

WHY PARKS ARE A BENEFIT.

Improve Social and Moral Conditions of a Community.

PAY WELL AS AN INVESTMENT.

How Kansas City Has Profited by its Parking System—Methods For Towns to Adopt in Securing Parks—Why Attractiveness Pays.

The old idea of parks was that they are luxuries and are chiefly for those who had time and taste to enjoy the beautiful. A city or town that could afford parks was regarded much in the same light as a rich man who possessed in his own home beautiful paintings, statuary and other works of art. These were obtained chiefly to gratify the pride of the owner or to gratify the taste of the family and friends capable of enjoying such things.

Soon it was seen that parks not only furnished pleasure, but greatly increased the health and happiness of the people and improved the social and moral conditions of the communities. Says J. B. Baker in Farm and Ranch, I could easily demonstrate this fact, but we have not time here, nor do I think it necessary, as it is almost self-evident. Granted, then, that parks, parkings, clean streets and everything else that goes to make up the City Beautiful do add much to the pleasure, happiness, morals and health of the people, are these not reasons enough to inspire every city, town and village to go to work at once to secure these things? But I shall pass over all these good reasons and consider for a moment the commercial side of the subject. From the standpoint of the dollar, parks do pay, and they pay big.

Kansas City is a notable example of what has been done in the last few years. Ten or twelve years ago the people there realized that almost nothing had been done to beautify their town and attract the home builder and business man. They quickly adopted



UPLIFTER OF PUBLIC MORALS AND HEALTH [From the American City, New York.]

ed a plan for the city and worked out a system of parks and boulevards, costing \$9,000,000. Already it has proved to be a profitable investment, and they are getting back in increased taxes, due to the enhancement of values, more than enough to justify the outlay. In opening some of the first parks and boulevards they had to fight their way by condemnation proceedings, etc., but it was soon seen that in whatever part of town these improvements were going on property increased in value, so that it was not long before every part of the town was clamoring for such improvements, in some cases even offering to pay for them. Today the people of Kansas City are enthusiastic over their civic improvements, and they say that parks pay.

What has been the case in Kansas City has also been true in many other places. After studying this question for several years I am convinced that the average town or city is not indifferent to these things, but they simply don't know how to make a start. If only a few enthusiastic, public spirited people will get the matter on their hearts they will soon find a way.

Of course the best results cannot be attained in one or two years. It takes time, and the people should not become impatient. I would say to all towns desiring parks, etc.:

First.—Employ a good architect to make a plan.

Second.—Devise ways and means to secure funds.

Third.—Secure land for parks as early as possible, large tracts on the outskirts and several small tracts in the thickly settled neighborhoods.

Fourth.—Go to work systematically and intelligently to beautify the grounds.

Fifth.—Don't expect everything to be done in one or two years. It takes time to do these things, and no doubt mistakes will be made. It would be remarkable if they were not. But if the proper start be made and honest and interested men are managing it they can hardly fail to obtain good results in the end.

In conclusion I would emphasize the fact that if a town expects to attract people it must make itself attractive. In this day and time no intelligent man cares to live in a town lacking in beauty and health, and the towns that make the best increases in population in the next ten or twenty years will be largely the ones that do most to make themselves attractive by civic improvements.

GERMANY'S CROWN PRINCE

Kaiser's Eldest Son May Visit America on Tour of the World.



Berlin, Nov. 1.—Crown Prince Frederick William will start this month for a long tour of the far east, including India. It is more than probable that he will return by way of the Pacific, visiting the United States, although this is not included in the program for his trip as it is now made up.

The tour of the crown prince will bear an official character, and arrangements have already been made with the British government for his reception in India. He will visit also China and Japan.

How to Open a Can of Corn.

One of the smallest of the little girls in a West Philadelphia family had often assisted her mother in preparing the meals. She observed that her mother, who was rather hasty, always talked to herself when she had any difficulty in opening cans of vegetables. The little girl thought that the hastiness was a part of the operation.

"One day she was visiting a neighbor and went into the kitchen to help prepare a meal.

She watched the neighbor take a can of corn, apply the opener and remove the top.

"That's not the way to open a can of corn," said the little girl.

"Why, what other way is there?" asked the neighbor.

"Well, you take the can of corn and start to open it, and then you bear down and the opener slips. Then you say 'Darn this can' and finish it. That's the way my mother opens a can of corn."—Philadelphia Times.

Diamonds to Lamplack.

You may purchase equal quantities of carbon for five cents or a million dollars. A bargain hunter might invest a nickel and get a package of pure lamplack. The million would secure a blazing diamond, easily turned into lamplack; not so easily—Intense heat would be required. However, coal and wood are really more valuable than diamonds. They surrender life giving heat, while the only use so far discovered for diamonds is to cut glass, and for this carbondium is a good substitute. All diamonds in existence could be annihilated without loss to mankind; but, then, to vaporize diamonds would be costly, as the enormous heat of 12,632 degrees F. in the concentration of an electric furnace would be required, and then you might get enough graphite to make a lead pencil or a little fine stove polish.

—Edgar Lucien Larkin in Nautlius.

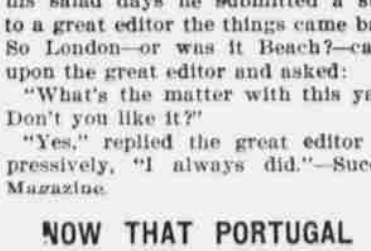
Always Good.

Speaking of Jack London—or was it Rex Beach?—they tell that when in his salad days he submitted a story to a great editor the things came back. So London—or was it Beach?—called upon the great editor and asked:

"What's the matter with this yarn? Don't you like it?"

"Yes," replied the great editor impressively, "I always did."—Success Magazine.

Now That Portugal Has a Poet for President.



—Wilder in Chicago Record-Herald.

MESSENGERS HAD A STRIKE.

But Visions of Truant Officer and School Made Them Weaken.

Jersey City, N. J., Nov. 3.—Twelve messenger boys employed at the office of the Western Union Telegraph company at 76 Montgomery street caught the strike fever and quit work to enforce a demand for more pay for the regulars and for the instant dismissal of a number of new boys who had been hired to carry election returns.

"Livin' expenses is goin' up, and we need de money," explained a committee of one to Manager Lewis. "De company is rich and can stand a raise. As for de extry boys, dere's so many of 'em on de bench now dat we all can't sit down. Fire some of 'em, and den de rest of us'll have a chانس to make a livin' chasin' messages."

When Manager Lewis threatened to get the truant officer after the boys and compel them to go back to school they weakened and returned to work.

SHOT WITH HIS OWN PISTOL.

New Yorker Wanted to Get Handkerchief When Gun Went Off.

Washington, Nov. 3.—Samuel R. Goodwin of New York city, a former noncommissioned officer in the army, is in Garfield hospital suffering from a bullet wound in the head which was received while he was in the apartment of Mrs. William J. McClure in the Victoria apartment house. Goodwin and Mrs. McClure say that the shooting was accidental.

Goodwin said: "I wanted to get a handkerchief out of my suit case. My revolver was lying on top of my handkerchief, and as I stooped over I picked up the pistol with one hand and grabbed several handkerchiefs with the other. While I was still stooping the pistol went off in my hand, but just how I cannot say."

SOCIETY AT MAID'S WEDDING.

St. Louis Millionaire Throws Open Home at Ceremonies of Servants.

St. Louis, Nov. 3.—A wedding ceremony unique in the annals of St. Louis society was performed at Maplecrest, the home of Clarence H. Howard, millionaire president of the Commonwealth Steel company.

The bride and bridegroom were Martha Smitzmeier, a maid in the Howard home, and Daniel Figart, the gardener. They were married in the presence of a score of their friends and the Howard family and some society guests, friends of the Howards.

At its conclusion the bridal party was driven in automobiles to witness an amateur minstrel performance by the students of Principia school, an institution Howard has done much for.

SLAYER GETS LONG TERM.

Man Freed by Coroner Sentenced to Ten Years For Killing Dooley.

New York, Nov. 1.—William Heine-man, convicted last week of manslaughter for the killing of Robert Dooley, whom he shot in January last, was sentenced to a term of not less than ten nor more than twenty years in state prison. Sentence was passed by Judge Swann in general sessions.

It was Heine-man who was released by Coroner Feinberg and later indicted, the action of the coroner causing Judge Swann to say that he would take steps to bring the matter to the attention of the grand jury.

Lovesick Youth Kills Himself.

New York, Nov. 3.—Harold Martin, nineteen years old, who until recently lived with his mother at 743 Halsey street, Brooklyn, and left his home because of a quarrel about Charlotte Keys, an eighteen-year-old girl of 98 Ralph avenue, with whom he was keeping company, committed suicide in a furnished room at 94 Ralph avenue by inhaling illuminating gas.

A Suicide After Quarrel With Wife.

New York, Nov. 3.—Simon Hirsch-kowitz, twenty-five years old, a tailor, killed himself by inhaling gas through a tube in his home, 188 Allen street, after he had quarreled violently with his wife. Hirsch-kowitz went home and had difficulty in arousing his wife to open the door for him. This made him very angry and started the quarrel.

Not Acquired.

N. Read—How you stutter! Did you ever go to a stammering school? J. Terry—N-n-no, sir. I-d-d-do this n-n-naturally.—Brooklyn Life.

MRS. WILLIAM H. TAFT.

Mistress of the White House is Opposed to "Continental Sundays."



Washington, Nov. 3.—With the season but two weeks old, one of the chief absorbing topics of interest is whether "the continental Sunday," as opposed to Mrs. Taft's "old fashioned family Sunday," will prevail, as it did last year. Sunday has been and is a day of great jollity among the society folk of the capital and a favorite day for luncheons, tea parties, musicales, bridge parties and paper chases.

Mrs. Taft is opposed to this and neither gives nor accepts invitations for Sunday. In this course she has few supporters, for even cabinet members give dinner parties and attend social functions on the Sabbath.

Baroness Hengelmueller sets the pace for the "continental Sunday" among the foreign colony by giving Sunday afternoon musicales. This practice also is indulged in by Mrs. Perry Belmont and Mrs. Edson Bradley of New York, and the trio of musical hours always draw the smartest of the local Four Hundred.

A Thanksgiving Game.

A good game to play Thanksgiving evening is called "the wand passes." One of the company is sent from the room. Another, who is in league with the first, promises that when he holds the wand, which may be a cane or umbrella, over some member of the company the exiled member will be able to tell over whom. The door must be left open. The confederates explain that this is in order not to interrupt the current of electricity between them.

The magic monger allows the company to chat a few minutes after his confederate has departed. Then he suddenly breaks in upon the conversation, waving the wand and saying in a sepulchral tone, "The wand passes." The exile answers from the next room very solemnly, "Let it pass." Again comes the announcement, "The wand passes," and again the answer, "Let it pass." The third time the possessor of the wand holds it over some head and inquires, "The wand rests over whom?"

Then is the exile promptly to answer, "Over So-and-so," naming the right person. The trick is accomplished by having it arranged that the confederate who remains in the room shall hold the wand over the person who spoke last before the announcement, "The wand passes." All the exile in the next room need be able to do is to distinguish the voices of the company.

FLIGHT FROM OCEAN LINER.

Aviator McCurdy Will Return From Vessel Fifty Miles at Sea.

New York, Nov. 3.—J. A. D. McCurdy, an aviator for Glenn H. Curtiss, will attempt an aeroplane flight from the deck of a vessel fifty miles at sea to Governors Island on Saturday. He will leave port on the Kaiserin Augusta Victoria of the Hamburg-American line, which sails at 10 o'clock in the morning. The navy department will send two torpedo destroyers along to rescue McCurdy in case of accident.

The Curtiss machine to be used was dismantled at Belmont park and shipped to the Hoboken pier of the Hamburg line. Either Mr. McCurdy or Mr. Curtiss is expected to be there to superintend the building of a platform for launching the aeroplane. It was said the platform will be 100 feet long and will be built on the forward deck of the ship.

Factory Shaft Whirls Boy to Death.

Newark, N. J., Nov. 3.—Caught in the shafting in the bag factory of William Roemer in 269 Broome street, Arnold Pfeffer, fifteen years old, an employee, was whirled about many times and so severely hurt that he died a half hour afterward in the City hospital.

It's Nature.

"I noticed in the store we visited to-day everybody was crowded around the perfume counter."

"That's not surprising."

"Why not?"

"Oughtn't perfume naturally to be a scenter of attraction?"—Baltimore American.

More Alluring.

"You grew tired of that young man who kept talking about castles in Spain?" said Maude.

"Yes," replied Maymie; "I became more interested in a chap who has his mind on an office building in a busy little American town."—Washington Star.

For the Children

Flying Squirrels and Aeroplanes.



Modern inventors have been fairly successful with the aeroplane, but for a long time two little animals have used a similar principle in their successful flights. The flying squirrel and the flying fish sail through the air and rise and fall on an aeroplane of nature's invention.

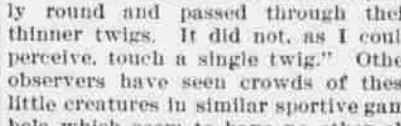
Our common flying squirrel, with its thin, winglelike membrane stretched tightly between the extended legs, is a typical aeroplane. Thoreau in speaking of such a squirrel says: "It sprang from a maple at a height of twenty-eight and one-half feet from the ground and landed easily and lightly on the ground at the foot of another tree fifty and one-half feet away. Its flight was not a regular descent. It varied from a straight line both horizontally and vertically. It skimmed much like a hawk, and part of its flight was nearly horizontal. There were six trees from six inches to a foot in diameter between the beginning and the ending of its flight, and these it skimmed partly round and passed through their thinner twigs. It did not, as I could perceive, touch a single twig." Other observers have seen crowds of these little creatures in similar sportive gambols which seem to have no other object than playfulness or the mere pleasure of flight.—St. Nicholas.

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