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Salem, Oregon

THE 150,000 CLUB.

Good Work of a Boosting Organization
In Spokane, Wash.

The 150,000 club of Spokane, Wash., possibly the pioneer organization of its kind in the United States, was organized in 1905 for the purpose primarily of interesting the general public in the question of organized effort for the benefit of the community.

The expense of exploitation is usually carried in the average community by the public spirited men who compose the membership of a chamber of commerce, while the balance of the people sit by and contribute neither money nor effort to the desired end, from which all classes materially profit.

In discussing that matter our people decided that all were willing to boost at a dollar a year, so that amount was adopted as our annual dues. The benefit derived was not so much in the dollar received as in the fact that individual interest was aroused, and great public meetings have been held in the last four years wherein people have been instructed until we are all boosters, small and great. The first year the club had 1,600 members, second year 2,200, third and fourth years about the same, and all are boosting for Spokane.

Among the big things attempted by the club was first the preservation of Fort George Wright to the city by the fight waged to prevent the railroads crossing the reserve and destroying its usefulness and beauty. Through its efforts it brought about the passage of a charter amendment creating a non-partisan park commission.

With the assistance of the city council it conducted a census taking, which placed the city in its proper rank years before it otherwise would have happened.

In 1907 the club raised a fund of \$20,000 to complete the Y. M. C. A. building, and last year, in one day, during what was known as the panic in the east, \$40,000 was raised to build a home for the orphans.

The club has always conducted an aggressive campaign for home industry and has done much to bring about a liberal patronage of home manufacturers, which has resulted in great benefit to Spokane.

Each year a city beautiful or general cleaning and planting campaign is conducted, with the result that we are able to report over 80,000 trees planted in the last four years, and the city beautiful committee is always active.

The Playgrounds association is an incorporated branch of the club, and its pioneer work in securing playgrounds and equipment for the boys and girls is much appreciated by the citizens.

The club has also for some time been very active in the fight for grade separation.—Arthur W. Jones in Spokane Review.

DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT.

Organized Societies of Home Owners
Are Effective Means.

In Los Angeles there are quite a number of district, ward or precinct improvement societies, and a careful canvass of results proves conclusively that the best work, from every point of view, is accomplished where the greater per cent of the residents own their homes. The cost of residences and other improvements or the wealth of the home owners does not seem to have affected results in the least. It is simply a question of all, or nearly all, being freeholders, and where such conditions prevail you may find the best improved district and the highest standard of citizenship. The home owner is more interested in the welfare of the community than he who has no fixed or permanent dwelling place.

The secret of success in these communities, then, is that all are alike interested, and when any public question arises each resident views the matter from the freeholder's standpoint; therefore there is a well defined community of interest. In many of these well directed societies the board of directors practically constitute a local city council or town trustees, and as they are usually well "backed up" by the full membership they are in a position to accomplish great good, to demand of the public authorities all of their rights and privileges and in some cases have been able to enforce their wishes in matters pertaining to municipal improvements. For the past three years the writer has been a member of one of these boards of directors and, while not taking a very active part in the work, has carefully noted all the good things accomplished by the Garvanza Improvement society and feels absolutely certain that had it not been for the five years' hard labor of this board Garvanza would not be so desirable as a residential section by 50 per cent. We need many more district or ward improvement societies.—Los Angeles Times.

Preserving Street Trees.

Though uniform planting of one sort of street tree to each street, and more particularly to each block, is far the best method of planting, it is still more essential that all existing street trees be saved. In the systematic and thorough planting of a city we must build up, not tear down, and new trees should be planted, but old ones left. The lack of care of our trees, so that horses badly damage them, often renders necessary the taking out of trees that have taken a decade of years to grow. It is false economy to plant and subsequently neglect, for a tree grows in value as rapidly as it grows in size. Injudicious pruning (properly hacking) often causes serious injury to trees. Neglected cavities is another prime cause of slow death, and these should be cleaned out, treated with an anti-fungal spray and filled with cement.

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