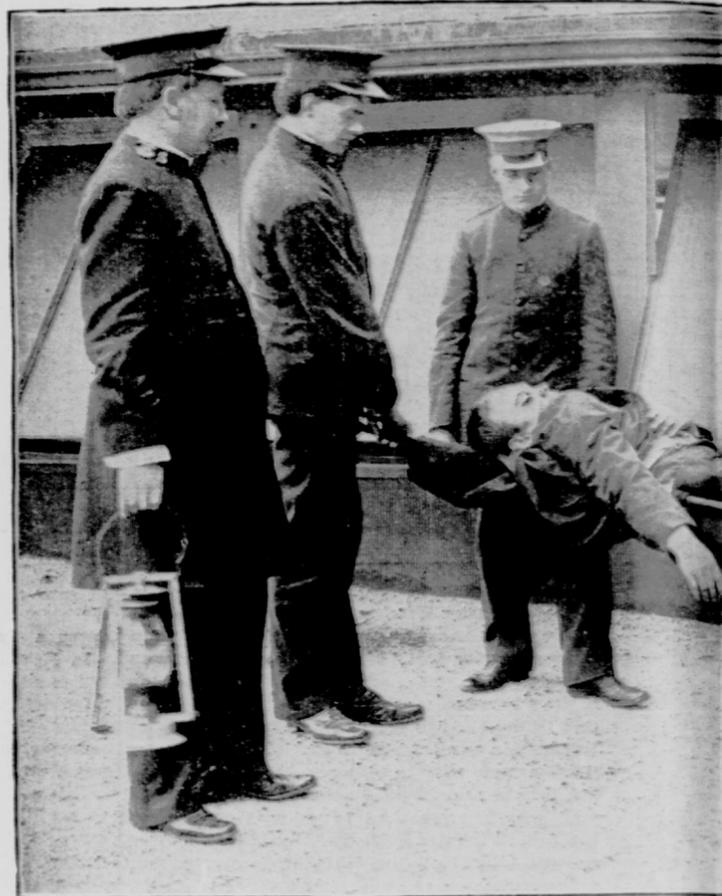




INTERIOR OF A SALVATION ARMY STORE.

All this furniture was abandoned junk. It has been repaired and restored by the Salvation Army workers, and is now for sale.



SALVATION ARMY STRETCHER

This newly organized brigade will save the drunkard who

SOCIAL SALVAGE.

A Novel Proposal Made by the Salvation Army.

In all of the large English cities just now those interested in social reform are discussing the latest proposition put before the public by General Booth, the founder and head of the Salvation Army. His appeal to the United Kingdom is a stirring one and the substance of it is as follows:

"Give us a chance to save the tramps, the drunkards, the petty criminals, the paupers and the 'lost' women. Pay us the expense of saving those who really reform and the army will stand the loss on those who cannot be reclaimed."

"Social salvage" is an apt term which has been given to this new plan of the wonderful old man who has done so much for the submerged fraction the world over. It approaches the problem of financing social reform from an entirely new side, and it is not strange that it appeals to the English, who suffer from fifty thousand tramps and have spent some \$10,000,000 in the care of paupers without the slightest return in the way of reclaimed men and women.

Of closer interest to New-Yorkers, however, is the statement made by officers in authority at the Salvation Army headquarters in America, in Fourteenth-st., near Sixth-ave., that they are ready at any time to duplicate General Booth's offer in all of the large cities of the United States, and especially in New-York.

"We would gladly undertake the work of reclaiming these unfortunates," declared Colonel Higgins, general secretary and aid to Commander Booth-Tucker, who is out of the city at the present time. "Our success in making good citizens out of this class is assured, and we would be more than willing to take money for results.

"So far as I know, no definite proposition has yet been made to the authorities of any large city in this country. If the English cities take up General Booth's offer and it works out successfully, an effort will undoubtedly be made to extend the work to the United States. In the mean time if any city desires to make the experiment, we stand ready to shoulder our end of it."

The Salvation Army is already carrying on work for the government in several countries. In Australia, for instance, the army takes charge of nearly all of the children committed to the reformatory. They remain on the farms which the army maintains until they are sufficiently confirmed in honest ways to earn their own living. The municipality of Paris has recently asked the organization to deal with fallen women.

In speaking of the work in Australia, Bramwell Booth, chief of General Booth's staff, recently said:

"We bring to bear those influences which are commonly associated with the word home and into a large institution with a great number of children. Ours is not a system of coddling. We strap them if they don't behave, just as we pray over them. So far as we have gone—and we have had five years' experience in Australia in dealing with these boys, for they are chiefly boys—the results are not only gratifying, but out of all proportion to what was expected. I do not say that the majority of them become Salvationists, but they become honest men and useful citizens."

In view of the corporal punishment discussion

which has been going on between public school teachers of New-York and the parents of the children, the testimony of the Salvation Army educator is not without interest. They "strap" unruly children in the army homes, and the punishment is severe enough not to need frequent repetition.

On its own responsibility, and without municipal assistance, the Salvation Army has already begun the work of social salvage in this country. From coast to coast, and from Canada to Mexico, fifty-four industrial homes have been established in the last two years. They are operated by an incorporated company, which has a capital stock of \$500,000, evenly divided between common and preferred stock. The common stock is held by the officers of the army, which gives them absolute control. The preferred stock is divided among the various towns in which the homes are located and draws 6 per cent interest. After the first few months all of the homes have been self-supporting, and there never has been any trouble about paying the interest on the preferred stock.

This branch of army activity is so new and has been carried on so quietly that few know of the details of the plan except those actually engaged in working it out. A better place to study it could not be found than New-York City and its vicinity.

In Manhattan the home is at No. 528 West Thirtieth-st. Property has just been purchased in One-hundred-and-twentieth-st., between Second and Third aves., for a second industrial establishment. A large building will be erected there this winter. As soon as it is completed the building in Thirtieth-st. will be torn down and a large one, more in keeping with the army's needs, will be erected.

There are two homes in Brooklyn, one at No. 28 Raymond-st., and the other at No. 215 West Eighth-st. Other homes are being operated effectively in Jersey City and Newark. As the system is the same at all of the homes, the one in West Thirtieth-st. will serve as an example.

The establishment is the headquarters for fourteen collecting wagons, which cover fourteen different parts of the city. They follow regular routes, calling at houses where permission has been given to collect paper and junk of all kinds. Once in three weeks the wagon makes the rounds, but a special call will be made at any time on receipt of a postal card, with which the army supplies its patrons.

Strange loads these army junk wagons sometimes bring in. Old furniture of all sorts, clothing, rags, paper, old hats and shoes and empty bottles form the usual load. One of the receptacles left by the army collector, when emptied recently, contained a highly decorated memorial to the woman's late departed husband from the lodge to which he belonged, and also his false teeth. Another held an old violin, which was so fine of tone that it brought a considerable price. In still another was found a bottle of carbolic acid, bearing the inscription "This will cure all ills." From a clergyman's house a collector recently secured a warlike collection of a rifle, a revolver, a powder horn and four dozen cartridges.

At the West Thirtieth-st. establishment the loads are turned over to the men who have applied to the home for temporary aid. The paper is sorted into as many as twelve different grades and put into tightly packed bales, which are sold from time to time to paper manufacturers. The bottles are graded as to size and quality; brass, iron and lead are sorted into separate bins, and rags are sorted into different qualities. The clothing that the wagons

bring in is cleaned and repaired, hats are re-blocked and shoes patched.

One department of the home which is productive of considerable revenue is that of furniture repairs. A great deal of furniture comes in on the army junk wagons. Chairs without seats, tables minus a leg or two, broken down bedsteads, bureaus with cracked mirrors, sewing machines that will not run and typewriters that have seemingly outlived their usefulness were among the articles undergoing repairs when a Tribune reporter visited the home last week. This department of the work is given over to the skilled mechanics who come to the army for assistance until they can find regular employment.

The Thirtieth-st. home has quarters for sixty men, and at all times from five to a dozen more than that number are cared for. The overflow take their meals at the home and sleep in one of the army hotels on the Bowery. When a man applies at the home for temporary employment an effort is made to discover by judicious questioning the cause of his trouble. He is given to understand that whatever the reason that made him a homeless outcast or whatever past fault sent him into the ranks of the unemployed, the Salvation Army is ready to befriend and help him. An effort is made to get at the fellow's heart and to interest him in the religious services of the army.

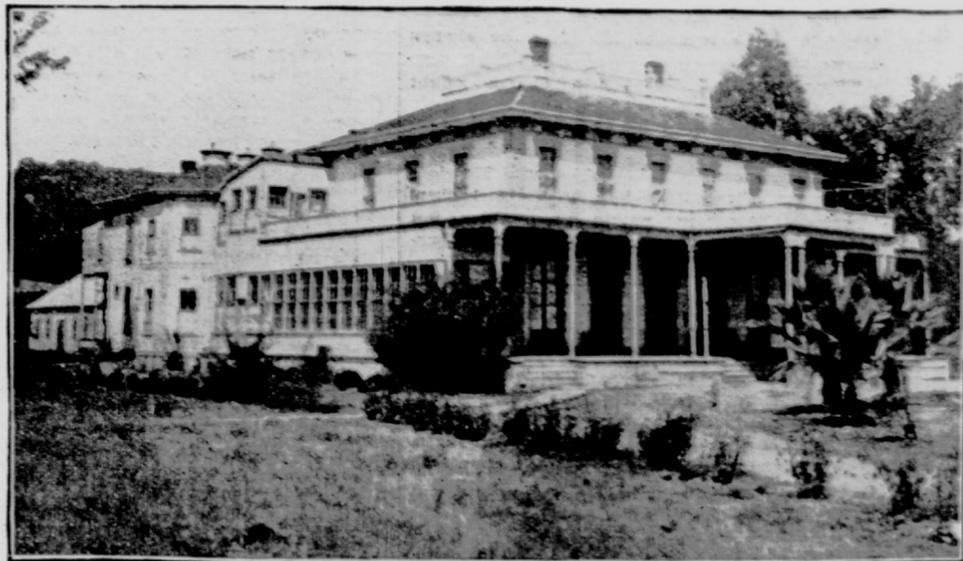
"It is no use for us to wash your shirts and fill your belly," the officer in charge is likely to say to the unfortunate. "It is you that must be washed; it is you that must be filled with something beyond the husks on which you have been feeding."

They have found that they cannot reform a drunkard by merely shutting him up in a retreat and keeping him away from the bottle. The evil is not merely that he consumes a certain amount of liquor, but a far greater one in the fact that he likes it. Therefore, they try to put moral backbone into the man.

No regular wages are paid to the men who work in the industrial homes of the army. They get three substantial meals each day, with meat and coffee at every meal, and dessert twice a week. They have a clean cot in a warm dormi-



A PAPER SORTING SQUAD AT A SA



THE SALVATION ARMY'S NEWEST HOME FOR CHILDREN. At Lytton Springs, Cal.