

HOME TOWN HELPS

FIRES AND TOWN PLANNING

Many Instances May Be Cited Where a Little Foresight Would Have Saved Much Money.

Paris, Tex., which recently jumped into notice because fire destroyed the greater part of the town, is busy with plans for rebuilding according to a systematic town plan. A town planner has been imported, and when Paris rises from its ashes it will be a better-built and more convenient town to get around in than it ever was before, if what is accomplished comes up to the expectation of the people.

The people of Paris show a remarkable spirit when they are able to survey their ruined town and still have mind and foresight left to think of town planning along modern lines; but the chances of success would have been better if the plan had been evolved before the fire, when Paris had more time for deliberation and a gradual upbuilding of public sentiment. When the village of Detroit was re-planned, more than a century ago, after a fire that burned every building in the place, mistakes were made that plague the city to this day. San Francisco ignored its great opportunity a decade ago. If Chicago had had a town plan back in the 'seventies Chicago's present planning problems might not be half so formidable, and in this country of big fires any city may have its melancholy chance to make new street lines or lay out new parks over its ashes.

The remoteness of the chance that a conflagration will visit any city may seem to make this consideration but a weak argument for town planning, but it is not necessary to burn a whole town down to give the well-matured town plan a chance. In Cleveland not many years ago the burning of a single building gave the city an opportunity to make an extremely valuable street extension in the downtown district. If that particular extension had not been in the public mind for a long while the chance might have been overlooked and a heavy bill for a wrecked building would have been the result when the street was finally opened.—Chicago Herald.

OPEN GARDEN HOUSE



The garden house illustrated here is complete and needs vines only for embellishment. A skeleton roof of rafters only, no sheeting or shingles, could be put up and covered with vines, making an arbor rather than a house. Seats may be built in or movable benches or chairs used.

URGED CULTIVATION OF TREES

Henry Ward Beecher, Fifty Years Ago, Sought to Awaken New England to Its Possibilities.

Henry Ward Beecher in "Norwood," 50 years ago, said: "I have often marveled that, in a time of such taste and liberality, so little should be done with trees. New England might be a magnificent park, with but a slight expense, if only one dedicated himself to doing good through the love of beauty. Every great road, every by-road, connecting towns and villages, or neighborhoods, if concert was secured, might not only be judiciously planted, but, by a little study and care in the selection, all the fine trees might in time be employed until every county would become an arboretum. Such is the spirit of emulation that if a single town should perfect this work, other towns would catch the inspiration, and the work would go on with energy until all unclothed road would become a reproof."

Roses for Oregon School Yards.

Many Oregon school yards that have been without flowers will blossom with roses in a year or two, and others that have not been altogether strangers to roses will have more of them, if 3,500 hardy little bushes that are to be sent out from the university gardens this spring manage to survive the trials of being transplanted. Each spring at pruning time thousands of rose slips cut from the bushes on the university campus are planted for distribution the following spring to high schools of the state, to public buildings, libraries, hospitals and other suitable institutions. From twelve to twenty bushes are sent in each package.

What About the Flowers On Your Summer Hat, Madam?

Most artificial flowers are made by children in disease-infested tenement houses under very bad working conditions. Efforts made to stop the evil

ALL the artificial flowers made in the United States, 74 per cent are made in New York city, says a government report. A report of the Consumers' league of that city shows that a large proportion of these flowers are made in tenement houses and that most of the workers are children whose ages range from eleven down to four. It would be shocking to some to see with their own eyes how the beautiful flowers which adorn their hats are made by the tiny hands of young children, some of them mere babies, who work from early morning until late at night and earn from ten to fifteen cents a day.

Yet the purpose of this article is not to shock anyone's sensibilities, but to lay bare facts and describe conditions as they are, says Israel Zevin in the New York Herald.

Some ten or twelve years ago a few men and women were sitting in the assembly room of a settlement house listening to the talk of a charity investigator, who, among other things, told a story of how, on a cold winter night, a poor family were sitting huddled together round a small stove and burning up a pack of old papers, which the jobless head of the family had dug up in some place.

"That was the only fuel they were able to get," the investigator said. "The children were clapping their hands with joy, feeling the warmth of the flames penetrating their frail bodies."

"Suddenly one of the children, a thoughtful little girl, stopped for a moment and, becoming serious, asked her mother: 'Mamma, dear, please tell me, what do those poor children who have no old papers do on a cold night like this?'"

The women and men laughed; they thought it was clever. But there was one man who did not laugh. All night the vision of those pale, emaciated children sitting around the stove haunted him, and for a long time he was tortured by the heartache effect of the grim joke. He is now one of the chief workers of the movement to abolish child labor.

It is not pleasant, these facts relating to the work of children. Some of them almost challenge credibility. For how could any mother allow her tiny baby, three or four years old, who is even too young for the kindergarten, to sit indoors all day long and work making imitations of flowers the child has never seen?

Some Startling Cases.

And yet I have seen children begin to learn to make artificial flowers when they were only two years old. I do not say that children of that age are compelled or coaxed by their mothers to work, but it is this way.

The baby sits in a chair by the table watching mother and the other children work. The baby stretches out its hands, grabbing a petal or a leaf to satisfy his desire the mother gives the baby a few petals, showing him how to pull them apart. At three or four the child is already an efficient worker, able to earn about ten cents a day.

Here are some of the facts:

A mother and two daughters, living and working in a rear tenement, so dark that an oil lamp must be kept burning all day in order that they may see to work, make forget-me-not wreaths. They receive seven cents for one dozen wreaths, and can earn \$4.20 every 15 days.

A frail, delicate mother of five children sits at a table in their two-room flat from morning until late at night putting artificial berries on stems. She earns from ten to fifteen cents a day.

In a four-room flat, where three children have died of tuberculosis and two others were suffering from it, a mother and an eleven-year-old girl made artificial roses at 15 cents a gross.

In one home on a Saturday morning four children, ten, nine, six and four years old, were found sitting by a table near the one window making cherries. They had been there since six o'clock in the morning, and worked each day until eight o'clock at night.

No child above four or five is considered too young to work. The hours for all, whether children or adults, are determined not by law, not by physical welfare, but by the amount of work the factory gives out to be done. If there is an extra amount of work the whole family work from half-past five in the morning until ten or eleven at night, and sometimes even until one or two o'clock in the morning, stopping only long enough to eat their scanty meal of spaghetti, dry bread and coffee, on which they seem to subsist.

Breaking the Labor Law.

In the 165 families studied by the investigator for the Consumers' league 691 children were found. More than 18 per cent of these were fourteen years and over and were contributing something to the family income; about 36 per cent were five years and under, too young to work, though in a few cases children of this age were found helping with the flowers. Out of the remaining 46 per cent between the ages of six and fourteen who might be found helping 14 per cent were busily at work at the time of the investigator's call. At least 14 per cent, then, of the children who were able to do this work were violating the child labor law of New York state.

How many more could be included in this list it was impossible to ascertain. Many families were visited during the morning, when the children were at school, and it was only through the word of the mother that we were able to determine whether or not the children helped with the flowers after school hours. For the most part only cases of children who were actually found at work were listed. Therefore, the estimate is a very conservative one.



The tenement houses where most of the flowers are made are of the worst type, with dark and shaky stairways. The crowded tenement houses of the "congested East side," of which so much has been said in print, are palaces in comparison to those rickety old structures. And in them the children of sunny Italy spend their days and nights. Ostensibly it is their inherent love for flowers that is drawing them to this work.

It is not an easy matter to get the confidence of some of the women and to make them answer questions. They are always suspicious that visitors are from the board of health with a mission to make trouble. In some houses no amount of arguing or coaxing will bring results—not even the assurance of the children who return from school and are appealed to.

However, there are some who are quite willing to talk and to shed light on the situation. They are not greedy, but they are very ambitious, and it is their ambition that impels them to utilize every possibility of making money.

Average \$8 a Week.

They are all honest, hard-working people. The children are orderly and respectful, and there was a world of love in the mothers' eyes on seeing them return from school and resume their work separating petals and pasting leaves on stems.

The earnings of heads of the families were found to average eight dollars a week, which, according to the standard of living in that locality, is a fair income. A good many of the men work in flower factories and from them they take work home. The others are mostly shoemakers, bootblacks and pushcart peddlers.

One of the places where children were found at work after school hours had a restaurant and pool-room on the ground floor of the building in which the family lived. When there are no diners in the restaurant the long dining table is covered with wreaths and bunches of cherries and forget-me-nots, a mother and her children working diligently at them. The proprietor of this restaurant was also in the rag business.

In one place a young woman, Margarita Rozzoni, who looked quite different from the general type—she being blonde and having blue eyes—was at work with her little girl, who seemed to be a willing and ambitious helper. Little Giovanna, three years old, looked like a miniature of her mother—golden haired and eyes of the color of violets. "I don't want her to help me," the mother said, "but she insists on doing that." And she accentuated her words by bending over the child and kissing her with all the fondness of a mother.

The children one meets here in the streets are all pretty, but their beauty fades before maturity. Their physical development is stunted by long hours of work and very little play. Their childhood does not last long. A girl who is married at fourteen is no rare case. Here they make the step from childhood right to manhood and womanhood, skipping over the period of youth and maidenhood.

Why Tony Sells Flowers.

Such a child was Tony, who at thirteen became the breadwinner for the family, selling flowers—real flowers—by day and helping his mother make artificial flowers by night. Tony was never a boy; he never played in the streets with other children, never threw a ball in the air. Tony's father kept a fruit stand on a corner, where he also stined shoes

and roasted peanuts. You could see him at this stand in the early morning before people went to work and late at night after they returned home from the theater. He was there in all kinds of weather, and he had been on the same spot for 15 years. During this period his wife and later his children helped to swell his bank account by making artificial flowers. When the war began there was a run on the bank where Tony's father kept his savings. The bank was closed, and then the poor man's reason gave way. He was taken to an insane asylum, and Tony, not being able to keep up his father's business, took to selling flowers as his trade.

And Tony is not the only "man" at the early age of thirteen.

Owners of flower factories find it more profitable to have work done in the tenements by women and children. The flower factories give out parts of flowers—petals, leaves, and stems—to be made up into whole flowers and wreaths by the workers in their homes. Usually the oldest child in the family calls for these parts, which she carries home in a huge pasteboard box. When the flowers are done she brings them back to the factory and the "boss" pays her for the work.

The petals, which usually come from the factory in bunches, must be separated and then pasted together with the leaves and stems. Sometimes there are as many as nine pieces which must be joined before the flowers are ready to be returned to the factory. Buds are made by tying pieces of silk over a round ball of cotton. The work, though slow and tedious, is not hard and can be done with very little skill and practice. Whole families were found busily working around a table in the kitchen or living room pasting and twisting and bunching the gayly colored flowers, which sometimes give the only bright note to an otherwise desperately dingy home.

Worst Paid Work.

The price paid for the work is perhaps the lowest in any trade. Prices vary from two cents a gross for pasting leaves on stems to \$1.40 a gross for making flower wreaths. One girl of fifteen, who had trouble with her spine, was found at work putting berries on the ends of stems and receiving for the work only one cent a gross. She told the investigator that she made usually ten cents a day. "But when my little sister helps me," she added, "I can make fifteen cents a day."

It is these conditions that the Consumers' league is striving to abolish. And the activities of the Consumers' league are not limited to the flower industry. The members of the league are working hard to improve conditions in other occupations in which women and young children are employed, and have been doing great work in educating the people on the dangers of woman and child labor under unsanitary conditions.

By pointing out the dangers to the consumer through goods made in dark and airless homes, where scarlet fever and other contagious diseases were found to exist, the leaders of the league have already accomplished many good results. But there is much work to be done. Few realize how closely connected are our own lives with the lives of the workers along certain industrial lines. It is not only the health of the workers that is often at stake, but the conditions are a menace to the consumers as well, and the danger to society is great.

FRECKLES

Now Is the Time to Get Rid of These Ugly Spots.

There's no longer the slightest need of feeling ashamed of your freckles, as the prescription ointment—double strength—is guaranteed to remove these homely spots.

Simply get an ounce of ointment—double strength—from your druggist, and apply a little of it night and morning, and you should soon see that even the worst freckles have begun to disappear, while the lighter ones have vanished entirely. It is seldom that more than one ounce is needed to completely clear the skin and gain a beautiful clear complexion.

Be sure to ask for the double strength ointment, as this is sold under guarantee of money back if it fails to remove freckles.—Adv.

The Easiest Way.

Tommy had a cold in his head, which confined him to the house, so he was allowed to invite his young friend, Jack, to tea.

Afterward the two small boys commenced playing hide-and-seek, and Tommy rushed into the dining room and asked his father to conceal him. This father did, behind a big arm-chair.

Presently in came Jack, and instead of beginning his search, calmly threw himself down on the rug before the fire.

"Come, Jack," said Tommy's father, "aren't you going to look?"

"No fear," was the small boy's calm retort. "I'm waiting till he sniffs!"

MORNING—NOON—NIGHT.

If you would have attractive teeth you should use "SPEARMINTO" TOOTH PASTE. It is SAFE and PURE. Contains the only known harmless ingredient that will prevent formation of TARTAR DEPOSITS. No ALCOHOL—SOAP—COLORING—GRIT or any other injurious ingredients. FORMULA of JOHN O. BUTLER, D. D. S. Consult your DENTIST often and use "SPEARMINTO" daily. For sale at DRUG STORES or by mail, prepaid, 25c. Liberal sample and "DIRECTIONS FOR PROPER CARE OF THE TEETH" by mail for 4c. Start using "SPEARMINTO" today. Address, THE SPEARMINTO CO., 336 W. 63d St., Chicago, Ill.—Adv.

Regular Nightmare.

"Well, Bobby," said young Lightwit, as the small brother of the only girl entered the grocery, "how are all the folks—and what can I do for you this morning?"

"Oh, the folks ain't got no kick comin' 'cept Mame. I heard her tellin' maw she dream'd about you again last night."

"And what did your maw say?" inquired Lightwit, bending over the counter eagerly.

"Maw told her she'd have to cut out mince pie and pickles before she went to bed after this—and I want a nickel's worth of crackers and two cents worth of milk," rejoined the youngster.

Didn't Want Much.

One Saturday night a lady who possessed a fruit and vegetable shop hurried to serve her last customer, a very red-faced woman.

She asked for a pennyworth of vegetables, and wanted a piece of everything.

When she had been given what she desired, she politely asked if they could be wrapped in a piece of paper and tied with a string.

The shopkeeper turned to her, quite calm, and said:

"Wait a minute, and I will run across to the butcher's for a bone, and I think that will complete your Sunday's dinner."

Vain Search.

Mr. Bacon—Do you know, dear, I have only two suits of clothes to my name?

Mrs. Bacon—Yes, John; I have noticed that you have very little change in your clothing.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Fruit Farming in South Africa.

Fruit farming is making rapid progress in South Africa. A good orchard tractor is one of the things needed.

Don't blame a girl for assuming a striking attitude when she's trying to make a hit.

"He who has health has hope, And he who has hope has everything." (Arabian Proverb)

Sound health is largely a matter of proper food—which must include certain mineral elements best derived from the field grains, but lacking in many foods.

Grape-Nuts

made of whole wheat and malted barley, supplies all the rich nourishment of the grains, including their vital mineral salts—phosphate of potash, etc., most necessary for building and energizing the mental and physical forces.

"There's a Reason" Sold by Grocers everywhere.