

# SOUTH NASHVILLE IMPROVEM'T CLUB IS DOING GREAT WORK FOR SECTION

**Splendid Band of Noble Women Instill Spirit That Is Securing Results.**

**CHILDREN HELPING, TOO**

**Unightly Spots Are Disappearing and Improvements Noted Everywhere.**

South Nashville, which in the past has been a community, is at last becoming one great neighborhood. Where many of the residents of that section have been indifferent, as to



**J. Paul Harville,**  
 President of South Nashville Improvement Club.

its future, now they are alert and working hand-in-hand in making South Nashville more beautiful, more neighborly and more advanced in those things which make a city fit to live in. There is a spirit now abroad in South Nashville that is "as yeast to the dough." Bubbling up throughout all classes of citizenship is the leaven of "get-up-and-do." Everywhere one sees this influence at work. South Nashville is cleaning up, and it will hardly be recognized in another year, as the place that it has been in the last ten years.

The entering wedge into the unconcern of the residents, south of Broad street, was a band of noble women joined in a woman's federation club. From them has come a spirit that is harnessing together every element and every energy to work out the better welfare of their neighborhood. These women have done wonderful work, even by themselves, and they were so persistent in this good work that they forced recognition from the men. They, too, felt that if they got together they could be of some assistance and they at last organized on April 30, 1914, in the South Nashville Improvement club.

The children, too, are being called in to help. At the present time there is open to the school children of South

Nashville a "slogan contest." In this contest a prize of \$10 is to be offered for the best slogan submitted. Among other things that are under consideration is a contest for the best composition on "The Needs of South Nashville." The idea has already been discussed of enlisting the children in the work of the club. They are to enter into the work of cleaning up South Nashville, of maintaining gardens of their own, of assisting in reducing the cost of living by making their back yards productive, at least a part of the vegetables for the table, of having them start planting trees, which will be furnished them, and in every way direct their energies through a spirit of rivalry in helping to better the homes that are in future to be their own.

**COMMUNITY CENTER.**

One of the great features of neighborhood life in South Nashville is the old Montgomery-Bell academy school house. This building, purchased by the park commission, along with the Montgomery-Bell grounds, has been turned into a community center. Here the ladies meet in their women's federation work, here the men gather to hold their improvement club meetings, here the children come to hear stories told them by the ladies. From it now radiates an influence that is uplifting South Nashville to heights little thought of in the past. The W. C. T. U. also hold their meetings here.

At the beginning of the inauguration of the improvement club movement, there were just a few members to push things forward. But like wildfire the idea spread, and today the South Nashville Improvement club numbers five hundred ardent workers among its membership. This membership have already proven themselves good listeners, and as they heard their speakers address them at their semi-monthly meeting they seemed to catch every suggestion and carry it home with them. Many of these suggestions have



**J. O. Tankard,**  
 First Vice-President South Nashville Improvement Club.

already been put into practice, and many more are being worked out.

**SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION.**

Then, too, the spirit of co-operation that has arisen is already bearing fruit. Neighbor Jones, who recently cut his weeds and gave his yard a general clean-up, was ably followed up by neighbor Smith on the one side, who has not only cleaned up his place, but has fenced in his chickens in the back yard where they would be out of sight of the street, while neighbor Brown on the other side has cleaned up his place, whitewashed the fences and outhouses, given his house a new coat of paint and has set out two or three trees in the front yard. Splendid work along this line meets the sight everywhere, and South Nashville is now in the throes of a general clean-up movement that will mature at an early date into a great clean-up campaign.

At each meeting of the South Nashville Improvement club spirited discussions arise on the various needs of that end of the city. Back and forth plans are hammered out, committee work reported, new improvements taken up, and the spirit of enthusiasm shown by those present promise well for the accomplishment of "A Greater South Nashville." At these meetings a number of noted speakers of this city have addressed this organization, and the program

for the future contains the names of a number of public-spirited citizens who are doing their share of pushing Nashville to the forefront of being a finer place to live in.

**DOING BIG THINGS.**

The South Nashville Improvement association has already succeeded in doing some big things, a number of which in themselves would be considered very progressive for an organization so young. Take, for instance, the widening of Fourth avenue, south, from Demonbreun to Peabody, by a bill recently passed by the city commissioners. This property has been condemned and accepted which gives, in the near future, a seventy-five foot boulevard entrance to South Nashville, beautifies what has heretofore been an unsightly street, and gives to that section of the city what it has long needed, a gateway that is an ornament. The establishment of a postoffice, which has been assured in South Nashville, a miniature of the main postoffice on Broad, is due almost entirely to the membership of this club, who have been ably assisted by Postmaster Eugene Shannon, Senator Luke Lea, Congressman Joe Byrns and Charley McCabe, Senator Shields' former private secretary, who is a South Nashville boy.

At a very early date the library that is to be situated in the Montgomery park building will be opened to the public. This library will contain about five thousand books, and will be really a branch of the Carnegie library. This library was established by the women's federation, ably assisted by the improvement club. Then, too, the ladies who conduct the free clinic in South Nashville for those who could not afford to take their children elsewhere, have had the hearty co-operation of the improvement club.

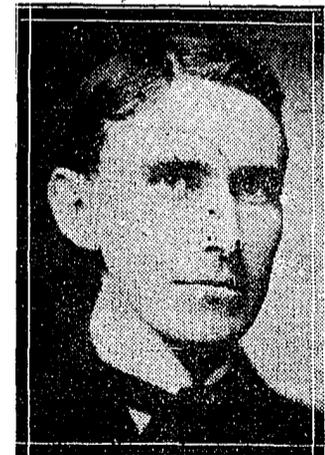
The South Nashville Improvement club has had much to do with locating of the three big parks and play grounds in that section of the city. They are bending every energy possible to even make further improvements along this line, one of them being the making of a park out of Fort Negley hill. The matter has already been brought before congress by Senator Luke Lea and Congressman Joe Byrns, who have been influenced to assist in this work entirely through the efforts of the South Nashville Improvement club.

Plans are being laid out for a number of improvements that will be of great importance to that neighborhood. Because of the establishment of the new market on Hay Market Square, the club is urging that this section be hereafter known as the New Market Square.

**BROADWAY BUSINESS.**

It is being generally recognized that the trend of business is moving to South Broadway, and already has it crossed Broadway, and a number of buildings are going up in this section. It is predicted that that section which will be known as New Market Square will become a great business center in the next five years. Already a number of pieces of property have been bought with the end in view of erecting buildings to accommodate manufacturers. The really remarkable thing is that property has been on the increase in that section. Prices for real estate have had a reaction, and are steadily going up.

The organization of the South Nashville Improvement club has created a different atmosphere in their neighborhood. It has been a ray of sunshine that has broken through about the darkest period of that end of the city. It has brought forbearance, confidence, assurance, enthusiasm, deeper civic and religious purpose. A number of business and professional men have turned their eyes toward South Nash-



**Ed Wright,**  
 Secretary-treasurer South Nashville Improvement Club.

ville because of this, and have moved into the neighborhood. It is an inspiration to see business and professional men, artisans and laborers all meet together on a common footing to discuss common things and learn to know each other better. Class distinction, jealousies, neighborhood quarrels are unknown in the clear light of open frankness and neighborly friendliness.

**PURPOSES OF ORGANIZATION.**

Primarily, the organization was for the economic development of South Nashville arising out of the need of the elimination of unsightly spots and undesirable characters. This is being marked and evidenced by the great change in this respect that is already coming over South Nashville. The people are far better than in the past. Neighbors are rubbing the sharp edges off and exchanging neighborly and social intercourse. Land values are rising and many things point to a more prosperous South Nashville.

The officers of the South Nashville Improvement club are Dr. J. P. Harville, president; Ed C. Wright, secretary and treasurer; J. O. Tankard, first vice-president, and C. W. Rives, second vice-president.