

PUBLIC SCHOOLS AS CIVIC CENTERS

Milwaukee Keeps Buildings Open at Night.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Public Schools Open in Evenings For Recreational Purposes That Are Semieducational and in Some Cases Wholly Educational in Nature—Eight Social Centers.

We in Milwaukee have not spent much time in discussing the question "The Ideal Community Center" nor in debating whether such undertakings should be municipally financed or supported by membership dues, whether the emphasis should be placed upon recreation, upon education or upon civic and forum activities, whether to cater to the young people, hoping that their presence will sooner or later attract the parents, or vice versa. The great question with us was how to get the schools open at night for recreational purposes and keep them open, writes H. O. Berg in the American City.

The modern popular conception of the word "recreation" it seems to me,



SEWING CLASS IN ONE OF MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

is rather erroneous. To the average mind it suggests the quest of pleasure or sport. The subject of recreation has many phases. It is really a question of leisure. Many desire to spend their leisure otherwise than at games, entertainments, etc. Sewing, cooking, millinery, needlework, mechanical drawing, literary study, music, dramatic work, debating, civic study and discussion, are desired by many for a portion of the time, thus making the problem one of providing wholesome recreation that is semieducational and in some cases wholly educational in nature.

With this conception of leisure, seven Milwaukee schools and one special building are at present being used as social centers, while nine other schools are being used for evening schools which may conduct special recreational activities if desired. No formal demands were made by citizens for the location of these social centers. The movement being a new one and its possibilities and values being at the time unknown, no one seemed to care to take the responsibility of founding a neighborhood sentiment for a social center.

The wider use of the school plant was achieved on the strength of the state law which authorizes school boards to establish and maintain special activities, such as evening schools, social centers, library branches, etc., by means of a special two-cent tax of a mill tax, providing the question has passed at a referendum of the people.

Milwaukee adopted the policy of using its schools for social centers, believing that supervision of recreation is an educational problem and that civic economy demands a more open use of the public schools. The schoolhouse is usually the neighboring center from a geographical standpoint. It ought also to be the focal point of the neighborhood from a civic and community standpoint. This can easily be accomplished through a social center housed in the school building and run in connection with it, for such a center has at its command hundreds of the world's best advertisers—children. Each social center in Milwaukee issues a weekly newspaper which is carried into the homes by the children of the regular day school. A social center proves itself a marvelous connecting link between the school and the home—a link sadly missing in many educational systems.

Arousing the People.

A unique plan for promoting a city has been evolved at Gallon, O., by the chamber of commerce. A large cash prize was offered to the citizen who could furnish the best plan for getting the entire citizenship to promoting Gallon. As a result, meetings were held in the factories to call every workman to talk and advertise Gallon. The chamber of commerce has established a speakers' bureau. Results are already being shown, for Gallon people are being awakened to the opportunities, and every one is becoming a salesman for the town.

LEGAL NOTICES.

SUMMONS.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR MALHEUR COUNTY.

MALHEUR COUNTY, a Municipal Corporation, Plaintiff.

vs.

FRED J. BROWN, JAMES FLAGENS, CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST, JOSEPH F. SMITH, Trustee, CHARLES CARTER, H. J. BENSON, D. W. CALDWELL, TILLIE E. PIERCE, C. O. DUNKIN, W. M. EASTERDAY, J. B. DUNCAN, F. J. PALMER.

—PLACE.

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