

CIVIC IMPROVEMENT COLUMN

ITEMS TO FILL THIS COLUMN REQUESTED FROM FRIENDS OF THE MOVEMENT

Report of the last convention of the National Civic Improvement League. HOW A VILLAGE WAS IMPROVED

Vice-President Hamlin: "The chair takes pleasure in announcing that we have a mayor in our midst. We are coming to expect a great deal of mayors, particularly the mayors of Ohio and Michigan, and if we can get in the habit of having mayors among our members of Improvement Associations, a large part of our problem will undoubtedly be solved."

"A New England village teacher, now white haired and almost blind, emphasized to his scholars the what, how and why of everything that he taught, therefore, somewhat of the location and early history of a model Ohio village will be first told, and then mention will be made of the how and why."

"In May, 1885, the Hamlet of East Cleveland, Ohio, became the Village of East Cleveland. Prior to the hamlet, the people had township government, and three citizens acted as trustees."

out upon one of the most attractive views of Northern Ohio. At your feet along the terraces is rapidly building our youngest suburban village. Even to the shore line are hundreds of farms surrounded by odd bits of forest and straggling groups of fruit and shade trees, while extensive and well-kept vineyards of purple Concord and Catawbas stretch far to the east, Cleveland and Glenville lie to the west, and beyond are the treacherous waters of Lake Erie, alive with commerce.

"For almost a century a good class of citizens, mostly of New England origin, dwelt upon the township and hamlet grounds, living upon the products of the soil. The school furnished a good education for their children, and the old white church gave of its moralis. The hamlet trustees met weekly in a small harness shop, talked and adjourned. The hamlet's entire outfit consisted of an oak table, one lamp and a dozen chairs. The sandy and muddy streets, though shaded by large elm and maple trees, were ungraded and unlighted, sidewalks unflagged and the people lived without a public library, lake water, gas, or a sanitary widened from sixty feet to eighty-six but little value, sales were rarely made, or new buildings started. Few attractions for residents were offered."

"An enlightened vote, however, is always a power for improvement. So there were purchased and sent to the hamlet voters over 200 pamphlets on village improvements, by Hon. B. G. Northrop, of Connecticut, and the citizens' ticket, which advocated improvements, won by a majority. It has since controlled the village affairs with excellent results. At length the constant expansion of the City of Cleveland demanded more and more suburban homes, and the sub-division of lands in East Cleveland began."

"Euclid avenue for 13,858 feet through East Cleveland has been widened from sixty feet to eight-six feet. A roadbed fifty feet in width has been graded, drained, curbed and paved with large vitrified or hard burnt brick, size 8 1/2 x 5 1/2 inches, at a cost of about \$200,000."

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