

CHILD WELFARE IS BIG QUESTION NOW

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than to run the risk of exposing them to dangers of the dance hall variety. In some cities, pool tables have been installed, in one place a "Rough House" room was provided where the more boisterous spirits could work off their surplus energies. But the point of the whole matter lay in having some one who could intelligently direct these energies. The speaker told of numerous cities who have these "play" instructors. Kalamazoo has eighteen play leaders. Gary, Indiana, was named as the town where not only the children but the grown-ups as well go to school to learn how to spend their leisure to good effect. In Gary, whenever the Board of Education purchases a city square for a new building, the City purchases an adjoining square to make sure that there will never be a lack of space for development of playground activities. In some places choral societies have been formed, in others dramatic pageants, telling of the history of the country are staged yearly to engage the interest of citizens young and old. How are we spending the 200,000 leisure hours which we have every week in New Ulm? Are we turning it into an asset as they are doing in other cities?

Mr. Weller stated that 80 per cent of all crimes are "leisure crimes". Playgrounds, intelligently supervised, provide a preventative for juvenile crimes and social centers are the prescription offered for the adult who is inclined to delinquency. A fit mind cannot dwell in an unfit body, and physical fitness is a natural result of playground activity. Here the speaker paid his respects to the Germans who have given more attention to this branch of education than have the English and other nations, mentioning Father Jahn as the leader in the movement for physical fitness.

Not all playground ventures are successes. In some cities they have been abandoned after being tried out but the fault has been in the method of application, not in the plan. In Chicago millions of dollars are being spent in the work. In Minnesota the work has just been begun as the larger cities have only lately introduced playground leaders. After Duluth had begun the work, the range cities of the state became interested and a man from the National Association has been in Eveleth for several weeks working out the plan for the city's play activities. Virginia and Chisholm are other range towns that are ready for it. Mr. Weller then asked New Ulm to consider conditions here. He wanted to know what provisions had been made here for the supervision of the leisure time of the boys and girls of the cities.

In the discussion that followed the main address, Miss Meeker of Duluth who is interested in the movement in that city, told of the experiences in Duluth in getting the plan started, due to the indifference of the adults who thought every girl and every boy ought to know how to play without being taught. She advocated the adoption of the work as calculated to develop the spirit of playing fair among the children, thus making of them men and women with the right sort of ideals.

When local people were called upon for their opinions, B. Juni related some of the experiences he had had in handling some of the early schools of the County when he was a teacher years ago. He stated that when he could interest the wild, rough boys of the school in games in which he took a part, he found discipline comparatively easy. G. A. Ottomeyer spoke of the organization of the Turners which has in New Ulm for years provided a place for the youngsters to play, and a man to direct them in their play but said he felt that the city schools should take the burden from the Turnverein and institute more sports in their regular work. Alexander Russell took a turn at Mr. Ottomeyer by saying that he had been so busy with entertaining and arranging for Conventions in the past year that he did not know that our schools have a fair amount of sports activities. He added his testimony to the facts already stated, that play properly directed makes the lives of parents and teachers easier, besides being of benefit to the children.

When the ladies were called upon for an expression of opinion as to the necessity or the feasibility of establishing some sort of playground supervision in New Ulm there was no response. Where are the women? Have you no women's clubs in New Ulm? was asked, but brought no response from the club members. However, one young lady, one of the public school force who is new here, and has not yet learned that in New Ulm the women are more to be seen than heard so far as public life is concerned, presented her question of what she is to do in our schools in the absence of material to work out intelligent playground activities. Her question was not answered at once but the speaker suggested that a meeting of those who might be interested should be called for Monday evening to discuss the question as it applies to New Ulm. A number signified their willingness to attend such a gathering and the matter was left there after a few words from Judge Moll of St. Peter in commendation of the recreational work as a solution of difficulties with children commonly called incorrigible.

At the meeting which was held Monday evening at 7 o'clock in the Social Hall, about twenty-five men and women were present. Mr. Weller explained the plan of recreation direction a little more fully and outlined the cost of getting a man from the National Playground Association to start the work. To secure such a man it would be necessary to pledge between six and seven hundred dollars and to carry out the work effectively a recreation expert would need to be employed who would remain on the job twelve months out of the year and keep constantly before the public the necessity of spending its recreation hours in healthful forms of amusement.

It was suggested that the school board might hire such an expert for the public schools but Mr. Weller said that such a plan would not be inclusive enough since that would not provide for the parochial school children of whom there are nearly as many as there are in the public schools and besides no provision would be made for the half grown men and women who really are the ones who most need expert guidance in choosing their pleasures. Then, too, the Community Plan provides for getting the adults interested in healthy recreation. Since the schools could not take it upon themselves to provide an instructor for the general public the better plan would be to hire a Community man who would have the entire matter in charge and this would mean putting the matter of the expense of maintenance up to the taxpayer. When Mr. Weller stated that it would probably cost from three to six thousand dollars annually to maintain the system, it was suggested by Capt. Albert Steinhauer that it would be almost useless to ask the taxpayers to consent to such an expenditure at the present time because of the present indebtedness for the new school buildings, etc. Rev. Hohn then said that he felt that there should not be a word of remonstrance from the taxpayers considering what they have been accepting for the past fifteen years from the Turnverein which has practically supplied gratis just such work as is now contemplated. He felt quite certain that the amount could be raised in some fashion without too much difficulty. Mr. Ottomeyer felt that the present instructor of the Turnverein classes could be secured and the expense handled in such a way that it could be possible to meet it without too great a strain.

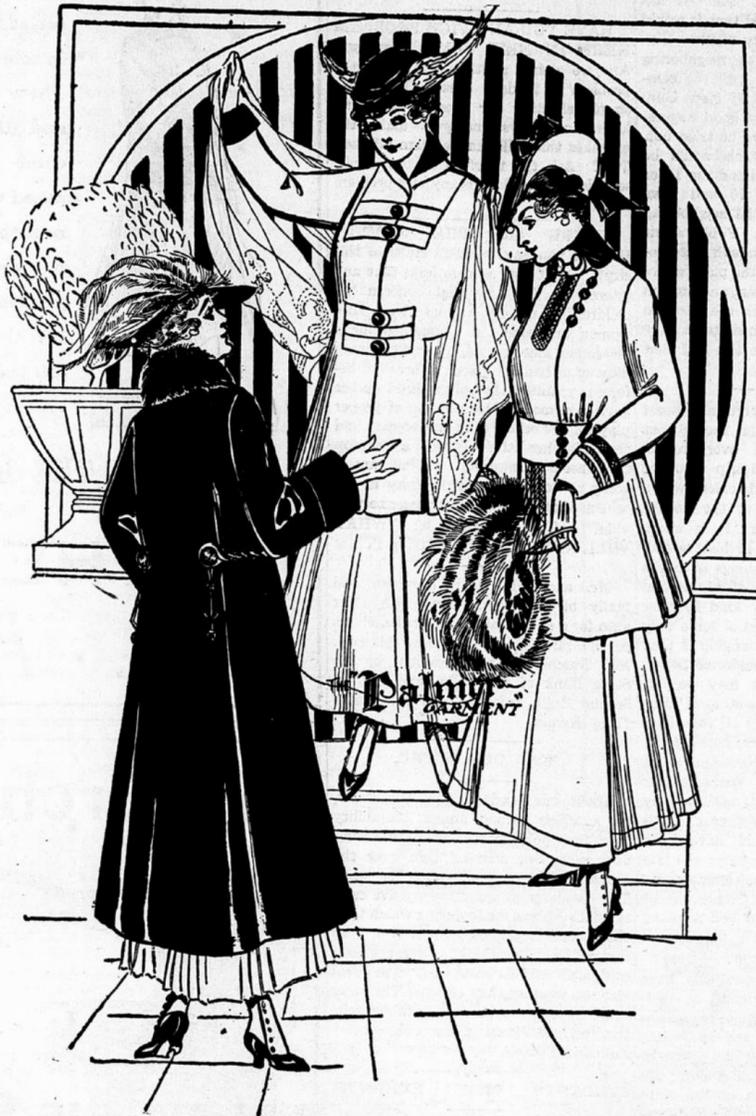
To bring the matter to a focus, a committee was appointed to take the matter up, to find out whether it would be possible to secure the funds for the initial expenditure of approximately \$600.00 and the matter was left in their hands. The committee consisted of L. B. Krook, G. A. Ottomeyer, Rev. C. G. Hohn, Supt. H. C. Hess and H. L. Beecher. They immediately held a session with Mr. Weller and finally agreed to call an informal meeting of the City Council and the School Board for the purpose of seeing whether they could arrange some satisfactory method of providing for the initial expense conjointly. This meeting was held Tuesday and some question was raised as to the legality of making any appropriation so there will be nothing further done now.

During the afternoon, the women delegates to the convention got busy to find out what the chances in New Ulm are for starting a campaign for votes for women. They had but little time to work but a number of the Club women of the city got together at the Hall early in the evening and talked over the question of having an agitator come here to see what can be done. This will probably be done some time in the near future but it is a question whether the busy housewives of New Ulm will be interested. They have not usually been in the past. It would be surprising if they should suddenly wake up now. Nothing definite was done at the Suffrage meeting.

At the evening session Sunday, the chief speaker was C. C. Carstens of the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Mr. Carstens said this is an adult world, one which as yet has taken but little thought for the child. He related stories of homes in which parents have no sense of responsibility for the lives or welfare of their children and the little ones are growing up amid conditions of the utmost horror. Where parents fail to realize their responsibility society must accept the burden and provide for the lack in the lives of the dependents. There must be proper medical inspection in schools, child hygiene and sex hygiene must be taught, the things that parents are too ignorant to teach themselves must be provided for by society thru the schools. Further than that, Mr. Carstens advised that a State Board of Children's Guardians be appointed in every commonwealth. St. Lo is has a city board to look after the work in their community. Very often, in fact in the majority of cases, the bad boy is not the real culprit. It is his mother or father or both, and back of them society, that is to blame for his acts of wrongdoing.

Mr. Carstens recommended a Domestic Relations Court to take care of family and juvenile problems. He severely censured the lax divorce laws which take no thought of the welfare of the child. He also took the opportunity to say that the probation officer should be specially selected for his fitness for

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his work. The policeman is not the right sort of man to deal with the juvenile delinquent. His fitness as a policeman incapacitates him to perform the duties of probation officer with wisdom.

Preceding the talk by Mr. Carstens, Miss Caroline Haas, a factory inspector of the state of Ohio, made a plea for better conditions for women and children and recommended that something be done to supply vocational education for children that they need not waste their lives in finding the work for which they are fitted but will be ready to take up their life work when they have finished their schooling. Miss Haas had been a factory worker when she was a girl and is well acquainted with conditions in many manufacturing institutions and she knows that the best that conditions can be made in such places of strenuous toil is none too good to assist in preserving the greatest resource of the nation, the growing child.

Judge Grier M. Orr of the Juvenile Court of St. Paul was unable to be present to discuss the "Community Plan" advocated by Mr. Carstens. Judge Webster of the Probate Court of Itasca County had prepared a paper discussing the Child Welfare question but as Mr. Carstens address had been so extended Mr. Webster had time to give but a small part of it. The chief points made by him were the necessity of early isolation of defectives and the solving of the problem of neglect to solve the problem of delinquency.

Judge Webster also spoke of the Mother's Pension as a method of solving problems that affect society but while he commended the act he criticized the method of granting the pensions, stating that very often it was given in a manner most humiliating to the mother whereas she should feel that she has a perfect right to assistance when she is in need of it on account of having dependent children. He further stated that it should not be the aim to contribute charity to people further than so far as might be necessary to help them to help themselves. He went to the bottom

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DISTRIBUTION OF HOG CHOLERA SERUM.

Our last legislature passed a law which stated that there should be one distributing point in a county for hog cholera serum that is manufactured by the state.

After consideration of a location by the Veterinarian Department of the State Serum plant at University Farm, the Agricultural Department of Sleepy Eye was made the dispensary or distributing point for all the state serum in Brown County. Any needed amount can be secured by communication with L. H. Fudge, Agriculturist, and it will be sent C. O. D.

A sufficient amount is kept on hand for any emergency use. At the present time, there are reports of an outbreak of cholera in the northern part of the county. Since the state law does not allow the treatment for cholera with virus, the serum treatment which is only preventative, is used; therefore each breeder should use every precaution and if he wishes the best insurance against an outbreak, the treatment should be given in time to guard against any possible infection.

THE FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE SPREADS IN ILLINOIS.

The counties of La Salle, Bureau and Putnam, Illinois, are placed in closed quarantine against the foot-and-mouth disease by an order of the United States Department of Agriculture, effective September 25, 1915.

This action is taken owing to the discovery of the disease in two herds in La Salle County. One of these herds, containing 65 cattle, was found on a community pasture and the fact that the herd belonged to 12 different owners has led the authorities to quarantine the adjoining counties with a view to checking its further spread.

No other new cases thus far have been reported from Illinois except from the infected area already under quarantine—in McDonough County and the southern

part of Lake County. A single infected herd was discovered in Dupage County near the infected portion of Cook County, but no additional cases have been reported from that county.

The department has concentrated its field force of veterinarians and inspectors on suppressing the outbreak in Illinois. At present 71 federal veterinarians and 54 assistants are at work in and around the suspected territory making farm to farm examinations, disposing of infected herds, disinfecting premises, and arranging for local quarantines to prevent the spread of the disease from infected farms to their neighbors. Co-operating with the Department force is a large force of Illinois State veterinarians and inspectors.

In Minnesota and Indiana there has been no spread of the disease beyond the first herds discovered. In Michigan one herd was destroyed as a precautionary measure but no other herds have become affected.

An investigation to determine if possible the cause of the new outbreak was begun as soon as the first cases were reported and is still being carried on, and no statement as to the origin of the new outbreak can be prepared until this investigation is completed.

DOES NICOLLET COUNTY WANT BLIND PIGS?

Do you know that a county option election can be held only once in three years? Little has been said about this feature of the measure and its advocates have been careful not to mention it, figuring that many men were willing to try the experiment for a short period, but they would not bind themselves for a term of three years, and be forced to conform to a law that is likely to prove something of a farce.

The fact, however, that a county option election cannot be held within a period of three years from the date of the last county option election is now becoming known with the result that scores of voters are openly opposed to

the measure and many more are discovering provisions of the law that become more objectionable as their investigation proceeds.

Another section that now is being clearly understood for the first time refers to the suspension of laws and provides that if a county votes dry, every law and every municipal charter, so far as they refer to the sale and regulation of liquor, shall be wholly suspended. The result of such a condition is inevitable, for with regulation gone, the way is clear for the unlawful sale of liquor and the entry of the lawless element which includes "blind pigs" and "boot leggers."

These are the many features of the new law daily becoming more and more objectionable. The county option law as it stands is a dangerous proposition. Why should Nicollet County experiment with it? Conditions in this county as they exist today are satisfactory to a majority of the citizens. The saloons are well regulated and observe the law. It is a condition much to be preferred to the possibility or rather the certainty of the illegal traffic that is so evident in all dry territories.

Richland county, in North Dakota, which is dry, spent \$14,030.60 in the prosecution of "blind pig" cases in four years. Compare this with the record of Wilkin county, Minnesota, ("Wet") just across the river. During the same period not a cent was expended for that purpose; the grand jury met only once in four years, and the county received a licensed income of \$193,800.

Read what the supreme court of Minnesota says, in the case of the State versus Stoffles, 89 Minn., 205, is the following: "It is a matter of common knowledge that blind pigs or places for the secret or unlawful sale of intoxicating liquors are relatively more numerous and far more pernicious in prohibition districts than they are in licensed districts, where in the temptation to maintain blind pigs is much less, and wherein all licensed dealers have a direct pecuniary interest in suppressing the unlicensed traffic." Advertisement.