

## THE WORK OF THE Y. M. C. A. IN ALLEGANY COUNTY

### WELL EQUIPPED TO SERVE OUR BOYS

#### It's Organization and What it Has Already Accomplished.

Back in the year 1921 in the month of February, a representative of the New York State Young Men's Christian Association came into Allegany County for the purpose of a field survey and preliminary study with a view of establishing an organization for the county.

Prompted by the successful results of the state survey, and their own individual interest in such work, a group of business men met at the Hotel Fasset in Wellsville the following April and at that meeting the county organization came into existence. The first steps were the appointing of a county committee, authorizing the raising of the first annual budget and the selection of Mr. S. E. Lester as County Secretary.

The Y. M. C. A. of Allegany County was given birth and now after three years of growth and development the organization is a strong and healthy one, due to the cordial and willing response of the people of Allegany and in a large measure to the wonderful accomplishments of the efficient secretary, Mr. Lester.

Dealing with boys, striving to place them on the safe and sane pinnacle of honor and inculcating the realization of future manhood in their community, is a work that any town or city needs and the residents of the county in which the organization may be situated should lend a willing hand and welcome such work with outstretched arms, for they should know that their boys of today will be their ideals and their representatives to carry on in a few short years hence.

There is no community work of more importance than looking after the welfare of the boy and in that work we find a vast field and a challenge of a lifetime to uplift the moral of the youth of today. Proper play, proper facilities for enjoyment under proper moral supervision is the first step toward placing the boy in the path of righteousness and manly employment. Recognition of successful efforts, encouragement to the boy in his school and his church work and special assistance to the little fellow who may not have had proper parental training, is work of the highest caliber and hearty cooperation is a necessity to carry out the program of boys' work as set forth by this organization.

The accomplishments of the secretary in perfecting such an association as the county now boasts of, should be a matter of great pride to him, and the people of the county should congratulate themselves upon the selection of Mr. Lester for it has brot to the parents assurance of proper moral training and excellent supervision in recreations to their boys, who have been placed in his keeping.

A review of the work accomplished is of interest and worthy of note. The association, altho only three and one-half years old, understand—is now touching fifteen or more communities. Its policy is one of cooperation with every constructive force working for the building of Christian manhood.

Every teen age boy in the county is considered within the field of the organization and is eligible to participate in its activities. Young men become loyal friends of the association, standing for its ideals of manhood. Many of them act as leaders of church, school and community groups of their younger brothers. The people of the county who want to aid the organization in its efforts invest the moral and financial support needed. Dividends are declared to these stockholders whenever there is an accumulation of tangible results.

The present equipment of the association consists of the following: A central office equipped for the executive work of the organization, located in the basement floor of the library at Wellsville.

An automobile used as a means of transportation for the county secretary and his helpers.

The most serviceable and convenient camp site owned by any county in the State of New York. It consists of 24 acres of land located in the center of the county on the Genesee river. This site is now equipped with kitchen 14 by 20 feet in size, dishes, cooking utensils and tents sufficient to handle sixty boys.

A plan by which the association will make use of the camp site during the entire year has been developed. A beautiful lodge has been constructed on an elevation overlooking the river. The large club room with its great stone fire place proves very attractive to groups of boys from the various communities, providing they are fortunate enough to command the attention and time of a local leader to accompany them to this lodge for a night's outing. Beside the club room there is a smaller room known as the sun parlor equip-

ped with a second fireplace, an enclosed porch forty feet long and ten feet wide, a comfortable dining room and kitchen, and sleeping quarters in a spacious balcony above. This building used by the campers in summer becomes a center for association work and a point of cooperation with the churches of the county during the closed part of the year. It is not possible to rent it. The communities that give their boys local leadership that is in line with the purpose of the association are granted the privilege of the lodge at scheduled times without charge.

The association is now incorporated with the state and its property is held in trust by a board of trustees. The following men are serving on the board at the present time: C. A. Ackerly, E. R. Hornburg, D. H. Dodson, R. J. Ellison, D. P. Snyder, A. E. Champlin. This act of incorporation contributes an element of permanency to the development of the association and gives evidence of continued service with greater things for the future.

The program as it has developed in Allegany county includes the following: County-wide conferences for the older teen age boys, held annually. Yearly every community in the county has shared the inspiration of these gatherings thru boys who have attended. The county is also represented in every state gathering of this nature.

The promotion of Father and Son get-togethers as a means of stimulating good home relations and a general appreciation of youth on the part of the men of the county.

A boys' camp conducted annually during the summer vacation open to any boy over twelve years of age who lives in Allegany county. The word vacation does not cover the meaning of a period spent in the Allegany camp for boys. It is a life of training for life. The tent leaders are older high school boys, selected because of their character and ability to lead younger boys to an active Christian manhood. The program which is one of doing is directed by trained Christian men who love boys and the normal natural life which the camp provides.

"Hi-Y" clubs are organized by the upper classmen in the various high schools of the county. These clubs meet each week for a discussion of life questions. The purpose of the club is to create, maintain and extend in the school and thru out the community high standards of Christian manhood. Six communities have conducted such clubs with splendid results among the boys of high school age.

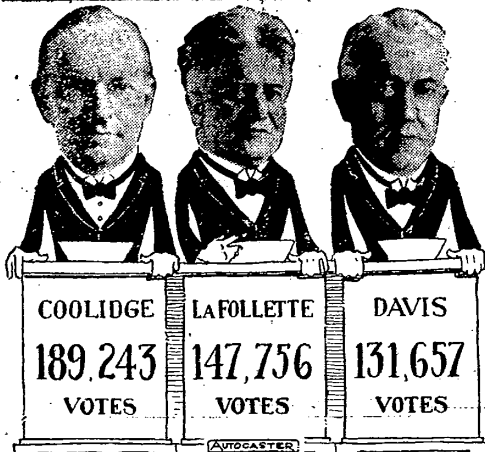
The order of the Red Triangle for younger boys is a club form of organization which originated in Allegany county. Membership in this club is conditioned not on the payment of money, but on a boy's loyalty to his church. Boys of all denominations are welcome, providing they attend the regular meetings of their church school. A membership ticket is issued to each member after he has signed the following declaration of purpose: "As a member of the order of the Red Triangle, I agree to be loyal to the principles by which it stands and to the church school of which I am a member."

As an illustration of the wonderful work accomplished and the good derived therefrom the following letter from a father to the secretary is submitted:

"The Red Triangle organization is of great value to any community, since it takes young boys at the age when the gang instinct is developing and shapes this instinct in such a way as to make it a real asset in the boy's life. The organized games, team spirit and fair play as taught against individual gain, no matter how obtained. The Red Triangle meetings develop self-assurance, a feeling of sociability, a taste for the right sort of companions and a dislike for the wrong sort. Prayer and respect for religious institutions are worked into these meetings in a quiet, yet straight-forward way that helps to give the boy a feeling of such things belong in the affairs of worth while people, and do much to counteract the disrespect for such things which the boy is bound to learn on the streets. I have carefully observed the effect membership in the Red Triangle has had on my own son and on other boys with whom I have had close association and I am heart and soul back of the work."

County-wide athletic meets are conducted for the Red Triangle boys annually. The program of events is arranged on weight-class basis, thus each boy is given opportunity to compete with boys of his class and win points for his local club. The attendance of every contestant at his church school is carefully checked with the local authorities previous to the meet. By this method the association is stressing, by an active program open to any boy without price, his relation to his church. If at any time a Red Triangle boy visits a city, his membership card becomes a means of introduction to the city association

#### In Our Nation-Wide Presidential Poll



Visualized above is the standing of Coolidge, La Follette and Davis in this newspaper's nation-wide presidential poll on October 6th. Voting ceased October 11th. These figures are from 40 states. The final results will be published in this paper next week. Watch for them.

and he comes to realize the larger circle of a world brotherhood.

Eighty-two local group meetings of Red Triangle boys were held the year closing April 1, 1924. Two hundred and thirty-six boys were members of the eight local groups holding such meetings. The total attendance at the above meetings was 1,578.

#### County Organization

The student Y. M. C. A. of Alfred University has been brot into close touch with the work of the county, owing to the fact that the county secretary is serving as the executive secretary of both organizations. This came about at the request of President Davis, who has proven himself to be a loyal friend to the county organization from its inception. The advantage of the plan grows out of the fact that Alfred draws one-third of its students from Allegany county and that the county organization is in close touch with the young men and the conditions in the home town before they enter college. This gives opportunity to continue the fellowship of the organization and the personal service of the secretary during the college days. The personal problems of new students are given special attention. In recognition of this service the University makes an appropriation to the county budget each year.

Again, the student body at Alfred is a strong asset to the association work thruout the county. Deputation teams of college men visiting the various communities of the county in co-operation with the churches become an inspiration to the young life.

The county association is now appointing one outstanding young man in each community to inform the secretary regarding young men who leave that community for the cities, colleges and other counties that are organized. Letters of introduction to the association are given to young men and follow-up letters sent requesting the secretary of the field to which he goes to form the acquaintance of the young man and aid him in his new home.

Most of the contacts of teen age boys are of a group nature and occur when the boys of one community meet those of another in an athletic contest or backing, with all the little contest for victory, that can be secured. The spirit of "win at any cost" usually comes from the contestants. Communities are pitted against each other and sometimes emerge from the game with a feeling of antagonism that is hard to overcome. The county "Y" is balancing this situation by bringing the boys together on the basis of cooperation. Great objectives are presented that can only be attained by a team spirit created by the whole county group representing many communities. It is this spirit that makes the camp lodge possible. It is this spirit that prevents cliques in camp life. It is this spirit that prompts the boys of this county to raise a world fellowship fund from their own pockets each year for the promotion of "Y" work with boys who are less fortunate than themselves.

During the month of August each year the camp committee grants the use of the camp site with its entire equipment to a committee of women for a camp with the teen age girls of the county. Fifty girls from fif-

teen communities attended the camp this year.

The following men are members of the County Committee which has general charge of the organization and its work: Paul B. Hanks, chairman; Dr. John Common, vice; D. P. Snyder, second vice; Bayard T. Haskins, secretary; G. A. Ackerly, treasurer; Paul M. Davie, H. J. Steere, Otto Walch, A. E. Champin, J. N. Norwood, Erwin D. Baker, H. R. Sortore, James C. Foot, F. M. Stone, Harry Goodrich, A. L. Shaner, J. N. Thompson, C. S. Hurlburt, W. H. Garwood, Harry Niles.

From the foregoing facts and figures it is plainly evident that an association of this nature is not only an asset to our county but a necessity as well.

The writer is not connected in any way with the organization but has had the pleasure of reviewing the accomplishments of the past few years. He has witnessed remarkable results due to the boys' submission to proper moral supervision. It seems that the people of Allegany county have not, as yet, come to realize the importance of work of this character and the possibilities that lie ahead of the association. Financial assistance is necessary to carry on the many works and activities in which the organization engages itself and that assistance should really be forthcoming and purely voluntary on the part of the individual, for it is an investment that yields big dividends—not in "coin of the realm" but in future benefits that come from that glorious satisfaction of having done something worth while for the youth of our land. Encourage with your night boys' work in your community. It is a wonderful offering to the welfare of your and your neighbors home.

To appreciate what the Y. M. C. A. of Allegany County has done, is doing and will do in the future, take a trip to Camp Shenawana on the banks of the beautiful Genesee. There, my friends, is a wonder spot set in surroundings that fascinate and thrill with its natural beauty. Buildings brot to completion by the hands of the boys themselves is proof that their time spent in camp is not wasted in trivial things.

This is the place where the boy learns to play the game of life, and early training is fundamental to a conception of clean and righteous living, brot about by time occupied in healthy moral recreation and association with clean minded healthy young Americans. Development of characters, building of future citizens, who will appreciate and regard the lawful rights of his fellowmen in their choice of civic and religious duties is a most necessary course of instruction in this day and age and the broadening of the young minds in this relation is one of the fine works of the organization.

"Waste no time on thy neighbors birth nor the way he makes his prayer, but grant him a white man's place on earth, if his game is on the square."

If it is within the power of a resident of this county to help in a worthy cause, that contribution could not be more wisely put to use than placed in the hands of the County Y. M. C. A.—for with that contribution goes the knowledge that you have assisted, that you have had a part in developing and encouraging our future citizens—the leaders of tomorrow's boys.

Vision is getting better. We can now see the air in.



This important news announcement will be made this week by Mr. Ford thru "Collier's Weekly," which in a remarkable review of manufacture, discusses Mr. Ford's plans for the development of power and chemicals from coal in mining towns, "in my own way and outside of political meddling."

"Muscle Shoals?" said Mr. Ford. "That is not a live issue with us any longer. More than two years ago we made the best bid we knew how to make. No definite action has been taken on it. A simple affair of business which should have been decided by anyone within a week has become a complicated political affair."

"We are not in politics, and we are in business. We do not intend to be drawn into politics. We have been, and still are, deeply interested in Muscle Shoals as a national asset. There is small promise now that it ever will be a national asset—more likely it will be only an expense. That concerns every one of us as citizens."

"In the Ford business, once we make up our minds to do anything we go right ahead and do it, with the least possible waste of time, energy or money."

"We are moving so fast and the settlement of Muscle Shoals' future seemed so far away, that we had to find other means to do the things we could have accomplished at Muscle Shoals. In fact we have passed Muscle Shoals. Productive business cannot wait on politics. Therefore we are withdrawing our bid."

This, Mr. Ford said, meant he had withdrawn from Muscle Shoals and everything that pertained to it.

"We have made our bid," said he, "now let them make us a bid. And they will not have to wait three years for their answer. We can tell them in five minutes."

Mr. Ford explained that due to the exigencies of war the government spent much more money on Muscle Shoals than private enterprise would have spent, and that as a result of the investment, nitrates could be produced by the Government only for war purposes, because in peace time they would be too expensive to sell to the farmers.

"Our bid," he said, "was intended to develop a method by which the public's money could be made productive and eventually returned to the public treasury at a profit, while at the same time we should produce nitrates at sufficiently low cost to sell them to the farmers at a fraction of what they now have to pay."

Wanted to do Something For South Here Mr. Ford disclosed the fact

### HOPES TO REDUCE RAILROAD RATES

Government Could Given Answer in a Week; Not 2 Years, he Claims.

Written specially for Andover News By EDWARD PERCY HOWARD

HENRY FORD, master mind of production, weary of delay and tired of trying to cope with Congressional methods which have turned a business proposition into a complicated political affair, has withdrawn his offer for the purchase of Muscle Shoals.

"We find from our experience at the River Rouge that we can generate electrical power in these coal lands to any extent we may need and at a cheaper rate than we could under our bid at Muscle Shoals," he said.

"And also we can generate in our own way, entirely outside of all political influence or political meddling," he added. "That is why we have lost interest in Muscle Shoals. When we bid for Muscle Shoals we could have used it. Now we can achieve the same results in another way."

"It used to be that we could not send electricity very far, but now with high tension methods, we can send it hundreds of miles. That will be the basis of our operations in Kentucky."

"In the coal fields we shall erect whatever size plant seems to be necessary. We shall not burn any raw coal. It is too wasteful to burn coal. We shall distill all our coal, but we have not decided what process of distillation to use. At the Rouge plant we shall extract ammonium sulphate which we shall sell as fertilizer. We shall get a large quantity of benzol for motor fuel, and we may adopt a process, well-known among chemists, by which we can recover gasoline from coal. Then we shall have creosote, tar, gas and crude light oils. These should give a profit on the coal before the residues are turned in under the boilers as fuel. And so our fuel will cost us very little, and perhaps nothing."

"The first use of this power will be to run the railroad," Mr. Ford explained. "And it will be very cheap power," he said, "so cheap that we hope the Interstate Commerce Commission will then permit us materially to reduce our freight rates."

Mr. Ford said he wanted to emphasize the fact that all of these developments were not going to happen at once.

Modern shoes cause broken arches. We're coming out flat-footed against them.

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