

CLEANUP CRUSADE OPENS IN CAPITAL

(Continued From Fourth Page.)

preached by every citizen on Monday," declared Rev. James S. Montgomery, pastor of the Metropolitan Memorial M. E. Church.

Rev. J. Milton Waldron, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church, colored, preached a sermon on the topic: "A Clean City Crusade—Why and How."

Rev. Simon P. W. Drew, pastor of the Cosmopolitan Baptist Church, colored, declared to his congregation that "a clean city will be a healthy city."

Other ministers in churches also sounded the slogan of cleanliness of all things.

Lesson From Biblical Story.

Rev. John Van Schick, Jr., spoke directly to the topic: "The Cleaning Up of a City," and he drew a lesson from the Biblical story of the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem.

"There was no appropriation then available," he said, "but the people had a mind to work. That is the big thing in any campaign project. A way will be found when the people have a mind."

The campaign for a clean Washington has been waged since the city was founded. It has been a campaign of education. The one fatal weakness in all schemes of cleanliness is the failure to get the people to feel and take responsibility. In a way a municipal government has to be paternal. It is the duty of the government to clean the streets, cart off the ashes and dispose of the sewage. In well governed communities these and many other matters are under the control of the government. But it is a shame that a bumbling administration which does not keep clearly before the people their share of the responsibility.

"No street cleaning force can keep the streets decent if a majority of the people feel free to litter the streets as they choose. No alley gang of cleaners can be efficient if the householders will not co-operate. We, the people who live on the streets, must come to feel that they are our streets. We need to sense the boresomeness, uncleanness and discourtesy of scattering refuse on our streets just as much as scattering it on our carpets. We need to feel that we ought to help clean up streets and alleys not only on one day or one week of the year, but all days and all weeks. That does not mean that we need to do the work of paid municipal employees, but it does mean that we need to co-operate and give them half a chance."

Many Are Thoughtless.

"Nothing illustrates better the thoughtlessness of many good people than a snowstorm. They will clean the streets the way they have to go, but the side walk they themselves do not use goes uncleaned. In may be selfishness with some, but it is pure ignorance and thoughtlessness with others. They don't sense the fact that they live in a community, and that they owe something to a community more than taxes. Who said it first I do not know, but it is true that some people are afflicted with a form of astigmatism, because of which they can see nothing closer than two miles. Reform appeals to them, but it's reform in Borneo. Education is their shibboleth, but it's education of the Turks. Social service is the call of the hour, but it is the service of the black or the brown or the red or the yellow men beyond the seas."

"No one who knows 'Black House' can ever forget Mrs. Jellyby and her plans for Borriaboola-Gam her immense correspondence about Africa and the dirt and neglect in her own home. Dickens calls her 'telegraphic philanthropy.'"

"No more than other churches would

we limit our sympathy and help to our own country, but no more would we limit our attention to that which is far away."

The cleaning up campaign, we see some of the opportunities at hand. There is such a thing as individual responsibility. Every man must look out for his own. If every man would look after his own doorstep the rest would be easy. There is neighborhood responsibility. Not all men in a neighborhood will take interest. Therefore, some of us must be custodians of the neighborhood. There is such a thing as community responsibility. Some must be broad enough to think of all.

"No opportunity for service is greater than that with the children. It is as easy to teach a child to be a street cleaner as to be a vandal. When a mother says to a six-year-old, 'Go throw it in the street when no one is looking, or drop it in the alley,' she is saying unconsciously, 'The streets are not yours to take care of. They belong to some outside, far-away power called the public.' When a mother lets a child break down the bushes or the flowers in her little park, she is making of that child a vandal. She is missing her chance to inculcate some of the noblest and best of lessons—the possibility of possessing without owning, of enjoying without destroying, of taking more pleasure in a crocus blooming on a sunny bank than in a crocus dying in the hand. When a parent or a teacher makes no effort to keep children from destroying the lawn on the parking or in the neighbors' yards, they are missing one of the fundamental lessons in good citizenship."

"Our church lawn is destroyed year after year by school children and children of the neighborhood. And on it litter of all kinds is deposited. If children should say let it be destroyed. If they needed the church I should say let them play in the church. Our mission is to serve. But they don't need either. And when it is all fixed up again I shall see that few lessons in public spirit and community spirit are taught by the officers of the law if necessary."

Step in Way of Progress.

"I don't expect that Washington will be made clean for all time by cleaning-up week, but I do expect some lessons will be inculcated in the minds of some children and some adults. And it is in this way, here a little, and there a little, that progress is made."

"The possibilities of co-operation, the possibilities of united action, no one man can estimate. 'Citizens' associations, Daughters of the Revolution, the Mothers' Congress, the W. C. T. U., the charities, the churches, the good government

clubs, the school children, the newspapers, the District officials, all getting together, are bound to stir Washington on any subject. And so far as cleaning up is concerned, dirt and filth, and rubbish will be removed, but with the next infinitely greater thing will be removed in some minds—indifference to dirt in Washington. Pride in our city, its looks and its health, would mean a revolution in some lines. That begins this week. The Star is to be particularly commended for its enterprise in this campaign."

A strong appeal to civic pride in the movement to clean up the city was made by Rev. Charles Wood, at the morning service of the Church of the Covenant. He asked the aid of all to do what they could to encourage and help along the effort being made to improve conditions in the alleys and streets of the city.

"The Gospel of the Back Yard" ought to be the subject of the sermon actually preached by every citizen Monday," asserted Rev. James S. Montgomery in the Metropolitan Memorial M. E. Church.

"The man who prays in his knees today and keeps an unsanitary backyard, preys on his neighbors seven days a week. Lack of sanitation in our midst is a positive crime. The preacher or layman may have his shop window filled with all the latest novelties of religious teaching, yet if he has no flat to smite this evil, it is like sounding brass and tinkling cymbal."

"There are movements headed by speculators of vague sentiment which reach no practical results. Rising votes don't do the business. Conferences alone don't do the job. These are usually followed by inaction and forgetfulness. Something is now made definite. Public sentiment created largely by our newspapers is now crystallized. This is a civic opportunity—now let us go."

To the back yard Monday—make that pulp and pew. Cleanse these arteries of poison and scrofula, in response to an awakened and aroused public sentiment. He who ignores this call is not only guilty of gross negligence, but is an unworthy citizen."

Duty of Householders.

Rev. Joseph M. M. Gray, at Hamline M. E. Church, called the attention of the members of his congregation to the city cleaning-up campaign, and urged every household to take part in it. Rev. Mr. Gray said that every citizen owed it to the city, as a matter of civic pride, as well as for obvious sanitary reasons, to help in the work of cleaning up the city and keeping it clean.

Rev. J. J. Muir, pastor of Temple Baptist Church, took up the subject of the "clean city campaign" prior to his sermon. He urged the co-operation of his auditors with the movement.

"I regret exceedingly that we have to have a cleaning up every year, but since it seems to be a necessity let us unite in our efforts to make the city clean in every respect."

Rev. Dr. W. R. Wedderspoon, at the conclusion of his sermon yesterday morning at the Foundry M. E. Church, heartily endorsed the city cleaning-up campaign. The Star and urged his congregation to do its share toward making the campaign far-reaching.

He appealed to each member to do his individual share in keeping his yard, or his adjoining vacant lot, or street front, clean and in a sanitary condition, and called attention to the diseases caused by insanitary conditions in many sections of the city.

Calls Streets a Disgrace.

Rev. Joseph F. McGee, in a sermon yesterday morning at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart (Catholic) Church, strongly indorsed city cleaning week, and made a vigorous appeal to the residents of Washington to make the National Capital a cleaner and more sanitary city.

He declared that civic pride alone should teach each resident of Washington to act as a "committee of one" to see that his own street front or neighborhood is kept clean.

"Each resident of Washington," he declared, "should take personal pride in the appearance of the National Capital, and unite in making it the most beautiful, if not the most sanitary, city in the country. If a person will, from time to time, remember that he has a share in the 'cleaning up,' it would take very little time and very little trouble."

Visitors to the city, Dr. Wedderspoon said, cannot fail to notice the unsightly conditions which certainly should not prevail in the capital of the country.

Not only are the city streets in many sections of the city a disgrace to the community, Father McGee said, but people carelessly throw paper and other refuse into the streets and lots without thought.

He declared that it was the intention of the planners of the city to make Washington the most beautiful of capital cities, while contractors and builders today are trying to defeat this end by the thoughtless way they construct buildings in many of the suburban districts of the city. Little thought is given to the architectural effect of houses, he declared, and in many parts of the city houses and other buildings are so near the sidewalk that the whole effect of the street is spoiled. In numerous cases, he said, such

buildings are constructed right up to the limit of the building line and not on a line with other constructions in the same block.

"By thoughtfulness and personal pride in Washington its residents can do much toward making Washington a more beautiful city," he said. "Let every one remember that the streets and the vacant lots and even the back yards are not the proper places for the indiscriminate throwing of waste."

Effect of Christ's Coming.

Speaking before his congregation in Shiloh Baptist Church, colored, Rev. J. Milton Waldron, the pastor, asserted that "wherever practical Christianity is taught and practiced there you will find clean streets, clean alleys, clean collars, clean back yards, well lighted streets, pure water, parks, comfortable houses and honest men and women. When Christ comes into a life there you will have holiness; when Christ comes into a home there you will have heaven; when Christ comes into a city the New Jerusalem comes down from God, and clean city crusade begins."

"Why have a clean city crusade? We answer: In order to improve environment. Men are seldom better than their surroundings. A filthy city will make a filthy people."

A clean city crusade is a good thing because it tends to break down selfishness, and sets people to working for the good of others as well as for their own good; it engenders civic pride and puts more of heaven into Washington."

"The man who wants a clean city can do no better than by getting on the job in his own home, and then get his neighbors to follow his example. Only be sure that you see before him an example worth following."

Before the sermon Rev. Mr. Waldron had the church clerk read to his people the "Instructions to Citizens," concerning the collection and removal of trash and garbage and refuse, which appeared in Sunday morning's Star, and made an appeal for volunteers to help in the work, especially that in the alleys, courts and back streets. He also urged the members of his congregation who conduct Sunday schools and other religious meetings in the alleys to bring the "Clean City Crusade" to the attention of the alley people.

"Clean City Is Healthy City."

In the Cosmopolitan Baptist Church, colored, Rev. S. P. W. Drew urged the participation of his congregation in the clean-up work.

He said: "A clean city will be a healthy city. A clean race will be a healthy race. The prevalence of disease will be lessened by cleanliness. I want to see diseases such as smallpox, tuberculosis, typhoid fever banished from our community, and I believe a clean city will go far toward bringing this about."

Method in One Suburb an Example to Others

One of Washington's suburbs furnishes an example to larger communities in the way it goes about keeping clean. There is a committee headed by a man who is noted for the conscientious way he sticks to his undertaking, and when his committee sets about to do a thing it is done. This chairman has just issued his spring manifesto, and it is a model of its kind. Read what he says:

"The flies are now with us, and presently the mosquitoes. It is up to us both individually and collectively to make another effort to stamp out these pests. Our campaign last year was a step toward success, and a continuation of the work will bring nearer the time when we can leave our window shut and door screens in the attic the whole year round."

"Each of us must have a fly trap. Our neighbors look to each of us to do that much for them. Those of us who had the traps last year can testify to their efficacy. The members of the fly committee will furnish these traps at cost, and will be glad to talk over with anyone the proper methods of caring for and handling the traps. Call up the chairman of the committee."

Must Abolish Rubbish.

"Manure piles, uncovered garbage cans and heaps of decaying matter must be done away with. See that you are not remiss yourself in these matters, and then look for the neglect of your neighbors. If your neighbor is remiss, have the courage to call his attention to the matter in a charitable spirit. If you need help call up the chairman."

"In cans and like articles in which water can accumulate and stand must be removed. Do not deposit a can of condensed milk at a regularly established dump. Two such are nearby, and there is no objection to their use. There is no other place should be used for this purpose."

"Water can collect and stand in house eaves, and each resident should examine his own property."

"Stagnant pools must be filled. There are probably none on your property. If there is, you owe it to your neighbors to correct it, as the smallest kind of a stagnant pool will cause considerable hardship to the neighborhood by breeding mosquitoes."

Some Courage Necessary.

"If your neighbor has such a pool, call his attention to it. Some courage is necessary, but have it. Be watchful in your walks to locate places where flies and mosquitoes are bred, and file the committee's attention to them. We will do all we can to correct them or have them corrected."

"Interest the children. Be sure they know where the can dumps are, and be able to recognize a fermenting pile or a stagnant pond. A single child can educate the whole crowd of young ones, and perhaps many of the grown-ups. When giving we can tell them that we expect them to assist in these matters."

"Don't hesitate to call up the chairman and talk over fly and mosquito matters. It will encourage the committee, and might be a source of information concerning these insects which will help all of us in our fight."

Attention is invited to the efforts of the committee last year. Greater vigilance must be exercised this year. The committee was in most cases given cordial assistance by the residents. This year the committee is looking for 100 per cent co-operation."

Land of Gardens.

Eliza Buchanan Sedgwick, in the Century.

In Japan every one loves gardens. The children amuse themselves with toy gardens instead of mud pies, and model relief maps in the sands of school playgrounds. In the recent wars the soldiers, after long marches, amused themselves by making little home landscapes before their tents. In more remote times emperors and shoguns abdicated and joined or established monasteries in Kyoto, that they might better meditate upon the eternal truths, and enjoy gardens of their own designing. Priests, nobles and court ladies all served the conventions and practiced the rules of landscape art.

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