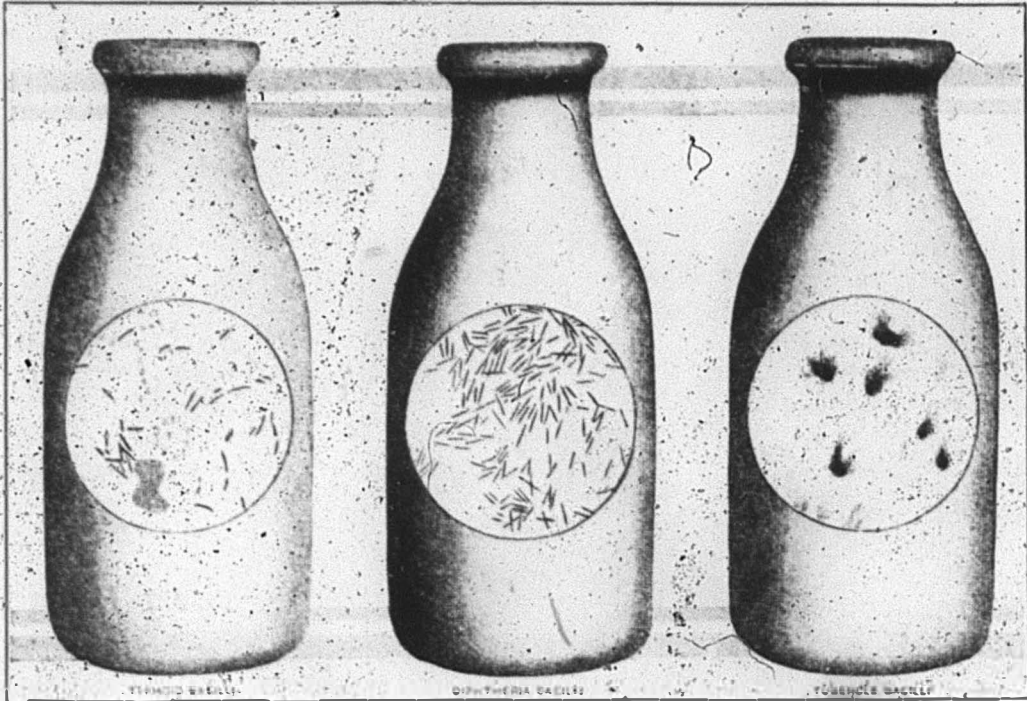
(h) The dairy farmer must agree and guarantee that he will notify the department of health as once if any contagious diseases occur on his farm.

Milk to come into the city as "inspected" milk.

This ordinance further provides that milk which cannot meet the requirements for "inspected" milk, but which is produced on farms scoring over 55 per cent "good," and is free from gross dirt, and contains less than 1,000,000 bacteria per cubic centimeter, and is kept at a temperature of 60 degrees Fahrenheit, or below, may be sold in Chicago if pasteurized according to the regulations prescribed in the ordinance.

Now there are three things that have slowly become common knowledge in our city regarding our reproachful milk situation. First, the temperament or temper of our Health Officer; Second, the inefficient manner in which the Rochester Health Bureau is organized and supported and lastly, the chronic conflict between the Police Court and the Health Bureau. While these lose their tempers with each other the babies die. That is why they are at rest in Rochester. Improperly handled milk, dirty and mismanaged farms, law-breaking and unlicensed milk dealers, high bacterial records for most of our dealers, are only secondary causes. Back of all these are the causes that we have indicated.

The wisdom of Dr. Goler's ideals and methods of milk reform and baby-saving has for a long number of years been recognized very fully all over the country. Of course, there are some who do not follow him, but it is not to be expected that all would. There is room in a country like America for two or three very good ways of dealing with the milk situation, and no one but a social dogmatist will make trouble because Dr. Goler's methods are not followed by every single health officer in the land. It has always been one of the glories, not only of our Health Officer, but of Rochester that so fine a body of prominent men have borne witness to his views. It was a long time ago that his reputation began, and it is still possible to pick up magazines with recently written articles in them continually in praise of Goler. There are only a few men and women in Rochester who seem able to recognize this worth and for this Dr. Goler, as well as the narrowness of some of the citizens, is to blame. Dr. George W. Goler is one of the finest men living so long as no one crosses his path to hinder his work. So ardent is his wish for pure milk that he nearly kills the man who comes to him and asks for permission to supply milk to the City of Rochester that is only 99 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent pure. Let a political organization or a Police Court try to corner him or spoil his work for Rochester and the temper of the good man is not mild. We believe that he himself would admit that he finds it extremely hard to speak kindly of milk dealers who do not care to obey the laws. To fraternize with men who to him stand as the baby-killers of the community, is more



THE MAGNIFYING OF A DROP OF ROCHESTER MILK

than the temper of Dr. Goler can stand, hence friction and sparks and the passing round of the opinion that "no one can work with the Health Officer." The second thing which has now become common knowledge is the friction between the Health Bureau and the Police Court. It is said that we cannot get convictions. This trouble covers far more than the milk question and enters into all the work of the Health Bureau. We understand that the Health Committee of United Charities is already investigating this friction, being urged thereto by the reproachful milk situation as printed in this magazine. Their report we hope will be given to the city very soon and we hope that it will be fair to all concerned. The third thing which has become common knowledge is the inefficient manner in which the health authority of this city is organized and the poor support that it receives from the City. This last matter is a very serious one and we want to say more in regard to it. Mrs. Crane very clearly showed in her study of the Rochester charter that Dr. Goler was not the Health Officer of Rochester, but that if any one man held that power it was the Commissioner of Public Safety, but that really our Health Board was the Common Council. Much of the disfavor into which Dr. Goler has come is really the result of this kind of authority. He is a Health Officer *without* power and all the city of Rochester grumbles at him for not using it. Citizens say: "I am disgusted with the Health Bureau, you cannot get anything from that man Goler." "I phoned about the chickens which the boss of our ward allows to come destroying our lawns, and no one does anything." "I went there and complained about that garbage nuisance and still the trouble goes on and nothing is done." This is what can be heard any day in Rochester, and Goler has to stand for it when it should be charged up to the Commissioner of Public Safety, the Corporation Counsel or the Common Council. Another said recently on the Rochester milk situation, "What is the good of examining milk of a city this size once every two or three months, it ought to be

seen every month at least." He did not know that the Health Bureau is not allowed enough help to make examinations so frequently.

Now we will stop our kicking and do some constructive suggestion-work. On the friction between the City and the Health Bureau we would ask Dr. Goler to draw up a budget of the real needs of the Bureau, beginning, if he think wise by asking that it be changed into a Health Department. Let him tell us how many milk inspectors he ought to have, how many meat inspectors he ought to have, how many fenement inspectors he ought to have, how many registrars he ought to have for his work on vital statistics, and so on. Let him tell us what he ought to have under present conditions, not what he ought to have under an ideal government. If we know what he wants and how soon he wants it, it would give us something of a program to work for. Some citizens even say, "If Dr. Goler says he is hampered for want of help, why does he not ask for it, when he makes up his budget each year?" Let us at least have such a budget, whether he counts it wise to place it in his official budget or no.

Second, Let the city of Rochester begin to have some of the milk legislation that is being given to other cities of the country. For example we ought to know what we are buying when we buy milk. We have discovered that some of the low records of large dealers in this city published in our last two issues were low because the milk was pasteurized, and we have wondered what kind of count they would have had if their milk had been sampled before pasteurization. The Health Bureau ought to publish beside all records whether milk is pasteurized or not.

Above all else Rochester ought to have an ordinance requiring that no milk should be delivered above 60 degrees. It is hardly believable that in a city such as this, such an ordinance cannot be found. We do not yet feel free to advocate, as some cities do, the grading of milk, so that we could buy 10,000 bacteria milk for 12 cents a quart and 100,000 bacteria milk, say for 9 cents a quart and 1,000,000 and more for 7 cents. It would certainly be in line with pure food laws that require the labelling of all things sold as to their quality. But we feel very sure that at present more 7 cent bad milk would be sold than any other kind in a city. In a country place where there are not the extremes of poverty as in a city it would soon put the 7 cent production off the market, but here with ignorance and poverty it is a question. If Dr. Goler has a method that will put 8 cent milk on the market for all the people, with no higher count for the present than 100,000, let us by all means advocate that. We would still urge the publication of the official records of the dealers each month in the public press. We understand very fully that the bacteria count is not the only test of pure milk, indeed we can believe that the bacteria count may be very low, say 30,000 and the milk have still a large sediment and be unfit for other reasons to drink. But the bacteria count is the prime test and we should not listen to any minimizing of its value.

Let us remember that while we shall be discussing this winter all these questions, the babies will still be going to their wrong rest. The little ones are being born now in scores of homes in our city; they have come to homes that have welcomed them and loved them. But unless we can make some things different for them, they will not be all in their homes next summer. It depends on us whether we are going to let the petty quarrels of officials and dealers rob our homes any more. It is one of the shames, yea, it is one of the most horrible crimes of our America that one-third of all the little children born every year are dead before they reach their fifth year.

The Only Rochester Milkmen whose Record during July and August was good.

	Bacteria per cubic centimeter
Fred Hehn	70,000
Lesser Baldwin	100,000
C. W. Rounding	70,000
Joseph Webber	60,000
City Dairy Co.	50,000
Harry Weeks	70,000
James McNall	60,000
Alford Jefferies	50,000
Joseph Grosser	40,000
Henry Kuhn	30,000
Michael Kätzel	10,000
Levi Welkley	100,000
Frank Morrell	30,000
Thomas Yost	10,000
Albert Welkley	10,000
J. E. Brahler	30,000
Edwin Winters	50,000
Chas. F. Ellis	30,000
Leo Zwerger	50,000
C. J. Diringer	50,000
A. Gentle	90,000
Fred Heberle	80,000
Chas. Heischuer	100,000

	Bacteria per cubic centimeter
A. I. Campbell	60,000
J. W. Welkley	20,000
F. S. Cramer	20,000
C. B. Snyder	60,000
Edward Welkley	40,000
J. W. McDonald	90,000
J. C. Zipfel	70,000
H. H. Ständhode	60,000
G. P. Millar	10,000
John Peglow	90,000
Wallace Caudle	80,000
George Kohlman	30,000
J. L. Brasser	60,000
Wm. Lovett	60,000
R. H. Darling	50,000
W. H. Fullager	80,000
H. J. Walker	50,000
P. M. Decker	20,000
John Frank	70,000
C. S. Lunt	30,000
S. A. Statt	70,000
Richard Millar	60,000

16 over 5 million; 41 additional over 1 million; 29 additional over a million; the remainder between 100,000 and 150,000. 179 milkmen.
 —Taken from the Reports of the Health Bureau.



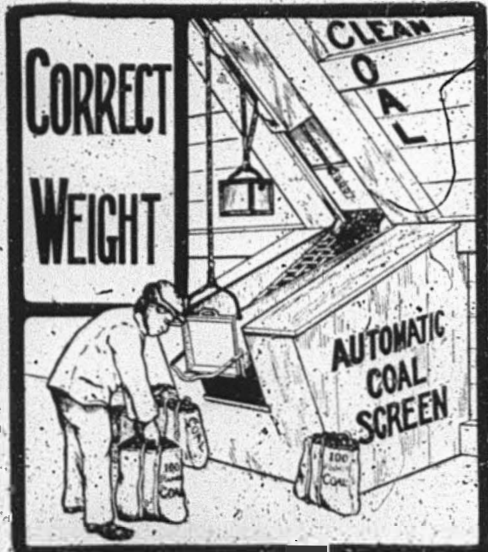
Our Show windows can only give you a small idea of the large selection and quality of Jewelry which we carry in stock. If you pay our store only a short visit you will be convinced that we carry only goods of the best quality and a large variety of the same.

Prices Consistent with Quality.

Ellery A. Handy
 JEWELER
 88 State Street

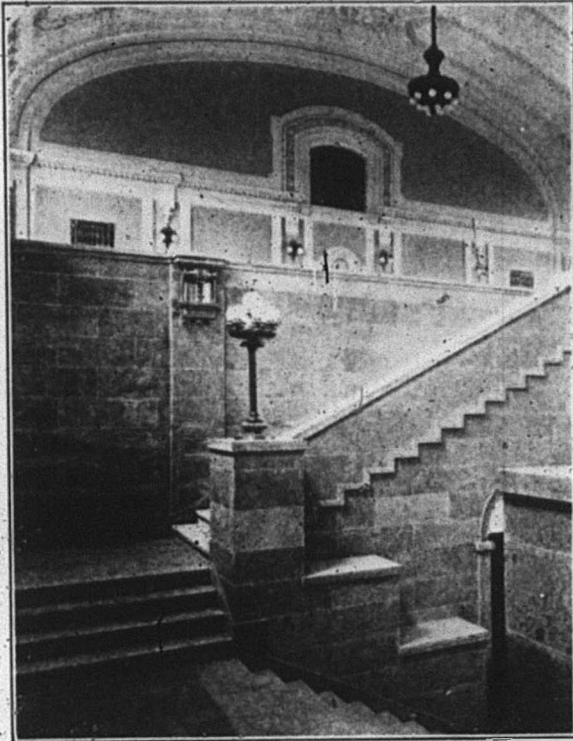
Deep Valley Coal

20 Bags to the Ton



MILLSPAUGH & GREEN CO.

C. S. KELLOGG, Manager
 OFFICE, 9 STATE STREET



MAIN STAIRWAY LEADING TO THE COUNTING ROOM.

The City Hall of Des Moines

By John MacVicar

A True Story of How a Commission-Governed City, where an Intelligent Publicity prevailed, built a City Hall worth \$1,000,000 from an Authorized fund of \$350,000 and had enough left to buy furnishings (and Pay the Brass Band at its Dedication.

Nobody loves an alderman, and as a result certain publishers of newspapers and magazines take kindly to stories of their shortcomings. A prominent New York daily recently asked: "If some Diogenes of architecture went about the United States looking for an honest city hall or state capitol, would he find one?"

Now this newspaper is published in a state whose legislature once built a state capitol, and is a near neighbor to Pennsylvania, which also once built a state capitol and in the mind of the editor were recollections of how a state commission departed from the paths of rectitude sufficiently to permit paper imitations to be substituted for oak carvings, putty for mahogany, and other ingenious devices to beat the public. In one of these states an official investigation made after the damage was completed, resulted in a recommendation that governors, treasurers and auditors be thereafter prohibited from serving on building commissions.

It occurs to me that those good people who are searching in vain for the cause of and the remedy for the shortcomings of municipal government have clearly overlooked one theory. The sociologist and the humanitarian insist that tendency to crime is inherited, is handed down from parents to children even from the time of Adam to the present day. Now, it is a well-established fact that the city is the child of the legislature, the Iowa Supreme Court going so far as to say that the state legislature "breathes the air of life into the city." Why, therefore, may not Pittsburgh plead for leniency because of its politically degenerate parentage?

Municipal government in America is generally better than our state governments. This statement would be accepted without question as true but for the fact that a learned Englishman, upon his first visit to America many years ago, wrote a book in which he charged that municipal government was the worst we had, an error which only goes to show that it takes research and grand juries to discover the shortcomings of state governments, whereas cities' doings are so close at hand that he who pays taxes and reads the local papers can easily discover their faults.

This search for an honest city hall has determined me to tell a true story of how a commission-governed city, where an intelligent publicity prevailed, built a city hall which would ordinarily have cost \$1,000,000, from an authorized fund of \$350,000, and had enough left to buy furnishings and to pay a brass band at its dedication.

In this age of municipal extravagance most cities take pride in showing how large sums they were able to borrow for the construction of their city halls, but Des Moines takes pride in showing how much she got for the amount she really could afford to spend on her city buildings. Des Moines is proud also because her building was erected and furnished complete, from vacuum cleaner to inkwells, for the sum estimated, within the amount appropriated, and within the time provided. When it was completed a local paper that is rarely lavish in its words of approval said:

"There has been no shadow of graft in the erection of the Des Moines City Hall. For every dollar spent Des Moines is getting its full worth."

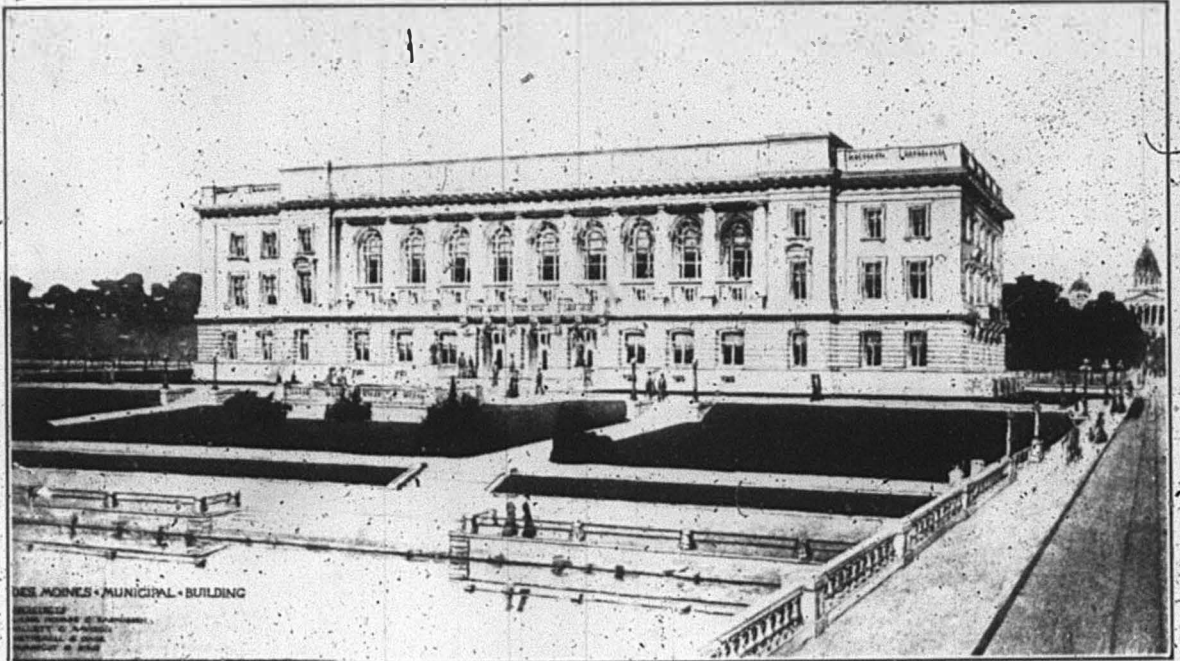
In some unaccountable way the Iowa legislature, in exercising its paternal prerogatives, left to the city of Des Moines some limited powers of home rule, a doctrine which Governor Dix so eloquently preaches and which powers the New York legislature so persistently refuses to confer on Buffalo and other cities of that state. It is a common custom for state legislatures, when a city hall is about to be erected, to provide for a commission of "successful business men" to conduct the undertaking, on the theory that thereby the aldermen will be eliminated and honesty and good business judgment will be assured. The Iowa legislature recklessly overlooked this safeguard and left the erection of the city hall to the City Commission or City Council, as the governing body under the Des Moines plan is called.

Now the election of this City Council a short time before was a great disappointment to the business men of Des Moines, for the slate of candidates promoted by the business organizations at the election and made up of the community's most sterling citizens, including the president of the commercial club, a lawyer, two prominent manufacturers and a college professor, was defeated root and branch. With that perversity, which seems to prevail in municipal elections, the voters preferred the lesser lights who were better known politically, and they elected to the council a police judge, a deputy sheriff, an assessor, a member of the former city council and one who, caught with the goods, confessed to being a professional politician. Said an envious neighbor, the *Sioux City Journal*, commenting on the result of Des Moines' first election under commission government:

The character of the men elected precludes the possibility of the success of the Des Moines Plan."

By a referendum vote the community entrusted this aggregation with authority to issue bonds to the amount of \$350,000 for the City Hall building. No doubt the voters did this with many misgivings, for had they not a few years before authorized the county government, largely composed of frugal and honest farmers, to expend \$400,000 in the construction of a county building, which, before its final completion absorbed

The German and Irish immigration to Rochester is beginning to cease. We only have 226 German-born children in our schools and only 15 Irish.



THE DES MOINES MUNICIPAL BUILDING

nearly \$1,000,000? And had not the library commission, a board made up of some of the city's best business men, expended a short time before, as near as can be estimated, \$400,000 in the erection of a library building which, on the original estimate, was to have cost \$140,000? What, therefore, was to be expected from a city council which had in its makeup neither an honest farmer nor a successful business man?

The votes authorizing the bond issue had scarcely been counted before those citizens who live on as well as in the city, and who have a peculiar interest in the construction of public buildings, began a beaten path to the City Hall. First came the bond buyers, who, as experienced business men, strongly advised against an issue of 4 per cent bonds which the immature financiers on the council proposed, saying that the market for municipal bonds was bad at that particular season of the year. No bids were received in answer to the advertisements for 4 per cents, but in some heretofore unheard-of way a private sale was made at four. Now, most legislatures would have prevented the City Council from negotiating bonds at private sale, aiming thereby to compel the councilmen to be honest, but the Iowa legislature had also overlooked guarding this avenue of corruption, and the City Council was permitted to save to the city in interest \$35,000.

Next the architects became busy in soliciting the job of making the plans. The profession of architecture is a high and dignified calling, but this fact did not prevent some of the profession from organizing a train of influential business men running to the City Hall, soliciting the Council members individually and collectively to place this important work in the hands of their particular favorites. The Des Moines Council has never claimed credit for being a particularly harmonious body; it has no star chamber sessions, preferring to discuss the details of all propositions over the council table in public session. This method furnishes news for the press, though it is somewhat severe on the Council's reputation

for harmony, for care is usually taken by the reporters that a too strict regard for the truth be not permitted to stand in the way of making out of these discussions good stories for the reading public. It was therefore not difficult to arouse a difference of opinion among the Council members as to the desirability of the various architect candidates, and that body soon found itself in a hopeless tangle. This, however, was promptly forgotten when a member announced over the council table that a firm of architects which had directed the construction of several state buildings had hung up a "jack-pot" of \$2,500 for the councilman who could deliver the contract. The exposure brought a solution of the differences, and four firms of architects which were not connected with the attempt to bribe, were employed, forming the Associate Board of Architects. Strange as it may appear, this multiplicity of cooks did not spoil the broth, and very satisfactory plans were secured. The plans of the building as well as its manner of construction have set an example for future city halls, and are attracting quite as much favorable attention as is the Des Moines plan of commission government.

The building is unique in that it is the first building in the world designed and built expressly to meet the wants of a commission-governed city. It is primarily a business house, being arranged for the convenient transaction of the city's business. Its interior plan is not designed to accommodate the numerous officials and department heads with commodious private accommodations to entertain friends. The main floor is almost entirely made up of a single large counting room in which are found nearly all the administrative departments of the city. In this counting-room are the Departments of Accounts and Finance, of Parks and Public Property, and of Streets and Public Improvements, the Public Safety Superintendent, the City Clerk, and the clerical force of nearly the entire city government. In this room one may file his claim with a department, secure his warrant from the City Auditor and cash it with the City Treasurer. No screens, high counters or roll-top desks are found to furnish concealment for idle clerks or political callers.

Adjoining this room is a council chamber furnished with a directors' table, around which the five councilmen or commissioners meet every alternate morning to transact the City's business. It has accommodations also for the citizens or others who have business there. Said a visitor from Minneapolis: "Why there is not enough room in this entire council chamber to seat the Minneapolis council board."

The publicity given the attempt to bribe the Council established the new commission on a plane that discouraged further attempts to corrupt that body, and it is not recorded that any member was again improperly approached relative to the construction of the building.

A rumor that the letting was to be on the square attracted numerous bidders. When the bids were opened in council session a question arose as to which was the lowest and best bid, and the matter was at once referred to the Associated Board of Architects sitting with the Council, and they, without leaving the council chamber, determined the question, and the Council without a member leaving his seat unanimously awarded the contract to the lowest bidder.

**See illustration on the front cover of this magazine.*

Ninety-one per cent of the school children of Rochester were born in the United States.

The many avenues of evading the specifications and beating the job were resorted to. A construction company from a distant city, which had secured a sub-contract, sent to Des Moines three separate and distinct envoys in vain attempts to secure a modification of the specifications which would have lessened the cost of the building, saving dimes to the city and dollars to the contractors. The brick companies, through their influential stockholders, first begged and finally demanded the acceptance of inferior brick, but to no purpose, and tons of iron that failed to meet the specifications went back to the factories.

This is a simple story of how a high-class modern municipal building was erected without waste, at a cost below the estimates and for less than the sum authorized to be expended, by a city council composed of five average citizens elected by a community having an intelligent conception of what was due the public from its officials; and under a system which permitted the officials, to use a reasonable discretion in handling an important undertaking, under a plan of government which gave to the officials not responsibility alone, but also opportunity to use such intelligence as they possessed. The Des Moines City Council was given full powers and responsibilities, and the public full publicity and opportunity to place the responsibility.

The people of Des Moines believe that they have in their new Municipal Building a city hall which will measure up to the requirements of the want as above referred to, and which will withstand the searchlight of the proposed Diogenes commission. "Such a building, if constructed in the city of New York, would have cost a great deal more than a million dollars," was the verdict of Mr. Henry Bruere, of the Bureau of Municipal Research of New York, while inspecting Des Moines city government for the Metz Commission. The building is completed and there is no demand for an investigating committee to look after stolen horses. The people of Des Moines, through the publicity that prevails under the Des Moines system of commission government, have had an intelligent vision of the undertaking since its inception, and probably no investigating committee could tell the public more concerning the building than has been laid before the people from time to time by a fair-minded press.—*The American City*.

One-quarter of the population of Rochester is between the ages of four and eighteen.

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—*John Stuart Mill*
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