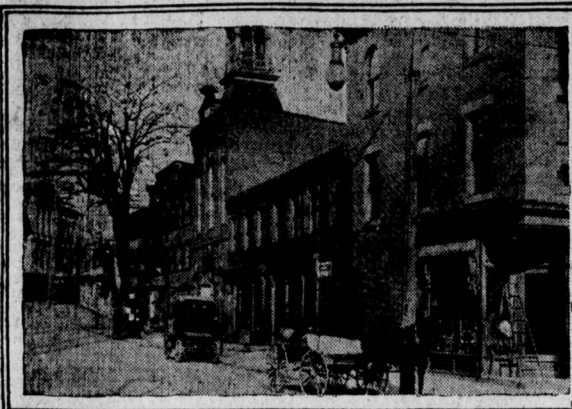




# HARRISBURG IN 1914--ITS PROSPECTS AND POSSIBILITIES



LOOKING FROM WALNUT UP FOURTH ST.



FIFTH ST. LOOKING NORTH FROM STATE



STATE ST. MARKET HOUSE

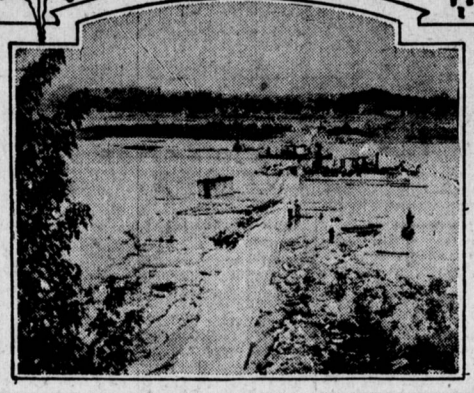


WALNUT FROM RAILROAD

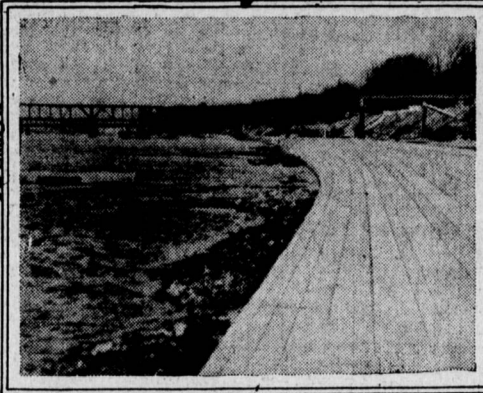
THE PICTURES AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE GIVE SOME IDEA OF THE SCOPE OF THE CAPITOL PARK EXTENSION NOW IN PROGRESS. ALL OF THESE BUILDINGS AND SCORES OF OTHERS ARE TO BE REMOVED TO GIVE WAY TO IT.

## Things Doing in 1914

HARRISBURG plans in 1914 to take another long step forward in the way of public improvements and in the making of a bigger, better Harrisburg in every sense of the word. The city government will expend \$100,000 for parks and playground extensions. The voters have approved loans for the purchase of \$25,000 worth of fire apparatus; \$25,000 for a public comfort station; \$25,000 for new sewers and \$25,000 for bridges. The river wall and steps will be completed and the work of parking the river bank will be started. The dam across the Susquehanna at the lower end of the city will be completed.



NEW RIVER DAM



NEW RIVER WALL AND STEPS

## Things Doing in 1914

THE Y. W. C. A. building will be completed and the membership increased to 1,000. The railroads will build new freight stations, new yards and a double track bridge across the Susquehanna river at Mulberry street. The Paxton creek and Spring creek improvements will be finished. The Pennsylvania Steel Company will extend its plants in this vicinity by the expenditure of about two million dollars and various other industries are talking of enlargements.

WERE it not for the unsettled condition the entire country is facing just now Harrisburg would look forward to 1914 as a year of unequaled business activity, extension and prosperity.

As it is, if the worst should come Harrisburg would find itself with enough work on hand to keep the wolf from the door. The indications all point to a slow improvement in trade conditions. That being so, Harrisburg will not suffer much. Indeed this year should show a distinct improvement in business over last. Our salvation lies in the large amount of extension and improvement work planned, much of which is destined to go forward whether or not trade is up to the mark.

In the first place the city has set aside \$100,000 for the extension and improvement of its municipal park system and playgrounds. It has voted to expend \$100,000 for sewers, \$25,000 for bridges, \$25,000 for new fire apparatus, \$25,000 for paving repair and \$25,000 for a public comfort station.

Of course all of this money may not be expended during the present year, but the bulk of it doubtless will. The park purchases will help to stimulate the real estate market and the constructive work to follow will give employment to a very considerable number of men.

It is certain that the Dock street bridge will be rebuilt and this will occupy a force of men all summer and well into the Fall. Other bridges will be erected from the fund of \$25,000 set aside for that purpose, the Dock street expense having been made up from another source. There is talk of several new bridges on Allison Hill and it is likely that a considerable amount of the money will be spent there, although under the terms of the loan it would be possible to get some of this money for much needed structures across streams in the parks and along the park way.

The public comfort station loan will be expended for a building in Market Square, it is understood, although there has been much talk of taking it elsewhere by those who do not believe the Square should be encumbered with a building of any kind. It is the only open space the city has in the heart of town and would leave us without a single plaza should it be made the site of a public comfort station.

At all events the station will be a model of fine architecture and will be made as ornamental as possible, and will contain rest rooms for men and women.

### MANY NEW SEWERS.

The sewers to be put down under the loan will no doubt be given to the outlying sections of the city where they are badly

needed. Most of the money will be expended as soon as plans can be completed and the contracts let. In this connection it may be well to say that the Paxton creek improvements and the Spring Run sewer will be completed this coming summer. They have been dragging along for more than a year, but under the new system of management will be soon ready to turn over to the city. There is work on them, however, for several months.

Another big improvement started last year and to be finished in 1914 is the river wall. This wall is intended to cover the intercepting sewer along the river front and render it free from the danger of ice and flood. While they were about it those in charge of the work deemed it proper to make the job ornamental as well as useful, so it is taking the form of a series of concrete steps which will extend from a concrete walk down to the water's edge. At intervals there will be electric light standards and the back ground will be a river bank terrace, which will be planted with shrubbery and parked. This will give Harrisburg a beautiful sunken walk along the water's edge from the lower end of the city all the way to Seneca street.

The river dam at the lower end of town will be finished also next summer and this will back water up as far as Mclay street to a minimum depth of three feet, which it is calculated, will cover all of the flats in the river in summer time and rid the city of the pest of mosquitoes and the danger of malaria, as well as keeping the current in constant motion along the eastern shore, where an outlet to the dam is provided.

This dam will be of concrete and of most modern construction. In times of high water it will not block the river, but will be entirely out of sight, the water completely covering it so that the current will not be disturbed in the least. This removes from the lower end of the city the fear of flood that was so much in mind when the dam project was at first discussed.

This river work combined will keep a force of three or four hundred men busy a greater part of the summer, although the state of the weather will enter considerably into the speed of the contractors.

### RAILROAD IMPROVEMENTS.

The railroads are Harrisburg's chief stand-bys. When they are doing little business, Harrisburg as a whole is suffering from business depression. It is therefore gratifying to note that the big freight station and yards the Pennsylvania proposes to build this year in the lower part of the city will move along no matter how dull times may become. This new freight development has been planned for many years but it is expected that there will be no more delays. The contract is to be let within the next

thirty days. It will involve the demolition of a large number of houses, to say nothing of the construction of two subways, one at Mulberry and Second streets and the other at Front and Mulberry streets. More detailed mention of this improvement is made elsewhere.

Account in detail is also given on another page of this issue of the Cumberland Valley railroad's intention of double tracking its line into town by the rebuilding of the Mulberry street bridge over the river. This structure is nearly a mile in length and the task of rebuilding will keep a big force of skilled workmen steadily employed all through the summer and possibly longer.

Next to the building of the great Rockville bridge, the longest four track structure in the whole world, the reconstruction of the Cumberland Valley bridge will be the biggest piece of that kind of improvement work ever attempted in Harrisburg. The cost will range very close to the million dollar mark, it is estimated.

The Pennsylvania Railroad has also in mind the improvement of the union station plaza, several yard changes and other work but none of it of sufficient importance to mention in detail.

### SOME OF THE NEW BUILDINGS.

Several buildings of more than ordinary size will be completed this year. The new Young Women's Christian Association building at Fourth and Walnut streets will be finished and ready for dedication next summer. This building will cost about \$400,000 and will be one of the finest of its kind in the State. It was built as the result of a whirlwind campaign and everybody in Harrisburg, from the highest to the lowest, has had some share in it. The building will have an outlook over the new capitol park extension when that improvement becomes an accomplished fact. It may be noted here that another big building will have a similar outlook from the other extremity of the park extension, the proposed new Scottish Rite Cathedral of the Masons, ground for which has just been purchased and plans for which will be made the coming summer. The outlook is for a fringe of noble structures fronting on the proposed park along Walnut and Fourth streets.

Perhaps it may not be amiss to say here that the Capitol Park extension work will be carried on more rapidly than ever during 1914 and that as soon as the weather opens sufficiently a large number of old buildings purchased by the State will be demolished and their cellars filled to street level. This will have

(Continued on Page 2)

The Accompanying Etchings Are From Photographs Showing the Great Public Improvement Work Now Going Forward in Harrisburg. Left to Right, the First Two Pictures Are of an Incompleted Set of Steps and Part of the River Wall From the Lower End of the City to Seneca Street, and a Section of the Completed Steps and Wall; the Third Is a View of the Construction Work on the Sanitary Dam Across the Susquehanna River and the Fourth a Photograph of Paxton Creek, Which Is Being Turned Into a Great Concrete Gutter

