

HIGHLAND PARK NEWS

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For the Highland Park News.

The subject of beautiful and healthful surroundings to large and populous cities being one of much importance for consideration by the citizens thereof, we propose to review cursorily the immediate and most popular places where such desiderata may be secured readily and easily, by the denizen of Boston, New York, St. Louis, and, lastly, though not least, Chicago.

The former has its "Brookline," "Chelsea," "Roxbury," &c., all delightfully situated on high and undulating land, with improvements scarcely equaled anywhere.

New York has its North and East rivers, Long Island and New Jersey suburbs, the charms of which are so inviting and justly appreciated by her citizens, that language will scarce suffice to express their admiration.

Then St. Louis with her "Laclede," "Webster Groves," "Kirkwood," "Manchester Springs," on the Pacific R. R. This road runs along the banks of the beautiful "Maramec" river a clear, limpid, running stream, overlooked by high and mountainous scenery, all studded over with majestic and natural groves. On these beautiful hills stands the magnificent property of the association of the "Park of Fruits" including "Castle Woods" and embracing three thousand acres, improved in the highest manner. Thence leaving St. Louis by the North Missouri R. R. passing through the charming "Florissant Valley" a panoramic garden of beauty, where the peace and quiet that exhausted nature at the close of each fitful, fretful days' turmoil, may turn, and find the "Elysium" of its hope. Pursuing this direction we reach "Bellefontaine" with its ancient history, overlooking both the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. Now from the city way off southward on the "Iron Mountain R. R. we view "Montesano" Heights, "Carondelet," "Jefferson Barracks," "Clifton Heights," "Kimmiswick," "Victoria," "Desoto," the "Iron Mountain," "Pilot Knob" and in view of which last, lies the dreamy valley, where "Arcadia" may be seen, thus presenting objects of interest at all times enjoyable, and a picture upon which the tourist artist might well devote some passing time. Again still below the city and by the majestic Mississippi river, for thirty miles may be seen the gorgeous cliffs on its west bank rising in places to a height of three hundred feet, with deep ravines denting the whole distance, at intervals of half a mile apart, thus affording an easy ascent to an unsurpassed lay of country, the fertility of whose soil is so well suited to the production of such articles as are indigenous to the climate, with grasses for the support of stock such as to all suburban dwellers render this life so agreeable and acceptable. St. Louis is not alone supplied by localities in the state wherein she lies, but she draws upon our own state for beautiful suburban homes, that by the completion of her grand bridge, places within easy reach by rail, the city of Belleville, and villages of Collinsville, Troy, Bunker Hill, Athens, Columbia, and Edwardsville, and the city of Alton with its castellated bluffs overlooking the "Father of Waters," all of which, besides the beautiful bluffs only seven miles from the city, furnish most desirable places for peaceful homes and cheerful fire-sides. All this charming country lies high, all inviting and covered with groves as rich in verdure and beautiful in form as the God of nature alone can order, and all of these charming places within easy reach of this central metropolis whose vast proportions of elegant magnificence are growing so rapidly.

Not alone is the tired denizen of the city who seeks the quiet of the country, provided by nature with all this beauty, but they who, disliking the *enauis* incidental to retracy, yet delight in the knowledge that beautiful parks, drives and near suburban resorts, are provided in abundance sufficient to gratify their wishes; there is "Lafayette Park," forty acres in the very center of the city; "Northern Park" three hundred and fifty acres; "Carondelet Park" three hundred acres; "Tower Grove Park" and "Shaw's Botanical Garden,"

the two together embracing four hundred acres, a gift to the people of the city by Henry Shaw Esq., the munificence of which would equal in value with the improvements in the "Garden" at least \$2,000,000, a visit to which, will repay the time and expense of travelling five hundred miles to enjoy.

Again, the grand, contemplated "Forest Park" of four-teen hundred acres, now in process of realization; finally the grounds of the "Agricultural and Mechanical Association," embracing about one hundred and forty acres, adorned in the most lavish manner with shrubbery, trees, (native and transplanted) buildings, amphitheatres, music stands, pagodas, sylvan lakes, and gondolas, all enjoyable and attainable, by all classes of citizens by carriage roads and streetcars. At these Parks including the "Fair Grounds," on every day of the week at some one or other of them, is the frequenter regaled by delicious music.

We have spoken of the many delightful and inviting surroundings with which this sister city of St. Louis is surrounded, and with which she is paving the way to the greatness that awaits her, while the extremely hot weather that for probably three months in the year makes her undesirable as a place of residence, is thus being compensated for by this lavishness of nature on the one hand, and a liberal but judicious expenditure of money by her authorities on the other, and which, must and will eventuate in securing to herself the first, or second place at least, in point of population, on this continent. As to which city shall be awarded the first place, St. Louis or Chicago, will depend much on the future efforts, well directed, each shall make.

What then are Chicago's claims to this future first place in the classification of the various cities of our Republic. First we say, her commercial importance stands preeminent as commanding naturally the entire north-west and north, with its millions of acres of arable land susceptible of containing and sustaining a population dense enough to secure to the city that will be the one of their choice, (and whose enterprising citizens will not fail to see the advantage to be derived by such choice) a business justifying the anticipation at least of three million people within the next five decades, commanding thus through its natural position this extent of territory, and having the finest water route to the outer and foreign world, which simply needs, besides the enlargement of all existing canals the addition of one between the head of Lake Michigan and Lake Erie, to furnish a direct passage to the ocean for the largest sized vessels known to commerce, both sail and steam, thereby providing an average of three months each year longer water communication, to say nothing of the time that would be gained on each through trip made by the vessels. This is a public work for which the government should make liberal appropriations, and we believe no man should be sent to Congress from the northern districts of this state who will not pledge himself to the persistent and unswerving advocacy of this measure.

In addition to the determination thus made by this city and State, the States of Michigan and Indiana are directly interested. Wisconsin and Minnesota with their immense grain interests, must also soon learn to feel the great importance this shortening of the route to the seaboard and to the foreign consumer would prove to them, thereby securing their powerful aid in establishing this source of wealth to the country.

In connection with the immense commerce that must flow into the broad lap of Chicago, will be the continued and rapid development of manufactures of all description. Iron and coal meet here midway that they may be fused into one material of usefulness. Stone and wood also join hands at the same common centre, and enter into the work of promoting human happiness. The railroads, the great levelers, whose lengthened lines, like so many fingers, are reaching out in every direction, all point to Chicago as the city best calculated to support an enterprising, industrious, and thrifty population of many millions. Naturally, then, we look around for the inducements that are always considered by the careful citizen and thoughtful neighbor and parent, and

strive to ascertain what will be the comforts for the family circle both in the religious and educational sense, as well as the social surroundings. Well, we find in Chicago herself a city fast becoming finished and beautiful, but that does not suffice; there must be places suburban to her that shall be desirable. Other desiderata will be asked for; questions like this: "Where are your suburban places that you can recommend?" We answer first, at Hyde Park on the south, a lovely lake-side village easily reached by railroad, but it does not stand high enough above the lake. Passing on westward they come to Englewood and Lawndale, both very handsome, but flat, Blue Island and Washington Heights, more elevated and fast growing into beauty. Then Riverside, a very elegantly improved suburb that at some future time will loom up again and be a suburb sought for by many. Passing thence northward and eastward, we reach Austin, Oak Park, River Park, Maywood, all on the Galena Division of the C. & N. W. R. R., all lying higher than either of the first named places and improving finely. Then, again, passing eastward, we meet Norwood, Park Ridge, Montrose, Irving Park, on the Wisconsin Division of the C. & N. W. R. R. also promising villages similarly situated to the last named. Then passing to the Milwaukee Division of same road, we strike first Ravenswood, Rogers Park, South Evanston, Evanston, North Evanston, and Willmette, all nice and growing rapidly, especially the Evanstons. Passing on we reach the highlands and bluffs at Wicnetka, and going on, we see Lakeside, Glencoe, Ravinia, Highland Park, Highwood and Lake Forest; all of these last-named places occupy the territory that must eventuate in being the suburbs to Chicago, where the most desirable locations may be secured, because of the high altitude in which they lie, being an average of one hundred feet above the lake, and immediately on the beautifully wooded bluffs, affording ravines and vale, and being really to Chicago what the North river is to New York. As to the further consideration of the advantages here found we shall be heard at some future time.

A WONDERFUL ENTERPRISE.

Another Highland Park man has just patented a great invention which promises to revolutionize travel. It is no less than a plan by which a person can be sent through to China, by means of a tube run through the earth, starting from the picnic Park and coming out at Hong Kong, China; the whole trip to be accomplished in two hours or less, if the man is heavy and drops easy.

For scientific reasons the tube cannot be made of greater size than two feet in diameter, and the trouble which the inventor has not yet been able to overcome, is, that the traveler starting at Highland Park on his downward trip, lunch basket in hand arrives in China feet foremost, and standing on his head, having traveled just one half the distance in that uncomfortable manner with his provisions all spilled out. If this difficulty is overcome, and not till then, several ladies will take a trip and spend a few days among the Celestials; on the other side. Music can be furnished from home by Mr. Gray's telephone and the Highland Fling will be introduced to the natives.

V. E. Rusco has closed a contract with the Highland Park Building Co., R. E. Goodell & J. W. Preston, for a pier sixty feet long, south of Mr. Preston's house on the lake shore. The pier is to be made solid for the purpose of protecting the shore from the water, and to cause an accretion of land, and to create thereby a wider beach.

Mr. S. S. STREETER, has commenced in earnest his new building on the corner of Central and St. John's Avenues. We have seen the plans and we think the building, when completed, will be an ornament to the place, and a beautiful monument to Mr. Streeter's energy and enterprise. Such men as Mr. Streeter are the kind that make a thriving and prosperous place, for a town prospers by the prosperity of its citizens, and this building is an evidence of prosperity we are very sure.

THE Highland Park House is full to overflowing to the mutual satisfaction of guests and landlord.