



The LANDSCAPE DEPARTMENT BY CUSHING SMITH, M.L.A.



APPRECIATION OF THE LANDSCAPE

A renowned landscape painter such as Corot had the power to create scenes from the native country side which brought to the public sacred thoughts of home, with the added idealistic and spiritualistic beauty with which he could endow each subject.

To describe a scene with mere words is most difficult, if not impossible, unless one sees with his own eyes the panorama of beauty. Colors evasive in their subtle tints, vistas of magic and trees of majestic size, or the power of a Niagara Falls each mean little to one who has never seen landscapes from any save a tenement room window. It is this elusive charm which we are gradually throughout our great country bringing to the dweller of the cities, sometimes to his very door, and other times through our present forms of economical transportation taking him to its borders in comfort and within a short space of time.

U. S. Rich in Scenery

One who may have traveled about this great United States realizes that no other country offers such variety in scenic beauty. On every hand are bits of native landscape which are gradually being preserved by loving hands so that future generations may enjoy their charm. Stephen Mather has portrayed the majesty of many of our national parks, and it is here that our government has taken its first steps to encourage the public to enjoy the uncut slopes of the mountains of our western country. In recent years the national forest service on their extensive forest holdings has developed through a landscaped engineer a classification of the various uses to which the national forests might naturally be put. Some lend themselves to mountain climbing; others to camping on the shores of an inland lake; others to a somewhat thrilling canoe trip among a chain of lakes and rushing waterfalls; others to game fishing in the tumbling mountain streams. For a small sum each year we may lease space for a cottage, where as a part of the forest service we not only regain our health but act as a ranger in a small and yet helpful way. Camps are being established with proper sanitary facilities, and roads are being built which wind up the slopes to vantage points from which the panorama of great distances may be sublimely viewed.

State Parks Approved

Some of the states have not been backward in their realization of the need of state parks and reservations for each state. The enthusiasm of the various sections of the country for the scene or section within the state which to their mind is most worthy of preservation is the one factor which has made possible our national parks and national forests. Such an appeal should also be possible throughout the state of Illinois, where we have a great variety of scenery, from the prairie views to the gorges of the north, from the inland lakes to the rivers as they flow into the Father of Waters.

In Cook county lest our children lose forever their heritage in native scenery, the forest preserves have been created which will afford the future generations a glimpse of what this section of our great state has been. To have such a fringe of open country so near to the rush of the city is indeed an undertaking which deserves the cordial support of the entire body politic.

Hold Trust Position

Parks for our communities in this section should also be made the subject of careful thought and foresight. The various park boards having this work under their control have a trust which is withal both important and full of grave responsibility to the public. Where such tracts can be secured with their natural stand of trees, then the problem becomes one of preservation and some clearing so that the public may use the areas. But where we start with virgin open plowed land, or made-land as is the case on some of our north shore water-fronts, then the difficulties of creating scenery

of charm become at times almost unsurmountable. With parks scattered about through the communities it becomes increasingly important that each have its distinct characteristics. One may contain public gardens with their blaze of colorful flowers. Another may be naturalistic in character with winding walks and drives, similar to a country or driving park. Still another may be a zoological garden and park with the ever appealing groups of animals in their native haunts. Another may be an arboretum where the flora of the section is attractively displayed and properly labeled for the education and enjoyment of the community. Yet another may contain play apparatus and playground facilities for the children of the community. If this is the case then these playgrounds should be scattered about the various villages so that they can be reached conveniently by the children. Such a playground may be in connection with the schools, or perhaps a community center, or it may be a part of the development of a larger park. Wherever the park be located, and whatever its use, it should be properly policed, and controlled by the municipality.

Avoid Park Buildings

Another phase of park development which the writer would mention is that of encroachment of public buildings upon the areas devoted to the enjoyment of scenery. Avoid the erection of buildings of any kind, except shelters or pavilions which have a part in the design and development of our parks. The larger structures cut off the views of the landscape picture, dwarf the effect of the broad vistas, and in many other ways detract from the use to which the park has been dedicated, the development or preservation of natural scenery.

We can achieve much in our community when we encourage the provision of adequate parks, when we support their development, and in so doing spread before those who might not otherwise understand the beauties of the native landscape which is our heritage from years gone by. It is the sincere hope of the writer that the day may be at hand when every citizen may pause long enough each day to truly appreciate the countryside which God has given us.

CUSHING SMITH,

Landscape Architect.

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Husbandmen to Meet at Poorland Farm

A state farmers' picnic and field meeting will be held at Poorland Farm near Tonti, Marion county, Illinois, Friday, June 27. The College of Agriculture, University of Illinois, and the Illinois Farmers' Institute are co-operating with the Hopkins Memorial association in staging this big annual event at Poorland Farm. Farmers from all parts of the state will be in attendance, and it will be the largest and most important agricultural meeting of the summer.

Poorland farm was purchased by Dr. Cyril G. Hopkins nearly twenty-five years ago for the purpose of trying out and demonstrating his theories of profitable soil treatment, including the idea of permanent soil fertility. This particular farm was selected because of its extreme poverty of soil. The soil treatment consisted in applications of ground limestone and finely ground raw rock phosphate, a rotation of crops including legumes with the application of such manure and crop residues as the farm produced. In the course of time this treatment increased the fertility of the fields so treated that they have equalled and often exceeded the productiveness of the lands of the better prairie soils of the state.

After the inspection of the crops, a special program including talks by prominent soil fertility specialists and prominent farmers will be presented. Dean Mumford, Dr. Burlison and Professor Bauer of the university will speak. C. E. Hopkins, a brother of Dr. Hopkins, and superintendent at Poorland Farm for several years, will give the history of the farm and detail information of crop yields. Ralph Allen, president of the Hopkins Memorial association; Frank I. Mann, A. N. Abbott, J. C. B. Heaton, Ferdinand Kohl, Frank H. McKelvey, and others will also address the meeting.

STUDENTS PLAN PLAY

A reception and "Get-together" for summer school students of the National Kindergarten and Elementary college was held in Harrison hall, 2944 Michigan blvd., on Monday evening, June 23. Representatives from 18 states responded to the roll-call.

The calendar for the week also includes a Stunt Party on Friday evening, June 27, with original stunts by each dormitory and a play "The Fatal Quest—a tragedy in three acts" by Miss Clara Baker, which will be presented by the faculty of the college.

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