

No. 31

A SAFER, SANER FOURTH OF JULY

WITH

MORE PATRIOTISM AND LESS NOISE



PUBLISHED BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF CHILD HYGIENE OF THE
RUSSELL SAGE FOUNDATION
1 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY

How a City can Celebrate Independence Day without Loss of Life or Fire Damage

(Plan Approved by Municipal Conference of Playground Congress,
Pittsburgh, May 10-14, 1909)

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DEPARTMENT OF CHILD HYGIENE OF THE RUSSELL SAGE FOUNDATION
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GREETING FROM PRESIDENT TAFT

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 30, 1909.

My dear Sir:

I greatly regret that I cannot be with you at your third annual congress at Pittsburgh, from May 10th to 14th of this year, but I write to express my most sincere sympathy in the work which your Association is doing.

I do not know anything which will contribute more to the strength and morality of that generation of boys and girls compelled to remain part of urban populations in this country, than the institution in their cities of playgrounds where their hours of leisure can be occupied by rational and healthful exercise. The advantage is twofold:

In the first place, idleness and confinement in a narrow space in the city, in houses and cellars and unventilated dark rooms, is certain to suggest and bring about pernicious occupation and create bad habits. Gambling, drinking, and other forms of vice are promoted in such a restricted mode of life.

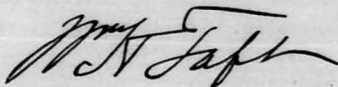
In the second place, an opportunity for hard, earnest, and joyous play improves the

health, develops the muscles, expands the lungs, and teaches the moral lessons of attention, self-restraint, courage, and patient effort.

I think every city is under the strongest obligation to its people to furnish to the children, from the time they begin to walk until they reach manhood, places within the city walls large enough and laid out in proper form for the playing of all sorts of games which are known to our boys and girls and are liked by them.

I sincerely hope that your present convention may be a success, and that the work which you have begun may go on until no city in this country is without suitable playgrounds for the children of those who but for such city assistance in this regard would be without them.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Luther Halsey Gulick, Esquire,
President Playground Association of America,
1 Madison Avenue, New York City.

CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPAL REPRESENTATIVES

"A SAFER, SANER FOURTH OF JULY"

The Conference of Municipal Representatives of the Third Annual Playground Congress, held in Pittsburgh, was opened on Friday morning, May 14th, by Hon. William A. Magee, the Mayor of Pittsburgh, who acted as presiding officer of the meeting.

In response to invitations which had been issued by Mayor Magee to the executives of cities in the United States having a population of five thousand and over, and certain cities of Canada and Mexico, forty-five municipalities responded by sending to the Congress one or more delegates to represent their cities in the various sessions, and especially in the Conference of Municipal Representatives. The list of these delegates is as follows:

City	Name
Altoona, Pa.....	Walter S. Greevy
	Rev. Morgan M. Sheedy
Baltimore, Md.....	Thomas F. Beadenkoff
	George W. Ehler
	Mary B. Steuart
Beaver Falls, Pa.....	Andrew Lester
Boston, Mass.....	Dr. Thomas F. Harrington
Buffalo, N. Y.....	Harry A. Allison
Camden, N. J.....	Albert De Unger
	Frederick A. Finkeldey
	Edward Francis
Chicago, Ill.....	Frederick Greeley
	Theo. A. Gross
	Amalie Hofer
	Charles A. Sartain
	Theo. Szmergolski
	Graham Romeyn Taylor
Cincinnati, O.....	M. C. Longenecker

PLAYGROUNDS

City	Name
Columbus, O.....	Mrs. P. J. Anderson
Dayton, O.....	J. L. Johnson
Denver, Colo.....	Margaret Giddings
Duquesne, Pa.....	Charles E. Wright
East Liverpool, O.....	T. H. Wilkinson
East Orange, N. J.....	Lincoln E. Rowley
Elizabeth, N. J.....	Richard E. Clement
Fort Wayne, Ind.....	Mrs. O. N. Guldlin
Indianapolis, Ind.....	Robert Fischer
Kalamazoo, Mich.....	Bessie Bacon Goodrich
Kansas City, Mo.....	Mrs. Viola Dale McMurray
Louisville, Ky.....	Clara Fitch
Mansfield, O.....	Susan M. Sturges
McKeesport, Pa.....	Mayor H. S. Arthur
	Murray B. Walker
Minneapolis, Minn.....	C. T. Booth
New Britain, Conn.....	Warren S. Slater
	J. Herbert Wilson
Newark, N. J.....	William J. McKiernan
	Randall D. Warden
New Orleans, La.....	Mrs. O. A. Stallings
New York, N. Y.....	Howard Bradstreet
	Supt. Seth T. Stewart
Pensacola, Fla.....	John Bradford
Philadelphia, Pa.....	F. D. Sears
Providence, R. I.....	Mary Josephine O'Connor
Racine, Wis.....	E. S. Martin
Riverside, Cal.....	W. P. Gulick
Rochester, N. Y.....	John Hall
	Henry W. Morgan
	Winfred J. Smith
	Henry H. Stebbins
	E. J. Ward
Seattle, Wash.....	Tracy Strong
St. Louis, Mo.....	Charlotte Rumbold
St. Paul, Minn.....	Carl F. Rothfuss
Scranton, Pa.....	C. R. H. Jackson
Springfield, Mass.....	Edward T. Broadhurst
	H. W. Bull
	George D. Chamberlain

City	Name
Springfield, Mass.....	John J. Collins Charles E. Ladd Henry Lasker William Orr
Steubenville, O.....	Isabella Tappan
Toledo, O.....	Dr. Mary E. Law G. M. Martin Mrs. Fannie M. Perkins Mrs. Pauline Steinem
Toronto, Canada.....	R. H. Graham H. C. Hocken R. C. Vaughan James Wilson
Urbana, O.....	Dr. H. C. Houston
Washington, D. C.....	Dr. Henry S. Curtis
Wheeling, W. Va.....	Anne M. Cummins Miss E. J. Cummins Kate Hazlett R. B. Naylor
Winnipeg, Canada.....	Mrs. John Dick

The meeting concerned itself with discussions of what has been done in some cities and what it is desirable to do toward celebrating Independence Day in a safe, sane, and adequate manner. At the close of the discussions, the Secretary of the meeting, Mr. Leonard P. Ayres, summed up the various points that had been brought forward.

HON. WILLIAM A. MAGEE made the following introductory remarks:

This meeting, as you know, is held for the purpose of discussing our manner of celebrating the Independence of the United States. It has been the custom in this city, as well as in every other city in the country, to have a celebration on the Fourth of July that shall remind us of the times and manner in which our independence was achieved; but it is apparent that we celebrate our liberty at an expense of money and at a cost of lives that is absolutely unnecessary, and it is fast becoming the general impression that we could celebrate our national holiday in a manner more fitting to the event, in a safer and

saner way with reference to life and property, and at an expenditure that would be neither extravagant nor wasteful. A few cities in this country have already made a good start to change the character of the celebration. A most notable instance is that of Springfield, Massachusetts. We have with us Mr. William Orr of that city, and I will ask him to open the discussion on the subject.

INDEPENDENCE DAY: A CIVIC OPPORTUNITY

WILLIAM ORR

Principal of Central High School, Springfield, Mass.

Public opinion is now fully convinced of the folly, abuses, and cost of the prevailing observance of our great national holiday, and is quite ready to support definite and aggressive action for a better Fourth of July. Each year more stringent and severe restrictions are placed on the indiscriminate use of explosives and fireworks. Cleveland, through her Common Council, last July, prohibited all use of cannon crackers, blank cartridges, and other explosives. The press of the country supports vigorously all measures aimed at curtailing the hours when fireworks and noise-making devices are used. Each year the *Chicago Tribune* compiles the roll of dead and wounded as the result of our celebration of the holiday. The totals for the last ten years amount to 508 killed and 29,085 injured. The American Medical Association, whose tabulations are made in August, when the results from tetanus are apparent, reports an average of 174 deaths and 4500 wounded each year.

These facts are influencing the popular mind to demand a reform in the observance of Independence Day.

Our cities are also awakening to the large possibilities July Fourth affords for an impressive, instructive, and joyous civic festival. A rivalry is apparent in the strife for the best and most satisfying program of entertainment for the day. Interesting experiments are being made in different parts of the country to substitute music, pageantry, sports, and organized fireworks and illuminations for the present hideous racket, noise, and danger.

Under such conditions the experience of a community which has worked out the details of an attractive celebration and for-

mulated a general policy for the conduct of the day possesses peculiar interest. Your attention is, therefore, called to the methods whereby in the last seven years Springfield, Massachusetts, has brought to pass a radical change for the better in her Fourth of July. The leadership was taken by a group of citizens, who organized in 1903 an Independence Day Association. This committee has grown in the estimation of the community with each year. It commands generous support in



Buffalo Bill Joined as a Volunteer. Fourth of July at Springfield, Mass.

service and money, and is now recognized as an essential part of the civic life. Some weeks in advance of the holiday the Association outlines a program of events to occupy in a wholesome way the attention of all elements of the population, young and old. The various exercises are selected so as to encourage a widespread participation. A fund of \$2500 is raised by popular subscription, and to this the city government adds \$500.

A concrete illustration of results is afforded by the celebra-

tion of last year. At nine in the morning public interest was centered on the grand parade of militia, naval brigade, groups from Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, companies of boys in picturesque uniforms, floats, representing the achievements of the various races found in Springfield, and scenes from national and local history portrayed after the fashion of pageantry by school children. The most unique and significant feature of this parade was that known as the pageant of the nations, and



The Contribution of the Italian Colony. Fourth of July at Springfield, Mass.

the widespread interest it aroused warrants this detailed description by Miss Mary Vida Clark in *Charities and The Commons*:

"The nations came in huge floats, sailing majestically up the main street. First came the Swedes in a Viking ship with stalwart yellow-haired rowers at the oars; the English recalled Magna Charta; the Scotch showed their Queen Mary, preceded by bare-kneed, kilted Highlanders swinging along with their tartans flying, blowing real bagpipes; the Irish, modestly ignoring their success in ruling this country, delved into their remote past and produced 'Columcille pleading for the bards'. There are

some two thousand Greeks in the city, and the men whose mellifluous names distinguish our candy and flower shops, arrayed in classic robes and with flowing beards, showed us Socrates, Plato, Pericles, and Lycurgus, and lest we should be too much overawed by these princes in disguise, there followed after them, in graceful symbolism, some fifty young Greeks, holding the sides of a huge American flag, while over their shoulders they carried smaller flags



The Boys' Brigade. Fourth of July at Springfield, Mass.

of their national blue and white. The adaptable Italians, eager to prove their present glory like their past, followed up their Michael Angelo and Galileo with Marconi. The French, coming by way of Canada, with special appropriateness for this year, exhibited Champlain in his boat on the St. Lawrence. William Tell was recalled by the Germans. The Chinese graciously conceded a native orchestra and a huge barge of wonderful tapestries, but

showed their personal preference by wearing American clothes and riding in hacks. Handsome rug merchants from Armenia displayed themselves and their families in gorgeous embroideries, against a background of magnificent hangings. The Syrians proudly posed in a splendid oriental court scene. The Poles furnished a band. A group of fine-looking negro veterans, from a regiment



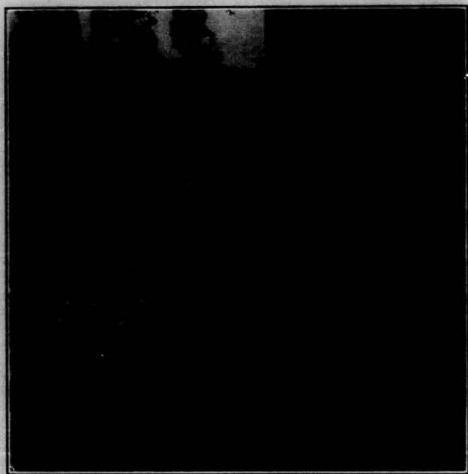
Signing the Declaration. Fourth of July at Springfield, Mass.

that took Fort Wagner, was the only reminder of the Civil War.

"Surely, no citizen of Springfield, young or old, could see such an historic pageant of races and nationalities without gaining some appreciation of the nature of the modern contribution to our national life, or could escape having his outlook broadened by some glimpse of the American of the future that is to come out of this mingling of races and of race ideals, or could fail to see the general

possibilities for improvement in the amalgamation of many of these people, bringing traditions of such beauty and nobility."

The procession returned to Court Square, the civic center, at eleven o'clock, in time for the literary exercises. The latter consisted of an oration on the responsibility of the people in the



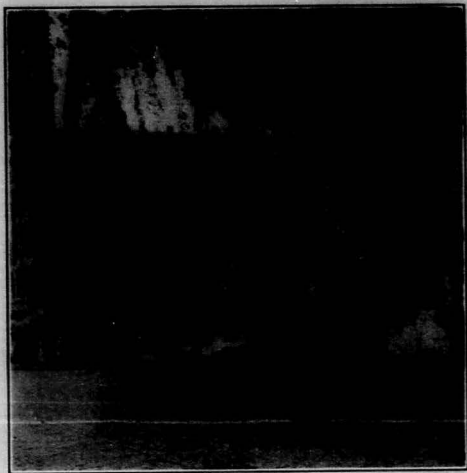
The Puritan Maidens. Fourth of July at Springfield, Mass.

settlement of national questions. There was also choral singing conducted by a leading musical director of the city. A fine effect was produced by the voices of several thousand people rendering in unison the great national lyrics of this and other lands and the hymns of the ages. At twelve o'clock the great crowd watched with greatest interest the ascent of two balloons. The national salute of forty-six guns brought the morning exercises to a close.

In the afternoon games for the children and field and water sports for youth were held at Forest Park, a woodland reserva-

tion in the south part of the city. Many families organized picnic parties and went to points of vantage from which to see the games and athletic contests. The slopes of the park at Pecousic, overlooking the Connecticut river, constituted a natural amphitheater from which to see the canoe, motor boat, and rowing races. Band concerts were held throughout the day and evening at selected centers in the city and the park.

The evening illuminations and fireworks were noteworthy



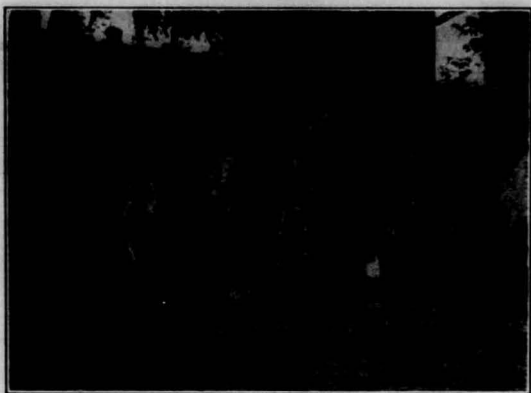
Signing the Treaty. Fourth of July at Springfield, Mass.

and were partly under the direction of the Independence Day Association, which looked after Court Square and Main Street, and of district committees who organized and carried out local exhibitions at various points.

So carefully was the observance of the day planned that no accident of moment occurred, and there was no call on the fire department and but little demand on the police. More than this,

practically every citizen was interested directly or indirectly in the conduct of the celebration, and all shared in an inspiring and uplifting entertainment. Lessons of coöperation and community service were taught in the best possible way, that is, by doing; and the various elements of the population were united in the bonds of a common endeavor. Civic pride was stimulated, and the day was replete with suggestions of the meaning and value of human liberty.

This year more elaborate plans are under way and new ele-



Some Real Native Americans. Fourth of July at Springfield, Mass.

ments of the community are taking an active interest. The parade is to consist of five divisions. First will be a series of pageants of scenes from the history of the city, such as the arrival of the first settlers under William Pyncheon; the purchase of land from the Indians; the passage of prisoners from Burgoyne's army; Shay's Rebellion, and the departure of troops for the war in Cuba. The remaining four divisions will constitute an exhibition of the business resources of Springfield; one section will show the commercial enterprises, another the manufacturers, a third the progress of science and invention as applied

to industry, and a fourth the contributions of other people to our industries. This notable industrial parade is made possible by the hearty support and coöperation of merchants, manufacturers, members of labor unions, school children, and the representatives of the various nationalities in Springfield.

Folk dances will be made a feature of the children's games at the park. Great interest is being shown in the local displays in different sections of the city. The citizens will also coöperate in a general decoration of streets, houses, and public buildings with flags and bunting. Posters based on scenes in the pageant and signs to mark historic localities are being made by high school pupils.

Fourth of July as thus observed is redeemed from the vulgarity, rowdyism, and dangers of the conditions that have obtained with increasing seriousness in American cities for the past ten or fifteen years, and becomes a true civic festival, instinct with joy, enthusiasm, and the spirit of human brotherhood—the fruits of the liberty for which the fathers contended.

Independence Day should be magnified as our chief American holiday and its observance enriched by all the resources of entertainment at the command of the community. Much may be learned from the old world as to pageantry, the use of form and color in processions and decoration, and the uplift, rhythm, and volume of effect in choral singing. The science of illumination and firework displays under organized control has also been wrought out in European cities, while the far East has much to teach us in the use of splendid tapestries and hangings in street decorations and processions. Immigrants bring with them personal experiences of great value in the conduct of popular festivals, and are willing and eager to place this knowledge at the command of their chosen cities on this side of the Atlantic.

Such a celebration is a means to larger ends than a day's enjoyment, important as that may be in an American city. Fourth of July becomes a community festival, in the organization and conduct of which all the elements of a city or town feel the joy and learn the value of coöperant action in the service of the public good. If our municipalities are to rid themselves of the evils of political jobbery and official corruption—among the darkest blots on our civilization—the citizen must have an active interest in all that pertains to community life and feel the responsibility that comes with a sense of ownership. These qual-

ities of the people may be advanced by enlisting the interest and support of all in a common purpose, which involves the use of the resources of a city in its many-sided activities, public and private, its schools, parks, squares, streets, river fronts, lakes, and immediate environs, as factors in a popular holiday.

Love of the city and pride in her appearance, sure to grow out of such experiences, will make her sons zealous for her outward beauty and jealous of the purity of her inner life. When men suffer in heart by reason of municipal corruption, righteous indignation will soon drive out the traffickers in public office at the expense of the public treasury.

The individual human units, the personal factors, the sum total of which constitute the community, city, state, or nation, profit much from a sane and fitting observance of Independence Day. Danger to life and limb and actual injury are even now common incidents of the barbarous license permitted in so many localities in the name of patriotism. In place of this hideous and dangerous din, the advocates of a better order of things would substitute a wealth of well planned entertainment, rich in the elements that appeal to the best sentiments, and emotions. Pleasurable excitement to quicken interest and ample variety to hold attention will be supplied. Such experiences, repeated yearly on a generation, would change entirely the conception of how people in the mass should seek enjoyment, expand patriotic feeling and love of country, and train a citizenship critically appreciative of the best. The reflex effect on morals and conduct is clearly helpful.

But still higher possibilities are potential in our national holiday. Independence Day owes its origin and existence to the fundamental human instinct for freedom, liberty, and opportunity. All men, the Scot with his memories of Bannockburn, the Englishman with Magna Charta, the Frenchman as he celebrates the fall of the Bastille, the Italian as he lauds Garibaldi, are on common ground with the American and his Declaration of Independence. The local and particular significance of the day as the anniversary of a revolt against the tyranny of a certain monarch has become merged in the larger and broader conceptions of human liberty. Independence Day thus becomes a festival of humanity. The emotions, the aspirations, and the ideals it symbolizes are the common heritage of the race. It constitutes a potent influence for bringing into unity the

apparently diverse elements brought by immigration into our social, civic, and industrial life. The supreme task of this country is to so combine the distinctive qualities of these races that while our institutions and government maintain their integrity, the American people now in the making, may be a composite of the best in those who come to us from across the sea. Such a solvent to reject prejudice, pride, and provincialism, and to select the noblest traits and powers of humanity, is at command in a celebration of July Fourth conducted on a level worthy of the day. The memories of the anniversary and their appeal to the imagination, with the quickening influence of the festival spirit, induce a ready response to all influences. Such moments, the teacher knows, constitute the greatest opportunity for instruction and inspiration.

Independence Day recalls the lines of Lowell:

"When a deed is done for freedom,
Through the broad earth's aching breast
Runs a thrill of joy prophetic
Trembling on from East to West,
And the slave, where'er he cowers,
Feels the soul within him climb
To the awful verge of manhood
As the energy sublime
Of a century bursts full blossomed
On the thorny stem of time."

Let it be observed—one might say consecrated—as to make the possession of all his splendid vision of the world:

"For mankind are one in spirit,
And an instinct bears along
Round the earth's electric circle
The swift flash of right or wrong.
Whether conscious or unconscious,
Yet Humanity's vast frame
Through its ocean-sundered fibres
Feels the gush of joy or shame.
In the gain or loss of one race,
All the rest have equal claim."

DISCUSSION

MR. FREDERICK A. FINKELDEY, of Camden, N. J., spoke as follows:

In the ward in which I live, the eleventh ward of Camden, situated on the outskirts of the city, there is a population of not

more than four thousand. For the past four or five years we have had in that ward a so-called Patriotic Association, the object of which has been to raise funds for the celebration of the Fourth of July. We celebrate the occasion in this manner.

All the school children in the eleventh ward and in the neighboring wards are invited. We have more children in the eleventh ward on the Fourth of July than are in all the schools on the East Side, for the children come from all over the city. In the first place, we have simple games and plays, and competition where the children are old enough. Each child receives a prize—for instance, a fan, a handkerchief, or a ball and bat. Following the games we have singing by the children. We have been able to secure the services of the Director of Music, who leads in the singing on that day; that is, he aids us for that special occasion, there being no previous rehearsals. Then we have an address by the mayor or a prominent citizen of the town, and following that comes a monster parade—at least, we call it so. The parade consists of all the school children and the patriotic associations—the Sons of America and lodges such as the Red Men and the Odd Fellows. The latter have for the past two years joined us. At the conclusion of the parade an address is delivered by some prominent man, and in the evening—we have been compelled to compromise—we still have fireworks, but they are set off in front of the woods, where no harm can result. The man who supplies the fireworks has also the contract for setting them off. The result is that thousands of people are drawn from all parts of Camden to see the display. The street car lines are compelled to put on extra cars and run them out to the suburbs to accommodate the thousands who come to witness our celebration.

For the past few years we have succeeded in raising for this celebration from \$650 to \$800 each year, just from the citizens residing in the eleventh ward; and it is comparatively easy to procure the money. The city does not do anything toward the celebration except to supply the additional policemen. This convinces me that it is not nearly as hard as some of you may think to get the American public to contribute toward the celebration of our national birthday, and to substitute something of this character for the individual celebration. The eleventh ward of Camden shows that it can be done even in a small community. The collectors do not go for money outside of that ward, and there are poor people living in that section—men working

in carshops, who do not earn more than the average working-man. The sum is not contributed in large amounts, but in small contributions of twenty-five and fifty cents; and where the committee members have known families to be very poor, those families have not been asked. But we often found that those people felt insulted, because of not having been asked. A boy from such a family will come to the committee and bring fifty cents, saying that it had been sent by his father as a contribution to the cause.

We are not saying this in any boastful spirit, but I am more than glad to add this contribution to the discussions, for it appears to me that it is possible to get from the people the means to defray the expense of celebrating the Fourth of July in a rational manner, everybody being interested in the national anniversary.

MRS. PAULINE STEINEM, of Toledo, Ohio, spoke as follows:

The city of Toledo for the past five years has had a very quiet celebration of the Fourth of July. Five years ago the mayor of the city, Hon. Samuel M. Jones, known as the "Golden Rule Mayor", lay at the point of death. He was greatly beloved; it seemed to everybody as though a friend lay sick, and the children felt that they must not make any noise to disturb the sick mayor. No firecrackers were exploded on that day. It was the most quiet Fourth you can imagine. The mayor died not very many months later, and ever since then the city of Toledo has had a peaceful Fourth of July.

The change is due simply to the fact that public sentiment has turned in favor of celebrating the Fourth of July rationally—not because of any prohibitive law that has been passed, or because there are more policemen on the beat on that day than on any other day. The change has been entirely voluntary. We really feel that we have made an advance along the right lines of celebrating our national holiday. Last year there was not a single accident.

In the afternoon we have public meetings, which are quiet occasions; and people will take their families for outings to the little islands near Toledo. In the evening we have a celebration of fireworks, but the noisy part of the celebration has disappeared.

When we return from this Conference to Toledo, we shall

tell our people something of what we have heard to-day about the work that is being done in other cities, and perhaps something similar may in time be done in our city.

MR. J. HERBERT WILSON, of New Britain, Connecticut, said:

I come from the city of New Britain, Connecticut, which is half as large as Springfield, Massachusetts. It is my observation that the smaller the city, the worse is the rowdyism of the young men. For years on the Fourth of July there were groups of young fellows who went out and built fires, for which they stole boxes; ten years ago they built a dangerous fire in the middle of the city.

Seven years ago we started in for a more safe celebration of the Fourth of July; and I think that our mayor had a good deal to do with it—he is public-spirited and wants to see things go right. The noise of the day has been more and more restricted, partly by law and partly by public sentiment; the newspapers also have helped. Last year the firing of explosives was permitted only between the hours of 4 A. M. and 11 P. M. There is in New Britain a large public park covering many acres; no firecrackers may be exploded in that park, and there were practically none last year. Our town is baseball crazy, and so last Fourth of July we had extra games, which were attended by ten thousand people out of a population of forty thousand. For the past two years there have been no fires, and last year no arrests were made. It might be added that if a man gets intoxicated, our policemen take him home.

MR. FREDERICK A. FINKELDEY, of Camden, N. J., proposed the following amendment to the recommendations accepted by the meeting:

That it is the sense of the Playground Association of America that the municipalities be strongly advised to pass laws forbidding the use of firearms and other dangerous explosives on the Fourth of July. The carrying of deadly weapons is illegal in almost any municipality. The unrestricted use of pistols and revolvers on the Fourth of July adds to the tendency for illegal carrying. If we would set our faces against the use of pistols and revolvers on the Fourth of July, it would be doing a great deal toward stopping the illegal carrying of firearms at all

times. The fact that a man is permitted to use a pistol on the Fourth of July is an incentive to buy one, and to carry it on other days as well. My amendment, then, is to discountenance the use of explosives on the Fourth of July, and especially to restrict the use of dynamite.

REV. MORGAN M. SHEEDY, of Altoona, Pa., spoke as follows:

Mr. Orr, as far as I can see, has solved the whole question of the celebration of the Fourth of July. His discussion was not only practical, in giving the program of what has been done last year and what is proposed for this year, but his discussion was philosophical as well. He touched the very root of the whole situation.

In referring to Mr. Bryce and his "Commonwealth", we may safely say that his assertion that the way in which a people celebrates its national holiday is an indication of the civilization of that nation, is just as true of other festivals. If that principle be accepted, I am satisfied that every sane and thinking American is agreed that there is something wrong, and has been something wrong for some years, with our manner of celebrating Independence Day. There is truth, I think, in his speech that America is still in the making. We have thousands of people coming to us from the other countries, from all over the world. There are our Japanese friends, who are troubling the western coast, notwithstanding the strenuous action of our late president. Those people are coming here and are seeing how America celebrates this great day. I am speaking now of the method that has been pretty prevalent, a method which certainly leaves a bad impression, for the central idea seems to be that of making as much noise as possible.

The clergy are interested in this question of the celebration of our national holiday, for they, as well as the doctors, are often called out suddenly to hospitals, to attend to those who are wounded and crippled as the result of Fourth of July accidents. I believe the number of injuries annually runs up into the thousands. How senseless!

There are, I understand, forty-five cities represented here. Of these, I am asked to represent the city of Altoona, which is almost as large, and will be quite as large after a while, as Springfield, Massachusetts, is now. Altoona has at present a population of 65,000. If this is an experience meeting, I should

like to say that about five years ago our people awoke to a realization of the fact that our celebration of the Fourth of July was all wrong. This realization came largely through the expression of slightly veiled public opinion in the press. Then we had a celebration something like that outlined by Mr. Orr.

Our citizens went out into a large field, where they had a procession with floats, such as has been indicated. The people as a whole took part. There was some little trouble, however, but I think that is part of the celebration. Those societies which the gentleman from the eleventh ward of Camden across the creek refers to seemed to be in perfect harmony, whereas our societies at a public demonstration, even the most professedly patriotic, seemed to have some difficulties as to procedure, etc., among themselves. That, however, was the only friction. There were some societies that did not take part because they were not given a prominent part. I cannot understand the psychology of this. But apart from this friction, the affair was a great success.

We called our celebration "An Old-Fashioned Fourth of July." I suppose there are some here—not ladies—who will remember what an old-fashioned Fourth of July might be like. I had to read it up myself. I found that in celebrating the old-fashioned Fourth of July the chief idea was that the people went out and heard some reading. I was surprised to find that my friend from New England omitted that feature. Some lawyer with a good, strong voice read—I do not know whether he read or recited—the Declaration of Independence. The people listened, there was a patriotic scene, and everybody was delighted. Strange to say, we have not had such a celebration since then. My explanation is that I believe the trouble with many such affairs is that we overdo the thing. I believe that the citizens of Altoona raised \$5000. They overdid it, and naturally those of us who were interested expected the reaction. So we have never repeated this celebration, which we had just once—a celebration which everybody pronounced a success.

As far as I can see, Mr. Orr, of Springfield, has covered the ground completely, and I would make a suggestion at this point that the Playground Association of America prepare a program along the lines outlined by Mr. Orr, and that all cities that can be reached—and especially those represented here—be furnished

with a copy of the program; and that it is the sense of this meeting that such a program as nearly as possible be carried out.

I desire to make a motion that the program as outlined by Mr. Orr be accepted by the Conference as a program to be used by the cities that want to celebrate a safe and sane Fourth of July.

In response to an inquiry as to whether this manner of celebration decreased noise and drunkenness, Dr. Sheedy replied:

I cannot answer absolutely in response to those two questions, but I will give you my impressions. In the very nature of the case, if you get a large number of people for the greater part of the day away from that which would naturally lead them into disorder—the open saloon, the crowded parts of the city—obviously you diminish the bad effects. We have a city ordinance forbidding the use of explosives during certain parts of the day.

MR. LINCOLN E. ROWLEY, of East Orange, N. J., said:

Mr. Orr has given us a great principle, but there is another side that I want to bring out, a suggestion for a national home festival. I happened to live in a town where the men, except postmen and policemen, are rarely at home. It is a luxury to be at home in that town. I believe that in some communities this idea of a great parade, a great celebration, would accomplish just the opposite effect from what you want to accomplish. In one town it will accomplish a great home feeling, while in others it will mean a scattering of the people who want to be at home.

MR. THOMAS F. BEADENKOFF, of Baltimore, Md., spoke as follows:

In Baltimore there is absolute restriction with reference to the use of fireworks. No explosives are permitted to be fired. The man who sells fireworks in Baltimore is arrested. Hence the city is a very quiet one on the Fourth of July. The day is chiefly an occasion for picnics, nine-tenths of the people going out of the city. I should like to know if the plans of Springfield could be applied to celebrations in large cities such as Pittsburgh, Baltimore, or Philadelphia.

MR. MURRAY B. WALKER, of McKeesport, Pa., said:

In regard to merchants selling fireworks, would it not be fair to let them know in advance of the next Fourth of July just what kind of fireworks are approved by this Conference? These merchants should probably have some three or four weeks' notice, in order to enable them to lay in a stock. Whatever resolution is passed, the various cities should be notified of it as soon as possible.

To the above remark, the Chairman, Hon. William A. Magee, responded, stating that it was not within the province of the Conference to draw up resolutions as to what cities should or should not do with reference to Fourth of July celebrations; the Conference could only recommend a suitable program.

HON. WILLIAM A. MAGEE, of Pittsburgh, Pa., said:

I am newly inducted into my office and have not yet participated in an official capacity in one of these occasions that have been described. The city of Pittsburgh is now making arrangements, according to the custom that has been in vogue for some fifteen or sixteen years, to have a community celebration. Pittsburgh has never attempted by any legislative act to restrict the use of firearms on the Fourth of July, but the police have considered it within their province to send out many admonitory messages to the people, and I believe have exercised on various occasions some rather stringent regulations as to the extent to which firearms might be used.

We have accomplished a good deal indirectly by having a community celebration. Schenley Park is the place that is set apart as the chief spot for celebrating. Some years ago it was the custom to have an open-air meeting in the morning at ten o'clock, at which the Declaration of Independence was read, and at which patriotic speeches were delivered by men of prominence. During the last few years that feature seems to have died out gradually; but, on the other hand, the afternoon features of the day have been largely increased, by reason of the fact that the city has a large athletic oval, half a mile back in the park. There are carried on all kinds of athletic events, and occasionally some horse racing by local talent. These attractions draw upward of 100,000 spectators, and the park

is full of people all day long. They come in the morning, bring their lunches, and stay until the evening to see the display of fireworks, which is on a large scale. That crowd has been growing every year. We think there were last year between 200,000 and 300,000 people who visited the park.

The city of Pittsburgh has during the last two years been much enlarged by consolidation with the old city of Allegheny. It has been the custom of Allegheny to have a celebration of its own every year. Last year that was continued, and a plan for a celebration is being arranged for this year. We intended to continue with the usual contribution, but raising more than the usual sum of money, which is in the neighborhood of \$20,000. It was thought to enlarge the scope of the celebration by having one or two of these open-air meetings for the expression of patriotic sentiment. We thought not only of continuing the local celebration in Allegheny, but of having a similar one on the South Side, and perhaps another in the lower part of the city. We thought of extending the play feature of the day by having river sports. That is, the idea is to have celebrations of a similar character going on in various parts of the city simultaneously, in order to avoid the usual street car congestion. We found on one occasion that in Schenley Park people were waiting to get home until four o'clock in the morning. I should like to avoid the bringing together of so many people in one place.

It seems to me that the new idea which was injected into the meeting by Mr. Orr's remarks about the character of these deaths is a good one; not all of them are fatalities due to the discharge of firearms. In this city I regard that there are as many, and perhaps more, fatalities resulting from heat prostration than from the discharge of firearms. That, of course, is due to bringing many people together in one place. We have here a population of 600,000; in Allegheny County there is a population of more than 1,000,000, and within a radius of sixty miles of Pittsburgh there are some 3,000,000 people. All celebrations in Pittsburgh attract people from this entire area. Our Fourth of July celebrations bring into the city every year 100,000 people, and perhaps more.

There is one new idea to advocate with reference to our celebrations, and that is to scatter the activities of the day over the various parts of the city, hoping by that means to prevent the gathering of these enormous crowds at one central spot.

We assure you, ladies and gentlemen, that we as city officials have learned something from what we have heard in regard to the use of dangerous firearms in the celebration of the Fourth of July. We are already working in our communities for their suppression, but I do not believe that in this city of Pittsburgh we have been overcareful with regard to care of life and limb.

MR. LEONARD P. AYRES, Secretary of the Conference, in summing up the discussions, spoke as follows:

I wish, with your permission, to spend six or seven minutes in speaking, on the part of the Playground Association of America, of some points in connection with the things we have discussed here this morning.

In the first place, it may interest some of you to know that we have received credentials of official delegates from forty-five cities; that there are seventy-eight delegates present; and that the territory represented is very widespread. We have delegates from Winnipeg, Canada, and from Pensacola, Florida; from Seattle, Washington, Riverside, California, and Boston, Massachusetts, and everywhere between.

You may have noted that in the printed program there appears the following sentence with reference to this meeting:

"If the plan meets with the approval of the delegates from the several cities, the Playground Association will undertake to supply programs for such festivals, prepared by those who make a specialty of arranging public functions which are both entertaining and attractive and at the same time distinctly educational."

That may perhaps have been a rather rash promise, and if it is to be carried out effectively, we shall need a great deal of help. On the part of the Association, I wish to ask each one who has to do with any civic celebration of the character that we have been discussing to forward copies of the program to the office of the Playground Association, even if it is a program of a celebration other than Independence Day. We desire to procure all the literature that it is possible to procure, especially literature of a constructive nature.

I have been taking notes as the various speakers have made their remarks, and wish to make a general summing up of the sense of the meeting. If when I get through any of you feel

that it does not correctly represent what we have done and what we stand for, I shall be very glad to consider any corrections or amendments.

1. In this country we have developed the habit of celebrating Independence Day in a way which recalls the manner in which our independence was gained; as a nation we have largely passed beyond the village stage, so that in modern city life the problem of civic celebrations becomes a very great problem. There is nearly universal condemnation of our present common methods of celebrating Independence Day.

2. Much valuable constructive work has been done and is being done in the endeavor to find a suitable celebration to substitute for the traditional one. We, here, would call special attention to the kind of work that has been done in Springfield, Massachusetts, during the past seven years along this line. We indorse this work as resulting in celebrations that are safe, appropriate, inspiring and educative, and we believe that such celebrations combine important lessons in civic coöperation and community life.

3. We believe that the way a nation celebrates its holidays is one true test of its civilization. We hold that a true conception of Independence Day is equally appealing to people of all races, and that celebrations such as have been considered are on a level worthy of the day that is being celebrated.

4. We indorse all movements for safe and sane civic celebrations, and it is the sense of this meeting that the Playground Association of America should aid such movements in a constructive way by preparing and distributing programs for civic celebrations of Independence Day and other public holidays.

5. We discountenance the use of dangerous explosives, such as dynamite, and the use of pistols, and revolvers in the celebration of Independence Day and other holidays.

I wish to express to all of the delegates the grateful recognition that the Association feels for what they have done in

coming here as official representatives from these various cities and in discussing the question that has been presented. I want also, and especially, to extend our thanks to Mr. William Orr and the other speakers who have put the matter before us in so helpful a manner; and with special emphasis I wish to assure his Honor, Mayor Magee, how much the Playground Association of America appreciates what he has done for us, not only in presiding at this meeting and in issuing the invitations which have made the meeting possible, but in helping the Association in every possible way to carry through this Pittsburgh congress.

SUGGESTIONS FOR The Celebration of Independence Day

ELIZABETH BURCHENAL,
New York City

ORGANIZATION:

Leadership should be taken by a group of citizens organized into an Independence Day Association. This Association secures the necessary support in service and money. Money is raised by popular subscription which might be added to by the city government. Some weeks in advance this Association outlines a program of events to occupy in a wholesome way the attention of all elements of the population, young and old. The exercises are selected to encourage a widespread participation.

SUGGESTIVE PROGRAM:

9 A. M.

Grand Parade.

Music.

Pageant of early national and local history up to 1775.

Paul Revere on horseback.

Fife and drums.

Continental Army (High School Cadets) marching.

Signing of the Declaration of Independence.

"The Spirit of '76."

Columbia and the City.

United States troops—Militia, Naval Brigade, Police Pageant of the nations who make up the city, showing their achievements, national dress, customs, music, etc. School children (showing amalgamation of all nationalities) carrying American flags.

Pageant of industries—merchants, manufactories, labor unions, etc.

11 A. M.

Mass Meeting in Public Square or at City Hall or Court House.

Music—choral singing conducted by the leading musical director of the city.
Independence Day oration.
Reading of the Declaration.
Singing of the great national lyrics and hymns.
(Balloon ascension?)
Raising of the Flag.
National salute of forty-six guns.

12-7 P. M.

Band concerts in different parts of the city.
Family picnic parties in parks and groves.
Games and wading for children.
Organized games and folk dancing.
Organized athletic meets for young boys.
Organized athletic meets for youths and men.
Organized water sports.
Canoe and rowing races.
Motor boat races.
Swimming.

7 to 10.30 P. M.

Band concerts in different parts of the city.
Illumination of fireworks under the direction of local committees at various points.

Interest should be aroused in local displays, in the general decoration of streets, houses, and public buildings.

Posters based on scenes in the pageants could be made and posted by High School students, and any historic localities should be marked with special signs.