

Washington The City Beautiful

Slums and Eyesores Demolished in Vigorous Improvement Campaign



These remarkable statements, relating to the slums of Washington, in the very shadow of the national capital, are from one of President Roosevelt's messages to congress:

"The overcrowding of cities and the draining of country districts are unhealthy and even dangerous symptoms in our modern life."

"The death rate statistics show a terrible increase in mortality, and especially infant mortality, in overcrowded tenements."

"It appears that in one-room tenements the average death rate for a number of cities is eight times what it is in a tenement consisting of four rooms or over."

"The slum exacts a fearful total of deaths, not merely in New York and Chicago, but in the alley slums of Washington."

"As a matter of fact, shacks and settlements in the slum districts, which are not fit for cow stables," have long been and are now virtually next door to Congress, under the very eaves of the capitol, where the sounds of the statesmen's voices in discussion almost reach the ears of their unfortunate denizens."

"Two years ago the president directed J. B. Reynolds to inquire into the conditions of the poor of Washington, and on his recommendation has appointed a committee to prosecute further inquiry. Thanks to the work of this commission and certain civic and social organizations, conditions are being vastly bettered, the slums are going, and the idea to make of Washington the City Beautiful is rapidly nearing realization."

"New regulations governing the methods of housing Washington's poor will be drafted by the president's homes commission, composed of J. B. Reynolds, who investigated the packing houses for the government; General Sternberg, formerly surgeon-general of the army; Mabel Boardman, secretary of the Red Cross, and twelve others."

"They will not only make house-to-house visits in the slum districts, but will go extensively into the legislative side of the matter."

"Whatever shall be the recommendations of the commission, with congress alone must lie the remedy. For congress is the city council of Washington, and there's the rub."

"With their constituents at home to think of, members of congress find it difficult to give proper attention to Washington matters."

"But even though congress should remain inactive, there are afoot forces destined to make of Washington all that any loyal American could demand for the capital city in which he is expected to take reverential pride."

"Much has, indeed, been done already—so much that in any city where the slums were not so extensive there would seem to be little left undone."

"Latest census figures show 10,000 persons of Washington's 300,000 dwelling in alleys; and all but 1,500 of them are negroes."

"No illipian task is the turning of this great tide of humanity into habitable environments, the demolishing of the vile districts which they occupy and replacing the alleys with new, wide, clean, wholesome streets."

"It is remarkable what erroneous views hold in the minds of most people who have not visited Washington. Most of them picture it as a place of fairy splendor—a conception which is consistently borne out by the published pictures of the departmental and other public buildings."

"They are surprised, upon visiting the capital, to learn that the most haphazard of plans—really, no plan at all—has been followed with respect to the government buildings; that the only one near the capitol is the Congressional Library, and that the others are scattered here and there all over the city. Some department work, indeed, like that of the department of commerce and labor, is carried on in ordinary office buildings."

"Investigating last year, Charles F. Weller, general secretary of the Associated Charities, learned some astounding facts."

"The pleasant saying that 'Washington has no poor' is found to be a monumental fallacy."

In order to have his information accurate, Mr. Weller took up his residence for short intervals in one of the typical alleys and in two of the residences to be studied.

Washington's alleys are unique—very different from the courts, rear tenements and inhabited alleys of other cities.

Usually, elsewhere, an alley has at least visible bounds and maintains some appearance of straightness, of order.

In Washington the alleys are mazes, very intricate ones at that. Even their entrances in places are "blind" and cannot be found by the uninitiated. Wagons cannot enter them—even the fruit vender with his narrow cart rarely ventures there."

"The alleys twist this way and that, in confusion, as though set down stealthily by night in the midst of respectable surroundings. Sometimes, a row of wooden shacks, located in what should logically be a street or the site for a large building, constitutes an alley, and from this smaller nondescript alleys may branch out. They are the ulcerous growths on the Washington body, economic and material."

"In 1905 the police census takers enumerated 286 of these alleys, with a population of 19,076. This was fewer alleys by seventeen than had been enumerated eight years previous, but the number of people living in them had increased by almost 50 per cent."

"What did this mean? Simply that slum conditions were growing worse. For with fewer alleys and more people the population must be more congested, and hence an increase in the death rate, as explained by President Roosevelt in his complaint to congress."

"And the most surprising part of it is that these alleys are in close proximity to the city's wealth and culture. In no other big city is this true of the slums. Low standards of life are maintained in these alleys."

"Moral relations, industrial conditions, spread of tuberculosis and other contagious diseases, school attendance and the training of children for future citizenship—these questions are all affected for the worse by the alley system."

"And the alley standard, in the opinion of Mr. Weller, not only affects the lives of the colored inhabitants, but the white people as well."

"Many are the stories of degradation brought out of those vile places."

"For instance, there is the O street alley, where a single six-room house contains five families and where a four-room dwelling contains four separate families."

"In one of these rooms the investigators found a man, his grown daughter, three illegitimate children and a woman who admitted that she was not married to him."

"'Oh, that is but a mere detail,' said Mr. Weller, 'we found many worse ones. There was the three-room house where three families lived.'

"'One of them, including two adults and two children, lived in a lean-to kitchen of wood, unplastered, where at night they dragged out greasy mattresses and slept on the floor.'

"'We found as many as seven people sleeping in a single room. The worst of all the alleys—since razed and replaced with decent structures—was located in the heart of one of the newer sections of Washington.'

"'There were twenty-five two-story houses, which contained 139 occupants, and all the water used by them was drawn from one wooden pump.'

"'Now, just consider that there were twenty-five, bidest wooden box toilets close to the houses and not far from the well, and you will see that slum conditions in Washington are about as bad as anywhere else in the country.'

"'Almost within speaking distance of the Senate and House of Representatives is Bassett's alley, with a hidden entrance only three feet wide, no water connections at all, and containing a family to each room.'

"'In another alley containing 280 inhabitants there is a filthy dwelling, with an open-box toilet. Now, Washington had a bad typhoid fever epidemic last summer, and one of the patients lived in this self-same house.'

"'Every one should know by this time how flies may carry typhoid fever germs, and, knowing it, cannot any intelligent

Washington citizen see a very definite relation between this alley tenement I speak of and the fashionable city home?"

"That is one of the strongest points made—that Washington cannot afford to maintain the slums, not alone from an esthetic point of view, but from a standpoint of health."

"As to the remedy."

"It will not depend solely upon the result of President Roosevelt's homes commission investigation. For years there has been work done along this line."

"In 1892 congress enacted a measure tending to check the alley evil. This act, however, was mainly instrumental in preventing the growth of the evil; the problem of what to do with existing alleys remained."

"The present task of the various agencies working for a more beautiful Washington is the elimination of alley houses and the conversion of residential alleys into minor streets."

"The most notable results have been secured in the widening of streets, on the principle that sunlight and openness kill crime and depravity, which narrowness and filth foster."

"The plan is to extend the alleys through the blocks in which they are hidden, and also to widen them to at least forty feet."

"By the existing laws the district commissioners are authorized to condemn, open, extend, widen or straighten alleys. This may be done in three ways—upon petition of owners of more than one-half the real estate in the square; when the commissioners shall certify that it is necessary for the preservation of peace, good order and public morals; or when the health officer shall certify that it is necessary for the public health."

"Some of the very worst alleys have been razed in compliance with the new law."

"Worst of all of these was 'Chinch Row,' which was only three blocks from the fashionable Dupont Circle, and only seven blocks from the White House. Two senators who were taken to inspect the shacks declared that not one was fit for a cow to live in; yet children were reared there—reared into degenerates and women."

"Another striking example of what may be done with the present law is Van street, which was formerly a narrow alley, lined on both sides with shacks nearly as crude as coal sheds in the poorest village."

"Now the street has been widened, and the Sanitary Housing Company has erected on one side modern dwellings of four rooms, with bath, which rent for \$8.50 a month."

"This is much lower than the usual rent for the same class of residence in Washington, and is the result of civic enterprise."

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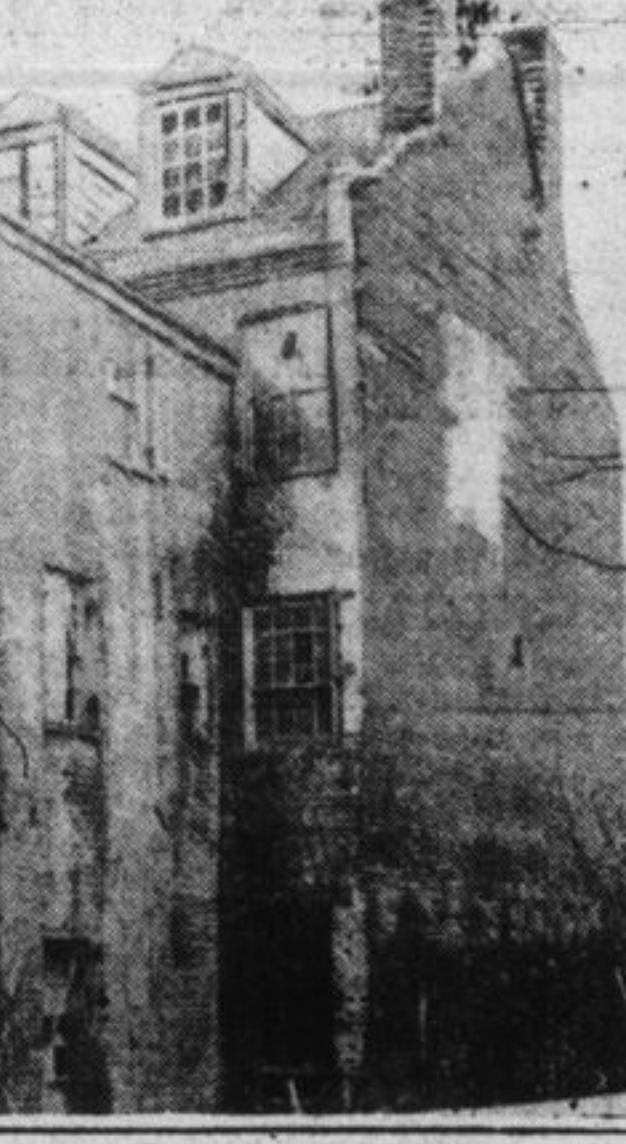
"The visitors to Washington have noticed the unsightly blocks of Chinese stores and restaurants on Pennsylvania avenue, within a few hundred feet of the Capitol.



A Present Day Tenement, to be Obliterated



The Old and the New—Shacks opposite Modern Dwellings



Back Yard of Tenement, within a Square of District's Building

publish about an Existing Shack

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KILLS MARRIAGE AGENCY.

Uncle Sam Intervenes For Victims of Club.

Not approving of Chicago's matrimonial agencies, Uncle Sam has issued a fraud order against Harry Hart, Miss Hart and Hart's Correspondence Club at 24 Wabash avenue, Chicago, names alleged to be fictitious.

It is reported that the individual designed to be reached is H. Morris. The records of the post-office department show that advertisements by a "charming lady, fine appearance, loving disposition, worth \$30,000," and of a "wealthy gentleman, income \$10,000 yearly," who had "no objection to a poor working man," were inserted in newspapers and magazines by the so-called club seeking victims. Upon receipt by the club of a letter in response to either advertisement a handsome photograph is promptly mailed. If the victim is a man a letter accompanies the photograph of some Gibson girl, stating that "this lady has envy, began to earn a little pocket money by carrying the clubs for players on the Biarritz links. The game fascinated him, and he commenced to play a bit himself."

TEST OF TRUE MANLINESS.

Courage Which Obtains Only With Highest Type.

The real and unflinching test of manliness is a fixed purpose to do the right at all hazards. Physical courage alone may be possessed in a remarkable degree by the bulldog or the weasel, but moral courage obtains only with the highest type of men. Loyalty to the truth, an abiding conviction that no man can afford to be false in any relation of life is a quality of true manliness. This type of manliness never squirms, equivocates or fawns. When in error it most never compromises with evil. Our gentleman man will risk life, reputation, all, for truthfulness of speech and rectitude of behavior.

From Caddie To Champion.

A few years ago a French youth, with a physique which an Englishman might envy, began to earn a little pocket money by carrying the clubs for players on the Biarritz links. The game fascinated him, and he commenced to play a bit himself.

SIX FATHERS.

One of the teachers at Rosedale school tells of a little girl pupil who got a wrong tip one day last spring from a talk that the teacher had given about the early founding of America.

"That day the child went home and remarked casually to her mother that she had six fathers."

"And how did you get such an impression as that?" asked her mother.

"Well," replied the child, "I have my father here at home, and my father in heaven, and then teacher told us that our forefathers came over from England."

MONUMENT TO HORSE.

Man Will Leave \$50,000 For That Purpose.

A \$50,000 monument for a horse is a feature that has been incorporated in the will of Henry Graves, a pioneer Chicago settler, who is said to be dying.

A racing man and a lover of horses, Mr. Graves has provided that the monument shall be placed in Washington Park. It will be in memory of Ike Cook, a famous trotter which he owned fifty years ago. Ike Cook had a record of 2:30, which in those early days was remarkable time. It was the first horse to make that mark on a mile track in the state of Illinois.

Nerves in Order.

Nerves Unstrung.

This is a nerve racking age—not a man in an office or behind the counter, striving hard to get on in the world, that does not feel the strain.

If nerves are in order, a man is strong, eats and sleeps well. Unstrung nerves mean weakness, worry, sleeplessness and a general decay of bodily strength, inability to do good work or do it long.

Most men are careless of their health, least to look and that kind of thing, instead of taking Ferronone for a few weeks, when they feel dull in the morning, sleep poorly or lose appetite.

Ferronone quickly brightens up the mind. It creates an appetite, and improves digestion. Ferronone makes blood, quiets the nerves, makes muscles like steel and induces refreshing sleep.

Ferronone is a body builder, thousands have proved it. If you are sick, or even only out of sorts, use Ferronone and enjoy the splendid reward it affords.

Permanent in its results, the greatest health giver in the world.

MOONEY'S PERFECTIO

This is the box that has the biscuits that are always fresh, crisp and good—that are made in the best bakery in Canada by the best bakers.

If these are the Biscuits you want, always insist on your grocer sending Mooney's



FUR BUYERS, ATTENT

Choose your Furs now. Our stock is complete, and we invite your inspection, especially to our unique designs in—

ISSOBELLA FUR

A beautiful Silky Dark Fur.

We make everything sell and guarantee everything we make.

John McKay Fur House

149-155 Brook St.

25 Kingston Post C

for 10c

16

1000 Island Ca

Beautifully Colored and Designs, for

25c.

15 City Cards, Co

for 15c.

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New York Chinese Rest

83 Princess Street

Open from 10.30 a.m. to 10.30 p.m.

The best place to get an

lunch in the city. Menu of

on shortest notice. English a

Dishes a specialty.

C. H. Pow

Carpenter and J

103 Raglan

Roller R

Skating at 2.30 and 7.30

BAND EVERY EVENING

Select Patrons

TAKE NOTICE

I have the best line of H

had, I have also an enormous

very low prices, as I want t

Heaters. TURK'S Second-Fl

808 Princess street.

Passes Century M

Simcoe, Sept. 16.—Capt

Miller, Simcoe's oldest inha

entered the hundredth year

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Prof. W. G. Miller, on a

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