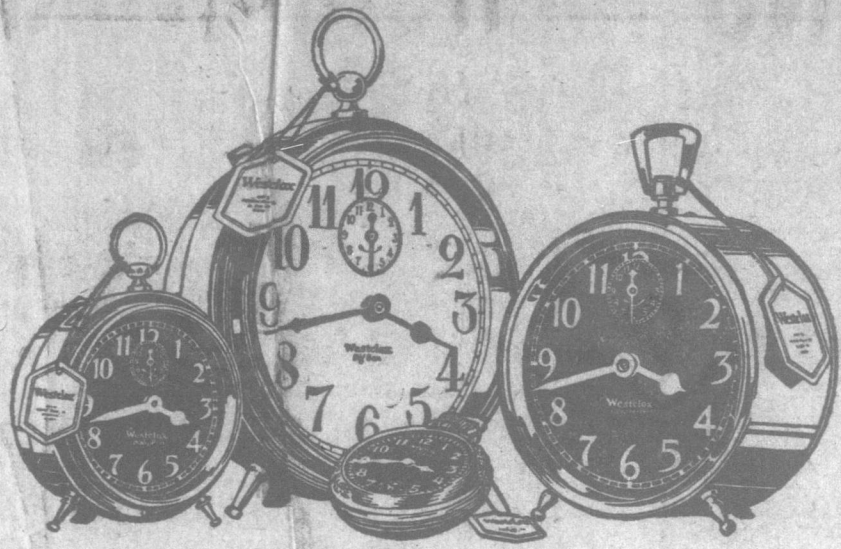


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Childhood Welfare to Arouse Country IN MAY DAY EFFORT.

WASHINGTON (A.P.)—May Day is to be made the occasion for a co-ordinated effort by the various organizations interested in the welfare of American children. President Coolidge has lent his indorsement and assistance to the project in a letter to Secretary Hoover who, as president of the American Child Health Association, presented the matter to him in a letter that makes some startling statements concerning child life in this country.

"With all the enlightenment and all the prosperity of our great people," says Mr. Hoover, "and that in five other nations there is a lower death rate among infants; we find in 16 other nations a lower rate of fatality amongst mothers at childbirth. The great national draft indicated that something like 80 per cent. of the men examined were deficient in some particular or another."

While the greater part of America's 35,000,000 children are objects of the utmost solicitude on the part of parents, Mr. Hoover points out that no amount of individual solicitude can correct the dangers to which children are in many instances subjected by failure of community safeguards. "We find," he says, "in many of our communities impure sources of water and impure supplies of milk; in others we find inadequate provision for health inspection and playgrounds; we find archaic systems and incompetent administration of public health in many cities and towns, and we still have large numbers of children at work in factories when they should be in school."

It is to waken community and national thought and secure concentrated effort on child welfare that May Day, traditionally and peculiarly children's day, is proposed for the purpose, and President Coolidge has given it his utmost support. "The tremendous growth of urban population," the President says in his letter to Mr. Hoover, "constantly presents new problems of child life and health. These problems should be met by action within each community itself."

Governors of states, commissioners of health and education, mayors of cities, various organizations, the press, the motion picture industry, radio broadcasting and all other suitable agencies have been asked to join in stimulating the observance of May Day as a "Day of Child Welfare."

Cities Have Money to Expend Freely in Care of Children

NEW YORK, April 14 (A.P.)—More than \$14,000,000 was spent for public recreation last year by cities in the United States and Canada, according to the Playground and Recreation Association of America, which has just compiled the returns from a questionnaire on community play. This sum is more than twice the amount spent for the same purpose ten years ago.

In a total of 680 cities reporting community recreation leadership, 680 conduct 6,591 playgrounds and recreation centers under paid leaders. In 1906, when Theodore Roosevelt and others organized the association, only 41 cities had playgrounds and recreation centers with paid leaders. Approximately 1,200,000 was the reported daily average of children and adults at the summer playgrounds of the country in 1923. This figure is four times greater than the 1913 attendance.

The reason for the steadily increasing expenditure for recreation at a time when municipalities are bent on economy, the association states, is that playgrounds and recreation are recognized as a good investment. Delinquency and crime costs are reduced. Chief of Police Conlon of Leominster, Mass., says that delinquency cases in Leominster averaged 91 a year prior to the organization of Community Service, the local recreation agency. Since its coming, the number decreased to 53 in 1923.

In Utica, New York, Anna D. Bayland, chief probation officer, attributed to the efficiency of playgrounds the fact that not a single child was put on probation during the month of July in the children's court. Judge C. Penny of Miami, Florida, gave credit to the supervised play programme for the fact that while previously he had had 20 or 25 cases of delinquency in his court in a month, in the six months after the playgrounds opened, he had only five cases. Topeka, Kansas, found that truancy decreased when playgrounds were installed near the schools. Defiance, Ohio, Centralia, Illinois, and other cities reported the practical elimination of mischief and property destruction by boys at Hallowe'en, due to the organized community celebrations of the city recreation committees. Many other cities reported decreases in delinquency, attributed by judges, probation officers and others directly to organized play.

Reports from some of the cities showed that playgrounds had been effective in reducing street accidents

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"Laughing Song" (Belle Brown).
"Hallelujah" (Quintette).

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to children at play. An example of this was found last summer at Lewis-ton, Maine, where city-wide recreational activities were shared in by 118,000 persons, mainly children. Not one death or drowning of a child at

play was reported during the summer. The many other activities reported by cities included the use of athletic badge tests, community singing, block parties, dramatics, music memory

contests, holiday celebrations, industrial athletics, winter sports, organized hiking, horseshoe tournaments, marbles tournaments, and art activities.

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