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First That is Not Closed Day or Night

PLEASURE AND CULTURE

Place Turned Over to the Good of the People Who Built it—Designed as a Great Moral Uplift

(By Frederic C. Howe, Director of the People's Institute, New York City). They never shut the doors of Number 63. This is a very little sentence—just eight words. But it is, to my mind, perhaps the most wonderful sentence anyone could write just this time in the world's history.

It is wonderful because it marks one of the very first and doubtless, one of the very biggest steps towards the greatest era the earth is ever to see—an era in which every man has an equal chance with every other man to engage in the uplifting as well as the supporting things of life.

And what is this "Number 63" you ask.

Open 24 Hours
Well, "Number 63," is just a schoolhouse—a not-very-big public schoolhouse sandwiched in between the pressing, careening tenements of the lower east-side of New York, where human beings squirm as thickly as ants in garden sands at spring-time.

But—"Number 63" is more than that. "Number 63" is the very first schoolhouse in all America to keep its doors open to the public for practically 24 hours a day. And that means, I firmly believe, that within two or three years every other schoolhouse in this whole country will have its doors open from one year's end to the other!

Such a plan means more to civilization than any one of us can possibly conceive at this time.

It means the remaking of the social life of the city, and that means, practically, the remaking of the entire human race.

Making A City Over
The city, by its concentration, has become the designer for the life of the race. The city sets the styles in living—social, mental and spiritual. The activities thought out and pursued in the cities are copied in the towns, the villages, the cross roads, and the corners of the world.

To make over the life of the city we must (1) make over the city itself, and (2) open up for 24 hours a day our public schoolhouses and social centres.

In this article I am going to tell you how we have opened up the doors of "Number 63" in New York, that you may see how tremendously effective an instrument for the remaking of life, a schoolhouse may become.

Learn by Contact

It is hoped you will see from the article what we here in New York are doing—that the schoolhouse is really the most effective instrument in helping the race.

And that means, I firmly believe, that within two or three years every other schoolhouse in this whole country will have its doors open from one year's end to the other!

People learn by contact. Man is a gregarious animal for that reason. All the material for his thoughts comes from meeting with other men, hearing their opinions and pondering them in his heart.

So the main thing in helping men to progress is to give them the right opportunities for mingling. The schoolhouse is the ideal social centre—the ideal clubhouse for the human race to mingle in that it may sharpen its brains.

It is not a clubhouse where just men may come to loiter, but a clubhouse where whole families may come and find there things to help them all grow better mentally, spiritually and physically.

Open School-House Helps

Pleasure and culture—these are the two things that make life worth while and do the actual creating of character even more than work. And they are the two things that men—the many men without much money—have kept from by the few men with too much money. And they are the things to put, and at once, into the common man's life.

And "the open schoolhouse" can largely accomplish this.

In the ideal schoolhouse the least thing they do is to teach small children their lessons. And that is the only thing they do in them today. So far as we yet, you see, do in them today.

"Number 63" is striving toward the ideal. There, lessons are, at least, far from being the most important thing they do in the open brick walls that front on Fourth street between the Bovey and Avenue A.

Souls Refreshed
You can see this perfectly demonstrated any night between 7 and 8 o'clock if you can find standing place near the building.

Constantly a stream of boys and girls, young men and young women—yes, and fathers and mothers, as well—are flowing through the doorway into the place. The faces gladden with smiles, for they are going out of the loneliness of life for a while—the work and worry that always abide with the people who are down—and are going amid the things of worth and beauty to refresh the soul.

Inside "Number 63" it is very bright. The long, clean concrete and white tile halls are flooded with the silver light of are lamps. Groups of folk are chatting in corners and many others are walking towards numerous wide-flung doors. An orchestra is tuning in some far corner, and through the side doors dancers can be seen walking on the big brick terrace outside.

Taxpayers Benefit
What a miracle! A public schoolhouse in which life has not died but in which life has risen with the setting of the sun.

A public schoolhouse in which the public is getting returns on its invested money, not five hours a day, but 24 hours a day!

A public schoolhouse actually turned over to the good of all the people who built it!

And that is exactly what "Number 63"—a schoolhouse dedicated to the spirit of that group of the human race which built it with the money it earned—and paid over as taxes.

Everybody is remembered in "63." On the main floor of the building are the same rooms, the library and the dance hall. Here are billiard tables, pool tables and card tables. Boys are gathered about them in crowds, for here the games are

SALE OF MISSES' AND CHILDREN'S COLORED WASH DRESSES CONTINUED ATURDAY IN WHITE-WEAR DEPARTMENT, SECOND FLOOR.

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These high class linens are exceptional values, being offered at least one-third less than regular prices.

Linen Room, Ground floor.

MANCHESTER ROBERTSON ALLISON, LIMITED.

free and in public parlours they cost more. These chairs are saved, for the average consideration, is a corrupter of youth, a corrupter far stronger than is generally recognized.

No Drinks Here
And if the game rooms perform the service for the comparatively small groups of boys who patronize them, then the dance floor at the end of the long hall and on the terrace beyond performs a similar service in far greater measure.

For what thousands of young people—especially young girls—start descending the steep stairs of immorality at unsupervised public dance halls!

And nine times out of ten, not because it is in them so to do, but because it is all around them to do!

Here things are different. Everything is bright as youth likes it. Laughter and camaraderie are unrestrained. There is no wet blanket thrown across the assembly.

The only difference between this place and a public dance hall is that here there are no drinks and there are no commercial dealers in immorality present.

Library For Fathers
That youth does like its pleasure clean—and has suffered it to be polluted in the past only because there has been no other way—is shown people by the great numbers of young people who flock here nightly instead of attending the public hall dances across the way. In this one schoolhouse there are often one thousand dancers on the two floors of an evening!

The library of a quiet corner of the building is the mecca of the "old fathers" of the neighborhood. Here they come to read in a quiet, clean spot and often bring their wives, conning the best books in the world while "the young folks" dance or play. And when they go home they "draw" a volume to take with them. This is knowledge being spread.

On the second floor of the building, every school room is in use. Open any door and a flood of light will rush out. And in the glow of these lights many of the higher human activities are going on in these school rooms that, last year, stood dark and still all through all the nights of all the winter.

As soon as public questions can be discussed in the public school buildings, a change will come into politics. For people will speak their minds out in such a forum, for the forum belongs to them and the place will lend dignity and legitimacy to the business of discussion.

Open the doors of your schoolhouses wide and let the people in. They own them! Let them in! "Sixty-three" has shown you the way.

TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL HERE TO HOLD A FAIR

The Trades and Labor Council held a special meeting last evening in the Opera House building to hear the report of a committee appointed to consider ways and means to raise funds for organization work. This committee reported that the Keith Assembly rooms could be taken for a fair May 29-30. The committee was reappointed with power to act and to add to its number.

J. W. Ingram, F. Hyatt and C. Stevens were authorized to solicit prizes. The next regular meeting of the council will take place on May 1 in the Oldfellow's Hall.

Children's straw hat sale at F. S. Thomas tomorrow.

Be charitable before wealth makes them covetous.—Sir Thomas Browne.

NOT THE LAW BUT THE MERITS OF THE CASE DECIDE HERE



This is Judge Morson, who has presided over the Toronto Division Court for twenty-five years. A man who tries to evade the payment of a just debt gets little sympathy from him, he decides a case on its merits, not on legal technicalities.

IN PARLIAMENT

Ottawa, April 24—Another scandal was attacked by the opposition today. It was said that the Borden government had consented to the robbery of its wards—the Indians of British Columbia—of their reservation in Vancouver by its sale for a small fraction of its value. The land is estimated to be worth \$7,000,000, and it was sold for less than \$250,000, and the Indians evicted. The debate closed at six o'clock, the hour of adjournment.

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WHAT WOULD HAPPEN

A lawsuit was recently in full swing and during its progress a witness was cross-examined as to the habits and character of the defendant. "Has Mr. M.—a reputation for being abnormally lazy?" asked the counsel briskly. "Well, sir, it's this way. I don't want to do the gentleman in question any injustice. And I won't go so far as to say, sir, that he's lazy exactly; but if it required any voluntary work on his part to digest his food—why, he'd die from lack of nourishment, sir."

OVERCOMING AN OBSTACLE
A South Side mother has set her heart on making a musician out of her five-year-old son, although the boy is in no way fitted for such a career.

The son's music teacher thought it best to tell the mother the real truth. "I am afraid it is utterly useless to spend money on Frankie," said the teacher, "because he never will learn."

"But why not?" the mother insisted. "He has no idea of harmony," the teacher explained, "and he hasn't the time."

"O, yes, he has; you just keep him at it," the mother replied. "He has all the time in the world."—Youngstown Telegram.

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