

BEAUTIFYING CITIES

SOMETHING MORE NEEDED THAN THE USUAL IMPROVEMENTS.

A number of interesting and practical points regarding this problem—the individual must take a hand in the work.

Should we wish our cities to be beautiful as well as prosperous? If so, in what way may they be beautified and by whom? These questions are asked by Charles H. Caffin in *The World's Work*, and they are answered in a way that brings out the essential points in the problem and makes them practical and interesting.

Mr. Caffin makes comparison of the growing beauty of the world's municipalities and analyzes the impulses that are making for improvement. There is scarcely a city in the country of which its own citizens are not proud. In what does their pride consist? Primarily, no doubt, in the fact that their city offers them an opportunity of successful work and investment. Their pride is a personal one in their own achievements as well as the impersonal one of attachment to the city. But in the bigger cities wholehearted eagerness for the common welfare is likely to be weakened by selfish individualism. "In some of our biggest cities, where there should be the biggest scope for pride and loyalty, the individualism seems to be most rampant."

A large number of people, the majority in fact, have no consciousness of the desirability of beauty in a city. When they make comparisons between their own municipality and others, it is the conveniences and comforts or the lack of them upon which they harp. The dignity or beauty of Paris, while it cannot have escaped their notice at the time, has not been brought home to their hearts as a thing that it would be desirable to emulate in, say, New York. Yet if they had learned from the foreigner any wrinkle that would improve their own business they would be quick to adopt it.

Yet may not this same beauty be just such a wrinkle? I think it is worth to the Parisians about \$200,000,000 a year. But I hate to dwell upon this sort of thing. There is another and a higher one in the betterment of our own lives, a worthier memorial to the energy and enterprise of the community. In many directions our lives are being bettered. Libraries are being built or enlarged; finer court-houses, statehouses, banks and public buildings attest the desire for betterment and for fuller expression of the wealth and ambition of our communities. Only in the wider, more comprehensive matter of the city's beauty as a whole is there a marked apathy; in those matters, in fact, which primarily come within the purview of the municipal authorities.

Something more is necessary in a city than the improvement which comes from the investments of individuals, such as the laying out of streets and open spaces, the beautifying of those already in existence and the various public utilities, lavatories, drinking fountains, lamp-posts, street signs and the like, all of which are properly the concern of the community and some within the control of the municipal authorities. In a word, while the desire to beautify the city must have its origin in the individual, the individual must act to secure the wider possibilities of beauty. A sentiment in favor of beauty must be aroused. Such sentiment in a democratic city will have to be widespread in order to be effective; equally, it must represent the prevailing conditions by having as its leaders men of standing in the community.

In two fundamental facts, the universal seeking after beauty and the tendency of the rich to make others share in their objects of beauty, we have the rudimentary causes that should conduce to the beautifying of the city.

The city stands to the community as his home does to the individual. "By their streets ye shall know them." It is in the builded records of our cities that an intelligent foreigner could read the strength and weakness of our own civilization. And what would this foreigner see when he visits any of our larger cities—the largest of them for instance?

He would be struck by the tall office buildings, would have noticed as he sailed into the harbor how impressively they group themselves and rear like bastions against the sky and would see in them most eloquent testimony to the aspiring energy of the people and to the dignity of their commerce. But as he came to study the subject at close range he would find that no organic arrangement of the city accompanied these great structures, that they start up here and there according to no general plan and controlled by no provisions for the benefit of all, that their value often depends upon other similar structures not being erected near them, that they abut on streets from which they exclude the air and sunlight, that these streets are narrow, congested and often foul with dirt and that the general character of the city below the dignity and convenience of these office buildings. Further, if he should confine his researches in the more residential districts he would find a Riverside drive or Central park of conspicuous beauty, the one a fine example of nature preserved, the other a beautiful charm made by the landscaper's hand.

It is the union of usefulness with beauty that represents the finer side of the question. In these cities no city can be accounted beautiful unless it recognizes the millions of workers who are engaged in a public sentiment of the city.

The town should have control of the streets so far as the planting and care of trees are concerned. The common practice of allowing householders to attend to these matters is productive of the uniformity in street decoration.

A PUBLIC BLESSING.

Playgrounds For Children Will Make Better Citizens.

The progressive city of Newark, in New Jersey, recently inaugurated a system of playgrounds for the unfortunate street gamblers, whom poverty degrades the wholesome pleasure of a country outing, that may well be imitated by other cities.

A privately officered educational association conceived the beneficent scheme, says the *New York News*, but the city authorities have done all in their power to contribute to its successful operation.

In all there are eleven recreation places. Ten of these are in the yards of as many public schools, six of them open all day and four others in the afternoon. They have been fitted with bins and the bins filled with sand, and to the little ones who are to play in and play with the sand, with its accompanying shovel and pail, will bring imaginary whiffs of the cooling sea air in the heated season. It was tried in the summer with the idea of keeping the juveniles out of the streets. The experiment proved an unqualified success and a blessing to the little ones, whose parents or guardians are not endowed with a fair supply of this world's goods.

There is no denying the fact that the benevolence that prompted these breathing spots for the poor children of the city of Newark is of the serviceable kind. Better citizenship into which the favored little ones will grow will be the result.

If all great cities had these playgrounds, the children would not throng the streets, where they grow wild and hear things and see sights which cannot fail to have a bad effect upon their morals.

Anything that keeps these waifs out of mischief and contaminating influence is to be commended.

OVERHEAD WIRES.

Not Only Dangerous, but Destroy Beauty of a Street.

Among the city nuisances with which the coming years will have to deal energetically is the cumbering of the streets with overhead wires, says the *Springfield (Mass.) Daily Republican*. A network of wire is not only ugly in itself, but it destroys the beauty of a street. No one who has seen a busy thoroughfare cleared of all this wire rigging overhead can fail to have noted the great relief to the eye, the effect of trimness and largeness given by the removal of all this cumbersome apparatus, which is as out of place in a public thoroughfare as a clothesline in a parlor.

The transfer cannot be made all at once, and it is already going on slowly. It is to be seen with vigilance that there be no needless delay in effecting a change which is imperative on both utilitarian and aesthetic grounds. Here the representatives of the people will from time to time have an opportunity to do good work, not in an unreasonable spirit, but with steady firmness.

The ideal, not to be reached at once, but some time, is the common great conduit underground, built and owned by the city, and giving room for all wires. The mechanical difficulties are considerable, but not insurmountable. Cambridge intends to try the experiment, and when there are sufficient data Springfield will doubtless be prompt to adopt a system bringing so substantial relief.

Light in the Schoolroom. Too much attention cannot be paid to the question of light in the schoolroom, says *Youth's Companion*. Many children are made premature wrecks from unrecognized eye strain, and school visitors may often see small, helpless children sitting blinking in the sunlight which streams through a large window in front of them, making frowning efforts through the glare to read from a blackboard and using up in a few hours the nerve force of a week. Light should be abundant and should come from the left side, so that no shadow is thrown on slate or book, as is the case when the light comes from behind or from the right.

Danger to Health in School. Many people who are scrupulously careful of the health of their children in the home are strangely indifferent to the conditions prevailing in the school, says *Youth's Companion*. Hygiene in the public schools is a subject that is yearly receiving more and more attention, with the result that new school buildings in the larger towns and the cities conform generally to sanitary standards, but this is not true of many of the old buildings and of many schoolhouses in small places. It is the duty of all parents to know how far they fall short and why and what is needed to make them healthy.

Value of Shade Trees. There are on many of our streets trees which add greatly to the appearance of the thoroughfare, and the public should awaken to their value, importance and beauty and to the necessity of preserving them from defacement from signs, injury by horses, etc.

Advertising Maxims. The printer's "rule" is a good one to "stick" by. Save the money and spoil the advertisement. A great many advertising theories are tried, and most of them are found faulty.

Trees in Public Streets. The town should have control of the streets so far as the planting and care of trees are concerned. The common practice of allowing householders to attend to these matters is productive of the uniformity in street decoration.

THEY RESENT INJUSTICE.

The Country Press Protest Against the Methods of the Metropolitan Paper.

The maliciousness of certain Chicago newspapers in commenting upon the acts, lives and characters of our public men during the past few years has been notorious and disgusting to all fair-minded citizens. Of late these papers have been most bitter in their reference to Governor Yates, Congressman Lorimer and Congressman Hopkins. These men doubtless have their weaknesses and their faults—all men have them—but they also have their virtues and good traits of character. At any rate, they do not deserve the abuse and malicious assaults which have been heartlessly and continuously sent broadcast about them by these Chicago newspapers.—*Wayne County Press*.

Loyalty to the Republican party, its principles and its organization call for emphatic protest against the methods of the Chicago Tribune and the other Chicago papers of like ilk. It has always abused where it could not control the executive of the state. It insists on ruling or casting. It should not object to a similar course on the part of the rank and file of the party from whence its support is derived. They almost unanimously condemn its course. If they cannot control its utterances they should give it a dose of its own gargle and pass it up.—*Metropolis Journal-Republican*.

Some of the Chicago papers and their country echoes having had their minds made up to order, did not wait for any basis of facts to open an attack on the present administration. They will no doubt continue it, though it was shown that the management of every state institution had improved. These attacks came too early and bear the stamp of malice and unfairness, consequently will fall of their own weight, to discredit Governor Yates with the people. The people want fair play, and will surely accord it to the present state administration.—*Carlyle Union Banner*.

There are about twenty penal and charitable institutions in the state under the supervision and control of the governor. He has made changes in the executive and responsible heads of but three of them. And yet his enemies in Chicago, from the rostrum and in the press, have denounced him as a spoilsman pure and simple and for failure to keep an ante-election pledge, which as a matter of fact he has kept in spite of the greatest political and personal pressure that ever was brought to bear against an executive of this or any other state.—*Ashland Sentinel*.

Commenting upon the question of criticisms made upon our state penal and charitable institutions, John Barton in the *Southern Illinois Herald* says: "In the absence of better evidence than has yet been presented by a dissatisfied gang of fault-finders in Chicago and a discredited venal press, the people of Illinois, who are proud of her noble institutions, already have decided these questions for themselves and will announce their verdict in the primaries and conventions soon to be held."

Most of the "political gossip" of the Chicago trust newspapers concerning the alleged movements and plans of Governor Yates is manufactured to order. This is an old trick of those newspapers, and it is resorted to so frequently that Illinois Republicans cannot afford to accept any of their political stories without investigation or to allow their political action to be influenced by them. No one will accept them who is not anxious to think ill of others.—*Dundee Hawkeye*.

The Chicago mugwump newspapers are very much wrought up because they cannot control Governor Yates and the state administration. These same papers did not like Traver, either, because they could not dictate his policy. The Chicago mugwumps ought, by this time, to begin to realize their unimportance and fall in line with the great mass of honest, level-headed citizens outside of the windy city.—*Elizabethtown Home News*.

It is generally known that the Republican politics of the Chicago Tribune is manipulated by one John Corwin, a keen, shrewd writer, bred, brought up and still clings tenaciously and affiliates with Democracy in all its variations. It appears to be Mr. Corwin's aim in life, and that policy is approved by the Tribune, to create discord in the Republican ranks in Illinois.—*Oregon Republican*.

The Chicago Tribune belongs to and is recognized as "high guy" with that peculiar people known as "Carter Harrison Republicans"—reformers, that are largely responsible for the wholesale robbery of the taxpayers in Chicago and the rottenness that has branded Chicago as the worst that ever happened in any city in the civilized world.—*Mt. Carroll Democrat (Rep)*.

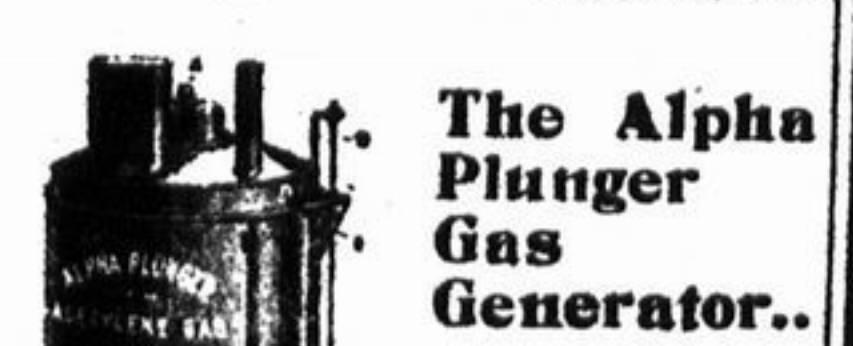
The present widespread expression of public sentiment on the subject of the Chicago trust press may not result in compelling those Chicago papers to be decent and cease their unwarranted abuse of public men, yet public sentiment will serve to discredit a disreputable and venal press and eventually will touch the journalistic pocket-book.—*Genova Republican*.

Democratic editors frequently quote from the Chicago Tribune, referring to it as a Republican paper. It has not been a Republican paper since 1888, when it began fighting Benjamin Harrison. Since that time it has been a mugwump sheet, and its editorial couplings have been influenced by the counting room.—*Ipsva Independent*.

When the Chicago Tribune speaks kindly of a man it owns him body and soul and he has become as clay in the hands of the potter, perfectly pliable to be shaped, molded and skinned according to the convenience of the reform push, and when he is milked dry he goes in the air.—*Jacksonville Journal*.

It is exceedingly gratifying to Republicans to find their estimate of the Democratic party as a whole corroborated by a Democrat. Congressman Burlington of Texas, thus speaking of his party: "The so-called Democratic party is made up of an aggregation of discordant factions, some of them standing for every economic and governmental fallacy conceived by diseased minds." He says he is heartily tired of "entering caucuses with men professing to be Democrats who represent Populistic, Socialistic and semi-Republican ideas, who are privileged to advise the Democracy, but who, if their advice is disregarded, bolt the caucus, thus giving the country the impression that the Democracy is at all times and on all questions hopelessly divided."

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Take Notice, That at a sale of lots and lands for taxes and assessments duly made in the county of Du Page, state of Illinois, M. Morgan purchased the following described lots, pieces or parcels of land, on the 18th day of June, A. D. 1902, for the delinquent taxes levied and assessed thereon for the year A. D. 1899 and subsequently assigned the certificates of purchase to the undersigned, to-wit: Lots 1 to 20, both inclusive, in block 58, and lots 11 to 20, both inclusive, in block 60, all in Bell City, being a subdivision of part section 17, T. 28 N., R. 9 E., 3rd P. M., and said premises were taxed for said year 1899 in the name of Florence L. Morgan.

All the above described real estate is situated in Du Page County, Illinois, and was sold for the delinquent taxes levied and assessed thereon for the year A. D. 1899, and the time of redemption thereof from said sale will expire on the 18th day of June, A. D. 1902. FRANK J. KROST, Assignee.

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