

The social life of the camp followed a pattern which may often be observed in communities of the same type.

In the eight years the Shovelcrats have ruled, part of a new generation has matured. Boys, grown to manhood, now contend lustily for shovels and bid the price up to get them. These youths are the recipients of much fatherly advice from prosperous folk, chiefly shovel owners who have abundant time to offer it.

They are advised to marry young; not to marry until they have accumulated sufficient to buy a shovel; to rear large families; to restrict their families to proper size; to marry a girl whose father has two shovels; not to drink intoxicants; to drink more, and forget their worries; to put their money in the bank; to spend their money and boom business; to endure the lack of a shovel in this world patiently and look for reward in the world to come; and the like.

The Upper Ten, or Idle Rich, so called, has no problem of existence. Its problem is to kill time, to find diversion. Some purchase horses and bet which can run fastest; others get drunk and go to bed; others compete fiercely among themselves to acquire more shovels, and, as a consequence, more wealth; some are candidates on platforms designed to extinguish the ills of the community; others