

### TOWN BOOMING IDEAS

**SOME GOOD SUGGESTIONS BY A ST. LOUIS WOMAN.**

How a member of the American League for Civic Improvement would beautify towns—good ideas for cleaning sidewalks.

Mrs. Louis N. McCall, one of the promoters and prospective vice presidents of the St. Louis branch of the American League for Civic Improvement, suggests three original ideas for the development of towns and cities, says the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

They are the ornamentation of vacant lots, the beautifying of back yards and the adoption of a block system of sidewalk cleaning.

"There are blocks and blocks of unimproved property throughout towns and cities," says Mrs. McCall. "Portions of it are scattered through the best residence sections. All of this vacant property is unsightly not because it is vacant, but because it is in nearly every case filled with rank weeds and covered with signboards. Weeds and signboards do not beautify vacant property. Instead of them, at little cost to the property owner they could be beautified.

Trees, shrubbery or even some kinds of flowers could be planted where the weeds and signboards now flourish. When this vacant property would be lavishing. Benches could be placed on these vacant lots, and persons could stop there and rest.

"Now look across the street." And Mrs. McCall pointed through her parlor window to the unimproved property running eastwardly from Vandeventer avenue along the north side of McPerson avenue. "All you see there now is a large signboard. At other times of the year the lot is covered with a heavy growth of rank weeds. How much more attractive would the neighborhood look if the lot were covered with shrubbery or trees, with a few benches scattered here and there. Mr. Lindell Gordon owns that property. I'm sure he would be willing to aid in improving its appearance if other property owners showed a similar willingness to beautify their property. Such a system could be placed in operation in towns and cities if citizens would set in motion to make their neighborhoods more beautiful.

"I think a block system of sidewalk cleaning in cities and towns would be of immense advantage in improving their looks. My idea is this: In neighborhoods where it can be afforded, for instance, let every resident contribute, say, \$2 a month to a common fund and appoint one man to take charge of it. Let him hire men to clean the sidewalks of the entire block.

The man he hired might also clean the front yard and the gutters. They could preserve the generally clean condition throughout the block. Right now, no matter how clean one keeps her own sidewalk or front yard, if her neighbor's is not similarly well kept the general effect is lost.

"I think it would add to the appearance of towns and cities generally if people would pay more attention to their back yards. My neighbor has a beautifully kept back yard. There is a finely kept driveway leading to the stable, and in summer it is overhung by the thick foliage of interlacing trees. The Hirschbergs carry out the highest law in this respect, I think, further than anybody in St. Louis.

"A nicely kept lawn is as pretty an ornamentation for a back yard as anything else."

Mrs. McCall has other ideas for the development of towns and cities, but these are a few of her more original thoughts on the subject.

"How can a town or city ever be made beautiful," she exclaimed, "if people continue to throw stuff into the streets and alleys? That is one of the first abuses to be corrected. The citizens must all get together and each decide to do what is possible to keep the public highways clean."

Mrs. McCall is also an enthusiastic advocate of public playgrounds and bath houses. She thinks the municipal assembly should take up the bath question.

"I want to see one of the free bathhouses last summer established by private subscription. There was only about an inch of water on an asphalt floor, but a number of little fellows were actually swimming in that inch of water in the most blissful fashion imaginable. It was really pathetic."

Merchant's Help a Town Grow.  
In a Long Island village of 1,000 inhabitants within twenty-five miles of New York are two merchants in the same line of trade just opposite each other. In the store windows of one all the goods are fresh and clean and displayed to catch the eye of the public and set an advertisement and a draw, while in the other merchant's window everything is piled in topy hury and no change made for months at a time. It is needless to add that the former is gradually securing the custom of all the best residents, while the latter is complaining about lack of business and wondering how long he can hold out. Merchants in towns and villages should be as particular in dressing their store windows as the merchants in cities are. Clean goods well displayed in clean windows add to the beauty of a town and aid it to grow.

### ROADS BOOM TOWNS.

Good Highways Never Fail to Attract Home-seekers.

Home-seekers, strangers seeking farming opportunities, will not move into a district where they will be mudbound for half of the year, says the Charleston (S. C.) Courier. No man from other parts of the country who is familiar with better road conditions and has learned to value them for his own profit, comfort and convenience and that of his family will deliberately isolate himself in a country where he cannot travel about except knee deep in mud and water.

This assertion is proved by the condition of many bad road districts in this state (South Carolina) and section. The land is rich and cheap, but it remains unoccupied year after year. Immigration avoids it and goes west. Bad roads to out of the way farms do not attract homeseekers and homemakers, and they do not attract people who already own homes and farms reached by such roads. The consequence is that the hoped for settlers do not come, and our own people move to the cities to escape the inflictions the settlers avoid.

It is probable that nothing else would so surely and so soon develop a generally desirable but more sparsely settled district of country anywhere in the state as the building of good roads or of a good road into it from the nearest market town. Such work has had immediate good effect in drawing population and enhancing land values wherever it has been tried. Usually the speedy gain to the district on both these accounts far outweighs the cost of the improvements even when, as in New Jersey and North Carolina, the cost of \$2,000 or \$3,000 per mile of road.

It is really worth the while of any backward community in the state to consider whether the experiment is not well worthy of a trial in its own case. It has been proved that bad roads do not pay. Good roads might and probably would pay better.

### GOOD PAINT NEEDED.

Looks of Many Towns Spoiled by Houses Poorly Painted.

Good, wholesome paint laid on by men who have some sense could do about as much as any one thing to improve the looks of hundreds of towns in this country. There is not much white paint used on the commercially built house, and the nearest to it is a dirty drab, because for white you must have white lead, and white lead costs money. So prepared chalk takes its place.

An expert chemist said not long ago that of a number of prepared paints he had occasion to analyze only one was a sound, durable pigment. So when a new house, built to sell, has had all the glumacery tacked over it that can be had for the money the contractor economizes on paint and puts on a flimsy pigment which after a season's rains becomes a ghastly smear. What is lacking in quality is made up in variety, and the pink and green and terra cotta are laid on with a flourish, the painter doing weird things in the way of wavy bands and diamonds and zig-zag patterns.

There are honorable exceptions—houses painted simply and tastefully in color that will wear till it wears out—but there are hundreds and hundreds of houses that are flagrantly painted. There are whole streets that could be improved 100 per cent simply by the paint pot.

### Railways and Growing Towns.

However striking the influence of incorporated capital upon economic developments in other quarters, there are few cases in which its power is more plainly visible than in the relations of railway companies to growing towns, says the New York Post. For the sake of railway facilities or for the introduction of railway competition the small town is usually willing to offer almost any sacrifice in the way of land grants, franchises or subsidies of actual cash so long as they are not so great that the most strenuous exertions of the citizens are not incapable of finally making them up. It matters not how wealthy may be the corporation seeking the grants or how obvious may be its advantage in gaining access to the new source of traffic concerned. The town of Guthrie, Okla., for example, has but lately managed to raise enough money to induce the entry of a railway which, likely enough, would have been only too glad to build into the capital of the territory without conditions whatsoever. The fashion in which a number of cities on the great lakes have squandered their birthrights in the way of lake fronts and water fronts has been a scandal for years.

### Village Improvement Societies.

At Pasadena, Cal., the Village Improvement and Library association, formed fourteen years ago, recently built a beautiful library, and it originated the wise and liberal plans that have made Pasadena the model town of southern California. Massachusetts has more of these improvement societies and more free libraries than any other state. Mysterious gifts have been made to them both in books and in money, the gifts of money amounting to about \$5,000,000. More than fifty libraries bear the names of their founders, and \$27 of the towns and cities of Massachusetts have free public libraries.

### The Town's Main Street.

A Chicago druggist, whose route takes in fifty towns in Illinois and Indiana, says that a town which will not keep its main business street in good repair steadily loses its farmers and by and by its best business men.

### TOWN BOOM TIPS.

Business that May Aid Your Town to Grow.

A live public spirit manifested by the citizens of a town for its benefit is a very strong factor in the question of town improvement. When this sign of enterprise is thoroughly alive, the general appearance of the streets, condition of the homes and grounds about them will show the fruits thereof.

When a stranger first enters a town clean streets attract his attention and well kept lawns and yards favorably impress him, and should his town be backward in this respect he is liable to change his residence.

A nuisance that should be suppressed in every town is the number of homeless curs that are allowed to roam at large and are a menace in more ways than one and entirely useless. If they were shot down, the community would be greatly benefited.

Small parks for the public should be maintained by the town. They are a benefit from the standpoint of health and tend to beautify the general appearance of any place.

The population of a Michigan town increased over 300 people in 1901 owing to its clean streets and well swept front and back yards. Clean towns are bound to grow.

In a pretty little town in Texas a person littering the streets with paper or garbage is "called down" in such a way that he seldom repeats the offense. The citizens of that town take great pride in keeping it clean and are being rewarded for the trouble they take in the matter, as the population is increasing and real estate advancing in price.

### BEAUTIFYING TOWNS.

Every Citizen Should Take a Hand in the Work.

In the matter of cleanliness and tidiness of a town there is room for every member of the community to co-operate. It ought not to be left to the care of an occasional energetic reformer. A large proportion of the people of a town own their homes, but even those who rent dwellings ought to take a pride in keeping their grounds in handsome shape. The complaint is often made that children reared in rented rooms are lacking in the respect for homes that is inculcated from childhood in those who enjoy the advantage of being brought up in a home of their own.

The modern American child, it is said, is allowed to deface walls or mutilate turf at his sweet will, and landlords are correspondingly suspicious and resentful of the presence of children in a family. There is a grain of truth in the charge, and parents ought to make a special effort to make good the lack by careful teaching and, it may be added, by practice as well as by precept.

In matters of taste woman is easily supreme, and the various organizations of women, like the women's club, the teachers' club, etc., might well devote some part of their time to projects of improving their town, adding the fine flower of good taste to the sturdy stem of material betterment. The beauty of a town is often made up of millions of little things, each one of no great moment in itself.

### COLORADO.

That is the title of a very beautiful seventy-two-page book published by the C. & N. & Q. railroad. It is most entertaining and informative, besides being illustrated with exceptionally fine engravings. The rates to Colorado are so cheap this year that many will take their vacation there. They should ask the C. & N. & Q. ticket agent for this book. Price, 6 cents.

### ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.

Estate of Ann Venard, deceased. The undersigned having been appointed administrator of the estate of Ann Venard, deceased, hereby gives notice that they will appear before the county court of DuPage county, at the court house in Wheaton at the May term, on the first Monday in May next, at which time all persons having claims against said estate are notified and requested to attend for the purpose of having the same adjusted. All persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned. Dated this 27th day of February, A. D. 1902.

### ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.

Estate of Angeline Ford, deceased. The undersigned having been appointed administrator of the estate of Angeline Ford, deceased, hereby gives notice that they will appear before the county court of DuPage county, at the court house in Wheaton, at the April term, on the first Monday in April next, at which time all persons having claims against said estate are notified and requested to attend for the purpose of having the same adjusted. All persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned. Dated this 15th day of February, A. D. 1902.

### ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.

Estate of Ann Venard, deceased. The undersigned having been appointed administrator of the estate of Ann Venard, deceased, hereby gives notice that they will appear before the county court of DuPage county, at the court house in Wheaton, at the April term, on the first Monday in April next, at which time all persons having claims against said estate are notified and requested to attend for the purpose of having the same adjusted. All persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned. Dated this 15th day of February, A. D. 1902.

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### SHERIFF'S SALE.

By virtue of an execution issued out of the Clerk's office of the Circuit Court of DuPage County, and State of Illinois, and to me directed, whereby I am commanded to make the amount of a certain judgment recently obtained against Kate Davis and John W. Davis, in favor of T. J. Pretyman, et al, out of the lands, tenements, goods and chattels of the said Kate Davis and John W. Davis, I have levied on the following property, to-wit: 15 doors, 35 ft. O. G. casing, 200 ft. window sash, 50 ft. parking strip, 20 ft. door stop, 100 ft. block, 100 ft. 1/2 in. select boards, 200 ft. 2x4 No. 1, 80 ft. 4-inch siding, 100 ft. 2x4 select lumber, 15 ft. window stop, 100 ft. plunger base, 20 ft. 4-inch casing, 600 ft. 1-inch No. 1 flooring, 1 work bench, carpenter tools, 1 table, 1 bedstead, 1 mattress, 1 sofa, 1 commode, 1 chest, 1 bureau, 1 washstand, 1 wardrobe, 2 barrels cement and a wheelbarrow. Therefore, according to said command, I shall expose for sale, at public auction, on the 1st day of March, 1902, at 2 o'clock, P. M., at the place shown on the Deeds Book, 102-103, in DuPage County, DuPage County, Ill. Dated at Downers Grove, DuPage County, Ill., March, 1902.

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of So. Glen Falls, N. Y., describes a condition which thousands of men and women find identical with theirs. Read what he says, and note the similarity of your own case. Write to him, enclosing stamped addressed envelope for reply, and get a personal corroboration of what is here given. He says regarding



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