

HUMANITARIAN WORK

Dr. J. A. Leavitt, Secretary Nebraska Division Society for the Friendless, Visits Alliance

A LOCAL SOCIETY ORGANIZED

Dr. J. A. Leavitt, secretary of the Nebraska division of the Society for the Friendless favored Alliance with a call extending from last Saturday until Wednesday at noon of this week, when he left for points south and west. Dr. Leavitt had opportunity, of which he availed himself conscientiously, of presenting all phases of the work of his society and in all the ways by which that presentation could be made.

On Sunday he preached in the morning at the Baptist church upon the "Home." In the afternoon also at the Baptist church he held a parental conference upon the subject of marriage. In the evening he preached at the U. P. church upon "The Attitude of Jesus Christ to the Man that is Down and Out."

Monday evening at the Presbyterian church he addressed a good-sized audience on the subject, "The Christian and the Criminal," and Tuesday evening at the M. E. church on the subject, "Reforms and Reformed Men."

In all of these Dr. Leavitt showed himself a friend of the friendless. He brought us facts that demand the serious attention of the great commonwealth of the state of Nebraska. Facts concerning existing conditions and then causes that bear out not only the wisdom of the formation of this Society for the Friendless in a state-wide way but the need of similar societies in all localities.

The aim of the society, which is only ten years old and yet covers more territory than any other society in the field of crime, is:

1. The prevention and cure of crime. The family and the local society, the juvenile court can have a large part in this.

2. The reform of prison laws.

3. Reform of prisons. Both penitentiaries and reform schools are known to have inadequate provision for the segregation and variety of attention demanded by the relative baseness of offenses and offenders. All are not alike when they enter.

4. Jail and prison evangelism. Men are saved if saved at all, inside prison walls or outside, by the same Gospel, and it can bring light to them that sit in darkness.

5. Then, provision for the ex-prisoner is a thing that feelings of common humanity demand. It is unreasonable for a man to be turned out of prison in midwinter with only five dollars and a shoddy suit of clothes and be able to keep above the crime line.

Offenders deserve punishment, but justice as well as mercy asks that, while penalty is being paid, a man be taught and led to become more of a man than to sink lower and lower. Very few offenses deserve a cage for years. God's great outdoors, with labor, sweat of brows, under surveillance, of course, is one of the very reasonable requests of the society for the man that is down.

It desires also the enactment of law touching the teaching of sex-hygiene in our public schools. If this does not meet the approval of all, better still would be such instruction in the home.

It asks for law limiting marriage to the physically, mentally and morally fit. Take for instance the habitual drunkard. Would Nebraska have a divorce for every six and one-half marriages if the drunkard were hindered from marrying the girl that expects to reform him afterwards but finds in the course of a few months that she has too big a job on hands and so appeals to the divorce courts. It asks for a law for the sterilization of the unfit as, in the states of Indiana and Iowa.

The work of the society is patriotic and humanitarian. One that should awaken all who hear of it to a sense of the responsibility that the strong have toward the weak.

Sabbath afternoon at the Baptist church a local branch of this larger society was formed. It will quite probably be known as "The Parental League." Of this Supt. W. R. Pate is chairman; Rev. J. B. Brown, vice president; H. F. Walters, secretary; with the pastors of all the various churches as a committee to render any assistance or to bring before the Society any matter that may come to their knowledge.

Attorney Westover returned Monday from an over Sunday visit at Rushville. He transacted business in Chadron while on the trip.

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