

GO VISIT "THE STATE COUNCIL OF DEFENSE"

LOCATED AT 120 W. ADAMS

You Can See What Illinois is Doing to Help Win the War. Every Clerk in the Six Stories Works Hard

Some day when you are exploring the downtown district turn in at 120 West Adams street and see what there is to see.

You may recognize the building, if you pay electric light bills, for this is where you used to come either to pay them or to complain about them. But it is all changed now. Nobody is making any money there; very few are drawing salaries, and the demeanor of the unpaid workers would seem to prove that it is just as much fun to work without salary as with one. A big business is being carried on, minus the strain and friction that attend most big businesses. There is a cheerfulness and a cooperative spirit a few employers can command. Uncle Sam, however, can command it, especially when he is at war. And this is Uncle Sam's war business that is being done at 120 West Adams street. It is his sign that surmounts the main entrance, although the wording of it is "State Council of Defense."

Hum of Industry Heard
Throughout this six-story building there is a cheerful kind of hum such as one hears in a big schoolhouse or a workshop of the better sort, when all is going well. A dozen main departments are being conducted, and some of them are divided into sub-departments—no telling how many—which in turn reach out into the very life of Illinois' remotest towns.

Perhaps you heard a "four-minute man" talk at your moving picture theater. He got his assignment here. Perhaps the women of your suburb held a meeting about child labor. Here they obtain their inspiration. Perhaps you received a bunch of mail—and hardly looked at it—telling how the boys at the front or in camp could have some fun without getting into trouble. That mail came from 120 West Adams street. You can get any kind of war inspiration you want there; you can pick up almost any war information you need, except as to when the war will end—and they may get to that after a while.

Where Crude Ideas are Moulded
These are the offices of what might be called the Illinois Patriotism Development Company. This is where crude ideas are assembled and moulded. This is the place to find out how you can do your part.

The first thing one sees upon entering the main doorway is that which he seeks in every orderly business block—a neat office directory. This is the first glimpse of the astonishing variety of industry within. "Food Commissioner," "War Recreation Service," "Naval Reserve Auxiliary"—the titles are familiar, but you had not dreamed that they, with so many others, flourished under one roof. And who supplied the roof? The Commonwealth Edison Company, which owns the building and used to occupy it, and now has turned it over, "all found," to the State Council of Defense. This was easy, because Samuel Insull, head of the Commonwealth Edison Company, is also chairman of the council. But it might not have been so easy if Mr. Insull had been less enthusiastic about "doing his part."

Information Bureau Busy
A counter on the ground floor with brass cages which used to shield bookkeepers or something of the sort, is now devoted to an information bureau. A number of clerks are answering the questions of a row of anxious faced men and women to whom the word "exemption" has become lately the biggest word in the dictionary. A few weeks hence the clerks will be answering questions of another sort, but just now they are explaining the draft law. A little clear information so often relieves despair and perplexity. A bent backed woman with some tattered bundles, goes away murmuring thanks. Good thing for her there is a State Council of Defense—and relief.

Work Down From Top
"We'll go to the top and work down," says the guide. "Easier to go down than up."
The guide is a person of authority, so nobody objects.

"Sixth Floor."
The main thing discovered is a headquarters for examination of members of the medical officers' reserve corps. Medical examinations? Yes. Doctors examine doctors. Doctors don't examine themselves for army work. There are some sharp-eyed, khaki-clad men writing at tables, and some others, in civilian clothes, waiting. Some of them

rather wan looking. It develops that examinations are held also for militia recruits with possible tubercular tendencies.

Down to the fifth where there is more hubbub. "Some kind of woman's meeting," explains the guide.

Women Learn of Registration

Thirty or forty eager-eyed women are seated in one of the rooms, some of them knitting, and all trying to follow what the patient-faced leader writes on a blackboard. It's about the registration of women for war service, and it looks complicated. The meeting presently breaks up and the leader remarks aside: "Well! I've been a school teacher, but I never had a teaching job as hard as this."

However, as the guide says, it is not so much a question of how much the women learn as of how far they acquire the zeal to learn.
In an adjoining room are seen a card index, a loose card file, a telephone, and a young man. And this placid spot is the headquarters, the range-finding dugout, as it were, for those batteries of four-minute men.

The young man finds our range and says:
Furnishing Speakers for Movies
"Yes, this is where we furnish speakers for the movies. Are you a speaker? Oh! Well there are 120 minute men talking in Chicago, and they cover 200 theaters a day. Five thousand talking throughout the country. How many do they address? Goodness knows. They send return cards giving the size of the audiences. Hundreds of thousands. A University of Chicago professor coaches lots of them. Lots don't need it. It's great—"

The telephone summons him. He explains later that Donald Ryerson, of Chicago, conceived the idea of the four-minute men, and that George R. Jones, of the Public Service Company is its principal director.

After a glance into the office of the engineering and inventions committee, whose job is to pass upon new mechanical ideas for the prosecution of the war, we pass on to discover, on the same floor, the offices of the military affairs committee of Cook county, a very important department which just now is developing the volunteer training corps and similar bodies, the publicity departments of the council, both masculine and feminine and finally the executive offices. We move thence downstairs again and find ourselves in the center of women's war work.

Center for Women's Work
Here is the office of Miss Harriet Vittum general chairman of this work. System and self-control are written everywhere. Even the little boy in the waiting room with his mother refrains from wriggling on his chair. There is only one vase of flowers there, and on the walls, instead of pretty pictures, are hung maps, placards, recruiting signs, and a large chart that graphically presents a vast program of meetings. There are meetings about sanitation, meetings about the welfare of alien women, meetings for registration. Pinned to this chart is a large notice urging owners of automobiles to take soldiers and sailors for a ride. Beside it is a colored map of Illinois with pegs representing women's committees all over the state. It takes a big supply of pegs.

Information? Certainly. Anything that is known or can be learned about women's work may be found out here. There is a home charities committee across the hall. Like to see its literature?

"You see," explains somebody, rapidly, "one object is to maintain the courage, the morale of our women while the men are away."

Look After Children Too
"And of the children," says somebody else.

"Yes, the children," conforms the guide, and he leads on to a room with a sign over it reading "Women and Children in Industry," where Mrs. Raymond Robins and several assistants are preaching the gospel of: "Children must not fight this war." The gospel is printed in a blue leaflet which points out that in Europe children have taken the places of men in the factories and that American women should prevent a similar evil.

Near at hand is a large meeting of women, with another blackboard and another earnest speaker. It seems they are getting a general survey of how to do their part; how to learn stenography, home industry, food conservation, and so on. It may take some of them a long time to learn, but, says the guide: "One object, the main object is to get these women to take home with them some of the spirit of this place. Let them learn something definite to do; and when they start doing it, it won't be long before they will be preaching patriotism to their husbands. Then, believe me, some of our luke-warm citizens will get a stirring up."

Wig-Wagging for Sailors
The ample quarters of the citizens' war board, which under George M.

Reynolds, is expected to grow in its work of centralizing much war work are found on the third floor. After this we pay a brief visit to a big, barren room where a young man is solemnly wig-wagging the signal code to a group of aspirants for extra good rating in the Navy; we poke our heads into an office, thus far unoccupied, but soon to house a most interesting department for training merchant marine officers; we greet for a moment Harry A. Wheeler, the benign food commissioner, who is looking for a place to store potatoes; we see where the War Recreation Service; the Boys' Working Reserve and the Women's Church Federation have their headquarters and still we have not seen all. Other activities are to be started, including a neighborhood committee, under Harold Ickes, for teaching patriotism in all its branches.

A return is made to the executive offices and we are shown the long room with its dark, plain wooden chairs and tables, where the State Council meets weekly and furnishes a good example of hard work and self-denial to the 250 or more workers in the building. And there is Chairman Insull, still busy, although the shadows are growing long upon the walls. Chairman Insull politely shifts the credit for everything to the council itself, wise members, if you ask them, will as politely shift it back.

Mr. Insull both have gone in to win in this matter of waking up Illinois. No board of directors with visions of dividends ever worked harder than the directors of the Illinois Company for the distribution of Patriotism. They form a very formidable body, with legal powers so sweeping that they have never fully tested those powers. But they have been more concerned about being constructive than about being powerful. And that is why 120 West Adams street has come into being.

"It would open your eyes if you could attend one of those weekly meetings," remarks the guide. "You would see among those men a number who, according to the popular version, exist only to make money, sitting there losing money with every tick of the clock. You would find they had passed up big conferences, missed the eighteen-hour train and everything to sit in and do their duty. These meetings are revelations of the way things move when there's a big, unselfish motive behind them. All kinds of people are on that council—Mr. Insull, J. Ogden Armour, Dr. Frank Billings, Victor Olander, the Federation of Labor man, Levy Mayer; B. F. Harris, the Campaign banker; John P. Hopkins—we won't name the whole fifteen, but we've named enough to show how diverse a lot Governor Lowden picked. Why, say, some of these men are getting together on war stuff who never agreed on anything before in their lives. They have seldom or never taken anything but a unanimous vote. And they're enjoying it. They come out of the meetings as jolly as boys."

He added, more gravely:
Not Carrying Out Own Ideas

"And here's something those men never forget: They are there to carry out not their own ideas but those of the National Council of Defense, which is an arm of the government. They may differ with those ideas, yet they carry them out with a fidelity as great as they show in their own business. It is their conception of a united nation, to whose good individual opinion should be subordinated, that makes them do this; and by doing it they are doing their part."

How can you do yours?
Well, at least you can turn in some day at 120 West Adams street, see what there is to see—and perhaps lend a hand.

Y. W. C. A. NEWS

Miss Humphrey opened her dancing classes Monday in the Y. W. C. A. gymnasium with a very good attendance for the first lesson. Miss Carrie Bagley of Oak Park, who has been her assistant for over a year will help her in her work here, thus making the lessons more helpful to the individual. Miss Humphrey comes fresh from the summer school of Ruth St. Denis in Los Angeles where she studied all summer and brings added preparation for her winter work here. It is earnestly hoped that all who contemplate entering the classes will do so next Monday.

A girls congress will be held in the Y. W. C. A. gymnasium early in October, which will comprise the associations along the north shore in Waukegan, Lake Forest, Highland and Highland Park. A very interesting program is being planned in which local and outside speakers will participate.

The rest rooms for women under the auspices of the Y. W. C. A. are proving very attractive and are meeting a long felt want as is evidenced in the many who make use of them every day.

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ELM PLACE SCHOOL

The executive committee of the Elm Place Parent and Teacher Association met in the annex office on Tuesday, and agreed upon a general outline of activities for the next few months. The opening meeting for the year will be on Friday evening, October 5th, and will have for its special purpose the meeting of the staff of teachers and the patrons. A short program will be given and probably some motion pictures will be displayed for the benefit of patrons who have not seen the new equipment of the school. One of the earlier meetings of the year will be given up to a discussion of the place of the public library in the life of the child, and Miss Judd, our city librarian will have charge of the program.

Some of the Elm Place teachers and former members of the staff spent last Sunday as the guests of Mrs. Luther B. Hill at Glen Ellyn. Mrs. Hill will be remembered by her maiden name as Miss Pearl McCord. She has a little daughter, Jean Caroline, who is now six or seven weeks old.

Another former teacher at Elm Place Miss Edith J. Smith of the University School for Girls in Chicago was a week-end guest of Mrs. Carleton Moseley and Miss Marian Moseley.

Nicholas Romanoff and his family have been moved. The Czar was much depressed, although he did not have to help with the piano or bicker with the man or pay the freight.

Before considering a change in embargo restrictions the exports council will expect Germany to tell how hungry Holland is.

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