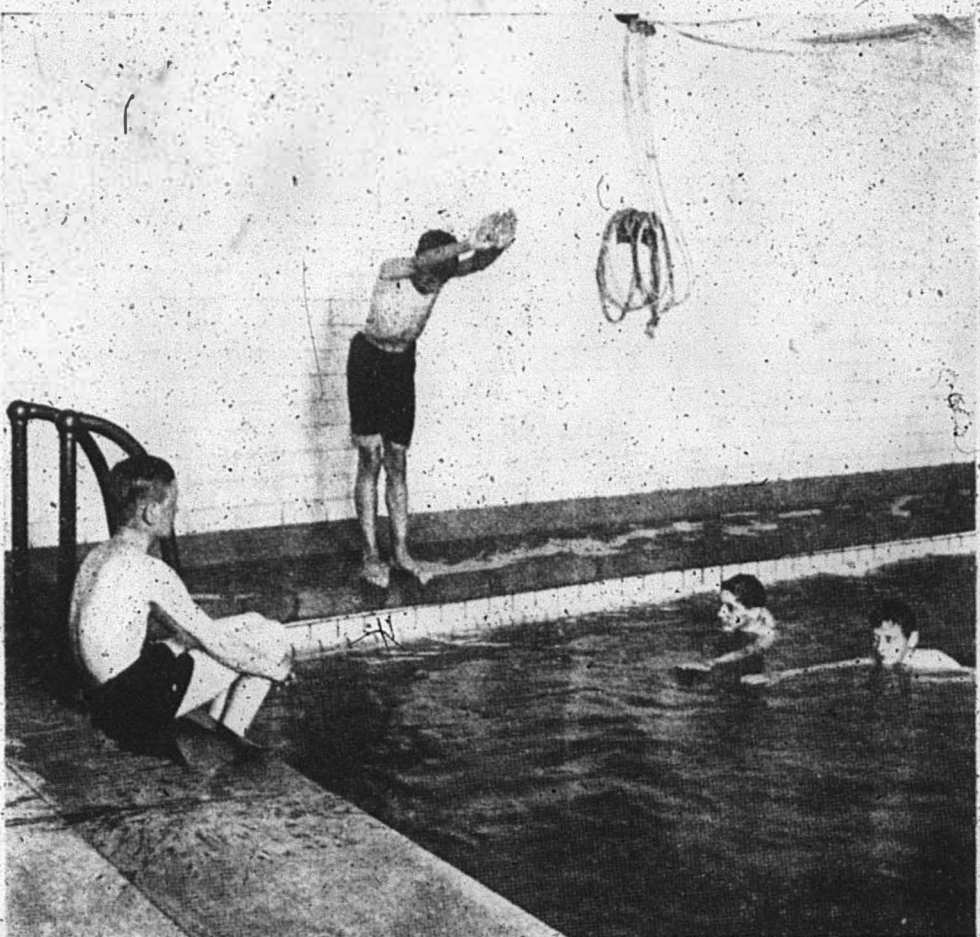


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# The COMMON GOOD

AN INDEPENDENT MAGAZINE OF CIVIC AND SOCIAL ROCHESTER

*PUBLICITY IS EDUCATION.*

*EDUCATION IS PREVENTION.*

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VOL. VII. No. 10

JULY, 1914.

New Series, Vol. IV, No. 10

## Can Our City Have a Municipal Ice Plant?

By E. P. Goodrich

Consulting Engineer of the Borough of Manhattan

Two recent events have served to arouse a more active interest than heretofore in the manufacture of ice as a municipal enterprise. These are the strike of workers for a private ice business in Cincinnati, which was settled by the company only after the city had taken possession of the ice-making plants; and the appropriation by the Board of Aldermen of New York of \$32,000 for a municipal plant in the Hall of Records to supply ice to the city departments.

While very little definite action has been taken in the United States in the direction of municipal ice production, some twenty odd cities in northern Italy have municipal ice plants, and information has been secured with regard to three or four in England. What are equivalent to municipal plants are operated by the United States Government in Manila and at Panama. The harvesting of natural ice by municipal agencies has been experimented with on various occasions by a few of the cities of the United States.

From a purely engineering and economic point of view, there is no reason why a municipality should not produce ice in connection with its power plants in exactly the same manner as is done by many private companies, such as electric light and power plants, breweries, milk bottlers, ice cream factories, etc. The estimated cost of making ice in the Hall of Records plant in the city of New York, and delivering it in wholesale quantities relatively short distances for municipal use, is \$1 for production and \$1.50 for delivery per ton. These figures are to be compared with an average of \$4.50 and a maximum of \$6.50 for the best contracts which have been made during the year 1913 for municipal ice in New York.

It is a well-known fact that the manufacture of ice in connection with certain private power plants has been found to convert an enterprise with a deficit into a paying proposition. Correspondingly, therefore, a municipal plant could be so operated under proper management as to increase the total efficiency of the power plant. *The Electrical World* described several successful ice-making plants operated by electric central stations. One of these items, for example, was headed "A 15-Ton Ice Plant as a 40 Per Cent Investment." An editorial in the same issue urged the Central stations to utilize during the summer months, in the manufacture of ice, machinery which would otherwise be lying idle, but which

ought to be earning its highest rate of return. It was pointed out that "the combination ice-electric plant utilizes the waste products and hours of light load of the electric plant for the manufacture of a very profitable by-product. The ice business shares the burden of operating, labor, office, real estate, plant investment and insurance costs, lowering the cost of electricity and making cheap ice. One set of employes and office help can handle both businesses, keeping themselves useful all the year round so that there need be no lay-offs."

Whether or not a municipality should undertake to distribute ice to people is a social and legal problem which each municipality must solve for itself. The city of Schenectady undertook to do this very thing on which would ordinarily be considered a commercial basis, but was restrained by the courts on the grounds that the furnishing of ice was not included in the enterprises which the city could undertake according to its charter. It is believed by many, however, that this legal obstacle has been removed by the municipal empowering act passed by the New York Legislature of 1913.

In three or four states special legislative acts and court decisions have been passed which give municipalities power to make ice if they take the proper steps to do so. In Minnesota, for example, the recent session of the legislature enacted a law which authorizes the board of water commissioners of any city having more than 50,000 inhabitants "to engage in the manufacture, gathering and purchase of ice, and the sale and distribution thereof to such city and to the several boards and departments thereof, and to the inhabitants of such city, and to acquire the necessary land, buildings, machinery and equipment for such purpose."

Section 2 of the law (chapter 305, Laws 1913) grants the power to condemn land, etc., in establishing the enterprise; and section 3 authorizes the raising of a fund not exceeding \$250,000 to conduct such an enterprise, through the issuance of bonds. Under section 4 it is provided that the water board "shall establish such prices for ice as will at all times insure a sufficient income to pay the interest and to provide a fund to pay the principal upon all the bonds to be issued under this act, as well as to pay all the expenses and cost of the maintenance and repairs of said ice plant and other expenses of operation and equipment."

This law was enacted in response to a popular protest against an increase by the leading ice company in St. Paul of its rates to consumers.

In considering the question of the legal right of any municipality to manufacture ice, it must be remembered that a city is a mere agency of the state for the purpose of local government, and has only such powers as are expressly or impliedly conferred by the state constitution or by valid act of the legislature, plus such powers as are indispensable to the existence of municipal government; and that, as repeatedly decided by the courts, any doubt as to the existence of a power in a municipality must be resolved against it. It is believed, therefore, that in any state whose cities have not a large measure of home-rule the courts may be expected to decide that the question of whether a city has power to engage in the ice business depends upon the existence of a clause in its charter clearly conferring that authority. — *The American City*.

# Housing The Community Spirit

Why Not Plan Our Country and Town School Buildings So They Will Adequately Serve All the Social, Recreational, and Educational Needs of the Community?

By Dwight H. Perkins.

Comprehensive planning of modern school buildings gives the opportunity to rural and suburban communities to secure facilities usually requiring several buildings for the price of one.

A modern school, if complete, includes an adequate and properly equipped playground and a building containing an assembly hall, gymnasium, kindergarten, domestic science rooms, manual training shops, administrative offices, library, rest room and kitchenette; as well as class rooms, corridors, toilets, sanitary and heating and ventilating apparatus and lighting facilities for evening use.

Does a community desire evening neighborhood meetings? It may have them in the assembly hall of a school that is rightly planned.

Do the people wish to dance after the evening lecture or discussion of national or local problems? If so the chairs may be hastily moved to a convenient store room designed for this purpose and the floor is ready for dancing.

Do they wish coffee and sandwiches after dancing? The kitchenette (used by the teachers for luncheon makes it easy to store and prepare the refreshments and serve them.

Do the young people—and the adults as well—wish to take exercise, under guidance, or take part in basket-ball or other athletic contests in the evening? The assembly hall permits that also for its walls are built of impervious material and gymnasium activities are possible—the apparatus is elevated or removed, the school toilets and locker rooms serve for the same purpose in the evening as in the day time and are adequate for both.

Do the citizens wish to read in a public library? The school library, with its separate entrance, serves the purposes of the citizens as well as those of the school children.

Is an art gallery desired? Panels between the columns supporting the end walls of the assembly hall provide picture hanging space and when the assembly hall is turned into a gymnasium these panels slide up into pockets, carrying the pictures with them and protecting them from injury.

Is it desired to establish polling places in the school and thus educate the children for their future obligations as citizens? Polling booths can be established at one side of the assembly hall without inconvenience or great expense.

Is it desired to have an evening dramatic performance either by the school children, by amateurs in the neighborhood or by professional actors? The kindergarten with its elevated floor at once becomes the stage and the separating curtains become the proscenium curtains.

Or do the people wish a moving picture show? The chairs for the auditors are turned around, the large plaster panel on the side wall above the voting booths becomes the stereopticon screen and the kindergarten, instead of serving as a stage, becomes an elevated gallery for the overflow.

The administrative offices for the school officials can easily be expanded—to accommodate city or town officers.

The teachers' rest room can just as well serve the mothers as not. Why should they not congregate there to become acquainted, not only with the teachers and the work of their children but with each other as well? When they come to town with their husbands the school should be their rendezvous.

The school may serve the men of the surrounding country as well as the women—why should not the Grange meet in the assembly hall and why should not the scientific problems of the farm be developed and illustrated in the school laboratories?

It has been found that planning a school for neighborhood center purposes, as well as for school needs helps rather than hinders the availability of the structure for educational work for children without appreciable increase in cost.

There is no essential difference in the needs of people congregating for a common purpose whether they be children, young people or adults and what has been found to be advantageous for one is also desirable for the other. School and neighborhood facilities, like "good rules," work both ways—each augments the other and each when available creates a demand for the other.

Does the community desire an out of door Fourth of July celebration or does it wish to have band concerts, processions, pageants and the like? What could be better for such purposes than the school playground with the public comfort facilities provided within the school building?

The present movement of society is toward democratic co-operation and centralization of activities. We have found that buildings can be designed to meet that movement and we are beginning to find out that buildings used for short periods or single uses only are wasteful.

Advantages of every kind are multiplied as time and use are extended.

If the neighborhood home, school and government are brought together the result is good for all. A building which admits such combination makes possible the universal solvent, for it has neither the limitations of the old-fashioned school, the church edifice nor the town hall.

Here is no Catholic, Protestant nor Jew as such, no Democrat, Republican nor Progressive, no young nor old, no rich nor poor, masculine or feminine,—but all of these drawn together and inspired to activity by their common purposes, education, recreation and self government may and will convene.—*La Follette's Magazine.*



"Here let no one be a stranger."

## Social Workers

should Remember to use

### Gannett House

when they want to introduce young men and women, boys and girls to Supervised down-town Amusements and Club life.

## "No-Where To Go In Rochester"

Chief of Police Quigley of Rochester, New York, believes it is the duty of his men to try to anticipate and prevent crime and not merely to arrest offenders. Here is a significant incident which came within his notice not long ago.

One night a cop in plain clothes saw two young women pause on a prominent street as two young men addressed them; smile; interchange whispered words and start with the men in the direction of a cafe.

No law had been broken, but the cop recalled that he had seen one of the girls a few evenings before drinking with a man in a place not above suspicion.

He took a chance. He "butted in." He approached the young woman, begged a word in private, led her a few steps away from her companion, showed her his police star and said the chief wanted to see her.

A hardened woman probably would have made a scene. This one didn't. She went with the policeman quietly to the station; where the chief talked to her as a good father would. Her story, later confirmed, was the old, old story.

Born in poverty, denied adequate schooling, she had had to work for self support. She toiled all day at tiring tasks for just enough pay to keep her afloat. With night came the human craving for companionship. But, alas, there was "nowhere to go"—nowhere but on the streets or into the cafes.

So onto the streets she went. Not to be vicious. Just to be human; to get some fun in relief from the strain of exhausting toil.

The chief informed her of the hazards of her choice. And fortunately, in this instance, was able to bring her into touch with a motherly elder woman who has perhaps saved her soul.

But we cannot hope to do as well toward all. Youth will have fellowship, wisely or ill. Isn't society to blame when there is "no-where to go?"—*La Follette's Magazine*.

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## From Doctor Goler's Annual Report

During the year there were 6,004 births reported; rate per thousand, 25.55. The number of deaths reported was 3,453; rate per thousand, 14.69. There were 2,922 marriage licenses issued by the City Clerk.

The rates for births and deaths are based upon an estimated population of 235,000. The deaths include non-residents to the number of 275; 92 of which were in the State Hospital and 183 in other institutions. The deaths do not include 256 still births. The reported deaths include all of the premature births. In the report for 1912 the statement was made that, "the reported birth rate of the city for the year was higher than that of any year previously reported, although it is believed that the birth rate falls short of what it really is." For the present year we may make a similar statement. The number of births reported is larger than for any previous year. The birth rate is also greater. Unfortunately,

however, this does not give us cause for congratulation. Hundreds of births are still unreported. Month after month the same physicians neglect to report births or report them late in violation of the law. Month after month and year after year the same unlicensed midwives practice midwifery in spite of the law; and, as if this were not bad enough, some physicians, members of reputable medical societies, are found willing to connive with this practice. Sometimes for a fee, and sometimes without, they are willing to sign birth certificates as having attended births where the *accoucheur* was an unlicensed midwife.

The number of unreported births in Rochester last year was about 500. This number is based on a careful record of the reported births of 582 children who died under one year of age. Of these children, 42, or 7.3% were found to have been unreported upon the birth register. Twenty or twenty-five of our physicians are guilty of neglecting to report the births of children. When they realize that the presence of a child's name on the birth register may some day mean very much to that child, then will they promptly report the birth of each child whose mother is attended by them, in accordance with the law. In the most densely populated section of the city, in an area of 8 x 7 squares, more than a thousand births occur each year. Many of these births are unreported, because it is here that the unlicensed midwife plies her trade. She does her work with more or less openness. She does it in spite of ample law. Notwithstanding her presence in Police Court and before the Grand Jury for the death of a mother in childbirth, because of neglect or ignorance, or both, we have never been able to secure a conviction; and her presence in Police Court and before the Grand Jury have only served to advertise her as a cheap and illegal practitioner of midwifery.

Since 1895, every midwife in this city, before securing a license to practice, must pass an examination before the local Midwifery Board, composed of two physicians and the Health Officer ex-officio. Before the Midwifery Board was organized there were 30 or 40 unlicensed midwives. This number has been gradually reduced until there are now but eight licensed survivals of the medieval midwifery practice and two or three unlicensed midwives. When the law first went into effect, these 30 or 40 women attended one-third of all the reported births. Now the licensed women attend less than one-fifth of the reported births. All midwives should be classed as irregular practitioners of medicine, whose business it is to make additional work for the gynecologist and internist in after life. That we are not alone in this belief I quote from a paper on "Popularizing Health Conservation," by Dr. Lee K. Frankel, read before the American Life Convention at St. Paul, Minn., on August 19, 1913, in which he says:—

"Very recently a committee of midwives, with their counsel, requested an interview. This was granted to them. It appeared that they took exception to a statement contained in our pamphlet, 'The Child,' in which the prospective mother was advised to have a doctor or to go to the hospital in preference to a midwife. The committee contended that this statement was ruining their business, since whenever they entered the homes of our policy-holders



they were shown a copy of the booklet, 'The Child,' and their attention directed to the statement respecting midwives."

The midwife should give way to the obstetrician and to the trained obstetrical nurse. And, to every mother who has to give a child to the family and to the State, the State, or one of its divisions, should insure to her the best of care, the most skilled nursing and several weeks rest. In many cities in Germany and France the poor, expectant mother is cared for by the city of her residence before her child is born, as well as during the nursing period. No such organized service exists in America, largely, perhaps, because we import our mothers to such a very great extent. The importance of pre-natal and post-natal care is emphasized by the fact that of 2,922 Rochester women married in 1913 nearly one-half will become mothers within a year, and that three-fifths of these mothers have no training for motherhood. Many of them go from the shop and store into marriage and motherhood, and a considerable percentage of their children are not born to live; they are born to die. From these facts we are to understand that the whole question of the matter is to be summed up in pre-natal, as well as post-natal care, and that for this work the skilled physician and trained nurse are necessary, and that the midwife has no place in this scheme of education for the welfare and future of the race.

#### CHILD WELFARE.

During the early part of the year a "Child Welfare" Exhibit was held at the State Armory, under the auspices of the Woman's Union, in co-operation with philanthropic and municipal organizations. The exhibit was open for ten days, and on several of the days so great was the crowd it was necessary to close the doors.

At this exhibit the Bureau endeavored to emphasize several facts relating to its work. It brought out the value of clean food and the clean purveying of food. It tried to make obvious the fact that health certificates are necessary before marriage; that if it is necessary to get a license to cut corns or embalm the dead, it is quite as necessary to get a health certificate before marriage to show that both contracting parties are in good health. John Morley said, "A bad marriage is about the most fatal blunder, and the commonest." This seems to have been the opinion of the philosopher; the psychologist, and syphilographer. Certainly more than one-fifth of the men entering marriage are gonorrhoeic, syphilitic, tuberculous, insane, or alcoholic. What does the average parent, father or mother, know about the man or woman the son or daughter is to marry? Is it not as Boris Sidis has said? "Open the eyes of your children so that they shall see, understand, and face courageously the evils of life. Then will you do your duty as a parent; then will you give your children proper education."

The campaign is now on against infectious disease, whether the disease be a contact infection, due to the diphtheria, or a so-called venereal infection caused by the organism of syphilis. The first step in this campaign was taken when the houses of prostitution were closed by the police. That there will be a long stride in another part of this campaign no one will doubt. It will be directed against habit-forming drugs and other habit-forming substances which make infectious diseases, including the venereal diseases,

as well as tuberculosis, more prevalent and more difficult to cope with so long as their unrestricted sale continues. The effect of habit-forming substances is, doubtless, reflected both in death births as well as in birth deaths. Of all the reported living births over seven per cent die before the end of the first year. Thus about one baby in thirteen dies in Rochester before the end of its first year, and out of 6,004 births 152 were premature; while there were reported (no one knows how many there really were) 256 still births. The fact that a large number of young married women become mothers without training for motherhood and a great number of their children die under one month and under one year, is a strong argument for the newer kind of child welfare work all the year round. And the further fact that 10% of all the children die between one and five; that in some years of the children in the one-to-five period nearly one-third die of diphtheria; and that nearly one-third of the same age period die of diseases of the lungs, are sufficient to make us ask why real child welfare should not be carried on all the year round, and carried to every mother who needs advice and instruction. Think of those who die—the little children; but think of the living children, with stunted bodies, asymmetrical chests, rotten teeth, running ears, who just escaped death to drag their bodies through a life of pain.

#### THE FLY CAMPAIGN

Following the custom of some years, the Bureau, early in the month of May, went into thirty-four public and parochial schools with moving pictures illustrating the life of the fly and the life of the frog, and tried to show to the children that flies breed in manure and filth and that they are carriers of disease. It is not alone dirt which is responsible for disease, but it is dirt which furnishes the breeding place for vermin, and makes it possible for vermin to carry disease. We tried to show that flies killed more children than lions, tigers, or snakes, and that the only way to get rid of flies is to clean up. Still later the Bureau was able to approximately estimate the number of horses in the city to the number of 15,000 and the number of automobiles at 6,000. It was able to show further that the average output of each horse consists of thirty pounds of manure and eight pints of urine, and that the average manure dropped by these animals was over 82,000 tons annually; that such a quantity of manure would make a pile covering an acre of ground 175 feet high. If every pound of this manure exposed furnished a breeding place for 100 flies, we should have, as a result, 16,400,000,000 flies breed in this pile of manure in a single season. To popularize the knowledge relating to flies, the Bureau secured 10,000 fly swatters and a large number of fly traps, and with the aid of the Consumer's League Committee of the Woman's Union and the philanthropy of Mr. Albert Eastwood and Mr. H. B. Graves, we were able to offer for a limited period prizes for flies delivered to the Health Bureau, and also to pay at the rate of ten cents per hundred for all flies brought to the Bureau by the children on one Saturday, June 14th. This was done but once and only for the purpose of interesting children, as well as citizens, in the campaign against flies, dirt, disease and death. We paid, in prizes, \$6 and for flies, \$194.90.

## MILK

Of the 227 milk dealers in Rochester four are selling milk without a license.

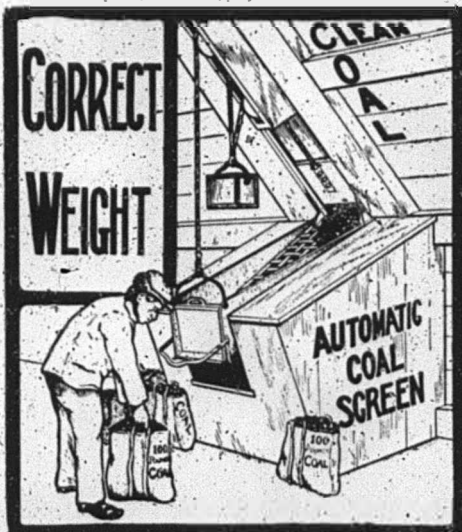
Notwithstanding the difficulties in the way of producing, preparing, and delivering reasonably clean milk, the character of the milk supply has been good. More than 95% of the dealers supplying Rochester have ice; more than 100 ice houses of the Rochester pattern have been built; and more than 95% of the dealers have milk rooms.

The condition of the cream supply for the breakfast tables and for ice cream is, in many instances, quite as dirty as clean sewage. Only a very few dealers sell cream for making ice cream or sell ice cream that is fit for human consumption.

In the past year since we have begun to use the Lorenz milk sediment tester, the milk producers have begun to use large quantities of absorbent cotton, so that now much of the milk that comes to the city is visibly clean, because by this practice the visible dirt is taken out. In this way strained milk appears to be cleaner, and because of the removal of the coarser particles of dirt it may be cleaner, but the end should not be sought by such means. The milk producer who is desirous of making clean milk will resort to care in handling his product rather than to means for straining out the dirt.

## Deep Valley Coal

20 Bags to the Ton



MILLSPAUGH &amp; GREEN CO.

C. S. KELLOGG, Manager

OFFICE, 9 STATE STREET

## COME IN!

OUR BEST JEWELRY IS INSIDE.

Prices Consistent

Really Consistent with Quality

If you knew the Rochester house at which to buy your Jewelry, you would never think that Jewelry adds to the cost of living.

Don't Wait Till You Pass,  
Make a Special Journey

To

Ellery A. Handy

JEWELER

88 State Street

## THE DANGER LINE

A wealthy typewriter manufacturer died recently leaving a large estate and a reputation of eccentricity. Three times in his life he was tested for sanity, it being shown that he gave 520 shares of stock to his employees and scattered ten thousand pennies among the children. Pennies have been scattered among children by perfectly sane people, but to allow at large a man who gave to some workingmen what was already theirs—this was a menace to the well-being of society.

A little luxury like Benevolence can be allowed to our aristocracy, but when they begin to indulge in a dangerous recreation like Justice, it is time the law stepped in and restrained them.—*The Masses.*

A child should never be regarded as a criminal, but as a victim of crime. No child can create his own environment. Boys have often been punished for wrong-doing when it would be just about as sensible to whip a child for having diphtheria or typhoid.

## TELEPHONE GIRL'S EYES

There are in the United States about 125,000 telephone girls, whose average term of service is three years or less. The working hours are about eight per diem; the average number of calls is about 140 per hour, running, "at the peak," to 225 or more. The operator sits facing a switchboard which is covered with numbers, each number having a small signal light that flashes on and off as the call is completed. When the person calling raises his receiver, a light flashes on the switchboard at "central," and this light continues to burn until the operator "plugs" the number and receives the call. She then plugs the number called for and this light burns until the called person raises his receiver from the hook. When the receivers are finally replaced on their hooks, both lights flash and burn until the operator removes the connecting plugs. To complete one call means four flashes of light. As the average number of calls is 140 per hour, with 225 or more during the rush hours, the operator's eyes are exposed to from 500 to 1,000 flashes of light every hour, resulting in fatigue to the eyes, to say nothing of the mental and physical strain under which the operator constantly works. The Bell System in 1911, spent \$720,953 for rest-rooms and lunch-rooms for the operators, and it has secured sufficient air space and good illumination, yet, although only young and healthy girls are selected; the average length of service does not exceed three years, reports the American Medical Association. The symptoms of eye-strain which the girls develop are headache, dullness, indigestion, exhaustion, nerve strain, insomnia, colds, and so forth. The two or three short years of telephone work possible to the girls, as well as nine-tenths of all their suffering, is probably due to the constant near-range eyework, without proper protection for the eyes.—*La Follette's Magazine.*

## ROCHESTER'S "WHITE WINGS" TOOK THREE YEARS TO FLY HERE

"Some kind of uniform, either white or light brown, is greatly to be desired for Rochester sweepers. It would be of both practical and aesthetic value, and has justified itself, I believe, wherever introduced. The objection was raised that the men demur at the expense of laundering these suits. The city pays these men (mostly old and decrepit) twenty-two cents an hour for an eight-hour day, and if suits are furnished in addition, it is surely no hardship to require that the men shall keep them clean. The lack of uniform and proper clothing for the street cleaners detracts much from the vista of the cleanest street."—*Sanitary Survey of Rochester*, 1911; by Carloline Bartlett Crane.

"Commissioner of Public Works Pierce's "white wings" made their initial appearance of the season this morning in the downtown district. Only regular crossing and station men will be clad in the neat white duck uniforms, and the possession of a uniform also means that the wearer draws the increased laborer's pay of \$2 per day."—*Union and Advertiser*, June, 1914.

## WHY ROCHESTER IS MILDLY PROGRESSING

By Livy S. Richard

One-time Editor of The Rochester Evening Times.

As I look back over an interval of years, it seems to me that you are still too afternoonish, too comfortable, too willing to worship the great god "Respectability" to be more than mildly and politely progressive.

Humanly you are the salt of the earth; but the trouble with you is that too many of you know it.

It's bully fine to sit around a groaning board and hear some earnest chap talk reform; but it gets nowhere. To get somewhere takes money and work and a hide like a rhinoceros and the zeal that will go to jail or to hell if necessary. And that's not a bit comfortable, is it?

So I can't say I see very much prospect of striking changes in the future of the progressive movement in Rochester, viewing it at long range. I imagine your landlords will continue to pocket the values which working people create; your owners of great industrial plants will continue to pay as low wages as they can get workers to stand for, and your big and little merchants to charge as much as the traffic will bear.

But in these respects you won't be alone—the other cities of our glorious republic will keep you company.

Undoubtedly; though slowly, all of us are building up better social standards, raising the level of the common conscience and so advancing the common good. Whether a fellow is satisfied with the pace of this advance depends, I fancy, upon two things: (1) whether he has a hopeful temperament, and (2) whether he and his family are well-to-do.

Prosperity comes from the ground up. If the folks nearest the ground can be kept contented with bearing the rest of mankind on their bowed backs, as they have been doing these thousands of years, and not begin to buck, you in Rochester may go on mildly progressing quite awhile, with things not much changed.

I hope they will buck, muss things up and reorganize society democratically. I say I hope, but I'm not going to make a single prediction.

Anyhow, Godspeed to all who are doing the best they can to lift the average of opportunity and welfare.

*If* your boy is venturesome he's just a real boy. The more of a real boy he is the more he needs to be cautioned about the danger that lurks in climbing poles and fooling with wires. Have you cautioned him?

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## ON MY WAY DOWN TOWN AND HOME AGAIN

**L**ITTLE PARK THAT I PASS THROUGH,  
I CARRY OFF A PIECE OF YOU  
EVERY MORNING HURRYING DOWN  
TO MY WORK-DAY IN THE TOWN;  
CARRY YOU FOR COUNTRY THERE  
TO MAKE THE CITY WAYS MORE FAIR.  
I TAKE YOUR TREES,  
AND YOUR BREEZE,  
YOUR GREENNESS,  
YOUR CLEANNESSE,  
SOME OF YOUR SHADE, SOME OF YOUR SKY,  
SOME OF YOUR CALM AS I GO BY;  
YOUR FLOWERS TO TRIM  
THE PAVEMENTS GRIM;  
YOUR SPACE FOR ROOM IN THE JOSTLED STREET  
AND GRASS FOR CARPET TO MY FEET;  
YOUR FOUNTAINS TAKE AND SWEET BIRD CALLS  
TO SING ME FROM MY OFFICE WALLS.  
ALL THAT I CAN SEE  
I CARRY OFF WITH ME.  
BUT YOU NEVER MISS MY THEFT,  
SO MUCH TREASURE YOU HAVE LEFT.  
AS I FIND YOU, FRESH AT MORNING,  
SO I FIND YOU, HOME RETURNING—  
NOTHING LACKING FROM YOUR GRACE  
ALL YOUR RICHES WAIT IN PLACE  
FOR ME TO BORROW  
ON THE MORROW.

DO YOU HEAR THIS PRAISE OF YOU,  
LITTLE PARK THAT I PASS THROUGH?

—HELEN HOYT, in Poetry