CLEVELAND WILL CELEBRATE ITS ANNIVERSARY.

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day a city holiday and the mayor has been ordered to so proclaim it. It is only remaining for the citizens of Cleveland to observe it.

How general this observance will be is impossible to say. The day, falling as it does on Sunday, necessitates its observance on Monday, July 24. Businesses will not all be suspended. It requires more than the action of the city council and a mayor’s proclamation to stop the business of the banks and stores even for a few hours. Still, that alone is not a true index of the observance of a holiday. Even on Washington’s birthday, Decoration day and the Fourth of July, the stores all over the city are open until noon. We may safely assume that on the entire day, the day, at least, will be a holiday for all the city employees, of whom there are more than 6,000. It is unlikely that any of the factories will shut down this year, although in course of time it is expected that the labor unions will demand a strict observance of the day.

The celebration of Cleveland day this year will be confined almost entirely to the city employees and the children of the poor. It was intended, if possible, to turn over the first spadeful of earth on the site of the new city hall, and with fitting ceremonies mark the beginning of actual work on the group plan. The plan had to be abandoned as the city hall commission was unable to complete its work in time for the anniversary.

Accordingly no formal ceremony of any kind will mark the observance of the day.

GAMES FOR THE CHILDREN.

In the afternoon in the various parks, thousands of children will gather to enjoy themselves. The annual romping day will be held on that date and it if is successful as it was last year, it in itself will be a great observance of the day. Programs of races and other athletic contests will be held in all the parks, and in order to stimulate additional interest, prizes of various kinds will be given to the winners.

Last year more than 60,000 children, large and small, thronged the parks on romping day, and if that many young Clevelanders celebrate Cleveland day July 24, its most ardent advocates will be well pleased with the beginning.

The celebration this year can be nothing else but a beginning. It is only a stepping stone. For a city council to declare a certain day a holiday means little or nothing except as it affects the city employees. The observance of a holiday is a matter of sentiment. It takes time, and so it is that sentiment which is absolutely essential in a free country for a successful holiday. That is what the originator of Cleveland day proposes or at least hopes to do.

PETER WITT ORIGINATED IDEA.

The idea of celebrating the anniversary of the founding of Cleveland by marking its observance with a holiday, originated with Peter Witt, the city clerk. The hundredth anniversary of the founding of the city was observed ten years ago by a centennial celebration which lasted several days. It was a celebration on a large scale, but it differed materially from Witt’s plan. His idea in his own words is this:

"Let us set apart one day a year in which the people of the city shall stop work, shall suspend business, get together and in unity glorify our past attachments and declare for future attainments.

"Of all the cities in the United States, to me Cleveland stands out as the best and grandest. A beautiful city, a city of homes, of wide streets, of magnificent parks, of great manufactures, or growing commerce; but, greater than all of these, a city that has a heart as well as conscience, and whose people in the past have shown more civic pride than any other community in the United States.

"Why not choose the national day of our city for this celebration? Why not make this day an annual event? Let us on this day, as it comes every year, resolve to push forward the spirit that has made our glorious past possible, and seeks to make our future still greater; that knows not men, but understands measures; that is citizen ever, and partisan never."

SCHOOLS NOT INTERESTED.

A few weeks ago, Witt suggested this idea to his friends in the city council. It was taken up readily and in the name of Councilman McClain, an ordinance was introduced declaring July 23 a legal holiday to be known as Cleveland day and authorizing the mayor to issue a proclamation to the citizens, calling their attention to it. An effort was made to interest the Chamber of Commerce and the United Trades and Labor council in the celebration and they have appointed committees to act with the council committee on the celebration. An effort was made to interest the board of education in order to have it brought to the attention of the children in the public schools, but Witt’s communication was unanswered, he says. Despite this he is not discouraged. On the contrary, he is somewhat pleased, if the meaning of that word can be perverted, for: if the celebration of the day is small this year, it will have a chance to grow. Much better it should be this large celebration, which next year would not be duplicated, he believes.

All the holidays now generally observed, had small beginnings. The first Fourth of July celebration was woefully small at the time and it was predicted that it would not be observed more than once. Thousands of people are living today who know how Decoration day was observed when it was first declared a holiday. Labor day, which is perhaps the most widely observed holiday in the year, Christmas alone excepted, began in a very small way twenty-five years ago in Newton. A few labor organizations used to parade on that day. They were hoolied at, and made fun of, but they kept on marching. Year by year the size of the parade increased until sheer force of numbers they were recognised and the day was declared a legal holiday.

"That is my hope for Cleveland day," says Witt. "No matter how small the celebration this year, next year it will be larger and it will grow from year to year until its observance is general. Cleveland has something to celebrate over. One hundred and ten years ago Gen. Moses Cleaveland landed on the shores of Lake Erie at the mouth of the Cuyahoga and founded the city which bears his name. Not only has the city made wonderful strides in every line of civic growth, but it has developed a public conscience. That alone is worth celebrating. We ought to celebrate not only what we have done, but what we are going to do. We have shown the world what we have done in the past, and we are going to do much more in the future than we have ever done before. That is why I want the children to know what Cleveland day means. It may be only a romping day in the parks this year, but let the children take it up and its success is insured."