

## LAKE FRONT PARK ALONG NORTH SHORE

### Suggestion of Chicago Alderman for System from City to Wisconsin Line

Conversion of the lake front from Lincoln park to the state line as one great continuous park, that will exceed in expanse and beauty any similar project in the world was urged in a communication sent to Gov. L. L. Emmerson by Ald. John A. Masson of Chicago. The suggestion revamps the Burnham plan conceived more than 35 years ago when land along the north shore could be purchased cheaply.

The alderman has a scheme to acquire all of the lake shore, between Montrose avenue in Chicago and the Wisconsin state line, a distance of about 40 miles, and fill in the submerged land and develop it as a park area at an estimated cost of \$230,000,000. All this he would do without increasing taxation. By his process also he would build super-highways within the city without bonds or other tax burden.

#### Asks Excess Condemnation

Ald. Massen suggested in his letter to the governor an amendment to the state constitution which would permit of excess condemnation. The alderman makes his suggestion at the present time that the governor may consider it in making his recommendations to the next session of the general assembly.

Ald. Massen wrote the governor.

"Some of us who dream a bit now and then expect to see Lincoln park extended to the Wisconsin line some day. Some rough estimates prepared by Hugh E. Young, engineer of the Chicago Plan commission, place the probable cost of accomplishing this at \$230,000,000.

"The commissioners of Lincoln park are issuing bonds at the rate of \$3,000,000 a year. At this rate it will take 80 years to accomplish this magnificent development. It is conceivable that, through the exercise of the power of excess condemnation, this development may be possible of accomplishment within the next decade."

#### Proposes Made-Land Sale

Becoming more specific, the letter continues:

"Probably the greatest undeveloped resources of the state of Illinois are the submerged lands of Lake Michigan. The sale of 700 acres of made-land judiciously located on the shores of Lake Michigan at \$10 per square foot would net enough to push Lincoln park to the state line. It would seem that the acquisition of the required riparian rights involved through the exercise of the power of excess condemnation would permit this accomplishment."

Ald. Massen urges his plan by arguing that the burdens of governmental operations and the constructions of public improvements bear down heavily upon real estate. He thinks his plans would relieve this pressure.

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