

A Few Comments on the Work of the Wilmette Sunday Evening Club

A Distinct Place in Community Life

MR. EDWARD ZIPF, president of Wilmette village, says: "The Wilmette Sunday Evening Club has found a very definite place in the life of this community. Any institution, which, as this one does, brings the great people of the world to our doors from week to week to discuss the problems of the day is rendering a real service which can not help but be reflected in a higher type of citizenship and a better understanding of local, state, national and international affairs. The Sunday Evening Club is also doing much toward making Wilmette widely and favorably known as a North Shore suburb which offers the best in all lines of community activity."

A Distinct Contribution to the Village's Religious Life

Rev. F. C. Stifler, pastor of the Wilmette Baptist Church, says: "I regard the Sunday Evening Club as a distinct contribution to the Religious Life of the Village. It does some things which the Church alone could not do, and lends emphasis to Wilmette's reputation for wholesome church co-operation. The average minister in these days of world affairs is unable to really lead his people in the application to many of the great movements of the day. I regard it as a distinct aid to my ministry to have the Sunday Evening Club present throughout the year, the Christian aspects of the great political, social, educational, international and interracial problems."

Its Values Immeasurable

PROF. F. E. CLERK, the new superintendent of New Trier High School, says: "From the standpoint of religious psychology alone, the Sunday Evening Club has ample justification, while its social, moral and intellectual values are quite immeasurable. I am very happy that the program of this Club is available to the people of this community."

Inspirational and Provocative of Thought

REV. WILLIAM GUISE, pastor, Lutheran Church, says: "One of the best features, in my opinion, is the co-operation of the people of the Evening Club. All the programs which I heard during the season of 1922 and 1923 were inspirational and provocative of thought. The participation of the local pastors in the reading of scripture and the offering of prayer gives the proper emphasis to the religious note which is always helpful."

"The meetings also help to solve the Sunday evening problem along lines which the entire community, irrespective of denominational lines, can take some part. It should be made clear to every citizen that the meetings of the Club are not intended to displace the regular services of teaching and worship in the various churches but merely to supplement the same along lines which are of common interest to all."

Education, Information and Inspiration

REV. HUBERT CARLETON, rector, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, Wilmette, says:

"I feel that the people of Wilmette are very fortunate in having such a splendid organization as the Wilmette Sunday Evening Club. I doubt if there is a town of the size of Wilmette in the United States which has a club of this kind as well conducted and as helpful to the community life."

"One of the best features in my opinion is the co-operation of the people of the different churches of the community. It is a source of information, education and inspiration to the citizens, and especially to the younger element, which no one church could possibly plan to furnish. Any boy or girl, or man or woman hearing regularly the addresses at the Sunday Evening Club from so many of the leaders of public thought in the United States and beyond will be able to keep in touch with many of the current and pressing problems of the day."

"As one of the religious leaders of the community I am particularly pleased at the emphasis placed on the religious side in practically all of the addresses. I consider this a great help to the work which the churches are always trying to do. I am an enthusiastic believer in the Wilmette Sunday Evening Club and stand ready to help it in every way possible."

Renders an Important Service

MRS. R. E. P. KLINE, president of the Wilmette Woman's Club, says: "The Woman's Club of Wilmette gladly recognizes the important service rendered to the community by the Sunday Evening Club."

"The addresses and the music provided through this organization bring information, inspiration, moral and spiritual uplift, the broadening of the mental horizon, the better understanding of our human problems and stimulating attention and purpose to the proper solution of these problems."

"We further recognize the fine spirit of co-operation of the various churches which makes possible the fullest success of the club, thus making of the club a truly community enterprise."

"Our heartfelt thanks are due the executive committee upon whom falls the entire responsibility of the organization."

Well Worthy of Support

REV. WILLIAM A. COLLEDGE, D.D., pastor, Union Church, Kenilworth, writes as follows:

"In my opinion the Wilmette Sunday Evening Club is carrying on an exceedingly helpful work, well worthy of the support of the residents of the north shore. To have the opportunity at your door of hearing men and women of national reputation discuss many of the vital problems that touch human life, is a boon not to be considered lightly. The Sunday Evening Club is a credit to Wilmette and to every person connected with the organization."

Should be Done in Every Community

J. R. HARPER, Supt. of the Wilmette Schools, has this to say: "It is hard to estimate the value of the Wilmette Sunday Evening Club to the people of Wilmette. In my judgment it does the thing that should be done in every community, that is, acquaint our people with the great problems that are open for solution today. As we are able to meet face to face with the men and women who are taking the lead in the solution of these problems we have the opportunity of acquiring first hand information in a way that could not be had from magazines and books."

"Any institution that enlarges the sympathies and broadens the minds of our people as this club has done deserves the encouragement and support of every citizen."

Development of Community Spirit

REV. GEO. P. MAGILL, D.D., Minister, Wilmette Presbyterian Church, says: "Surely the churches and the citizens generally are interested in the best things for our community, and are therefore glad to co-operate with the Sunday Evening Club in the presentation of such programs as have been presented the past year."

"You have given to our people the opportunity, which otherwise they should not have enjoyed, of seeing and hearing some of the best speakers on the public platform. That this privilege is appreciated has certainly been evidenced by the attendance."

"Such an organization as the Sunday Evening Club should, and I am convinced does, develop a real community spirit for the preservation of our best ideals in our home and civic life. I have been especially pleased with the uncompromising support given to our great national and religious ideals and principles by so many speakers this past year. The need for this in such times as these is beyond doubt or debate."

Creates a Finer Atmosphere

REV. GILBERT STANSELL, pastor of the First Methodist Church of Wilmette, has this to say:

"Combining as it does the work of the public schools and the churches, the Wilmette Sunday Evening Club is a community builder. Messages, educational, religious and aesthetic, brought to us weekly by the nation's best talent, strengthen the thinking of the public school patrons and the church goers. This creates a finer atmosphere for teachers and preachers, and contributes to the progressiveness of our schools and churches."



Russian Cathedral Quartet which sang at the Wilmette Sunday Evening Club, Sunday, October 28.

A Particular Blessing to Young People

REV. LELAND-HOBART DANFORTH, Ph.B., rector of the Church of the Holy Comforter, Kenilworth, writes:

"The thought has always been in my mind that the Wilmette Sunday Evening Club is to the Village in a 'pamphlet way' the Literary Digest is to the reading public in a magazine way. This comparison has arisen in my mind due to the multiplicity of subjects presented in the course of each year, dealing with pertinent, practical and important subjects, which are before the world or the community, and interspersed from time to time with programs of a lighter nature, thus giving to the whole a 'spice of life.'

"Aside of the benefit which the thinking adult derives, it seems to me that a particular blessing is given to the young people of the village, for it tends to turn their minds into channels other than the usual course of social frivolity in which so many spend most of their free hours. Many young people have so expressed to me their appreciation of the programs. It is also a splendid thing that, in a community enterprise, God is not forgotten and that the churches of Wilmette have united in supporting this Evening Club, doing what they may to add to its success."

A Splendid Interpretation of Modern Thought

REV. STEPHEN A. LLOYD, pastor, First Congregational Church, Wilmette, says:

"I am asked 'What do you think of the Sunday Evening Club?'"

"Well, if one could take a Summer Chautauqua, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Chicago Civic Opera, the Preachers of the country, the Lecturers and Travelers of the world and the great musical organizations of all the lands, put them all together and select from each Company the outstanding individuals, he would have a fair picture of what the Sunday Evening Club really is and what it means to Wilmette, for through its agency there comes to all Wilmette citizens, who will avail themselves of the opportunity, intimate reports of political and economic conditions throughout the world, a splendid interpretation of modern thought along all lines of education and human development, and a presentation of the world's great classics by individuals, and groups selected from the very pinnacle of the musical profession."

"Of course one can never measure actual results of such a movement, but that it gives pleasure and contributes largely to the development of the moral and ethical life of the community is evidenced by the crowds that attend during the season, and the constant inquiry which comes to the Pastors as to when the Sunday Evening Club is going to open again for its new season."

"The Sunday Evening Club has established its place in the life of Wilmette. Each new year finds it better and stronger than the last."

Essential Community Enterprise

ERWIN W. WEBER, Editor Wilmette Life, says:

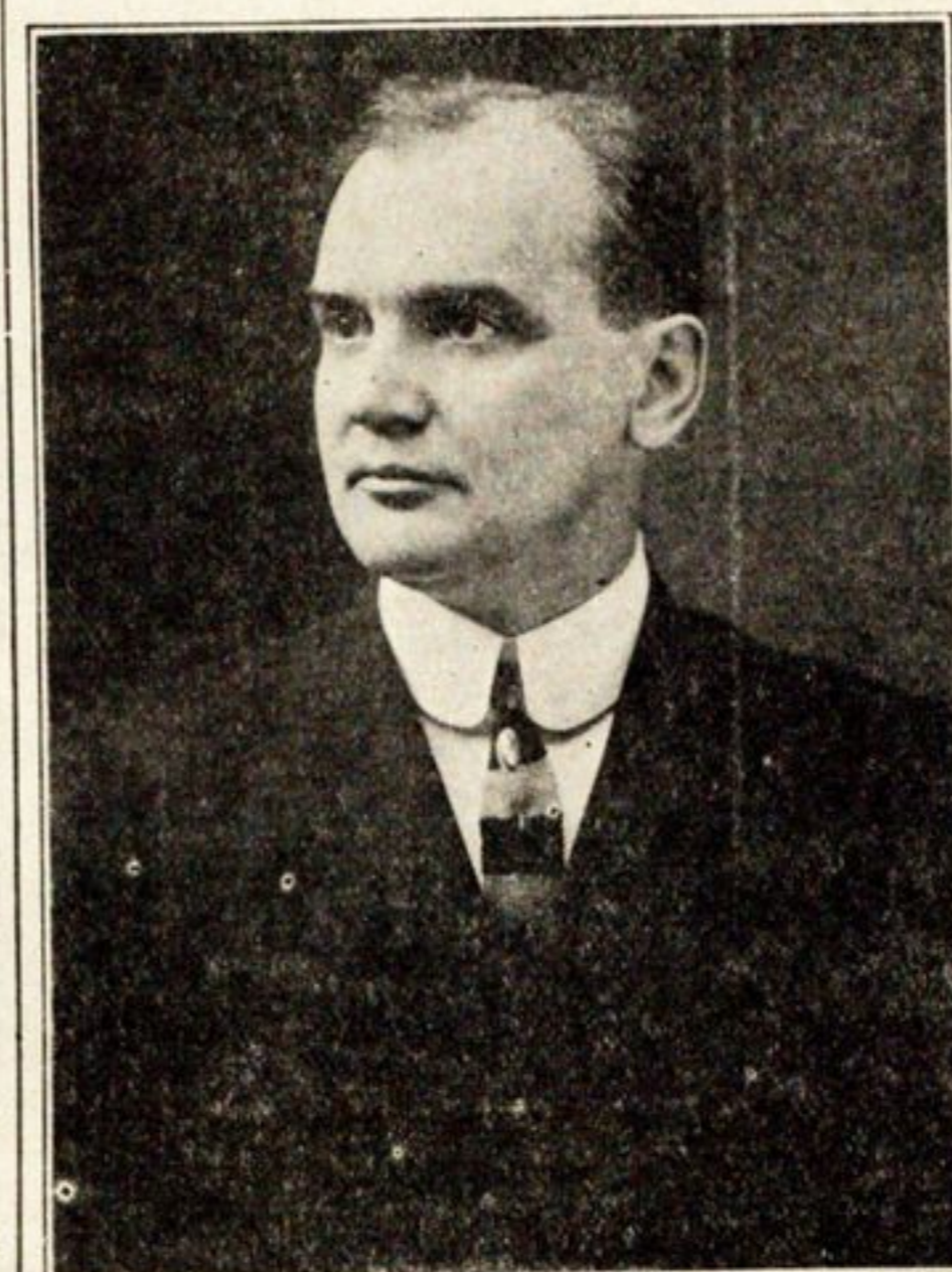
"It is my conviction—based upon several years' affiliation with New Trier's three community newspapers—that the Wilmette Sunday Evening Club is the most representative agency on the entire north shore."

"Not only does Wilmette accept it as an established institution, but the splendid influence of the Sunday Evening Club is felt in every village in New Trier township and surrounding territory. Readers of the Winnetka Talk and the Glencoe News, I find, are just as eager to get the advance notices of Sunday Evening Club programs as are the people of Wilmette and Kenilworth."

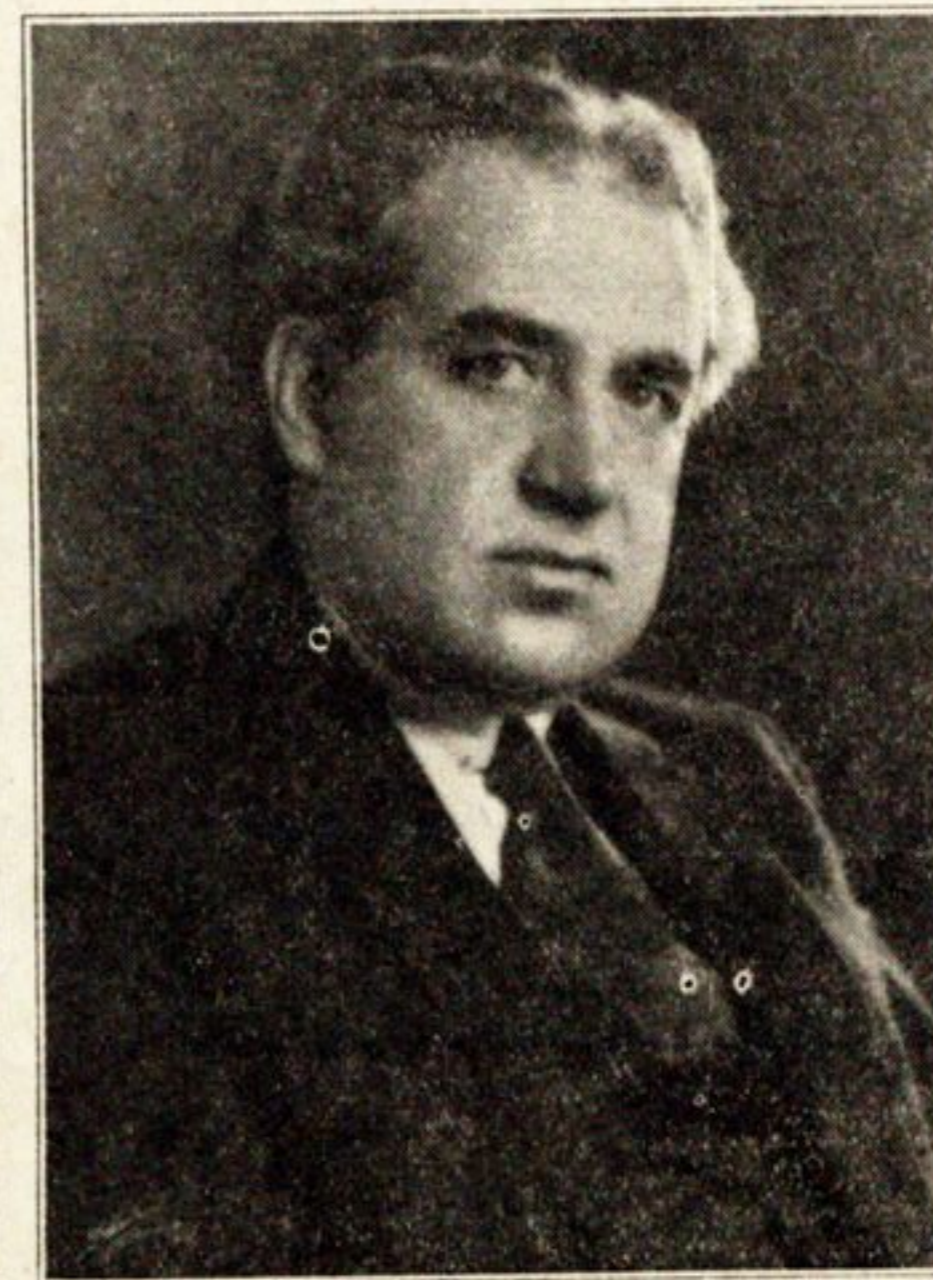
"The Sunday Evening Club is essential to the proper social and spiritual development of our village. My only fear is, that many of us do not appreciate fully the great amount of time and energy expended to make it our most popular and most representative community enterprise."

Comment by The Chicago American

MR. S. R. McKEEVER, the well-known editorial writer of the Chicago Evening American, recently wrote an article for that paper on the Wilmette Sunday Evening Club as a worth-while experiment in community life and cooperation. Mr. McKeever recently attended a meeting of the executive committee of the Wilmette Sunday Evening Club. He brought a photographer with him and took a photograph of the Executive Committee, which he used to illustrate his article.



Bishop Francis J. McConnell of Pittsburgh who will speak here Jan. 20.



Mr. Channing Pollock, author of "The Fool"

Some of Those Who Have Appeared on the Wilmette Sunday Evening Club Programs

- Hon. Calvin S. Coolidge, While Vice-president of the United States
- Hon. Thos. R. Marshall Former Vice President of the United States
- Hon. W. J. Bryan Former Secretary of State
- Hon. Frank O. Lowden, Former Governor of Illinois.
- Roger Babson
- Miss Jane Addams
- Dr. Frank W. Gunsaulus
- Mrs. Maude B. Booth
- Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis
- Dr. Herbert L. Willett
- Dr. Hugh Black Formerly of Edinburgh, Scotland
- Dr. Edward A. Steiner
- Hon. Henry J. Allen Former Governor of Kansas
- Dr. Henry Van Dyke Former United States Minister to Holland
- Sinclair Lewis Author of "Main Street"
- George Creel Head of the Committee on Public Information throughout the war
- Dr. Shailer Mathews
- Hon. Ben B. Lindsey Judge of the Juvenile Court of Denver
- Jeannette Rankin, America's first Congresswoman
- Bishop Chas. D. Williams
- Bishop Chas. P. Anderson
- Dr. J. Ross Stevenson, President, of Princeton Theological Seminary
- Dr. Henry Churchill King, President of Oberlin College
- The Raweis, Native New Zealanders
- Dr. Theodore Soares
- Frank McGlynn (Who played the part of Lincoln in John Drinkwater's great play.)
- Lorold Taft, Great American Sculptor
- Dr. Arthur E. Bestor, President Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, N. Y.
- Rabbi Stephen S. Wise
- Prof. S. H. Clark, University of Chicago, in reading of Galsworthy's "Strife."
- Private Peat, World War Hero
- Dr. H. E. Bundesen, Health Commissioner of Chicago
- Dr. W. A. Evans, Former Health Commissioner of Chicago and writer for the Tribune
- Hon. M. A. Kavanagh, Judge of the Superior Court of Chicago
- Fred B. Smith
- Raymond Robbins
- Dr. Chas. A. Eaton, Former Pastor of the Madison Avenue Baptist Church, New York
- Edwin Markham Author of "The Man with the Hoe"
- Marie Mayer, Who played the part of "Mary Magdalene" in the Passion Play at Oberammergau
- Prof. Ralph Dennis, of Northwestern University in reading of "If Winter Comes"
- Little Symphony Orchestra (Composed of 25 members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra)
- Apollo Club (50 members under direction of Harrison Wild)
- Association of Commerce Glee Club
- Chicago Women's Chorus
- A Cappella Choir of Northwestern University under direction of Dean Lutkin
- Oberlin College Glee Club
- Tuskegee Jubilee Singers
- Manuel Hall Chorus, University of Chicago
- Fisk Jubilee Singers