

WHY THEY FLOURISH

SECRET OF SUCCESS OF MANY PROSPEROUS TOWNS.

With Similar Natural Advantages These With Improvement Societies Far Outstrip Their Neighbors—How They Are Formed—Professor B. G. Northrop.

With practically the same natural advantages it seems strange at first thought that one town attracts new residents, local industries are successful and the deposits keep the home bank in a healthy condition, while another village barely holds its own from year to year and is an example of what a village ought not to be. One village has a high school, a building that cost, say, \$30,000, and the income from the tuition of nonresident pupils and from state and town funds makes the school taxes reasonable, while an adjoining village is perpetually in hot water over its school affairs, and its taxes are heavy, without any corresponding benefit. Why are some so attractive educationally, socially and in such matters as shade trees, street lamps and good roads, while others are so backward and unattractive?

The difference is usually explained by the presence or absence of an organized or unorganized rural improvement society. An organized improvement society is a power for good so long as it maintains its organization, but it is often the case that half a dozen live, progressive property owners accomplish the work of an improvement society without



B. G. NORTHROP, special organization. Professor B. G. Northrop, LL. D., the father of improvement societies, defines their work, which, he says, includes the sanitary condition in homes and their surroundings, sidewalks, roads, roadsides, school and church yards, cemeteries, parks and other public lands, as well as private estates, the grounds around railway stations, providing drinking troughs or fountains, lighting streets, removing nuisances, planting trees, organizing free town libraries and whatever else the exigencies of each plan may suggest for its growth and betterment.

Village improvement societies are recommended because they cultivate a general friendly feeling; they foster public spirit; they do much to break the monotony of the life of small communities, which is not commonly too exciting under any circumstances; they make life better worth the living and real estate better worth the buying; they attract people of taste and fortune who are prospecting for a place which they can call home.

The organization of an improvement society is an exceedingly simple matter. The officers usually consist of a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and executive committee. The meetings are usually held monthly, with an annual meeting usually held in the spring. Special meetings may be called at any time by the president, and the annual dues vary from \$1 to \$5.

B. G. Northrop, LL. D., may be said to be the father of the improvement societies of America. He is a native of Litchfield county, Conn., and was born and bred on a farm. He entered Yale college and graduated, choosing the ministry as his profession. For a time he was the pastor of a church in Massachusetts, but soon abandoned the ministry for school work. For ten years he was agent of the Massachusetts board of education, when he was made secretary of the Connecticut board of education. He held the latter position 16 years, and was largely instrumental in bringing about the free school system in the state. During the last ten years, or until his recent trip to Japan and other oriental countries, his life has been devoted to the organization of improvement societies and the proper observance of Arbor day, of which he was the founder. It is said that Arbor day for economic purposes originated with J. Sterling Morton, while Arbor day for educational and memorial services, especially in schools, originated with Professor Northrop.

A Popular Educator.

The country newspaper is an important agency in the cultivation of public spirit, and however humble it may seem beside the metropolitan daily, it has a place in popular education which is too little regarded. Short articles pertaining to local interests are always welcome in its columns, and the men and women who most desire to make home life in the country rich and influential can best do so by contributing freely to its columns of what they have in mind. In some places this has been done, and the result in the quickened life of the community has been gratifying.—Boston Herald.

Does Away With Worry.

The business man need have no cares as to the disposition of his wares. Nor wait for trade with wistful eyes if he will but advertise.—Printers' Ink.

Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder
Most Perfect Made.

TO BEAUTIFY THE CITY.

Ladies of New Brunswick, N. J., Form a Town Improvement Society.

The state of New Jersey is already famous for the good roads which traverse a large part of its territory, and if the movement which the ladies of several of its most prosperous towns have inaugurated for the beautifying and improvement of their communities keeps on spreading it will soon be equally famous for the beauty of its towns. One of the most recent moves in the direction of town improvement was made in New Brunswick, where Mrs. Williamson, wife of the mayor, was instrumental in forming a society composed of ladies of the town, with the commendable object of giving to New Brunswick clean streets, parks with trees in them and a good many other things to make the town attractive. Briefly stated, the aim of this society will be to make New Brunswick more attractive both to its own people and to strangers. Recently a public meeting was held, and B. G. Northrop, an experienced lecturer and organizer of village improvement societies, explained what women can do and have done to improve the sanitary conditions of their home and surroundings, sidewalks, roads, roadsides, schools and churchyards, to provide drinking troughs, lighting and parking streets, removing nuisances and front fences, planting trees and otherwise beautifying the town.

"There is nothing visionary about the plan," said Mrs. Williamson. "We mean to bring about a healthy sentiment in this town among the women toward making the city a pleasant place to live in. Once we have made sentiment we will enlist the individual sympathies of as many women as possible, then urge upon each to do all in her power to improve the appearance of her immediate neighborhood. When the society grows and gets money, that will be invested upon some improvement. The governing board of the city and county will be influenced to make appropriations for public improvements. Children's auxiliaries will be formed, and they will be taught to pick up papers from the streets and deposit them in boxes that will be supplied for that purpose."

THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER.

It is One of the Most Important Means of the Progress of the Town.

The newspaper is the champion of the city, its business, its business men, its homes, its public interests, its corporate existence, and any slight put upon any of these is promptly resented, and all things for their benefit are advocated boldly and loyally, says Mr. R. W. Coon, publisher of the Waukegan (Ill.) Gazette.

It is the organ for personal and social affairs, and gives a picture that is attractive to those who see the mirror of its life. In its columns are shown a town or city, large, stronger and more attractive today than yesterday, and with a promise of still better things for tomorrow. To the outside world it is the watchman on the tower that proclaims the advantages of the city and calls the strangers from the ends of the country to pitch their tents and cast their lot within its walls. The city has a name and reputation very largely through the columns and by the words of the paper. The paper is one of the most important means of the progress of the city.

With such a paper, given a fair recognition and support from its city, the publisher is a power in fact, and the property is a valuable one. It is a public office and a business in one, but it is an office not subject to the caprice of any office broker and person high in power. The constituency of the paper will grow, and a large portion of the old and new patrons continue for a long period. The control and ownership of such a paper is a laudable ambition and is a measure of success of which any one should be proud, and which should content most men.

Guideposts at Crossroads.

The argument for a proper marking of intersecting highways should need no extensive specifying in this age of enlightened interest in facilities for road travel and traffic, says the New York Tribune. The stranger may lose hours of time through making a false turn. Anything which tends to attract visitors to a town, whether bent on pleasure or business, is certain to benefit it and its inhabitants. Little traveled roads are not usually associated with wealth and a progressive spirit. Besides this element of self interest, the nobler one of regard for fellow man enters. A small expenditure will save many persons inconvenience and loss of time. The appeal is direct and convincing.

Confession.

I am an optimist, or try to be. What is for the best has been my creed. But sometimes in the hours of dire need I lose this faith, and all grows black to me. From chains that bind and galls I would be free. From sham conventionalities I would be free. And in my heart tumultuous passions breed That sway and toss like some stormy angry sea. I look upon love as but a cheat, and life A monstrous lie, and men but scoundrels Who fawn at vice and sell their souls for gold. And fretting thus, and with the world at strife, I seek some spot in nature's secret haunts, When, lo! return the sweet beliefs of old.—John N. Hilliard.

To know thyself in others self discern. Wouldst thou know others? Read thyself—and learn!—Lord Lytton.

Reaching After Trade.

Cincinnati proposes to go after Mexican trade. The Cincinnati board of trade has appointed a committee to select an agent to travel in Mexico and in all the Central American states to foster trade relations with Mexico and Central America, and to establish agencies for Cincinnati houses all over Mexico. The idea is well conceived, and it would be well if some like plan were put into operation in other communities.

Always a Demand For Them.

A Michigan newspaper has struck a bright idea, and is vigorously booming the project of establishing a coffin factory in the town where it is published. No matter how hard times are, it argues, people will die, and they must be buried, and the coffin business will always be booming.—New York Sun.

Three Things Desired.

The three great movements for Omaha and Nebraska: Irrigation, immigration and colonization.—Omaha World-Herald.

Advertise in the Newspapers.

The merchant who at the beginning of the year plans and systematizes his advertising and makes a definite appropriation will find that such an arrangement will strengthen him in refusing to patronize advertising schemes which only enrich the schemer.—Printers' Ink.

Chance For Iowa Capitalists.

So far as is known, Iowa has not a single bicycle factory, although probably 100,000 wheels are in use in the state. Here is a chance for men with money and enterprise to engage in producing articles for home consumption.—Cedar Rapids Gazette.

Value of Effective Advertising.

Advertising saves time—hence lengthens life. The buyer is saved searching for what he wants; the seller finds the quickest market for his goods. The human mind needs the stimulus of the suggestion contained in effective advertising.—Turn To.

Whole Hours

Faster

than any other line to Omaha, St. Joseph, Kansas City, St. Louis, and ALL other southern and southeastern points.

This is a FACT—a plain, unvarnished fact which is demonstrated every day in the year.

Tickets, time-tables and full information on application to the nearest ticket agent, or by addressing

Phil Daniels, F. P. and F. A.

Butte, Montana.

W. W. Johnston, Com. Agt.

BILLINGS, MONT.

J. P. WINTERS,

MERCHANT TAILOR

DILLON

will be in

VIRGINIA CITY AND SHERIDAN

in a few days with a

Complete Stock of

FALL and WINTER CLOTH

He will not solicit orders from samples but will bring his stock with him and will

CUT AND FIT

all orders on the spot, which will be a great advantage to the customer, guaranteeing a

PERFECT FIT.

This is a new department that recommends itself to those desiring

TAILOR MADE SUITS.

The World's Fair Tests showed no baking powder so pure or so great in leavening power as the Royal.

DILLON FURNITURE CO.



FURNITURE, COFFINS, REFRIGERATORS, BABY CARRIAGES, BEDDING AND FURNITURE SUNDRIES.

Our facilities for giving our customers its best and most goods for the money are unequalled in Montana;

G. T. PAUL, Manager.

Dillon, Montana.

GILBERT'S BREWERY

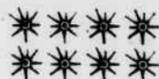
Pure

LAGER BEER

Warranted to Keep in any Climate.

Orders for Keg and Bottled Beer Promptly Filled

H. S. GILBERT . . .



J. ALBRIGHT

Successor to R. O. BICKMAN

DEALER IN

Furnishing Goods . . . Clothing, Etc. . .

THE POWER OF PRICE IN connection with trustworthy goods is the great lever that swings the trade our way.

WE LEAD IN EVERY LINE and enjoy a constantly increasing measure of public confidence and patronage.



1878

S.

1896

R.

BUFORD

Dealers in

Staple and Fancy GROCERIES

Tobaccos, Cigars,

Whiskies,

Brandies, Imported,

and California

Wines

We keep nothing but the Best

We buy strictly for cash, and will not be undersold

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GROCERS

Dealers in

Agricultural Implements

Farm, Freight, and

Spring Wagons

Plows,

Harrows, Barbed

Wire, Etc.

—Agents for the—

California Powder Co's

Sporting and

Blasting Powder,

Fuse, Caps, Etc.

Virginia City, Montana.

ROBT. VICKERS & Co.

Dealers in

Clothing, Dry Goods, Furnishing

Goods, Boots, Hats, Caps, Etc., Etc.

Content Corner

Virginia City, Montana.