

Social . . . Settlements

The New York state commissioner of labor devoted a large part of his report for 1906 to an exceptionally thorough and satisfactory treatment of the history, description and public utility of social settlements in that state.

The following are extracts from the report:

"The attitude of the settlement toward trade unions is most cordial. Recognizing their value, it seeks to cooperate with them in promoting the labor movement, to which subject the residents have given much reflection, and have often assisted in the formation of unions. One of the aims of the settlement is to increase mutual understanding between employer and employed, and it always advises rational modes on both sides in adjusting disputes. It urges that the workers should receive through their organizations not only thorough instruction in the principles and philosophy of trade unionism, but also knowledge as to the large social and economic questions, thus fitting them to assume important and active positions in all great movements that tend to uplift the masses.

"With regard to the effect of settlement work, from the viewpoint of its constituency, it may be of interest to here note the opinions of several critical workingmen who are club members at a house located in a section of New York city composed of wage earners, and not in nor of the slums. Three of these men were interviewed. One, a trade unionist, who is designated as the Nestor of the club of which he is a member said:

"The settlement idea is a grand one. My attention was called to it some years ago through my boys taking books out of the library, which institution of itself, is worthy of high praise, because of the great good it is doing in the neighborhood. I joined the settlement and am a member of a club or association, which discusses social and various other subjects. At our meetings the intelligent forces of the working



Organizer, orator, worker, veteran, is Rev. N. S. Haynes, the new pastor of the First Christian church. Though he was born in Kentucky he has passed the most of his life in Illinois, where in 1867 he was graduated from Eureka college. A year later he entered the ministry and kept the pastorate of the church at Decatur for seven years. Then at the head of state mission work he toiled six years and returned to the ministry. Six years at Peoria, seven at Englewood and four at Eureka, his last parish, brought him the call to Lincoln. He had just completed a new church at Eureka when his call from Lincoln arrived. Judging from the hard work he did there his ministry here is expected to be a tonic to the church. During the civil war he was a member of the Eighty-ninth Illinois infantry.

masses and the people of higher education are brought together. Distinguished clergymen, captains of industry, workingmen, and eminent professional and public men take part in the discussions. There is no adverse criticism among the speakers, and every

one is welcome to take the platform. The settlement is non-sectarian and non-political, every kind of persuasion being represented under its roof. Its methods are attractive and every one helps in the good work. I cannot speak too highly about what I think of it, for it certainly tends to elevate the masses.

"This is the view taken by another member of the club, a young trade-unionist:

"Ultimately the settlement will be a fine thing. It brings together men of all vocations, and in this way they are better enabled to get a clearer insight into life. In our club all have independent ideas, and freely express them. We discuss different questions, and these discussions bring out truths, for the subjects are argued intelligently. Although we pay dues, the work is not self-supporting. We would rather it was conducted without outside aid. Nevertheless, it is not a charity in any sense of the word; yet many people in this vicinity have an idea that it is, and will not attend to that account. I think the work of the settlement is doing all right. It promotes the social life. If there were enough room in the house so that the same club could meet every night it would be more beneficial, and would probably attract many young men who now congregate on corners or in saloons for the purpose of association. In my judgment, if such a thing were possible, great good could be accomplished if the state would adopt the settlement idea and carry on the work something akin to the public school system. By opening attractive quarters in every crowded block and following out the settlement plan of entertaining and instructing young people, a very large number of youths would doubtless leave the corners and drinking places and spend their time more profitably in public club rooms sustained in this manner."

"Here is the opinion of the third workingman:

"Settlements are a great benefit in certain localities. For instance, there is the university settlement, which is doing a splendid work down town. It is in a crowded district, where the peo-

ple need such a thing, and take advantage of it. Up here, where men are able to pay their way, the settlement cannot reach the people it is trying to reach. The objection is that it is not self-supporting. Most of the members of our club, all of whom pay dues, would like to see it so. We, however, do not consider it a charity, for if we did the house would soon be empty. When the house was first opened there was a feeling that those who came over from Fifth avenue were patronizing, but such was not the case, and of late that idea has been entirely eliminated. The people of means who contribute toward the settlement are sincere in the belief that they are doing a real good to the community, but if there is a notion that in this way social equality can be brought about between the rich and poor, I am afraid it never will be realized. I must say, though, that any association whose main purpose is to bring men together is certainly beneficial."

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LIPTON STILL PLANNING TO WIN THE CUP



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Within a few days it is expected that the New York Yacht Club authorities will receive an official challenge from Sir Thomas Lipton for a third race for the America's cup. When he was defeated last time Sir Thomas said he would spring a surprise on the American public next time he challenged. The fact that the new challenger is now well under way bears out this promise.

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