

The Movement for a Safe and Sane Fourth

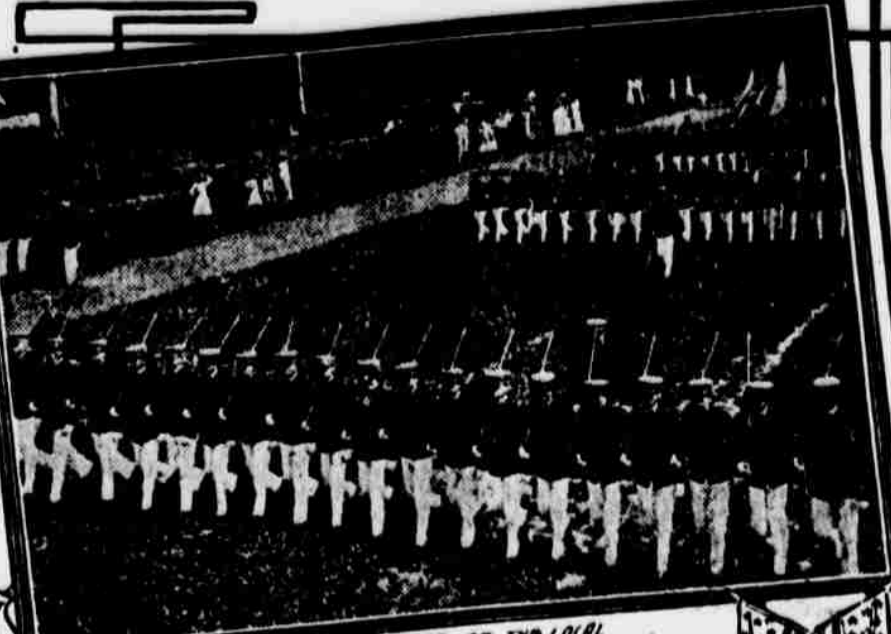


It is safe to say that no moral crusade ever inaugurated in this country has made more rapid progress than the movement for "a safe and sane Fourth." It is only a few years since the idea was first suggested in its present tangible form, and yet dozens of cities and towns have already adopted it in its most pronounced form, while countless others have accepted a portion of the creed, and yet others are planning to fall into line this year. It affords the most conclusive evidence of the power of public opinion that in practically every community where the safe and sane crusade has taken root no official action has been taken nor recommended by the municipal authorities until public sentiment spurred them to it.

What individual deserves credit for first conceiving the idea of a safe and sane Fourth, and what town or city can lay claim to first putting the idea in practice, presents almost as mooted a question as the famous one as to who first suggested the name of William McKinley for the presidency. Several different persons and several different cities have laid claim to the title of originator of the innovation. Perhaps it would be most just to con-



VICE-PRESIDENT SPEAKING AT A MEETING IN ST. LOUIS



THE PARADE OF THE LOCAL MILITARY COMPANY



A TOWN CRIER ANNOUNCING THE EVENTS OF THE DAY

little practice with this sort of thing and who, perhaps through thoughtlessness, are very careless of other people's safety as well as their own. The extent to which a city regulates the sale of fireworks and noise-making explosives may be taken as an index of its adoption of the safe and sane

Many of the features of the safe and sane Fourth are old friends familiar to us from the Independence Days of the past. For instance, there is the early morning salute of cannon and the "exercises," embracing the reading of the Declaration of Independence by some local orator and an "address of the day" by some celebrity brought to town for the occasion. Even the firemen's contests and hose races still have honored places on many of the programs, and so, too, have the time-honored balloon ascensions, although more likely than not the once-popular parachute jump has now been succeeded by an aeroplane flight. Even the "\$5,000 display of fireworks" that rounded out the day under the old plan is retained, only now it is considered advantageous to have the rockets and pinwheels and all the other spark throwers set off by professionals sent by the firm that furnishes the display, instead of leaving it to local talent that doesn't get much practice at this sort of thing except on the Fourth and at election time, and in consequence is apt to pay the price of blistered hands and singed hair, if nothing worse.

And speaking of fireworks brings to mind the fact that daylight fireworks play a prominent part in most of these new safe and sane celebrations of the big summer holiday. Of course, daylight fireworks are no new invention and they have been used to some extent on the Fourth of July for many years past. Only they have been hailed as one of the vehicles of celebration specially adapted to the safe and sane scheme, and the market has been stimulated accordingly while the manufacturers have been encouraged by this new demand to improve their offerings and give greater variety in effects.

The approved style of daylight fireworks consists of bombs in the form of large balls, which are shot aloft from mortars just as are the bombs which now have conspicuous place in all pretentious displays of night fireworks. The discharge of the gun from which the bomb is hurled skyward in itself affords sufficient noise to satisfy any lover of the old-fashioned Fourth, and when the bomb has attained a considerable height it bursts with a second report and releases a number of tiny flags or streamers of red, white and blue bunting, or maybe a fanciful design in tissue paper that is inflated by the breeze and in the form of a snake or dragon or what-not floats gracefully to earth to be grasped by some fortunate member of the struggling throng of children that have watched its descent. The time-honored hot air balloons of tri-colored tissue paper are another stand-by of the safe and sane committee and in connection with an up-to-date city celebration hundreds of these couriers are dispatched to the clouds. To lend zest to the flights for the youthful spectators it is sometimes the custom to append packages of "prizes" that drop as the balloon ascends—prizes such as fans or flags or badges or possibly tickets, each "good for one plate of ice cream."

AUTHOR OF "MONEY."
The author of "Money" held a high opinion of the influence exercised by his works, especially by "Pelham," his first novel. "This book," he writes, "killed Byronism. It put an end to the Satanic mania and turned the thoughts and ambitions of young gentlemen without neckcloths, and young clerks who were sallow, from playing the Corsair and boasting that they were villains." It certainly drew at least one substantial tribute from a reader. According to Lytton's biographer, "amongst the curiosities at Knebworth is an enormous gold dressing case, elaborately fitted with every conceivable requirement for the toilet of an exquisite, which was an anonymous gift of some enthusiast to the young author of 'Pelham.'"

TO BE A STATE PARK

Illinois to Preserve Grounds of Old Fort Chartres.

This Stronghold of the French War 200 Years Ago the Strongest and Most Costly Fort in America.

Chester, Ill.—Among the appropriations made by the late Illinois legislature is \$5,000 for a state park on the site of old Fort Chartres, near Prairie du Rocher, Ill., 50 miles south of St. Louis and between the Mississippi and the Kaskaskia rivers.

In seven years this old fort will be 200 years old and at one time it was the strongest and costliest fort in America. Now there is little left except the outlines of the stone walls, the powder magazine and the two large wells inside the garrison designed to furnish a water supply in case of a siege.

This fort was first built in 1718, when it was hastily constructed of wood by the French under Commandant Boisbrant. At that time it was designed for protection of the French in case the Spaniards came up from Santa Fe.

A new menace appeared in 1750 when the English became aggressive during the few years preceding the French and Indian war. The English troops were expected to march west and the old fort was torn down to make way for one built of stone. This new structure cost about \$1,500,000, far more than any other fort in America cost until long after that date.

The powder magazine was built of dressed stone and is still in good condition. So are the wells, which were lined with stone. The material was obtained from a quarry four miles away and carried by boat on a lake that has since disappeared. The dressed stones were all numbered at the quar-



Powder Magazine at Fort Chartres.

ry, according to the same system used at this time.

In 1723, five years after the original fort was built, Philip Renault came from Bermuda with his slaves and settled near St. Phillip, using the fort for a storehouse and a refuge when the Indians seemed hostile.

Fort Chartres was the capital of New France until ceded to England in 1763. In 1778 the fort was captured from the English by Gen. George Rogers Clark, commanding troops under a commission from the governor of Virginia. Fort Chartres then became the capital of the great north-west territory, and the seat of government remained there until states were formed from the territory. High water, which occasionally flooded the fort, caused Fort Gage to be built near by. This was followed by the final abandonment of Chartres.

When the French ceded New France to the English and the flag of France was hauled down, many residents of that district refused to live under the English flag and went to St. Louis. Among the families who moved away rather than live under the English flag are several whose descendants became very prominent in the commercial and social life of St. Louis.

Of the several old forts built in the Illinois Bottoms more than a century ago, the only one that has anything left of the original buildings is Fort Chartres. Under the care of a custodian appointed by the state, the place will be made into a park and preserved from further ruin.

HERE IS A "BORN TRADER"

Indiana Man Starts Out With \$100.00; Has \$50 and "Junk" at Night.

Hammond, Ind.—President Frank Nelson of the Lowell bank gave Frank Coorse an old silver watch in the morning. The watch ran when Coorse ran. Coorse gave 15 cents to a jeweler to make the watch tick and sold it for \$2. With the \$2 he bought a sick horse from a farmer.

This he traded for an old buggy and two extra wheels. He then traded the two extra wheels for the body of a road cart and put his buggy wheels on the cart, trading the body of the buggy for a set of harness. For this suit a farmer traded him a blind broncho. Coorse did not know the broncho was blind until it ran away with him.

Another farmer, thinking the broncho a spirited animal and not knowing it was blind, gave him \$50 for it after Coorse had wept and told him he had raised the animal from a colt. Nelson is now ready to match Coorse against any other trader.

WESTERN CANADA'S GOOD CROP PROSPECTS

YIELDS OF WHEAT WILL LIKELY BE 25 TO 30 BUSHELS PER ACRE.

In an interview with Mr. W. J. White, who has charge of the Canadian government immigration offices in the United States, and who has recently made an extended trip through the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta in Western Canada. He said that every point he visited he was met with the one report, universally good crops of wheat, oats and barley. There will this year be a much increased acreage over last year. Many farmers, who had but one hundred acres last year, have increased their cultivated and seeded acreage as much as fifty per cent. With the prospects as they are at present, this will mean from \$12 to \$15 additional wealth to each. He saw many large fields running from 300 to 1,000 acres in extent and it appeared to him that there was not an acre of this but would yield from 20 to 25 or 30 bushels of wheat per acre, while the oat prospects might safely be estimated at from 40 to 70 bushels per acre. In all parts of the west, whether it be Manitoba, Saskatchewan or Alberta, north and south, east and west, and in the districts where last year there was a partial failure of crops, the condition of all grain is universally good and claimed by most of the farmers to be from one to two weeks in advance of any year for the past ten or twelve years. It does not seem that there was a single foot of the ground that was properly seeded that would not produce.

There are those throughout western Canada who predict that there will be 200,000,000 bushels of wheat raised there this year, and if the present favorable conditions continue, there does not seem any reason why these prophecies should not come true. There is yet a possibility of hot winds reducing the quantity in some parts, but with the strongly rooted crops and the sufficiency of precipitation that the country has already been favored with, this probability is reduced to a minimum.

The prices of farm lands at the present time are holding steady and lands can probably still be purchased at the price set this spring, ranging from \$15 to \$20 per acre, but with a harvested crop, such as is expected, there is no reason why these same lands should not be worth from \$20 to \$25 per acre, with an almost absolute assurance that by next spring there will still be a further advance in prices.

Mr. White says that these lands are as cheap at today's figures with the country's proven worth as they were a few years ago at half the price when the general public had but a vague idea of the producing quality of western Canada lands.

The land agents at the different towns along the line of railway are very active. A large number of acres are turned over weekly to buyers from the different states in the south, where lands that produce no better are sold at from \$150 to \$200 per acre.

The homestead lands are becoming scarcer day by day and those who are unable to purchase, preferring to homestead, are directing their attention to the park acres lying in the northerly part of the central districts. It has been found that while these are somewhat more difficult to bring under the subjugation of the plow, the soil is fully as productive as in the districts farther south. They possess the advantage that the more open prairie areas do not possess; that there is on these lands an open acreage of from fifty to seventy per cent of the whole and the balance is made up of groves of poplar of fair size, which offer shelter for cattle, while the grasses are of splendid strength and plentiful, bringing about a more active stage of mixed farming than can be carried on in the more open districts to the south.

The emigration for the past year has been the greatest in the history of Canada and it is keeping up in record shape. The larger number of those who will go this year will be those who will buy lands nearer the line of railways, preferring to pay a little higher price for good location than to go back from the line of railways some 40 or 50 miles to homestead.

Mr. White has visited the different agencies throughout the United States and he found that the correspondence at the various offices has largely increased, the number of callers is greater than ever.

Any one desiring information regarding western Canada should apply at once to the Canadian Government Agent nearest him for a copy of the "Last Best West."

The Only Way Out.
Peter (sent for the milk)—Oh, mercy, I've drunk too much of it! What shall we do?
Small Brother—Easy. We'll drop the jug.—Megendorff Blaetter.

Beautiful Post Cards Free.
Send 2c stamp for five samples of our very best Gold Embossed Birthdays, Flowers and Motto Post Cards; beautiful colors and loveliest designs. Art Post Card Club, 731 Jackson St., Topeka, Kan.

You may have noticed that it costs a man a good deal to get in line at the political pie counter in this great and glorious land of the free.

"Tis well for men to learn self-conquest in the school of suffering.—George Elliot.



THE COLOR GUARD

seeds that the plan took shape spontaneously and simultaneously in several different localities, such communities as Cleveland and Washington, D. C., being among the first of the larger cities to put the plan in practice on a comprehensive scale, embracing the whole jurisdiction of the city involved.

The incentive for this safe and sane movement was found, of course, in the appalling loss of life attendant upon celebrations of the Fourth in the old-fashioned way. Perhaps there were just as many accidents proportionately in connection with Independence Day celebrations in the days of our grandfathers as there were just prior to this crusade, but then again there may not have been, for the toy pistol makers and firecracker manufacturers were busy in later years devising "improvements" in the noise-making line that seemed to prove fruitful of mishaps when in the hands of irresponsible youngsters.

Or even if, as opponents of the safe and sane Fourth have claimed, the proportion of accidents did not show an increase the growth in the population of the country served to roll up a total so much more appalling in sheer force of figures that a good many people were aroused on the subject. Then, too, the perfection of present-day methods of news-gathering has made it possible for the newspapers to give a complete chronicle of the havoc of the old-fashioned Fourth on the morning following the day we celebrate, and this has served to bring home the matter to many people who never suffered from a Fourth of July accident in their own immediate family and circle of friends.

When the statistics began to show, a few years back, that the American people were expressing their patriotism on the Fourth in a manner that each year cost the lives of several dozen persons and injured, more or less seriously, several thousand others, there was a country-wide protest that swelled in volume. Not, of course, without some opposition, the idea has spread and its extent may be surmised from the statement that the recent failure of one of the largest fireworks manufacturers in the country was said to be due solely to this new order of things, whereas other importers and manufacturers of firecrackers and fireworks have loudly lamented that their business will be ruined if the thing goes on.

The "safe and sane Fourth" is so new that there are few hard and fast rules regarding it. Indeed, a conception of the idea, differing in more or less degree, is encountered in every different city which has adopted the plan. The basic principle is not, however, as some people suppose, the abolition of all noise and fireworks on the Fourth. On the contrary, the advocates of the safe and sane program favor waving flags and booming guns and sputtering sky rockets and all the other frills dear to the memories of our childhood, but they take the stand that these things should be managed—and particularly the fireworks "set off"—by experienced hands, instead of by children and grown-ups who have