

The American Civic Association

The National Movement toward Civic and Rural Improvement

An organization which represents the consolidation of two organizations by the same token should have an especial appeal to the American public; and such a body is found in the American Civic Association. This Association marks a distinct epoch in American development — the coming of the time when the reign of the Almighty Dollar is to be disputed by the love of beauty, which has heretofore remained dormant in the hearts of our people.

For some years there were two bodies working in this field — The American Park and Outdoor Art Association and the American League for Civic Improvement. The American Civic Association, the result of this merger, represents about four hundred and eighty local improvement organizations.

The Association proposes to agitate constantly the improvement in appearance of cities, towns, villages, farms, and roadsides, and to bring a steady and direct influence to bear so that its force may be expended in a way to secure results.

The Association's work has been divided into the following various departments: Social Settlements, Outdoor Art, Parks, Arts and Crafts, Children's Gardens, City Making, Factory Betterment, Libraries, Public Nuisances, Public Recreation, Railroad Improvement, Rural Improvement, School Extensions, and the Press.

Invitations to become members are being sent out from the office of the American Civic Association, North American Building, Philadelphia. It is not intended to confine the invitations to the persons to whom the letters are addressed. It is desired that it be publicly known that all men and women interested in civic and rural improvement generally, and in the improvement of his own community in particular, are heartily invited to lend their support to this national organization.

The Ossoli Club last year formed a Civic Improvement Committee with a two fold purpose. First, improvement in relation to the schools and, second, the promotion of outdoor improvement in this city.

The first thing accomplished was the establishment of a reference museum for the schools. A Committee was appointed for the purpose, donations were requested and given and the High School provided the necessary room for the museum.

In the spring the committee sold 120 packages of aster seeds at one cent apiece to the school children, the flowers to be grown at their homes and in the fall 98 children brought their exhibits to the school at the appointed time, were judged and prizes were awarded to those having the best specimens. There were one dollar deposit in the saving bank for the five first prizes, fifty cents for the five second best and five blue ribbons for honorable mention.

This Civic Improvement Committee have plans for the promotion of city improvement and the advancement of landscape art for the coming year, but as yet the plans are too indefinite to publish.

Ravinia Theatre

Another treat is in store for us at Ravinia Park. On Wednesday evening, December 21st the Evanston Musical Club, under the direction of Prof. P. C. Lutkin of the Northwestern School of Music, will render Handel's sublime oratorio, "The Messiah". The chorus will be assisted by an orchestra composed of members of Theodore Thomas' Chicago Orchestra and by the following soloists: Soprano, Miss Clara Williams; alto, Mrs. Alma Johnson Porteous; tenor, Theodore VanYorx; bass, Albert Borroff, and Mr. George G. Seeley as organist.

The residents of the north shore are appreciative of the opportunity they have of such excellent entertainment so near at hand. And a word of thanks to the management of Ravinia Park will be seconded by many for the high class way in which the Park is conducted.

Order of services, lectures and entertainments of the 27th Infantry, 21st and 14th Batteries at Fort Sheridan, beginning Sunday morning, December 18th, 1904.

Sunday morning Dec. 18th, at 8:45 o'clock, service in the mess hall of the Post Hospital, for patients. Subject of sermon, "Christmas Preparation".

Sunday morning, December 18th, at 10 o'clock, service in the Post Chapel, for the garrison. All are invited. Subject of the sermon, "Christmas Preparation".

Sunday morning, December 18th, at 7:30 o'clock, service in the mess hall of the Guard House, for prisoners. Subject, "The New Born King," illustrated with stereopticon views.

Sunday evening, Dec. 20, at 7:45 o'clock, Two Great World's Fairs illustrated and described with stereopticon slides, in the Entertainment room, by Mr. Bennett of Ravenswood, Ill. All are cordially invited. All seats are free.

Thursday evening, Dec. 22, at 7:45 o'clock, Christmas entertainment in the Amusement room to which all are cordially invited. Seats free. Prof. Muller's entertainers, Dr. Griffin, Mr. Rogers and others.

Saturday evening, December 24th, at 7 o'clock, Christmas tree and entertainment for the children of the Post. Entertainment will be "A Christmas Circus" illustrated. This will be in the Amusement room.

Next week Monday evening, December 26th, Christmas tree and entertainment for the prisoners, in the mess hall of the Guard House.

GEORGE D. RICE, Chaplain 27th Infantry.

Lake County News

The training school celebration, which was to be held December 29th, has been postponed until some time after the adjournment of Congress, as many prominent men who have been present can not attend on the first named date.

Highland Park, Ill., December 5th, 1904.

To whom it may concern:

Local union, No. 461, U. B. of C. & J. of A. a meeting in Goldberg's hall, Highland Park, on Monday, Dec. 5th, 1904, adopted the following resolution:

Whereas, the officers at Fort Sheridan issued an order that all workmen be vaccinated and

Whereas, the reservation is open to the public to peddlers and floaters of all kinds and

Whereas, workmen on the outside heavy work that is to be done there would thereby suffer the inconvenience of trying to do such work with a sore arm and incur the risk of taking cold in same and possibly being laid up for some time, be it

RESOLVED, that until such time as the reservation is closed to the public by a sufficient guard that members of our craft in this district do hereby refuse to submit to the order and will accept their discharge as the alternative.

[SIGNED] W. J. WOOD, Rec. Sec'y.

EXPLANATORY.

To whom it may concern:

In view of the fact that the accompanying resolution along with the whole matter appertaining to the general vaccination order is to be submitted to the chief surgeon of the department, I beg to submit the following facts, the discussion of which led up to the adoption of the resolution by Local Union No. 461, U. B. of C. & J. of A.

In the first place the operators came on the men in open roofless buildings on the evening of the day that it was first mentioned and told them that if they did not submit they would have to vacate the Post, with the result that quite a number of the men who were rather slow in exercising their manhood allowed themselves to be treated before they had given it a thought.

In the second place the manner of treatment was anything but humane with the temperature and lake wind as it has been this second week of December. The men were baring their arm right in the open or even worse in open buildings, the vaccine injected and in many instances the clothing regardless of color would be rolled right back in place without so much as a bit of clean cotton to protect the wound. Then again there were instances where some of the men were jeopardizing their lives by procuring drugs and acids that they knew nothing about in the drug stores and applying it to the wound to counteract the vaccine and others again would step around the corner from the operator and apply a big chew of tobacco to the wound for the same purpose.

Then again a number of the men on whom the vaccination was effective, would probably try to work and put in their time when they should be confined to their homes if not to their beds, again imperiling their very lives.

Respectfully submitted,

R. J. O'BRIEN, Pres. Local No. 461.

The Port Clinton School

The children of the Port Clinton School are preparing to give a delightful little entertainment at the Highwood avenue Methodist Church, Tuesday evening, December 20th. A special feature will be the dramatization of some of the nursery classics, such as Sleeping Beauty, the Three Bears, etc. The little people have been carefully trained, and the program promises to be very attractive. The proceeds of the entertainment are to apply to the purchase price of a new organ which has lately been put into the school.

It is an interesting fact that Port Clinton building is the oldest school building in and around Highland Park. It was built about the year 1853. Some years ago this school was made a part of the Grammar school system, and the work of three grades is done there. Miss Kathryn Caryl is the present teacher, and the school is in excellent condition. That the patrons of the school and the teacher have been enterprising enough to buy an organ for it speaks well for the interest that is being taken in its welfare. The entertainment should be a great benefit financially. It is hoped that citizens of Highland Park will generously contribute to its success.

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