

Suggestions for Celebrating Independence Day

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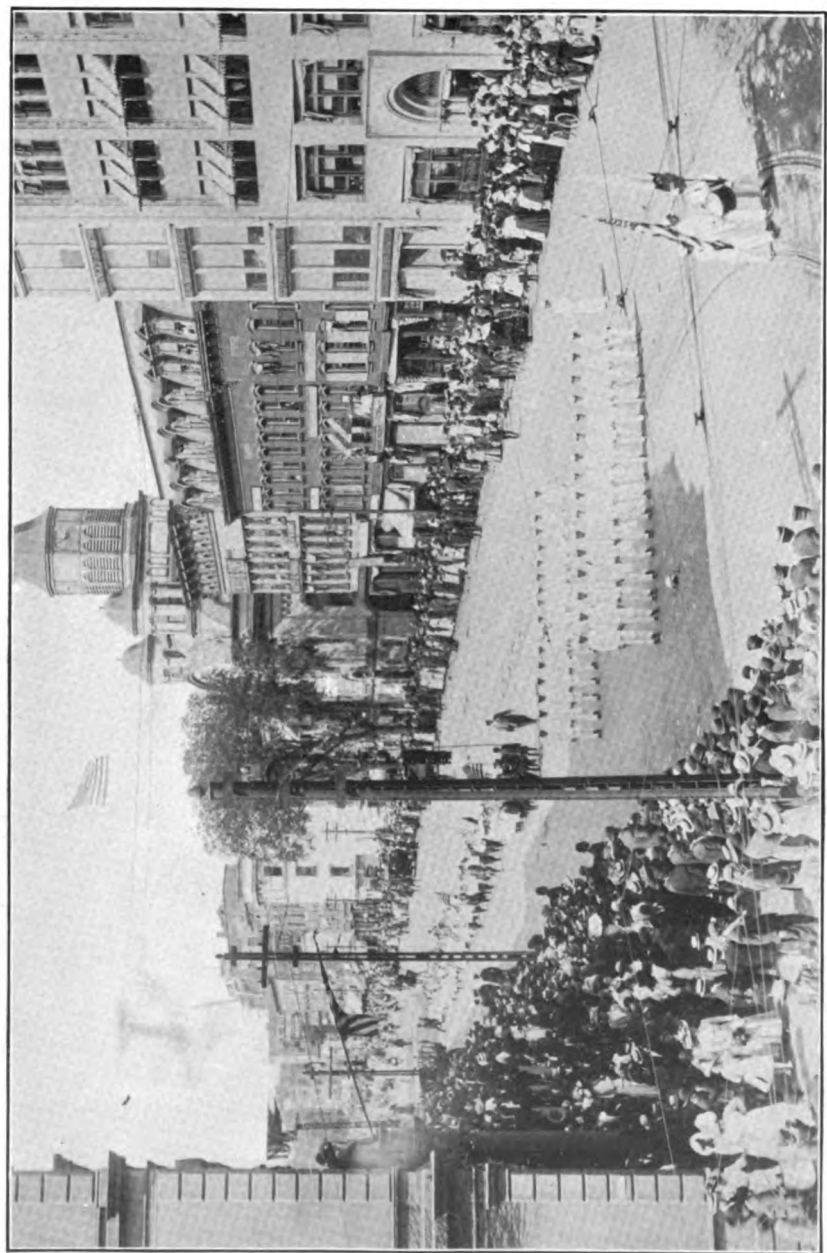
It is proposed in this article to tell something of the movement for a "New and More Glorious Fourth of July," of celebrations which will tend to make our national holiday more patriotic and eliminate the present objectionable features.

The first question which will naturally come up in the minds of those to whom a proper celebration of Independence Day is suggested will probably be, "What is there that can take the place of the traditional firecracker and toy cannon, and still have the day lose none of its significance?"

This question has been answered by cities which have had proper celebrations: Allegheny, Camden, Chicago, Detroit, Easthampton, Indianapolis, Lynn, New London, Newton, Mass.; Pittsburgh, Pittsfield, Portland, Ore.; St. Paul, San Francisco, Springfield, Mass.; Toledo, Washington, Westfield, and West Medford. Reports from these cities indicate that the effort made for the celebration of the day in a National manner has been satisfactory. All are eager to get further information concerning celebrations.

On May 14, 1909, the last day of the Third Annual Congress of the Playground Association of America, the Conference of Municipal Representatives was held at Pittsburgh. Hon. William A. Magee, the Mayor of that city, was the presiding officer of the meeting which had been called together for the purpose of discussing "A Safer, Saner Fourth of July." Representatives of forty-five municipalities were present.

In the report of this conference published soon after the congress, appeared the following suggestive program prepared by Miss Elizabeth Burchenal, Inspector of Athletics for the Girls' Branch of the New York Public Schools Athletic League:



George H. Cooper, Pittsfield, Mass.

A FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION, PITTSFIELD, MASS.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

A FOURTH OF JULY 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 represented in the city, showing their achievements, national dress, customs, music, etc.

School children (showing amalgamation of all nationalities) carrying American flags.

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

11 A. M.

Mass meeting in public square, the city hall or the court house.

Music—choral singing conducted by the leading musical directors of the city.

Independence Day oration.

Reading of the Declaration of Independence.

Singing of the great national lyrics and hymns.

Balloon ascension.

Raising of the flag.

National salute of forty-seven guns.

12 M. to 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.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

7 P. M. to 10.30 P. M.

Band concerts in different parts of the city.

Display of fireworks under the direction of local committees at various points.

How Some Cities Have Celebrated.—In one New England town a plan was worked out which made Independence Day a patriotic carnival. The day was observed in a stirring and yet systematic manner; everybody was included and everybody had a good time. Every class and every age of its citizens took part in the day's program. Inez J. Gardener describes this celebration in the *Ladies' Home Journal* as follows:

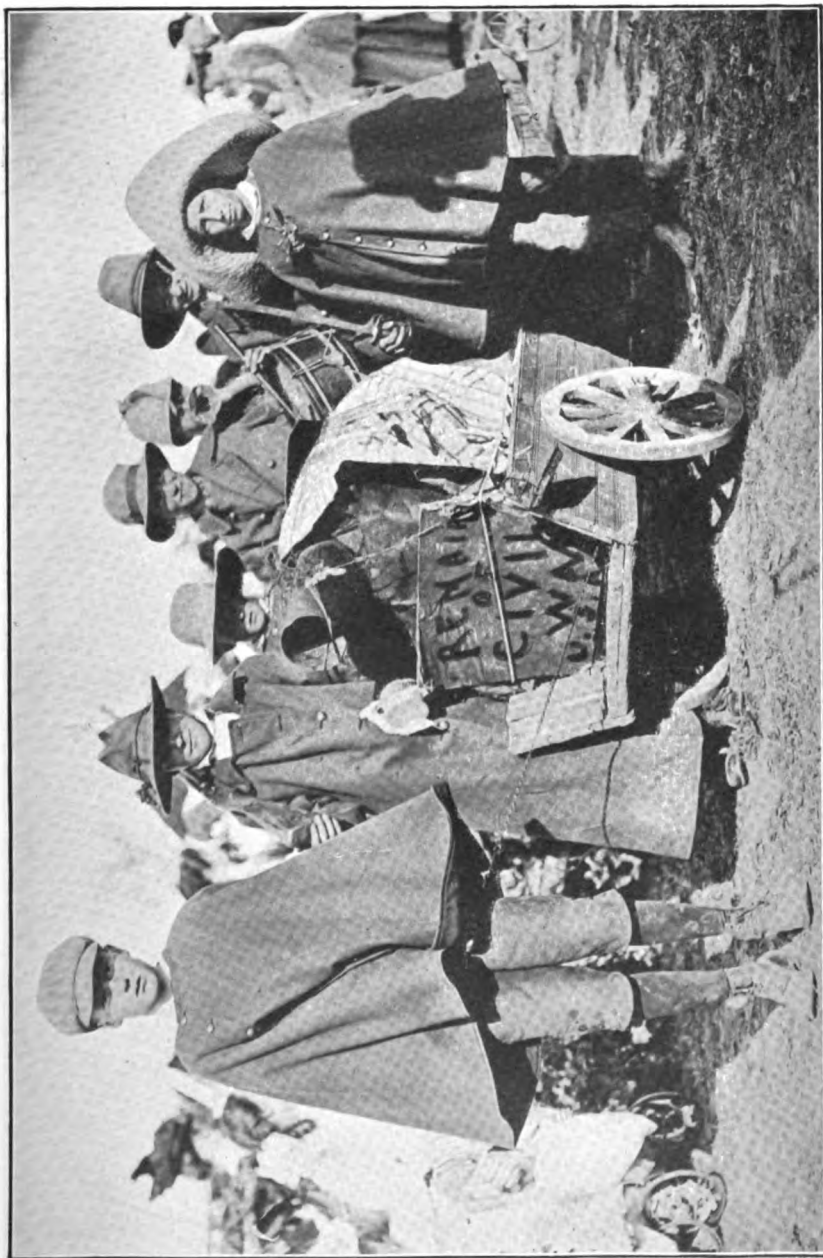
"Big and little stores were represented in the civic parade. The big mills and large business houses made an especially handsome effort, and all the societies in town, each of which had a delegate on the General Committee in charge of the day, sent representatives into the line. Smaller business places showed themselves. A German shoemaker, who is owner and employee in a one-room store, appeared on a float hung with shoes of his own making and with hides, sat on a bench in the middle of the float, and pegged shoes all the way round the course. A village blacksmith set his anvil and forge upon a drag and joined the procession, pounding away at the red-hot iron and making shoes. The whole town, little and big, was represented. The various business houses paid their just proportion in the day's expenses and no more.

"The Parade Committee took boys between sixteen and twenty years of age who wanted some part in the line of march and drilled them in companies in military step. The town tailor cut out pattern suits for each committee, and a Uniform Committee of women and girls cut out the suits from varicolored cheesecloth and bunting. The boys then took the costumes home to be sewed, or if they had no one to do it, the Uniform Committee made them. The boys were reviewed by army men, and the company doing the best drew a prize. All the boys, however, were decorated with badges.

"The numerous small boys who usually follow a parade with eager feet and longing eyes, were given a share in the parade and organized into a 'Coxey's Army.' They were told to appear in their old clothes an hour before the parade started. Then they were blackened up, armed with big wooden swords and muskets all out of proportion to each urchin's small size, and grouped in detachments. The divisions were headed by as big men as could be found, each man wearing a gorgeous fancy-dress costume. Every small boy who paraded behind such a gorgeous leader and with a gun over his shoulder felt that he had indeed celebrated the Fourth.

"The Red Cross Committee divided the town into sections, and the doors of those households that desired it were marked with cards bearing a red cross. The adults in that neighborhood were then asked to keep the children as quiet as possible and not to celebrate in that vicinity.

"Other committees looked out for the general comfort. The Drinking Water Committee placed barrels of water with drinking cups attached at intervals along the streets where the crowd was largest, and kept them filled during the day. A large Hospitality Committee was organized of people of every rank, and of old and young. The members looked out for the welfare of visitors who came in from surrounding towns, placed settees at street corners, and kept chapels and vestry rooms of churches open, so that the tired could go in and rest. Some of the churches served dinners at a low rate for the holiday crowds."



Washington Playground Association, Washington, D. C.

A FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION, WASHINGTON, D. C.

INDEPENDENCE DAY, SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

Springfield, Mass., has perhaps had more elaborate celebrations than any other city. The following is a description of the 1908 celebration which was written by Miss Mary Vida Clark and appeared in *Charities and The Commons* (now the *Survey*) :

"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 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 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 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-seven 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 reservation 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 amphitheatre 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, and were partly under the direction of the Independence Day Association, which looked



University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.

A FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION. THE RECEIVING PARTY.

INDEPENDENCE DAY, ST. PAUL, MINN.

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."

The following interesting description is quoted from a letter of Dr. Arthur W. Dunning, Chairman of the Playgrounds Committee of St. Paul, Minn., to the Department of Child Hygiene of the Russell Sage Foundation:

"The order of the day is as follows: Gathering of the children at a downtown park, from which they all march under adult leadership to Harriet Island, which lies in the Mississippi and is the site of St. Paul's public baths. Each child is given a flag and a toy balloon for the march and also fire-crackers. No toy pistols or cannon crackers are allowed. At the Island the day is given up to field matches and games, swimming (free of charge) and eating—a most important part of juvenile fun. Sandwiches, fruit, cakes, ice cream, and lemonade are provided in unlimited quantities. Each child has checks given him to get what he wants, and he need not stop short of 'plum full.' Prizes for the field events are donated by merchants of the city and consist of watches, parasols, bracelets, handkerchiefs, caps, sporting goods, etc. The relay team that received the coveted silver watches was made up of foreign lads—Russian Jews and Italians—who afterwards posed proudly before the camera.

"The average number of children entertained in this way was about 8,000. The men of the Commercial Club and other prominent citizens acted the part of 'Big Brothers' so that even tiny tots were entrusted to the Island for the celebration. Governor Johnson was one of the men who played with the boys. There is told a good story of a little lame lad who was limping across the big bridge in the procession when the Governor's carriage came alongside. In a minute 'Crutches' was riding with the Governor.

"Harriet Island, in addition to the public baths and pavilion, is equipped with play apparatus—teeters, giant strides, swings, etc. This makes it the better adapted for the annual celebration of the Fourth."

George H. Cooper's description of the Pittsfield, Mass., celebration on July 4, 1909, follows:

"After waiting for a number of years, in fact, ever since the time of the Cuban war, the members of the Pittsfield Merchants' Association decided that there ought to be an Independence Day celebration last year, 1909, and it was voted at their annual meeting, held in April, to have such a celebration.

"For years there had been nothing of a special nature going on to engage the attention of the boys and men. The well-to-do, of course, had their family picnics; they went where it was quiet, but the rank and file were left to entertain themselves as best they could. Every live man and boy likes organized fun and entertainment under first-class conditions; but if the best conditions are not present, he takes advantage of the next best. During former years, there had been in Pittsfield a series of Independence Days with the usual number of accidents, some of them very serious.

"Over 40,000 orderly, well-behaved people came into the city on July 4,

INDEPENDENCE DAY, PITTSFIELD, MASS.

1909, and joined with us in the celebration. There were no accidents and scarcely any arrests; a great, clean, happy day was enjoyed by all. Here is the way we went to work at it:

"A general chairman was chosen. There were sub-committees on reception, finance, publicity, public schools, firemen, transportation, prizes, sports, music, civic and rag-a-muffin parade, fireworks, and Red Cross. The general chairman was also chairman of the Publicity Committee, and had charge of all the publicity connected with the celebration. The publicity matter was carried by the newspapers in the form of news items with black headlines. Each day news was given of what was being arranged, and of the time and place. The people were urged to do something for the men and boys. It became 'our celebration'—something greater than any personality, a united citizens' movement. In that unity lay the secret of its success.

"To arouse the community after it had been so long without a celebration was a task. The writer asked every girl in the city between the ages of ten and thirteen, to meet him at four o'clock in the afternoon on the last day of May, in order that she might say whether or not she wanted the proposed celebration. The boys came the next day, and a mass meeting of citizens was held in the Armory. Before the meeting was over everybody in the city knew that there was going to be a celebration, and nearly a tenth of the money necessary had been subscribed. From that day until the day before the Fourth of July, there appeared daily in each of our two local papers from two to five news items in regard to the coming celebration. The city joined with us and appropriated five hundred dollars, which the Committee decided to expend in fireworks, the money going directly from the city to the contractor. The Mayor and others connected with the city government were placed on the Committee, in order that everybody might feel that the plan of expenditure was handled wisely and properly.

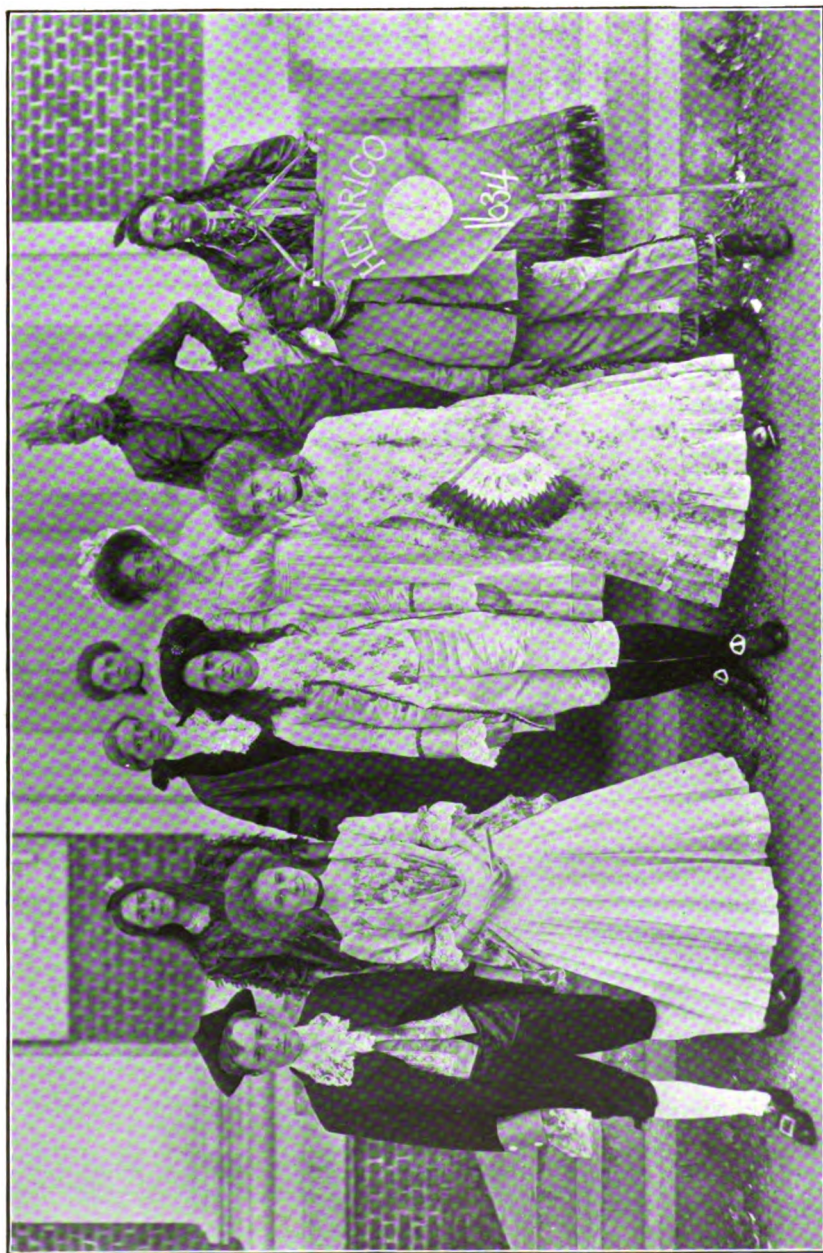
"The money was raised by the merchants, from the sale of unique badges worn by numbers of people, and in response to a strong letter sent to individuals, asking them to help.

"An appeal was made to the boys—street boys and those from the Boys' Club and the Young Men's Christian Association—to fill out an enlistment blank and join the Independence Day Volunteers. It was a most inspiring sight to see the boys come in bringing the papers of enlistment. During the weeks that intervened, we drilled and uniformed three companies of boys for the celebration. One of these companies was equipped with white trousers, white military coats and caps, and was drilled by a sergeant of the local United States Army recruiting station. It formed an important part of the civic parade in the afternoon. The other two companies—which formed a part of the morning's parade—were the 'Yellow Kids' and 'Wild West' companies respectively. It is interesting to note that of all the uniforms which were loaned to the boys and which they were asked to return after the celebration, only four had been lost. The rest were returned to the Committee, tied in paper packages.

"The school children were drilled to march and to sing patriotic songs; the girls wore white dresses and the boys white blouses, each boy carrying an American flag. The school that turned out the greatest number of children received a fine flag for its school building.

"In a city of this size, the fire department, made up largely of volunteer firemen and the firemen's association—taking in all the old firemen for many years back—always interests great numbers of men. The rag-a-muffin parade in the morning also enlisted many boys and men, all of whom were free to enter, provided they reported to the Committee the nature of the 'take-off' they proposed to carry out.

"The doctors and nurses were formed into a Red Cross movement. They were asked to report cases of the very old, the feeble, and those who were very ill. A committee of young men took red crosses to these homes



University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.

A FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION. HENRICO COUNTY, VIRGINIA.



University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.

A FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION. A SOUTH CAROLINA GROUP.

DANGERS OF THE FOURTH

the night before, and tacked them on the houses. Cards were distributed in that vicinity and copies and notices were given in the newspapers requesting the children to go as far as possible away from these homes when discharging their fireworks. The Golden Rule was used all through the arrangements; an appeal was made to the people to do unto others as they would that they should do to them.

"The people in the churches were interested, and when they understood what was needed, they were ready to do their best to help entertain the visitors, some of them from many miles, many with little children. Nearly all the churches displayed large cards reading, 'Rest Room for Women.' Women and children could go there for rest or refreshment, and a mother might feed her child or put it to sleep if she chose.

"In the morning of one of the most beautiful days that I have ever seen, we had the rag-a-muffin parade. Then came the automobiles and motor cycles beautifully trimmed. These were followed by a balloon race between the rival cities of Pittsfield and North Adams, Pittsfield being one of the balloon centers of the United States. The big civic business parade came in the afternoon, then the sports on the common, and the dress parade of the militia at sunset, followed by fireworks in the evening. These were discharged a little way out of the city in a great natural amphitheatre. The people sat on the side of the hill, as you might imagine the Children of Israel assembled according to Biblical accounts. Everything moved on time, on the minute advertised. This promptness was something new for Pittsfield.

"The day after even the conservative people who had dreaded to see the day and the crowd, when they found that everybody had been well-behaved and that there was no disorder, were proud and glad that their city had been in line with other progressive communities in the United States in the movement for a safe, sane Fourth of July."

Dangers of the Fourth.—What a contrast to the above mentioned celebrations we find on reading the Seventh Annual Report of the Journal of the American Medical Association entitled, "Fourth of July Injuries and Tetanus."

"For the seventh consecutive year we are presenting statistics of injuries received during the celebration of the Fourth of July, with particular reference to tetanus resulting from these injuries. Considerable effort has been made to secure reliable data, and all serious cases have been carefully investigated, so that, so far as the figures go, dependence may be placed on them. We have received thousands of letters from physicians from all parts of the country reporting cases which otherwise could not have been included in the statistics. There are thousands of other cases not reported, although chiefly minor injuries.

"There were 150 tetanus cases this year (1909), almost double the record of last year, when 76 cases were reported. This is the largest number since 1903, when there were 415 cases. It is significant to note that the number of blank cartridge wounds correspondingly increased from 816 last year to 1,095 this year, and that the states having the largest number of blank cartridge injuries have also the largest number of tetanus cases. It is interesting also to state that from blank cartridge wounds there was a higher percentage of deaths (10.2) than from gunshot wounds (6.1 per cent.).

"The most common cause of the wound is the blank cartridge, and the usual site is the hand. This causes more deaths in the annual celebration of the Fourth of July than all other factors combined. In seven years 794 deaths have been caused by this one factor. Most of the victims were bright, active boys aged from six to eighteen years, and they were doomed to die

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the most awful death known to medical science, a death the agony of which is probably not paralleled even by the tortures of the Inquisition. If this annual sacrifice were really necessary, it would be far more merciful to pick out the hundred or more youths each year and deliberately shoot them. But this annual outrage is not necessary; it is entirely preventable, and the prevention rests with our city governments.

"Besides the 125 deaths due to tetanus, 90 persons were killed by various forms of fireworks, making a total of 215 deaths, an increase of 52 over last year and 57 more than in 1906. Seventeen were killed outright this year by firearms, 16 were killed by explosions of powder, 7 by giant firecrackers, 7 by toy cannons, and 7 by various causes, such as blood poisoning, by sky-rockets, chemicals, etc., while 37 were literally burned to death by fires from fireworks, many of which were caused by the so-called 'harmless' varieties of fireworks."

The killed and injured at the battle of Bunker Hill were only 1,474, as compared with 1,622 killed and injured while "celebrating" the fourth of July in 1909.

Ordinances.—As a result of ordinances passed and enforced, no casualties were reported for Washington, D. C., and only four slight injuries were sustained in Cleveland. In Chicago, where a restrictive ordinance was enforced, less than half the usual number of accidents and no deaths were reported.

The Cleveland ordinance follows:

Section 1557. No person shall fire any cannon, gun, rifle, pistol, toy pistol, or firearms of any kind; or fire any squib, rocket, cracker or Roman candle or other combustible fireworks or make use of any sling within the city.

ORDINANCE NO. 12008.—AN ORDINANCE to supplement Section 1557 of the Revised Ordinances to amend Section 1560 of the Revised Ordinances and to repeal Section 1559 of the Revised Ordinances relating to the sale and use of fireworks, firearms and explosives.

Section 1. (1557-a) That no person, firm, or corporation shall, within the city, sell, offer for sale, or have in his or its possession or custody any toy pistol, squib, rocket, cracker, or Roman candle, or fire balloon, or other combustible fireworks, or any article for the making of a pyrotechnic display. Provided that nothing in this section contained shall be construed as to prohibit the Board of Public Service from giving pyrotechnical displays of fireworks in the public parks whenever said Board is thereunto directed by resolution of Council.

Section 2. (1560) That any person violating any of the provisions of Section 1557, 1557-a, or 1558, shall on conviction thereof be fined in any sum not exceeding One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) or imprisoned in the work-house not exceeding thirty days or both at the discretion of the court.

Section 3. That Sections 1559 and 1560 of the Revised Ordinances be and the same are hereby repealed.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and legal publication.

Passed July 13, 1908.

C. W. LAPP,
President of the Council.
PETER WITT, City Clerk.

Approved by the Mayor July 20, 1908.
July 22-29.

INDEPENDENCE DAY. ORDINANCES

The ordinance introduced by Councilman Guy Newhall of Lynn, Mass., reads as follows:

"Section 1. No person shall discharge, set off, or cause to explode anywhere within the city limits, and no person, firm, or corporation shall sell or keep or expose for sale, any blank cartridge, any firecracker exceeding 2 inches in length and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter, any torpedo exceeding $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter, or any form of combustible or explosive firecracker or fireworks used for purposes of sport or celebration which shall contain any explosive more powerful than black gunpowder.

"Section 2. Any person, firm, or corporation violating the provisions of this ordinance shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$20 for each offense.

"Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect 30 days from its passage."

The Chicago ordinance prohibits the sale, exposure, or giving away of dynamite caps, toy pistols, explosive canes and firecrackers over a certain size. "The effect of this measure was good," writes Mr. James Kelley, the managing editor of the *Chicago Tribune*, "not only in itself, but because the fireworks people knew that they were on trial; that if the list of casualties still continued despite the prohibition of the more dangerous fireworks, they would be put out of business absolutely by an ordinance prohibiting fireworks of any description. Naturally, they coöperated with the police."

In Denver, Colo., the Daughters of the American Revolution in coöperation with twenty other patriotic organizations is planning the introduction of an ordinance drafted on the one now in force in Cleveland. It will also ask the Council to provide for celebrations in the parks and playgrounds under the city's supervision.

Endorsements.—Recently the Society for the Suppression of Unnecessary Noise, through its President, Mrs. Isaac L. Rice, sent letters, petitions and literature to the governors of all the states, to mayors, to fire chiefs, to commissioners of health, to heads of police departments, and to presidents of colleges. The state executives were asked to permit their names to be placed on a national committee for the promotion of a safe and sane Fourth, and the others were asked to express their opinions on the necessity for the agitation.

In response to this request much valuable material was received. President Taft wrote authorizing the Society to state that they were assured of his hearty interest in the movement, and fourteen governors have promised to help.

C. S. Deneen, Governor of Illinois, said:

"I shall be glad to coöperate with the other governors in bringing about the abandonment of the noisy and dangerous use of fireworks and explosives to which so much suffering and loss of property are due every Fourth of July.

ATTITUDE OF GOVERNORS

"I am glad that such a movement has been entered upon to bring about this result. This plan, I am sure, will be far more effectual in securing a more rational observance of the national holiday than the usual proclamations issued by the mayors and police authorities of cities each year. These have proven almost invariably a dead letter and have been totally disregarded."

M. E. Hay, Governor of Washington, said:

"I will certainly be very much pleased to do what I can towards securing a more rational observance of our national birthday, and if you so desire, I shall be pleased to join with the other governors in the formation of a national committee to bring about a less noisy and more patriotic observance of our national day."

R. S. Vessey, Governor of South Dakota, wrote:

"I assure you that I shall be glad indeed to act with you in regard to bringing about a safe and sane Fourth. I shall also be pleased to act on your national committee if there is anything that I can do to assist in furthering the work you have undertaken."

The Governor of Montana, Edwin L. Norris, had this to say:

"I assure you that I am in thorough sympathy with the movement and shall be pleased to coöperate in any way possible to its furtherance."

G. H. Prouty, Governor of Vermont, wrote:

"I shall certainly be very glad to do anything I can to assist in promoting a sane and safe Independence Day celebration, and shall be glad to coöperate in any way that I am able to that end."

Gov. Eben S. Draper of Massachusetts, said:

"I am perfectly willing that you should use my name in favor of a saner celebration of July Fourth. I do not object to the noise so much as I do to the danger to our children and young people, through an indiscriminate use of dangerous explosives."

J. H. Brady, Governor of Idaho, wrote:

"I heartily agree with the sentiments expressed by Governor Deneen. I shall be pleased to coöperate with your society and with the governors of the several states in this regard."

North Dakota's Governor, John Burke, said:

"I shall be glad to act with you in securing a safe and patriotic observance of our national holiday."

"The explosives used are becoming more dangerous every year. When I was a boy there was no such thing as a giant firecracker; the firecrackers used were small and almost harmless compared with those of to-day."

"I am willing to lend whatever assistance I can."

A. Eberhart, Governor of Minnesota, replied:

"I take pleasure in saying that I am in hearty accord with the objects of your Society and will be glad to coöperate in any movement to aid in bringing about the reforms for which it is laboring."

"Kindly advise me, as the movement progresses, if I can be of any further service."

ATTITUDE OF GOVERNORS

Bert M. Fernald, Maine's Governor, said :

"The alarming list of accidents that is annually brought to our attention as a result of the reckless use of dangerous explosives certainly warrants the effort your Society is making to bring about a more rational observance of our national holiday. If I can coöperate with the executives of other states to aid the movement it will assuredly give me pleasure to do so."

Malcolm R. Patterson, Governor of Tennessee, said :

"I shall be very glad to serve as a member of the national committee for the promotion of a safe and sane Fourth of July."

Simeon S. Pennewill, Governor of Delaware, replied :

"The movement for the promotion of a safe and sane Fourth of July meets with my hearty approval. I will gladly coöperate with your Society and join with the governors of other states in bringing about this reform."

The Governor of Connecticut, Frank B. Weeks, wrote :

"I most certainly am favorably disposed toward any movement that will insure a safe and sane Fourth. I, with hosts of others in our country, feel that the dangerous use of explosives at that season has passed all bounds of reason. I will gladly coöperate in any way I can toward the desired reform."

Braxton B. Comer, Governor of Alabama ; John Franklin Fort, Governor of New Jersey ; James O. Davidson, Governor of Wisconsin ; Martin F. Ansel, Governor of South Carolina ; and Henry L. West, Commissioner of the District of Columbia, have all declared their approval.

In her article in the March *Forum*, Mrs. Rice writes as follows :

"No less encouraging than the replies from the executives have been the answers received from the mayors of many cities, who have put themselves on record as being opposed to the present celebration of the Fourth. From cities north, east, south and west, from cities large and small, have come words of endorsement and approval and, almost invariably, offers of assistance. Trenton, for instance, is evidently preparing for a sane Fourth, if one may judge from the reply sent me by Mayor Madden :

'I beg to state that I am in hearty sympathy with this movement. When one reflects upon the frightful number of fatalities and accidents which have annually resulted from our thoughtless and barbarous manner of celebrating this national holiday, it behooves every thoughtful person to contribute some aid toward a more sane method of expressing our patriotic feelings on this day. I have appointed a committee of twenty-five representative citizens to arrange for a safe and sane celebration of Independence Day, on July Fourth, 1910, in the City of Trenton.'

"The same attitude regarding this matter is manifested by Mayor Edgerton of Rochester, who for a long time has been working for a better observance of Independence Day :

'I am in hearty sympathy with any movement to bring about a safer and more rational celebration of the Fourth of July. We can show our patriotism just as effectively without the use of explosives, which annually causes the loss of so many lives and involves the destruction of so much property.'

ATTITUDE OF CITY OFFICIALS

"*'Let the good work go on!'*" is the language of the Mayor of Duluth, while the Mayor of Chattanooga stated that our petition had not only his signature but his hearty endorsement. The Mayor of Bridgeport wrote:

'The real significance of our national holiday seems to elude the majority of our youths, who look upon it as a day of license to carry and discharge diabolical weapons and thundering explosives. Anything that will tend to correct this erroneous idea of celebrating will surely be welcomed by all thinking people.'

"In a communication from Mayor Mahool we learn in how drastic a manner Baltimore is engaged in the fight against the slaughter on Independence Day and about its protective ordinance:

'As mayor I have the right to grant a permit free of charge for the explosion of fireworks, but in the three years I have been in office, I have not granted a permit of this nature, with the result that the Fourth of July in Baltimore is celebrated in a safe and sane manner, the day being given up to celebrations of a patriotic character.'

"A most interesting letter has reached me from Mayor Meals of Harrisburg:

'We appreciate the spirit that actuates our American people in celebrating this glorious event, but we are not unmindful of the fact that there is a danger of going to extremes, which in my opinion is not an observance of the great principles of Independence Day, but rather a noisy demonstration for personal gratification. This department is in hearty sympathy with the movement that has been inaugurated, and we are satisfied that the determined effort upon the part of yourself and others who may be interested with you, will result in a far more effectual and rational observance of the national holiday, than are such methods that bring disaster and sorrow to our homes.'

"From Hartford came the following:

'Your work in interesting the nation is certainly producing good results in very many cities, and I am glad to heartily commend your unselfish service which has accomplished so much for the benefit of all our people.'

"In his letter to me the Mayor of Nashville touched upon a point which seems strange to Northerners. I refer to the custom prevalent in the South of celebrating Christmas with pistols and fireworks:

'Here in the South, it is the custom to celebrate Christmas with fireworks, toy pistols, cannon crackers, and various devices that cause death and injury to our children. I think the work you are engaged in will be a great benefit to the rising generation and I am willing to help you in any way that I can.'

"From the heads of police departments have come letters and signatures to petitions: Commissioner Wm. F. Baker, New York City; Superintendent McQuade, Pittsburg; Chief Levan, Reading; Chief Hyatt, Albany; Secretary Skelly, San Francisco; Superintendent Birmingham, Bridgeport; Chief Davis, Memphis; Chief Creecy, St. Louis; Secretary Gee, Providence; Chief Persett, Galveston; Chief Moyer, Duluth; Superintendent Downey, Detroit; Messrs. J. M. Morton, Dansey and Lawson, Police Board, Fall River; Commissioner of Public Safety Hessler, Syracuse; Chief Millikin, Cincinnati; Chief Kohler, Cleveland; Secretary Kinsey, Baltimore; City Marshal Quilty, Springfield, Mass., and Chief Werner, Richmond.

"From the fire chiefs came the same recognition of the need of a change in the mode of celebrating the Fourth.

HOW TO START A CAMPAIGN

'I congratulate you,' wrote the fire chief of Springfield, Ohio, 'for leading this movement. We have had in years gone by many fires and personal injuries resulting from the foolish and hazardous use of fireworks on the Fourth of July. I hope that the people of this country will see that the coöperation of the different mayors and heads of fire departments will be the means of decreasing on the Fourth of July many personal injuries and losses of life and property. . . . You can count upon me at all times as against the unnecessary and hazardous risk of life and property in our city.'

'I believe this great day should be observed and celebrated in a more moderate way, namely, by patriotic speech-making, music, athletic games, and not in a way which is directly responsible for the destruction of life and property,' declared the fire chief of Erie, Pa., while the head of the Fire Department of Chattanooga exclaimed: 'Let the good work go on! Some of our greatest fire losses have been the result of fireworks. Several years ago one of our hotels was destroyed and three people burned alive as a result of such celebrations.'

"Further endorsement came from Chief Gernand, Galveston; Chief Salter, Omaha; Chief Randall, Duluth; Secretary Wilkinson, Baltimore; Chief Mayo, Toledo; Horace B. Clark, President of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Hartford, and Chief Clancey, Milwaukee.

"In reply to the letters and petitions sent to universities and colleges, many answers have been received, while hundreds of signatures to our petitions which had been posted on the bulletin boards have been returned to us. If space only permitted it would be delightful to quote from many of these admirable letters, but as it is I must limit myself to one. This one, however, which came from President Woodrow Wilson, of Princeton University, voices the sentiment of all:

'I most unhesitatingly sign one of the blank forms of petition accompanying your letter of January 25. I wish to express my entire sympathy with the interesting work you are undertaking for the suppression of unnecessary noise and the sane reform of our present way of celebrating the Fourth of July. I shall take pleasure in placing the other blank forms on the bulletin boards of the university, as you request.'

How to Start a Campaign.—The usual way to start a campaign is to get a few earnest men and women to form an Independence Day committee or association, and secure the coöperation of the city authorities and such general civic bodies as the boards of trade, chambers of commerce, merchants' associations. By having the coöperation of the school board, the park board, and police board, there will be little difficulty in securing the relatively small amount of money that is needed. In many places, the city government itself is ready for action, as is indicated by the letters from governors and mayors, which have been quoted. The daily press will usually be found ready to print articles, for none realize better than newspaper people the damage done by present methods of celebration.

Raising money is an important part of the campaign in places where the city can not be prevailed upon to furnish the necessary funds. Several methods have been tried in various cities with vary-

HOW TO START A CAMPAIGN

ing degrees of success. In one New England town envelopes marked "Everybody chip in" were sent to every resident. The letter enclosed read about as follows: "This is our celebration, all of us, men, women and children. We can all take part; we can all give a little; we can all welcome strangers; each can beautify his own premises; each can be present at the sports; each can do what is required of him by the committees. Please explain this to the children and put a penny in the envelope for each child in your house. Give what you can yourself. The envelope will be collected on _____ by _____. Give it to nobody else."

The funds thus received were put into the hands of the committee which was in charge of the celebration. Sub-committees took charge of the various activities and parts of the program, but nothing was done and nothing paid for without the knowledge of the general committee.

In another city badges were sold at amounts varying from twenty-five cents to whatever people were disposed to give. The money was then turned over to an Independence Day association. This plan, however, was too much like "Tag Day," a method of raising money which has been tried frequently, and which has gotten into disfavor. It not only gives the children who do the collecting an almost irresistible temptation to steal, but also makes some of them feel that they are little short of mendicants.

Possibly the best method of raising funds is to have the members or the regularly organized Independence Day association contribute membership fees of stated amounts, and have all disbursements made by the regularly elected treasurer. This, of course, necessitates the enrollment of new members and the collection of the membership fees, and takes considerable time. It is, without question, the most efficient method.

The matter of publicity is also an important part of the campaign. Wherever possible, a publicity man should be in charge of furnishing the newspapers with articles telling what is being done by the local committee or association. He should also hold the interest of the people by stories of celebrations which have been held in other cities, by publishing endorsements of the movement made by prominent people and their approval of the plans proposed. The Department of Child Hygiene of the Russell Sage Foundation (1 Madison Avenue), New York City, will be glad to furnish material of this nature to the person in charge of the publicity part of the

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campaign. This department is also ready to loan lantern slides to those who wish to arouse enthusiasm in the movement by illustrated public lectures. The only expense in this connection would be that of expressage.

It is well in giving out publicity matter not to say much about the persons connected with the movement and to sign all material "Publicity Committee," as people get tired of hearing about personalities. It is best also to give the material to all the newspapers at the same time. Get the papers to carry the articles as news items with black headlines, giving each day the news of what is being arranged, the time and place, and urging the people to coöperate.

Some days before the Fourth, advertisements of the program and items of interest should be placed in all the newspapers that have given space to articles sent to them by the committee or association. This makes the papers feel that they are receiving some compensation for their coöperation, and they will show their appreciation of this spirit of fairness in future campaigns.

The Play Centers in France

HENRY DE PEYSTER,

PARIS, FRANCE.

The idea of organizing playgrounds for all the children of the primary schools has not yet been realized in France, although for a long time the attention of those who take an active interest in children has been drawn to the danger of allowing children to play in the streets when they cannot be trusted indoors—because the mother is dead or goes to work, or because the family is too large for all the children to remain in the home at the same time.

However, in almost every working-class district of the larger cities, centers have been opened where children meet once a week, generally on Thursday, when the schools are closed. Hence comes the widespread expression of "Thursday schools." Some of the centers have been started with a view to making proselytes, and the entire time is occupied by Bible classes. This, however, is exceptional and nearly always play, singing, or easy industrial work are the main, if not the only, objects of the organizers.

But, as Mrs. Humphry Ward judiciously stated, admirably as