

THE MORE PATRIOTIC "FOURTH"



SIGNING THE DECLARATION.
FOURTH OF JULY AT SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

DEPARTMENT OF CHILD HYGIENE
OF THE
RUSSELL SAGE FOUNDATION

1 MADISON AVENUE

NEW YORK CITY

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There is a constantly increasing demand for better methods of celebrating Independence Day. From all parts of the country inquiries are coming asking just what can be done to take the place of the traditional firecrackers, toy cannon, etc., and still have the day lose none of its significance.

Much has been said regarding the needless bloodshed which is annually the result of our unpatriotic way of celebrating our national holiday.

Many are coming to realize that the improved celebrations can not be brought about by prohibitive measures alone. To eliminate the old form of celebration and provide nothing in its place will not meet the need. It seems necessary, therefore, that there should be some substitute, such as a program of games, folk dances, songs, pageants, etc., so that the spirit of the day

may be emphasized and the occasion made even more attractive than in the present form of celebration.

The plan of celebration followed in St. Paul, Minn., offers many good suggestions. A Fourth of July Carnival is organized by the Local Committee. This Committee gets the co-operation of the schools, settlements, playgrounds and other organizations in drilling the children for their part in the Independence Day Program. Early in the forenoon of the "Fourth" the children assemble and march to Harriet Island, which is one of the recreation parks of the city, and there receive from the Committee firecrackers, torpedoes, etc., for their celebration. The fun goes on under the supervision of the Committee and its helpers. The children bring their lunches and make the day a sort of play picnic. A program of games, dances, songs, tableaux, etc., is carried out and in the evening an exhibition of fireworks is provided by the city.

Nineteen cities are known to have already done something along these lines. All report some degree of success, and all

seem desirous of extending the plan in future celebrations.

The Department of Child Hygiene has been collecting information on the subject, and most of it has been put in the form of pamphlets. These may be had upon application. The Department will also be glad to correspond with persons desiring additional information or suggestions. Lantern slides with printed descriptions will be loaned to those wishing to arouse public interest by this means.

