

Evening Ledger

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Philadelphia, Tuesday, December 15, 1914.

they have no means of obtaining it. Tuberculosis and other diseases of civilization are spreading rapidly among them. Conditions are so bad that Judge Brown, in championing their cause, pleads for the Federal Government to do something for the desolate people in the name of justice and humanity. Real conservation does not consist in sacrificing human life while preserving mineral deposits. Overanxiety for the natural physical resources of Alaska has led our Government to neglect the human resources. If Judge Brown's suggestions are carried out the Alaskans will not be pauperized, but will be provided with the means of obtaining their own livelihood. Co-operative stores, the establishment of fish salteries and canneries, the opening of farms for the breeding of fur-bearing animals, and the rounding up of all the natives in communities or reservations, will meet the situation and discharge the debt we owe to the people whose means of livelihood we have destroyed.

Not One Cent for Junk MILLIONS for ships and not one cent for American workmen! That, it seems, is the intention of Washington at a time when unemployment has deluged the charitable agencies of the country for months, and the crush of prosperity is still more prophetic than real.

There come from Washington a flood of proposals, all designed to throw the Government into private business and correspondingly circumscribe the opportunities for private venture. No business is conspicuously successful that Government ownership is not urged, and no industry has been practically legislated out of existence that it is not proposed to buttress it with national dollars, without in any way softening the statutes which have caused the ruin.

The President admits that our merchant marine has been strangled by Congress. He suggests no remedial measures, but proposes, on the contrary, that millions be taken from the Treasury for the purchase of ships. He is going to put the American flag back on the ocean if every dollar in the Treasury has to be squandered in the attempt.

Where will the ships be got? In American shipyards? No, the plan is to buy the derelicts of other nations, to spend vast sums in the acquisition of tubs. No wonder there are powerful influences at work in favor of the ship-purchase measure. There are steamship companies that would profit from it vastly. They want to unload; they see a chance to put their fingers into the public till and extract therefrom great quantities of gold. The junk dealers are out in force.

There should be no Government merchant marine. But if hysteria is not yet ended, and this latest blundering program is adopted, not one dollar should be spent except in American shipyards. The need is not so exigent as the public is asked to believe. There are plenty of carriers available for immediate use. Put the taxpayers' money back into the industries of the nation, underwrite with it the prosperity of our own establishments, revive the marine by revitalizing the builders of a marine, give American labor a chance. No money for dilapidated and worn out junk. Not one cent unless it goes into the pockets of American workmen.

A Nugget for Ambitious Youths IN THE latter part of this month a ship will leave Philadelphia laden with an exhibit of Philadelphia-made wares. It will contain also wares made in New York and Baltimore, and will be supported financially on its voyage by manufacturers of the cities named.

The voyage is to be 'round the Horn, or, in other words, the encircling of South America. Nothing is to be sold; resident dealers at ports touched are to be invited aboard to see "what the neighbor to the north" can do. In short, the sole object of the enterprise is to introduce and popularize in South America goods made in the United States.

Ultimately, to sell American-made goods will require the services of American agents of American firms in South America towns and cities. The language most spoken in Central and South America, aside from Brazil, where Portuguese is in the ascendant, is Spanish. There is ample opportunity, therefore, for the live, active, ambitious young American to learn Spanish if he would partake of the trade about to be realized.

For years to come Europe will present small opportunity to the aspiring youth of America, but South America presents a fertile field. Learn Spanish and go South promptly to learn Horace Greeley's advice, "Go West, young man, go West!"

The Wilson tango: One step forward, one step backward, hesitate and reverse.

Give Mr. Bursleson the wires of the country and he will take care of the news.

If the Government got the telegraph maybe the messages would be delivered almost as soon as special delivery letters are now.

The Kaiser's temperature is reported normal again, but his physicians do not refer to his fighting fever.

The estimate that it costs \$15,000 to kill one man in the war is just about as reasonable as the estimates of the number of men killed.

Washington is thinking too much about the prosperity of the Government and too little about the prosperity of the people who make the Government.

"The country itself is all right," says James J. Hill. Considering his usual pessimism the head of the Great Northern must be optimistic indeed.

How very seriously Schwab takes Bryan's peace program is indicated by his purchase of a proving ground near Cape May on which to test big guns.

The usual pretense of cutting congressional mileage from 25 to 5 cents the mile appears in the latest appropriation bill presented. The members are always in favor of the reduction except when they are voting against it.

The Mint officials are disheartened with the changes made in coin designs. When it comes to "minting" it is noticeable that there is often a dispute as to which is the "head" of the new nickels.

Colorado's new gold strike gives opportunity for scientific economists to prove their assertions that overproduction of yellow metal has caused the increase in the cost of living.

JOHN BARLEYCORN IS ON HIS LAST LEGS

Foe of American Home Will Soon Be Counted Out—The Brewers Prophecy Their Own Downfall—A Look Five Years Ahead.

By Rev. CHARLES M. SHELDON

THE end of the American saloon is in sight. The issue is the sharpest and plainest of all the issues in the country today. American has more great problems to the square foot than any other country in the world. There are times when the profession of reformer feels very much like saying, "The world is out of joint. Oh, cursed spite that ever I was born to set it right." But the fact remains that we are in this world to face its problems and work them out.

Among the problems facing the American people are, first, THE BIG CITY and all that goes with it. Men and women are giving themselves to the big city to make it livable. Second, the problem of the FEDERATION OF THE CHURCHES, that will be worked out by a series of evolutionary steps. Third, the problem of the Commercial Trust, which requires a whole government to enact laws preventing men from being too selfish. Fourth, the problem of Child Labor. Fifth, the problem of settling the difficulties between the men of muscle and the men of money. Sixth, the problem of Race Prejudice, which will be the next great question the American people might settle after the saloon has gone. Seventh, the Drink Problem.

Among all these problems, that of the American saloon is in some respects the greatest at the present time. It is a simple problem and not complex, as most of the others are. There is only one issue, and that is the American home, the best thing we have, over against the American saloon, the worst thing we have. Both of them cannot live together on the soil of a free people. The American saloon is going out, and the American home is coming in. The beginning of the end is in sight.

Perhaps the most striking proof of this prophecy is the changing attitude of business. Men in big cities who, five years ago, thought the saloon was necessary for business, now repudiate it because they have learned the facts concerning its economic waste. There has never been any revenue from a saloon, and in the nature of the case there never will be. Business interests are fast finding this out. Five years from now no business man in any city in America will defend the American saloon for economic reasons.

Chased by Warships As a little illustration may I give this personal incident? On the 6th of October I left Auckland, N. Z., on a British liner bound for Honolulu. Two of the German cruisers that have recently been sunk chased our steamship up through the Pacific and we landed in British Columbia. Not an officer or a member of the crew on that boat touched a drop of liquor during the entire trip of 19 days. They sailed under strict orders from the owner of that boat, who would not risk a two-million-dollar investment and a million dollars' worth of goods in the hold in charge of any man, from the captain down, who put alcohol into his body. What that steamship company put down as an imperative rule for its employees will be the recognized rule of all business in a few short years.

Another indication of the passing of the saloon and of the entire liquor traffic is seen in the changed attitude toward liquor as a medicine or as a beverage. The other day, in the city of Philadelphia, between 11 and 12:30 noon, I counted an average of 15 men in ten different saloons. In one hotel's bar I counted 79 men a few minutes after 12. Most of these men appeared to be well dressed. They looked like average business men. I venture to predict that if the American saloon lasts five years more, no business man will be found drinking in a hotel or saloon, because the great majority of them will accept the authoritative statements of science that alcohol is a poisonous drug, and no human being can put it into his body without great danger to his life. Hundreds of people who have been keeping liquor in their houses for emergency use are throwing it away or discontinuing its use. Sentiment along this line is growing with great rapidity.

Rising Tide of Opposition It is time the American people understood, in general, the rising tide of feeling over the country for national prohibition. Liquor prohibition here it seems impossible for a State prohibitory law to be enforced, are willing to turn over the matter to the National Government. Thousands of men who will not vote for State prohibition are ready at any time to vote for national prohibition.

It is time Uncle Sam went out of business as a partner of John Barleycorn. The so-called revenue he gets from this partnership is lost ten times over in the expenses caused in the American saloon through crime, insanity, pauperism and the actual loss of labor of years in a man's life. Russia reckons that she will save 500,000 men to the State in four years' time, now that she has banished vodka.

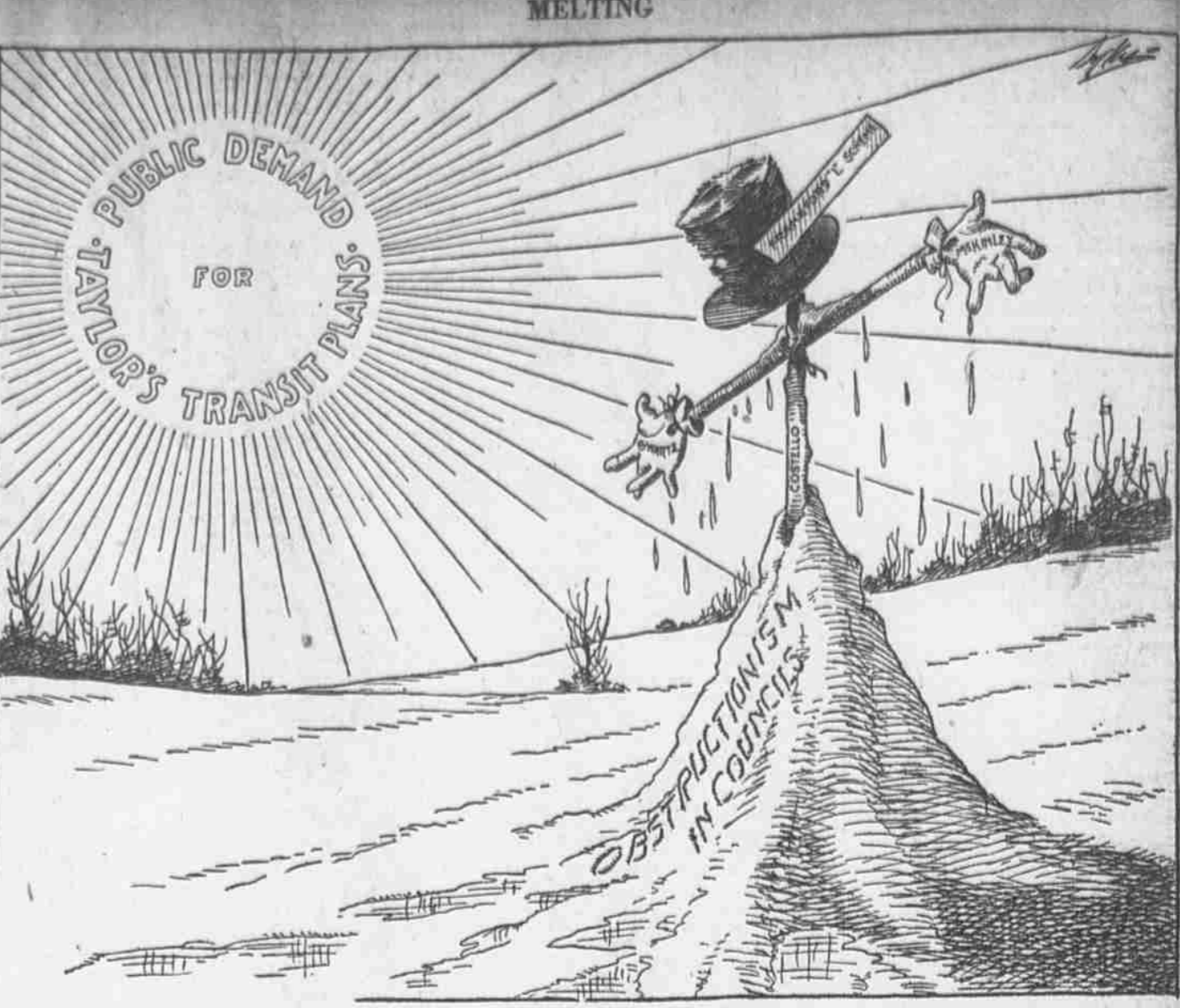
The American saloon has proved itself to be the enemy of the home, the school and the business welfare of the people. The brewer themselves prophesy their own downfall. John Barleycorn is on his last legs and will soon be counted out.

"BILLY" SUNDAY IN DES MOINES

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger: Sir—I note in your paper different articles on "Billy" Sunday. In your city, as there was in ours, there is much speculation as to what "Billy" may do next. I have heard his words some 20 times and can say that his influence will be felt further than the most sanguine dreamer ever dreamed of and thousands out of curiosity or otherwise, will leave the tabernacle and in reality lead better lives. One man here told me that he had not been in a church for 20 years, had condemned Sunday as a grafter, had even written him a letter to that effect, and now not only has he "left the trail," but has joined a church in the city and is making his experience and influence count for something. Another has repented and is making good, and I have known to be under the influence of rum for days at a time, and these are only two of the many. K. Des Moines, Ia., December 4.

HELP AMERICANS FIRST

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger: Sir—How sad is the condition that is prevailing in the United States! Here it is: We are sending millions of dollars, a lot of food and clothing to starving Belgians, but what are we doing to help our own poor, starving people? Nothing. Business is dull, many thousands of people are out of work in this country, as a result of the war, destitute, and it is said, "can't even buy a job." Suppose we were in the same position as that of Belgium, would the foreign countries help us out as much as we are helping them out today? The answer is, "No." We are not helping our own people. Do you wonder why crime is committed, when a man can't get a job and must resort to unlawful means in order to



gain an existence for himself and family? Then let us start a nation-wide relief movement for the poor people and let the spirit of 'good will toward men' prevail.

MORRIS STRAUSS, Indianapolis, Ind., December 8.

JEWS' FAITH IN UNCLE SAM

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger: Sir—Your editorial in answer to doubts of Jewish reaction, after the present war, on a "common basis" is proof of the security of Jewish reliance on American public opinion for judgment of claims of right by merit. The publication of "my beloved Jews" in cartoon and editorial by American periodicals and other mediums, also increases the confidence of the race in the justice of Uncle Sam.

FRANK K. GINSBURG, Philadelphia, December 4.

THOSE PRESIDENTIAL BOOMS

Mann, Whitman and Willis as Rivals—The Perfect "Lame Duck."

By EDWARD W. TOWNSEND

THE recent return of Mr. Herrick from Paris and its attendant Presidential boom give added interest to the activities and demeanor, and, so far as they can be discovered, the views of James R. Mann, Republican leader in the House of Representatives. With a hope of starting something I greeted Mr. Mann the other day as "Mr. President." He laughed, then shook his head and said: "All very pretty, very sweet, but there's nothing to it." In a more serious vein he expressed this as his views in relation to this interesting subject: "I think today the two men who should be most considered by Presidential slate makers are Governor-elect Whitman, of New York, and Governor-elect Willis, of Ohio. Each is from a State whose electoral vote is highly important; each comes from a State that has sent men from the Governor's chair to the White House, and each comes from a State in which political conditions are keeping national politicians guessing."

Unless my recollection is at fault there was once a Governor of Ohio known as "Fog Horn Allen," of whom it was said that he could make a speech to Cleveland or to Cincinnati quite as well from Columbus or from any other place. This, it may be guessed, was a delicate allusion to the volume and carrying power of his voice. In one respect, at least, Congressman Willis, now Governor-elect of Ohio, can fill the place left vacant by "Fog Horn Allen." He has a voice of singular resonance and carrying power. But that is not his only possession of merit. Like so many politicians from Ohio, like Garfield himself, Willis was a schoolmaster before he became a Congressman. He taught, I think, some branch of English, although he is an advanced scholar in mathematics, and also may have taught in that branch of learning. He can use that big voice of his readily and effectively in debate. He is one of the biggest men physically in the House since the translation of Ollie James to the Senate. He is a very good mixer and a genial chap withal. So that these qualities, added to the circumstances of his recent slambang success in Ohio and the circumstances regarding political conditions in Ohio, seem to justify Mr. Mann's opinion that Governor Willis must be taken seriously into consideration by those who are making up Presidential slates.

Lame-duck stories have been rather overdone, and for that reason I will venture just this one. Congressman Burke, of South Dakota, a Republican, unexpectedly met defeat. We all remembered him as an alert, vigorous, upstanding, quick-stepping man, so when he returned on Monday and entered the House chamber so lame from rheumatism that he was adding his progress with two crutches, the situation threw all sympathy to the dogs and there was a howl of laughter. Poor Burke! He bore the chaffing good naturedly, although 200 or 300 men said to him, "Well, old chap, I have heard of lame ducks, but I never thought I would see one who required crutches to walk with."

THE RUSSIAN COMPOSERS

These are the acrobats, who in one song's space can bring the ancient wizardry of the earth-dim, savage, primal, passionate-to rebirth. In sinuous, throbbing shapes of violent grace. Old war cries waken as the march goes by. New paths are given by those storming feet! And through the blunders, mounting high and sweet, Love sends the magic of its tender cry.

Their soul is of a people fierce and bowed, A great dumb spirit struggling into song, With uncouth joys, with moan of sea-old woe, And hope—a wild star flaming from a cloud.

These are the acrobats, who with lifted hand Can show the new earth's promise, in one gleam— The forward striving and the beckoning ground.

The red dawn stealing on a neighborhood land, The red dawn stealing on a neighborhood land.

MONEY DIVIDENDS IN GOOD HOUSING

Cities in Which Real Estate Owners Have Found It Financially Profitable to Give Their Tenement Dwellers a Square Deal.

By F. C. FELD

Superintendent Otisville Hill Association.

WHEN any community, be it a large city or a small town, says that it has no housing problem it admits ignorance or indifference to this all important question. For sometimes the term, "housing problem," has been used as synonymous with the tenement problem, and has called to the mind of the average person a row of dismal-looking four or five-story buildings in the neglected or slum sections of a large city, and in the neighborhood of which one would expect to find the dirty, ill-fed and worse-clothed children of the very poor; or perhaps it has suggested the sections of the city where the so-called foreign element lives.

But to those who give any thought to this vital matter the housing problem means more than this. It means not only the investigation of the districts where the very poor live, with the view of correcting by legislation or otherwise the conditions found, but it includes the making over or rebuilding of slum areas and the erection of dwelling places where the unskilled laborer, or the lower wage-earner, may live with his family and enjoy decency, privacy and the simpler conveniences and comforts that all persons are entitled to and ought to have.

It is with this broad viewpoint of the housing question in mind that I wish to present the following review of what other cities and towns are doing to relieve their present conditions through correction where possible, and to provide, by the erection of new dwellings or tenements, sanitary accommodations for the low-rate wage-earning class.

Where Reform Pays in Dollars

Within the last few months great publicity has been given to the interest of Mrs. Woodrow Wilson in the problem of the slum in the nation's capital city, and because of this great interest Congress took action looking toward the final abolishment of such notorious places as Willow Tree, Goat, Ragland and other infamous alleys or slums in Washington.

Behind the well-paved and well-lighted, fine, spacious avenues are to be found many interior alleys and small streets. Many of these are intersected by still other and smaller dead-end alleys which form blind pockets, and where are found the dwellings of the very poor in all their squalor.

It is these four, disease-breeding places that Washington is going to wipe out, and instead will be found parks, small open spaces, rearrangement of streets, so as to have all streets of proper width and continuing dead-end alleys or forgotten pockets in which vice and filth run rampant. It is added to this, it is proposed that new tenements and dwellings be erected and financed by the Government where sanitary living quarters will be provided with good surroundings and at low rates of rental.

In addition to this, the work of the Washington Sanitary Improvement Company must not be overlooked. The company began operation in 1895, and has built and successfully managed a large number of two-story two-family houses with apartments of two, three and four rooms, with bath and other conveniences, and rented at \$9 a month and upward for a flat. This company finds its work so successful that it is enabled not only to pay a dividend of 5 per cent., but has accumulated a large surplus out of earnings, and never wants for additional capital to extend the work.

One naturally turns to New York city, and here we find the housing problem most complex and difficult. With the great congestion of population, dwelling for the most part in large tenement or apartment houses, a well-developed system of inspection is required and carried out. New York has long since put away the outside privy vault or toilet, and while it is estimated that Philadelphia has 25,000 vaults or privy wells that are not underground, New York has none. The underground water-flushing toilet now being installed in the yards of many small houses in Philadelphia, and considered a great improvement, is not permitted in New York city.

A Successful Experiment

Basement dwellings, manufacturing in dwellings and similar abuses are forbidden, and are prevented by a well-developed and adequate system of tenement house inspection and laws. Aside from inspection and supervision, New York has many successful companies furnishing good housing accommodations at reasonable rentals.

As early as 1873 Alfred T. White, a public spirited resident of Brooklyn, while working out plans for an improved type of tenement house, was attracted by the reported success of the "outside staircase buildings" erected in London in 1863 for working people. The plans were obtained and, after alterations to suit the climate and other conditions here, were adopted by him, and he constructed the six-story "home tenements" opened in Brooklyn in 1877. The 40 apartments were fully let the first week, and their success was such as to command an immediate and unexpected interest through the State and country, visitors coming from far and near. This modest experiment was largely responsible for the agitation throughout New York which led to the adoption of the tenement house act of 1879.

The venture of Mr. White turned out so well financially that a couple of years later additional land and buildings were procured, and soon more than 170 new model apartments were thrown open to the workingmen. Subsequently a still larger tract was secured, and in 1890 the "Riverside Buildings" were completed, with 280 apartments. Altogether, the White buildings accommodate about 2000 individuals.

Fireproof and Airtight

The features distinguishing these structures from other tenement houses are (1) fireproof staircases sunk in the front or rear of the buildings, open to the air and extending in a semicircular tower from the cellar to the roof; (2) entire absence of any interior communication from floor to floor by stairways or shafts, and (3) buildings only two rooms deep, so that each has abundant sunshine and air.

The City and Suburban Homes Company has many modern tenements in various locations in New York city, and they are valued at more than \$8,000,000. This company pays an annual dividend of 4 1/2 per cent. and has a large surplus. Doctor Gould, who is president of the company, stated recently that the company's actual losses on account of unpaid rentals were less than 10-100 per cent., and the experience of this company proves that good housing not only pays financially, but pays in the health and happiness of the tenants and occupants of the houses.

Toronto, Canada, after a campaign of investigation and education, secured an enabling act which permits the municipal authorities to loan funds to the Toronto Housing Company, which about two years ago began the erection of a large group of dwellings of the cottage or two-family type. These apartments rent for \$12 and \$13 upward for three rooms and bath. The company furnished hot water and heat to its tenants. The cost of these services is included in the rent.

The latest report of the Health Department of Cincinnati, O., states that as a result of its work in 1913, 3000 privy vaults were condemned and filled in, which was an increase of 50 per cent. over 1912 and 100 per cent. over 1911. An ordinance was enacted giving the Health Department power to vacate any structure or part thereof occupied by human beings if it is in an unclean or insanitary condition. This power is being used with results that are being reported as extremely good.

Another Object Lesson

As an experiment and an object lesson, Mr. J. B. Schmidlap erected 48 houses, each containing two apartments, and each apartment having a bath and porch. The rentals average \$12 to \$14 per month for four rooms and bath, and the venture is so successful that a company is being planned with a capital of \$1,200,000 to carry out the work on a large scale.

We might continue to cite examples after example where communities are facing the truth of the housing situation and making earnest efforts to meet the need. The movement has become national in its scope. Philadelphia has as a result of the good work of the Philadelphia Housing Commission a housing code or law which is considered one of the best ever enacted. But Philadelphia needs more than a law; it needs a broad-minded, public-spirited, intelligent statesmanship on the part of those in authority, who will see that funds are provided and that the great work can be pushed, and then Philadelphia will become a "City of Homes" not only for the wealthy, the fairly well-to-do, the man who earns \$1000 per year, but for the day laborer and unskilled mechanic who earns \$15 or less per week.