

Settlement Bulletin



VOL. III.

APRIL, 1909.

NO. 2.

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Settlement Bulletin

ISSUED NINE TIMES A YEAR IN THE INTEREST OF THE SOCIAL SETTLEMENT

Vol. III.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., APRIL, 1909.

No. 2.



A DESIRABLE CITIZEN

Each year as we pass the mile-stone of Washington's birthday, or of Lincoln's we feel called upon to make something of a pow-wow, bringing their public virtues to the minds of their fellow-countrymen. Should not the event in contemporary history of the passing of one president into private life and the inauguration of a new one be equal reason for biography and meditation? Especially is it so when the country is losing from its public service a man whom future generations may very possibly remember as we remember the names of Washington and Lincoln.

Mr. Roosevelt may or may not have been a good president. There are diverse ideas of what a good president should be, and to those to whom it is a synonym for a quiet president or a harmless one, the executive who is blamed for precipitating the panic and shaking up "vested inter-

ests" all along the line would not fill the bill at all. On one point there is no question and that is Mr. Roosevelt's citizenship.

The public activities of most men consist in paying taxes, and registering and voting once a year. This represents the duties actually performed by the average, not at all the possibilities for the private citizen. Now Theodore Roosevelt has never been precisely a private citizen; at least not since his twenty-third year when he became a member of the New York legislature. But the ratio of what he has accomplished, in each office he has filled, to the necessary duties of that office is rather enlightening to all kinds of citizens public and private.

Jacob Riis tells how at the beginning of Roosevelt's career in the legislature he stood almost alone for measure after measure for honest government, sometimes succeeding in securing the passage of the necessary bills, but only to have

them suppressed by the bosses when any attempt was made to put them into effect. Placed as chairman of the Committee on Cities he investigated New York's city government, rooting up all sorts of graft, with the result of a cessation of big salaries and fees in that city government.

On the civil service commission of 1884 he worked like a miler to prevent the evasion of the rules for selection of government employees by competitive examination.

Haroun Al Roosevelt is the title he gained for himself when president of New York's Police Commission. He used to appear suddenly in the dead of night, before the eyes of some astonished patrolman having a good gossip away from his beat, and order him back where he belonged. In spite of a vigorous enforcement of the Sunday Liquor Law, Roosevelt was popular with the men most unaccustomed to dry Sundays as well as with

Continued on Page 6

Settlement Bulletin

Issued nine times a year in the interest
of the Social Settlement of

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

SUBSCRIPTION

Annually (Postage Paid) 75

TELEPHONES.

Printer, 36 Social Settlement, 3316
152 Baden Street.

Vol. III. April, 1909. No. 2.

Editorial

Before you forget,
Pay your Bulletin dues.
They're small and yet
You may forget.
It's only a quarter,
And really "you'd oughter,"
Before you forget,
Pay your Bulletin dues.

As befits the glorious springtide we revel in the warmth of the breezes, the green of the grass, the bursting of the buds and with new life in ourselves we start trimming off the dead branches of our own vine and fig tree. What do we find? Well, we get right down to the root of things and we discover that we need new earth! Where? Near the "Home" plot. Why? Because our roots have spread and need covering for nourishment.

Our roots have spread wonderfully and are now strong enough to put forth new growth that will beautify the land with delicate verdure. The roots are our plans well thought out and deliberated about the Day Nursery which must come soon. The earth to cover these roots is real earth at so much per square foot, the only nourishment needed to perfect our plans. Surely nothing now could so beautify the neighborhood with its cheery hope and practical help as the little nursery which will be the outgrowth, the blossoming of our plans. If you knew that all that was needed to produce a lovely blossom was a spadeful of earth wouldn't you hurry to find that earth? And if each of us does our share toward providing a spadeful we'll soon have enough and to spare. Where's your spade?

It's most time for a Spring tonic—everybody needs something bracing after the siege of Winter is over, and our Settlement is certainly like any other body.

There are all kinds of efficacious tonics, but the one that builds us up best and quickest is a good dose of new names on our membership list. That strengthens our body tremendously and keeps the organization from being stunted. A strange feature of this topic is that it costs the person who gives it at least a dollar for the privilege of being part of it and if you've never experienced that pleasure you'd better try it now. Become a member of the Settlement organization and enjoy the privilege of being helpful.

The merry Spring brings wonderful new growths in Nature and Human Nature. Nature is lavish and lovely; Human Nature is growing to be lovelier and more lavish in its attentions to others. We thaw out with the ground in the spring and as Mother Nature gives us grand promises of beauty all around and actually keeps her promises; so we in turn look around to see what we can do to make the world happier.

Each of us can do many things and most of us do some of them; but there are so many little things that we omit or forget which if done would brighten this planet much quicker than our luminous friend, the Sun, who lives so far away.

How about the books we've outgrown, the clothes we've outgrown and the toys that are covered with dust and rust in the attic? How much joy a tin soldier would give to a small boy whose imagination has warmed up to the coal-shovel! And just think how that old but still dainty pink dress would delight the little girl whose colorless coverings have long since ceased to impart either pleasure or warmth.

There's no need in house cleaning season to suggest anything more; but really, if you don't need that book-case we could tell you where it would support whole families of books and protect them from worldly dust.

LOAN COLLECTION OF PICTURES

"In days of old when knights were bold" their deeds were told in song and their fame was carried from castle to castle by the wandering bards or minstrels who took their art to the people who made a great occasion of it. This feature of mediaevalism has unfortunately died out though many less worthy have survived; but there is now growing up a feature of modern civilization quite similar in its intentions and perhaps just as successful in its efforts to delight people.

No great occasion is made of taking a

picture into a home and allowing it to relieve the grim walls for several months but just the same our traveling picture collection is in a quiet way brightening many homes and covering many a dark spot.

Every child loves pictures, whether they are the dear little kittens sporting with Corticelli silk or the great display of horses copied from Rosa Bonheur's canvas. One can always make up a story about a picture; give it life and it is a real friend. Then, besides getting used to looking at something with beautiful lines, something expressive and impressive there's the joy of actually pointing it out as one's own (for several months) and whoever has owned anything knows what the pride of possession is.

We read in the last number of the Bulletin about the influence of pictures and we were indeed convinced that a certain quality of serenity and calmness in loveliness tended to keep neat that plague of a girl's room, the top bureau-drawer. Since this is true what a boom to tidiness is one's art collection, and what an advantage it is to those whom it reaches!

THE PENNY PROVIDENT

The Penny Provident Fund is a very important feature of every Settlement. The primary object of a Settlement is to help people to help themselves, and surely there is no better way in which this can be done than to encourage thrift, and to develop the habit of saving.

The strongest proof of the desirability, I may almost say the necessity, of such a fund in every Settlement, is the eagerness with which the people for whom it is meant start depositing, and their consistency in continuing their deposits.

There is probably nothing that so much adds to one's self respect as the possession of a bank account. There is, of course, no opportunity to start an account in a regular bank by the deposit of perhaps a few pennies. It was to provide such an opportunity that the Penny Provident Fund was started, and the idea has developed until to-day there are few Settlements that have not such a fund in connection with their other activities.

Many deposits, indeed, very many, are transferred from the hands of the Settlement to the Savings Bank, and many a substantial bank account has had its humble origin in the deposit of a few pennies in a Penny Provident Fund.

In our own Settlement the force of the habit has been strikingly shown through the business depression of the last year. As an actual fact there has been a marked increase in the number of depositors, showing clearly that the benefit of forming the habit of saving is plainly under-

stood, and the opportunity for doing so appreciated.

Very recently a mother started a fund for her two year old baby, and the money is deposited with religious regularity. It is obvious that the effect upon the character of this child is bound to be a good one, and it is equally obvious that there are numberless cases where the habit of saving something every week, no matter how small the amount, is sure to help the character as well as the circumstances of the saver. The boy who has saved his pennies to buy a baseball glove and the girl who has deprived herself of candy and banked her spending-money to buy a pair of shoes will each get a double pleasure in the purchase. Whereas the child who has the patience to save up to the five-dollar or bank account stage has signed his own individual Declaration of Independence as far as personal pride goes and having learned the lesson of thrift is an excellent example for his friends.

AN OPEN ROAD

How vital is personal interest! And where one is interested,—I mean that kind of interest which reaches into the very soul of being—there we find effort and happiness. The earnestness of the new comers to our city in their use of the means provided for their knowledge of this country and its language is vital. Someone has said: "The more things thou learnest to know and enjoy, the more complete and full will be for thee the delights of living." The kind of things that are learned and felt in the evening school truly enlarge the capacity of enjoyment. The manner of adaptation and presentation of the subjects is so impressed, that the foreigner who brings a new friend often says, "My class too hard, first class for him." One teacher expressed the thought very suggestively, "There are two men who are like thermometers for our Class because I can tell by their faces when the lesson is within their comprehension and when it is not."

Tailors, shoemakers, button makers, boys and men from lantern factories, from chair factories—there is hardly an occupation not represented—and from each materials of various sorts are gladly brought for study. These people bring of themselves and ever are gaining broader views of each other's work and life. Co-operation is manifested from the exhibition of how to put a handle on a lantern and how to cut a shoe from a pattern until the actions have been translated into words, placed on the blackboard in sentences, read and copied into each note book. This note book comes every evening and is a valued possession. In a class recently, reference was made to certain knowledge gained last year and the page was found, on which

the information had been carefully written. How quickly it proved the man's memory was correct.

In the classes that are ready for the civic ideas, there is an eagerness shown by the many questions and the willingness for hard work. The subjects are based on the various departments of city government and management from electing city officers to water supply, etc. Then the short reading lessons from well adapted text books supplement the work, with discussions later by the men.

An alien was recently sent from the city hall to evening school, before being allowed to take out the first papers. This is the aim of the whole curriculum, to make good citizens of the new comers and the men and women who come are constantly expressing their thanks for this, their opportunity. Indeed, appreciation is a big element in the success of what is being attempted, and appreciation is one of the deepest and best characteristics of a good countryman.

ALL ARE SOLDIERS OF RIGHT OR WRONG

Right started out for a walk one day
His face was fair to see—
I heard him sing in a merry way
"Ah, World you belong to me."

He met with Wrong in a narrow pass
They battled the live-long day
And when night came but a mangled mass
Held down by the Wrong he lay.

Wrong shouted a glad triumphant cry
Away on his path he sped
To every one as he hurried by
He whispered that Right was dead.

But Love and Justice were near to Right
They nursed him and made him strong
Until he arose in wondrous might
And darted away for Wrong.

They've met in many a deadly fray,
For them do the millions fight.
Are YOU a soldier of Wrong I pray?
Or battling your best for Right?

—CORA B. RUPPERT

GOOD TIMES.

Do you remember the wonder that little candy-store animals were to you when you were a little girl or boy? They were almost better than real live ones. A stork, several chickens and a rabbit paraded the table before the blissful gaze of the Kindergarten babies on the morning of March fourth. Candy and cake gave a substantial quality to the feast of the eyes. The fourth of March was a great occasion in several places.

The girls of the Pansy Club are very busy making many beautiful garments for the club's adopted child—a lovely big doll. Sometimes the foster-mothers show that they can still be frivolous, for I am afraid their games and stories are given almost as much time as the sewing.

ROBIN REDBREAST

Down from a treetop falls a tremulous
Tinkle of song,
Lilt of a shallow brook, a-trickle-on stony
bed;
Hearken, the sound enthalls! for Robin,
in jacket red,
Northward has winged to tell, Spring
comes with her flowery throng!
Robin, our blithesome bard, our minstrel
of hope and cheer,
Voice of the new delight that waits down
the April way!
Grayness of March grows bright, as we
list to his roundelay;
Singer of faith unmarred, proclaiming the
fuller year.

FRANCES W. WILE.

ON THE OUT-OF-WORK PROBLEM

It is true that some efficient workmen are sure to be out of work in hard times. It is one of the most tragic phases of these periods of depression that such men, accustomed to doing good work and earning good wages, can do nothing to keep their families from want, just for lack of a job. But in good or bad times, always, the great majority out of work are incapable—the slow, awkward, or untrained workmen, those who know only one kind of unskilled labor, and do not know that very well. These are the men for whom it is so difficult to find a job, try as one will, for one can not truthfully give them a good recommend for their own line of work, and they can not easily be turned to some less crowded occupation.

Every boy and girl has a chance at the outset of their careers to raise themselves out of this class of laborers. The night school, the trade school and the business college offer plenty of opportunity for training one's self to become an efficient worker in one's chosen line. To be sure, the needs of the family often oblige children to go right to work without any preliminary training as soon as they leave finished school, but the night school enables them to be learning some skilled labor while they are already engaged in an unskilled and more poorly paid occupation. Those who are weak or crippled in any way might seem to be an exception, but if care is taken in the selection of an occupation and plenty of time given to learning it in the school, there is no reason why less strenuous kinds of work should not furnish an independent livelihood for the handicapped member of society.

It is up to the boy or girl not to be in too much of a hurry, but to make good use of these opportunities to become a valuable worker before he or she has grown hopelessly into the class of commonplace or poor workmen. It is up to society at large to realize what a valuable asset schools of this variety are, and to do all it can for their advancement.

AN ODE TO SPRING

Spring, Spring, beautiful Spring,
How sublime in my memory art thou!
For doth not thou bring
The joyous ring
Out of hearts both old and young?
Then let us sing of the beauties of Spring
With happy anticipations.

Spring, Spring, beautiful Spring,
With thee cometh a bright sensation,
And the birds a-twittering near
Seem to sing in tones so clear
"Ah, our best season is here."
Then let us sing of the beauties of Spring
With happy anticipations

Spring, Spring, beautiful Spring;
The bees a welcome are humming,
For they seem to know why hearts are
aglow

And join in the preparations.
And Old Mother Earth is awaking her
children

The Violet, the Clover, the Rose and the
Tulip,

And all nature's flowers will soon be
agrowing.

Then let us sing of the beauties of Spring
With happy anticipations.

The bees are a-humming, the birds
a-singing,

The flowerlets waving assent;
And all human being are filled with joy
As they welcome nature's best work
again.

Then let us sing of the beauties of Spring
With happy anticipations.

—RAY MUSCAT
12 years old

A DESIRABLE CITIZEN

Continued from Page 3

the saloon-keeper, who saw the incorruptible fairness of his dealings with them.

In his assistant-secretaryship of the navy he began reorganization and gun-practice in preparation for war, before the approach of war was apparent to many. As Governor of New York he controlled the situation, yet with no deals, no pulling of political wires and few vetoes. He simply talked over each bill with its supporters and opponents together beforehand and all objections were raised while they were still of some use in framing and modifying the bill.

It would be quoted in the funny papers if I should take upon myself the duty of proving that Roosevelt was a vigorous president rather than a passive one. The frequent reiterations of his presidential opinions have carried most of those opinions into the law of the land, to the great benefit of all under the law. Regulation of interstate commerce, an improved navy, respectful admiration from the southern republics and from several foreign countries visited by our fleet, and the Nobel prize honoring one of our fellow country-

men all remain to us as lasting memorials of Mr. Roosevelt's administration. It is hoped too that conservatism of the national resources, including the national children for whose protection a special government bureau is urged, are memorials still to come.

There are some who worship stability and order who consider that Theodore Roosevelt was too revolutionary in politics, too dangerous to the permanence of long-established institutions. There are also the Socialist thinkers who consider such strenuous efforts to reform and patch up the present system all but useless and believe that only a complete change to a better system can effect an improvement in the national life. Yet for the upholders of both these views there is something to be learned from Mr. Roosevelt's career; for is it not true that whatever the order of society it can only succeed when the highest office-holder and the humblest voter shall acquire a conscience of citizenship such as his.

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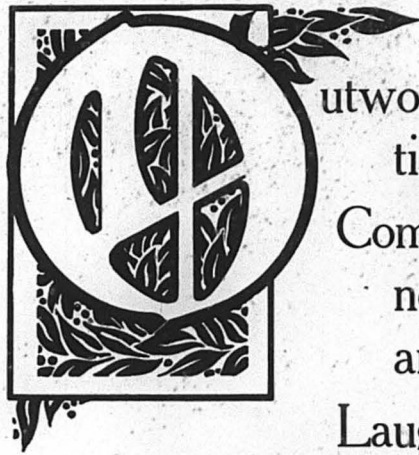
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utworn heart in a
time outworn,
Come clear of the
nets of wrong
and right;
Laugh, heart,
again in the gray twilight,
Sigh, heart, again in the dew of
the morn.
Come, heart, where hill is heaped
upon hill;
For there the mystical brotherhood
Of sun and moon, and hollow and
wood,
And river and stream work out
their will.

—*W. B. Yeats*