

# THE HOME

THE GREATEST SOCIAL INSTITUTION

By RALPH G. SIMERSON

(The following splendid article on "The Home," one of the five social institutions now being studied in the Spencer Hi, is filled with splendid logic and beautiful tributes to Home, it ought to interest every reader of The Herald.—Editor).

The one institution, in my opinion that ranks or should rank first is the home. It is foremost in importance among our great social institutions.

It is the "homes" and not the "houses" that has made America the greatest nation on the face of this en-circling globe.

If we were asked by someone to write a theme on "The person whose life has most influenced mine", most of us would without hesitation say our mothers as the ones who have had most to do with making us what we are, that is, as far as we are good. But let's remember, we have two parents and twice as many grandparents most surely the first of our great and so on back, and I suspect that we may have inherited some feature from almost any of them.

Then if this is true, the home is most surely the first of our great social institutions to be considered. The majority of us come into membership in a home as soon as we are born, and we spend a number of years in it before we fully realize that there are any other social institutions.

Is it a fact that we are drifting away from the home and the fire-side ideals laid down by our forefathers? There is argument here for both sides. Sometimes it looks as if we had forgotten the home, and then we come to the realization of what it really means and we see the home spirit prevailing in our southern homes and our hearts are gladdened at the sight. I say that we will never drift entirely away from the ancient ideals of the home, no matter what happens we will eventually realize and know that, even in this so-called jazz-crazed age, there is nothing so dear to our hearts as home.

In looking at the home from the standpoint of society, the chief reason for its existence is that there, children may be born and cared for and trained until they are old enough to come into contact with the social institutions that the older people have formed. Many of the lower animals set up short lived homes to care for their young and to train them to look out for themselves. So we see that the home is a social institution that nature itself ordained. The others men have founded.

Mr. R. O. Hughes, head of the Peabody High School of Pittsburg Pa., says "Right thinking people never cease to feel an affection for the home. It is the center of their deepest interests. It is a refuge when things go wrong in the world outside. A place of rest and refreshment that enables us to meet the toil and strain of the world of labor. In short it is the very foundation of society."

There is a big difference between the "house" and a "home." yes! a great difference. Only six languages besides the English have a word for "home" A house is the place where most people live, a home is the common life of the family who occupy a particular place. The former is material. The latter is spiritual. A house is made of wood or bricks, perhaps—A home, of love. When moving from one place to another the house stays behind, our home goes where we go.

Then you may say that it makes no difference where we live. Oh! yes it does. Could you enjoy home in a dirty, tumbled-down dwelling, surrounded by a court still dirtier? I say no! The people who own the

place where they live will naturally feel a personal interesting pride in the spot. They will take pride in its looks. They will take more interest in its up-keep, in the plumbing repair, the painting and many other things. It is not landlord this and landlord that. But instead, it is your own little cozy cottage. Yes, the height of many a newly married couple's dream.

We have been for a while considering the good part of a home, its advantages and so on. Now let's consider and think about the reasons why the home is less often the real center of people's lives than it used to be. The world has developed a great many interests and ideas which a century ago few would have dared to dream of. These have made men's lives much broader and fuller. Many of them we cannot enjoy within our homes we must go elsewhere for them. We must look at the great public demand for amusement and many other places they can go and pay for it, as well as some where they can obtain it free.

"The social body to which we belong," says Upton Sinclair, great socialist leader and one of the world's greatest authorities on American journalism, "is at this moment passing through one of the greatest crises in history, a colossal process, which may be best likened to a birth. We have each of us a share in this process. We are to a greater or less extent responsible for its course. To make our judgment, we must know what our fellowmen, in all parts of the world, in all classes of society, are suffering, planning, doing. There arise emergencies which require swift decisions, under penalty of frightful waste and suffering. What if the nerves upon which we depend for knowledge of this social body should fail to give us correct reports of its condition?"

Then again some families appear to set up a low standard of life. Constant quarreling will ruin any family. Liquor used to and does yet do great harm. This liquid venom will gradually break up any home, and all of the family does not have to drink it either. This corroborates the saying that "a house divided within itself cannot stand."

It may be that the odium of home-breaking is not so much due to men and women as to the conditions under which they live and have their being. This has been proved in many instances, and the reader need but look around and he will readily see an example of what I am speaking of.

We must next consider the question of making the home better. To make the next set of homes better, we have nothing to begin with but those now in existence. At the very beginning children should show a respect for parents, this is too seldom seen. In fact the old saying seems to have been reversed in some homes, so that it now runs "Parents should be seen and not heard." No institution can last unless somebody has authority and exercises it with good common sense and judgment. This condition must prevail in all of our homes.

Let's all start now, and labor to make our homes and somebody else's home a better place in which to live, and then we can all sing with greater zeal and rekindled courage, "Home Sweet Home."

Read Next Week—The School—Another Great Social Institution.

"What," asks a cleric, "has Birmingham ever done to help the church?" It seems to have escaped him that Birmingham produces over a million buttons every week.—Punch (London).

## TO VOTE ON HOSPITAL PLAN

In December the citizens of Mecklenburg county will have an opportunity of voting for, or against the proposition of a hundred thousand dollar bond issue for the erection and maintenance of a tubercular hospital. It is not expected that much opposition will be encountered for this great humane movement, as practically all citizens are agreed upon the urgent necessity of such an institution.

It is said that there are more than half a thousand tubercular victims in the county at present, and this constitutes such a wastage of manhood and womanhood and entails so much suffering and misery, that both economic and humane reasoning prompt all citizens to support the proposition.

## NAVAL OIL SUITS BEEN POSTPONED

The government special counsel in the oil cases have had their civil action against the Sinclair properties postponed until the early part of January. It is understood that the criminal prosecutions will be pressed for early attention. The government and the oil interests are contesting every inch of the disputed ground.

## DO YOU WANT JOB WITH U. S.?

On October 18, a Civil Service examination will be held in Charlotte for the purpose of securing clerks and carriers for the Charlotte post office. Salaries for these positions run from \$1,400 to \$1,800 a year. The examination will be held in Charlotte and all information can be secured by applying at the post office.

## GOVERNOR WILL STOP MINERS BEING ROBBED

Denver, Colo., Oct. 9.—Governor Sweet has notified irresponsible lessees of coal mines that they must cease robbing miners. These parties lease mines, sell the coal and leave the country without paying the miners.

A concern in Routt county started to operate under this system, and the miners threatened to prevent the operation of the mines unless they were paid. Instead of paying the miners the company appealed to the governor to protect their property. The state executive called on the men to obey the law and notified the company that they will save themselves "much annoyance" by the prompt payment of wages.

"It is unfair to sell coal men have just mined and then fail to pay them their wage," the governor said.

"The wages should be the first lien prior to everything else on every ton of coal mined by you, and I wish to assure you that insofar as the law permits, I shall protect the men in this right."

Governor Sweet notified the owners of the mine that they can not evade a moral responsibility when they receive royalties on coal lands they lease.

## JAPAN SCRAPPY; U. S. CONCERNED

It is all right to loll in the lap of national security regarding foreign affairs, but advices reaching Washington continue to show the deep resentment of Japan towards the United States, growing out of the exclusion act passed recently by congress. The administration is doubtless deeply concerned about the matter, and our own state department continues in its most conciliatory attitude towards Japan.

There has been an attempt to gloss over the speeches of Secretary of the Navy Wilbur, but there is no denying the fact that official Washington considered his

references to Japan as very indiscreet, and therefore welcomed his recall to Washington. The Washington Post, a leading Coolidge newspaper, commented that the Democrats were anxious that Secretary Wilbur should continue his speeches in their behalf.

## West Virginia Miners Are Again Enjoyed

Morgantown, W. Va., Oct. 9.—A score of union miners have been cited by Judge Lazelle to prove why they should not be punished for violating an injunction issued by his honor. They are forbidden from "soliciting, inducing or persuading" strikebreakers from quitting their employment.

According to the injunction, the miners can't resist eviction of their families in civil court, as Judge Lazelle commands them "from any manner obstructing, opposing or interfering with the plaintiff in re-entering upon and taking possession of its said-dwell-

ing houses and each of them removing the goods of said defendants therefrom.

The injunction orders the miners not to come in the vicinity of the company's property, though the union headquarters is within a few feet of company land.

## FUR WORKERS GAIN.

Philadelphia, Oct. 9.—Following an energetic organizing campaign, fur workers in this city have secured a new wage agreement. Practically every local employer has signed. Wages are advanced 10 per cent, provision is made for unemployment insurance and better working conditions are assured.

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