

## Carpenter's Letter

(Continued from Twelfth Page.)

only in the foundries, but also in other branches. Bricklayers, for instance, receive from 8 to 9 cents an hour and common workmen 7 cents. Foremen get \$1.50 a day.

The men are well treated. Every foundry has its wash house and bath room, and each man has a locker for his clothes. Hot water for coffee is free, and every employe has all the advantages of the Krupp workmen's clubs, the Krupp libraries and Krupp stores, which I describe further on.

Mr. Krupp tried to keep track of his individual workmen. He courted complaints and was ready to remedy any injustice. Men who were discharged without cause were sure of reinstatement, and this fact was so well known to the officials that few such dismissals were made. The greatest care is taken to minimize accidents. All dangerous machinery is painted a bright red, which means "be careful when you go by."

I spent a day in going through the workmen's colonies which Krupp has built especially for his men. There are large sections of Essen given up to such colo-



LYCEUM PLAYERS, A COMPANY OF LOCAL AMATEURS IN A SCENE FROM "CHARLEY'S AUNT"—Photo by a Staff Artist.



LAYING THE CORNERSTONE OF LUTHER ACADEMY AT WAHOO, Neb., ON EASTER SUNDAY AFTERNOON—Photo by N. J. Anderson, Wahoo.

nies. The ground is laid out by the Krupps and the buildings erected to be rented out to the workmen. There are whole villages of them, some composed of beautiful cottages with gardens and lawns, others of sanitary tenements, about parks not far from the works and others of little houses for those too old to work. There are altogether about 42,000 apartments, renting from \$22 to \$80 a year. In addition there are also more expensive buildings for the foremen and officers of the works, and altogether a collection of the most wonderful workmen's homes of this continent.

The first colony I visited was near the works. It is composed of three and four-story buildings, situated along wide streets shaded by forest trees. The streets cross one another at right angles, with a large playground and park in the center, where there is music by the Krupp band several times a week.

The flats are of two, three and four rooms. The first one I entered had a bedroom, kitchen, living room and parlor. Its tenant had hot and cold water and the use of a laundry in the basement. The rent was \$90 a year, or \$7.50 a month. The man who occupied it received \$60 a month.

In another house, I visited a flat of two rooms, which rented for \$26 a year, the tenant getting only \$6 a week. The woman who showed me the flat was as clean as a pin, and she took pride in her housekeeping, which was as clean as herself. The beds were neat. There were pictures on the walls and curtains in the windows, and everywhere the desire to make home beautiful, although the rent was, all told, not more than 50 cents weekly. In the colony there were 4,500 people, and I was told that the apartments were always rented.

The cottages are more comfortable than the tenements. There are hundreds of them, each having its own garden about it. Each has its own style of architecture, not unlike that of some of our best suburban towns of the United States. Some cottages are single and some double. There are seldom more than four families in any one cottage, and as a rule not more than one or two.

One of the four-room cottages I saw rented for \$5 a month, and a little better one for \$6. Where two families occupy a cottage there are two entrances and each family has its own garden. The cottages are covered with vines. Flowers bloom about their doors, and they are really pleasant homes. There is such a demand for

them that the waiting list is long and men are often months and years in getting the apartments they desire.

There are club houses here for bachelor workmen; boarding houses for single men built and furnished by the Krupps and managed by their people at as near cost as possible. Each of these buildings has about sixty rooms, which are rented out with full board to the men of the shops. Every man has his own room. The charge is 40 cents per day, and the men who occupy them make \$1.50 per day.

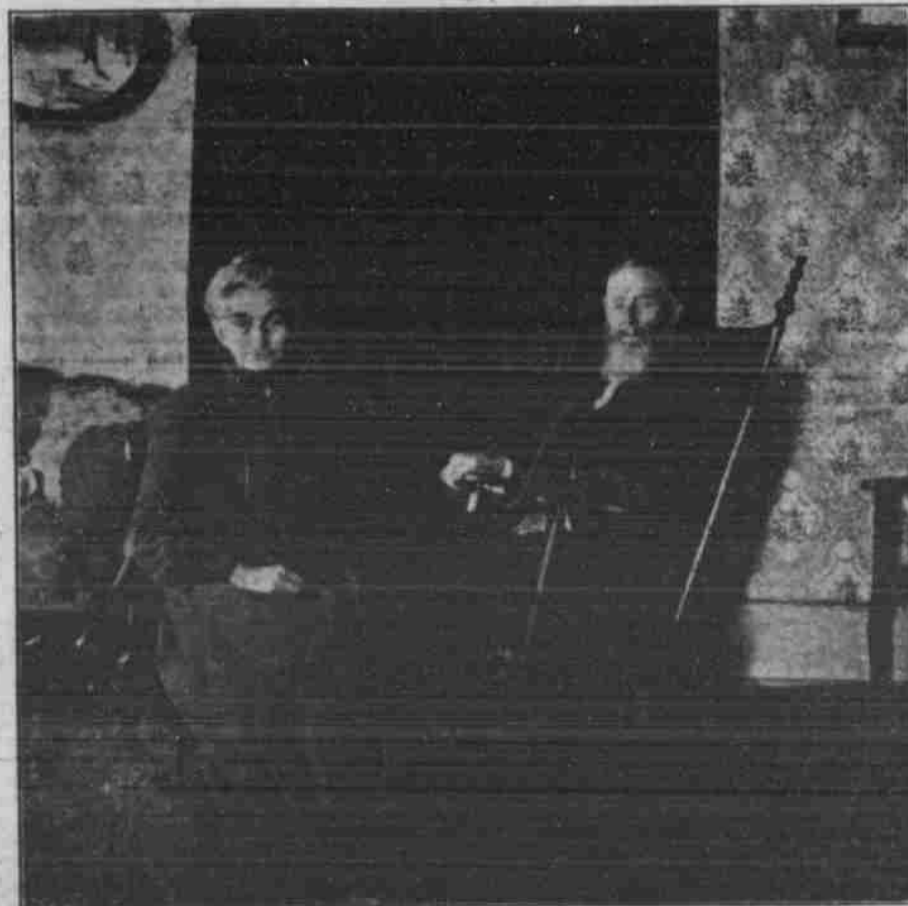
As I went through one of these houses

I asked the manager what he could furnish for 40 cents a day. He replied:

"You have seen the rooms. Each is about 8x10 in size; it has a table, chairs and a comfortable bed. In addition there is a bathroom, a general reading or loafing room and a tennis alley. We give the men bread and coffee on rising. Here, for instance, is the ration for the last two days:"

The man here handed me a paper, which I have copied.

"Monday—Breakfast: Coffee, bread, cheese and sausage. Dinner: Soup, roast beef and spinach. Supper: Coffee, steak



MR. AND MRS. ALEXANDER BARRETT OF DILLER, Neb.—PHOTO TAKEN IN 1902 IN ROOM IN WHICH THEY WERE MARRIED FORTY-NINE YEARS BEFORE

and cucumber salad.

"Tuesday—Breakfast: Coffee, ham and bread. Dinner: Soup, mutton stew, vegetables. Supper: Scrambled eggs and potatoes." In addition to this beer is furnished at a little over cost price.

One of the most interesting of the colonies is Altenhof, which might be translated "Old Age Court." This is for the retired workmen who have served out their terms in the shops and have pensions. There is a regular system of insurance and pensions by which the men after a certain term get \$15 and upward per year and have these houses free of rent. The most of them have other incomes from their savings. This section is made up of neat one and one-half story cottages, surrounded by gardens and filled with flowers. They are of brick and stucco, and have what the Germans would call all modern conveniences.

There is one family to the cottage and the cottages are kept by the widows of the old men after their death. It is a beautiful village, almost every inhabitant of which is over 60, a town of old men and old women, fairly well dressed and apparently contented.

In addition to the cottages there are club houses for old widows and old widowers. These are for those of the aged who have no families or who do not want to keep house. In one of these clubs I found eight men and talked with several of them. One told me that he had worked for Krupp twenty-four years, and that out of his savings he now had an income of about \$10 a month. His house rent cost him nothing and he can, he says, live quite comfortably on this amount. I asked him if he did not get tired doing nothing.

"No; I worked hard as a blacksmith for twenty-four years. I am 64 years old now, and I am glad to stop. When I am tired sitting I take a walk, and when I am tired walking I take a seat. It suits me very well."

Among the widows I found some quite as content as this old man. One nice old woman said she had a pension of \$7.50 a month and that it kept her very well. She cooked her own breakfast and had her dinner sent in from the old-age eating house at 9 cents per meal.

A part of the pension fund is furnished by the government, but Krupp gave a vast amount himself every year. Indeed, in this respect alone his charities annually amounted to \$250,000.

The company stores of the United States are often run for the benefit of the capitalists. The Krupps have established cash stores for the benefit of the men. There are fifty-four different stores and shops great and small here, which sell only to Krupp employes. They are all managed by the establishment and are run on a cooperative principle. The Krupps take out a low interest on the capital they have invested in them and the profits beyond this are divided among the customers according to the amount of their purchases. This profit foots up 7 or 8 per cent in a year; so that if a man spends \$100 at the store he receives \$7 or \$8 back at the close of the year.

The stores provide everything that a man needs. They embrace butchers, bakers and candlestick makers. They include dry goods shops, tailor shops and even undertaking establishments. The man who belongs to Krupp's works can have a coffin at his death, and his heirs at the end of the year will receive 8 per cent on the purchase.

The Krupp bakeries make 20,000,000 loaves of bread a year, the butcher shops annually kill 20,000 cattle, and everything else is proportionately large. All sales are made for cash and everything is sold as cheap as or a little cheaper than it can be bought elsewhere. FRANK G. CARPENTER.

Attention is called to the advertisement in another column of Dr. Whitney's Nerve and Flesh Builder, which is sold in Omaha by the Sherman & McConnell Drug company. In some former advertisements in this paper our types made us say this preparation was "expensive," when the word "inexpensive" should have been used. Call at the Sherman & McConnell Drug Co. for convincing free trial package.