



NATURE AND ART MAKE PORTLAND IDEAL HOME CITY OF NATION

By George M. Hyland.
SHAKESPEARE says, "There is no art to find the mind's construction in the face, but the dwelling a man builds reveals his personality, and thru its halls and porticos runs the story of his life."

What, then, can be said of the personality of those men and women who, in addition to revealing their inmost natures in their dwellings, have chosen the environment of a beautiful city as the proper setting for a disclosure so important? Not elsewhere, perhaps, in all creation has the beautiful hand of Nature been so lavish with embellishments for the "home-ideal" as here near the junction of the Columbia and Willamette Rivers. While commerce may here claim every climatic comfort and scenic grandeur as an asset of her own, the home-builder and home-lover have recognized in the mighty forests, mountains and rivers of this rare locality the environment essential to real happiness and tranquility. So, during the last half-century, a city of homes has been built in the midst of the natural wealth and scenic beauty of the great Oregon country, that rivals in picturesque splendor the romancer's most vivid imagination.

Yes, a city of homes; for homes there are here of infinite variety and design, but in the main, the Portland home that so reveals the life and character of its builder is of the substantial, honest, yet withal artistic type that proclaims its owner a brother of the forest, mountains and rivers that form its setting. In design we find that bigness of character suggestive of intimate relationship with Hood, Helens, Jefferson and the other scenic peaks of dignity and beauty, as well as of the forests of fir and the mighty waters of the Columbia and Willamette Rivers. Wide casements, broad verandas and floral profusion greet the observer everywhere, and the wonder is not that so many opportunities for further adornment have been neglected, but that in the few years of Portland's growth so much has been done toward delineating the "home beautiful."

It was rugged pioneer wisdom that here played a city with greater air space surrounding each block or square than the area it enclosed, and gave to each

resident-to-be the guarantee that when the city became a metropolis he might still enjoy the air-freedom of a rural resident despite the location of his home or the density of the population. For in Portland every home occupies either a corner lot or the lot adjoining a corner. It is further evidence of the civic wisdom and virtue of the pioneer builders, that the "city beautiful" should be planned without those great stagnant open sewers, commonly called alleys, whose accumulations of filth are rarely disturbed save in plague-time, times of epidemics, or, at best, long intervals.

Then, aside from the aesthetic, physical and sanitary advantages of this feature of the Portland Home-site, it is a great moral factor in that it teaches the open-life by the front-door system—an attribute most essential to nobility of character and tranquility of mind. So the noisome alley with its disease-breeding accumulations is no part of the Portland home, and to this fact we attribute much that has made for the cleanliness, health and happiness of our fair town, and contributed to the high order of its citizenship. The "Queen Anne" front-yard with its "Mary Ann" back-yard so common to the musty cities of the effete East are neither known nor desired among the homes of the Rose City.

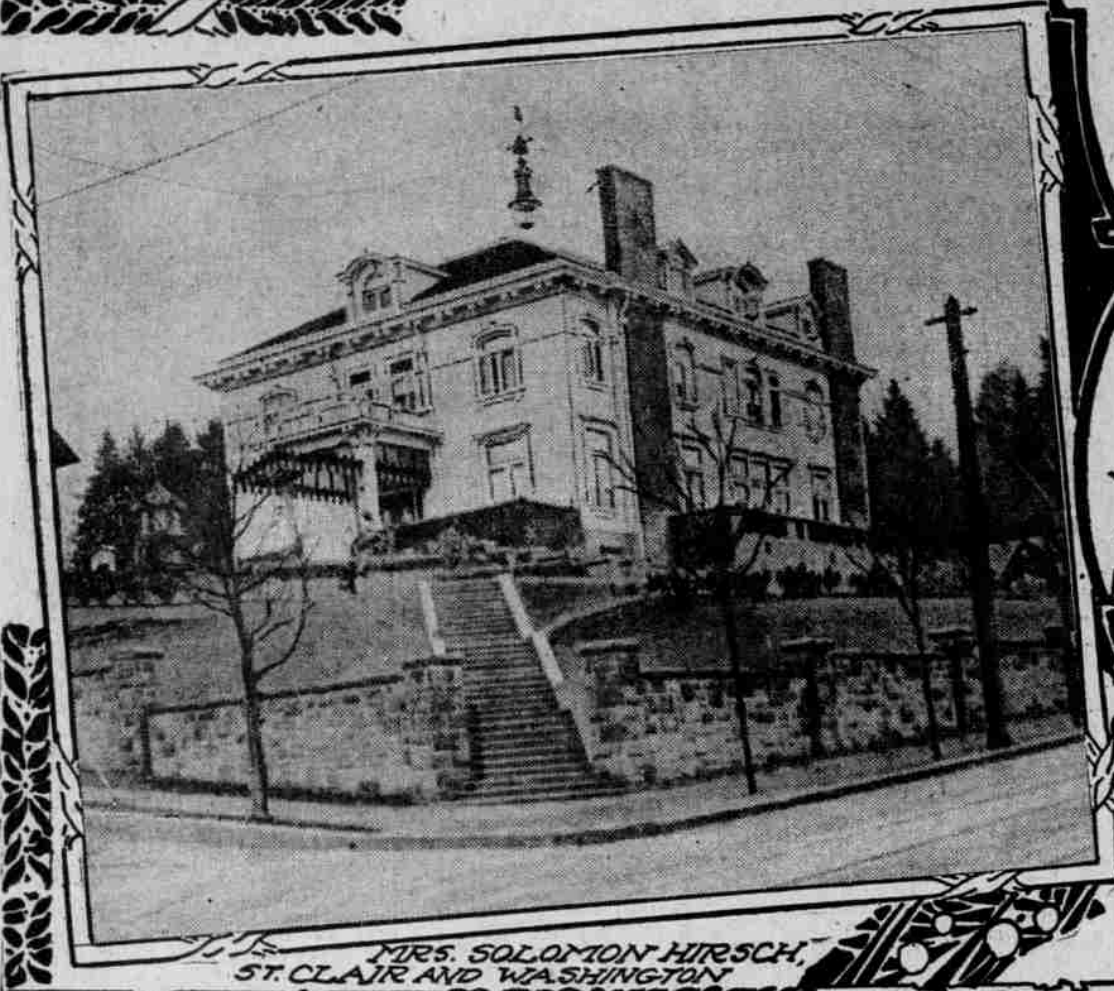
The beauty and grandeur of the scenery immediately surrounding Portland is unsurpassed by any city of the United States. From the hills back of Portland, where many of Portland's business men have built their homes, a marvelous panorama of rivers, railroads, busy city streets, quiet country roads, well-cultivated farms, wooded hills and distant snow-clad mountains, lies spread out to view. Far away on the lordly Columbia may be seen steamers bound for San Francisco and the Orient, sailing vessels arriving from the ports of the Old World or starting away on the long voyage around Cape Horn to Europe.

Portland is young, comparatively speaking, and too many of her citizens have been mainly occupied with business to pay much attention to the aesthetic side of life, but Nature has wrought here in this mild climate of the Pacific Coast the marvelous background for the most beautiful city in the world. Time and a little better understanding of the duties that accumulation of wealth imposes upon the successful man, will result in creating a civic pride in the heart of every resident and the work of man in architecture, in landscape gardening, in making use of the noble rivers as commercial highways, will be everywhere on artistic lines, and the children of other countries will be taught in the schools that Portland, perhaps not then the largest, is unquestionably the most beautiful city of the world.

What a field for recreation, too, lies within easy reach of the wearied business man! River or ocean, valley or mountain, field or forest, all are at hand. Take your choice. 'Tis a matter of a few hours only to reach your favorite haunts. Will you fish or hunt? No better sport is to be found of either kind than is afforded almost at our doors.

If there were not already reasons enough why Portland is the best place to live, it needs no prophetic vision to foresee the commercial greatness of a city located upon a river, second only in the United States to the Mississippi and the Missouri and in many respects greater than either. More than a hundred miles inland come the deep sea ships, the fresh water cleaning the hulls of barnacles as effectually as if they had been docked and cleaned. Here river and rail compete in transporting the products of a great inland empire, the cultivated area of which is doubling every few years, everything combines to make this one of the largest commercial cities of the world. With abundant room for growth, Portland will never become a city of tenements, but will always be noted for its beautiful homes, surrounded by extensive grounds. As the modern facilities for rapid transit are adopted, little country estates will join in an unbroken line eastward and southward far up into the foothills of the great Cascades.

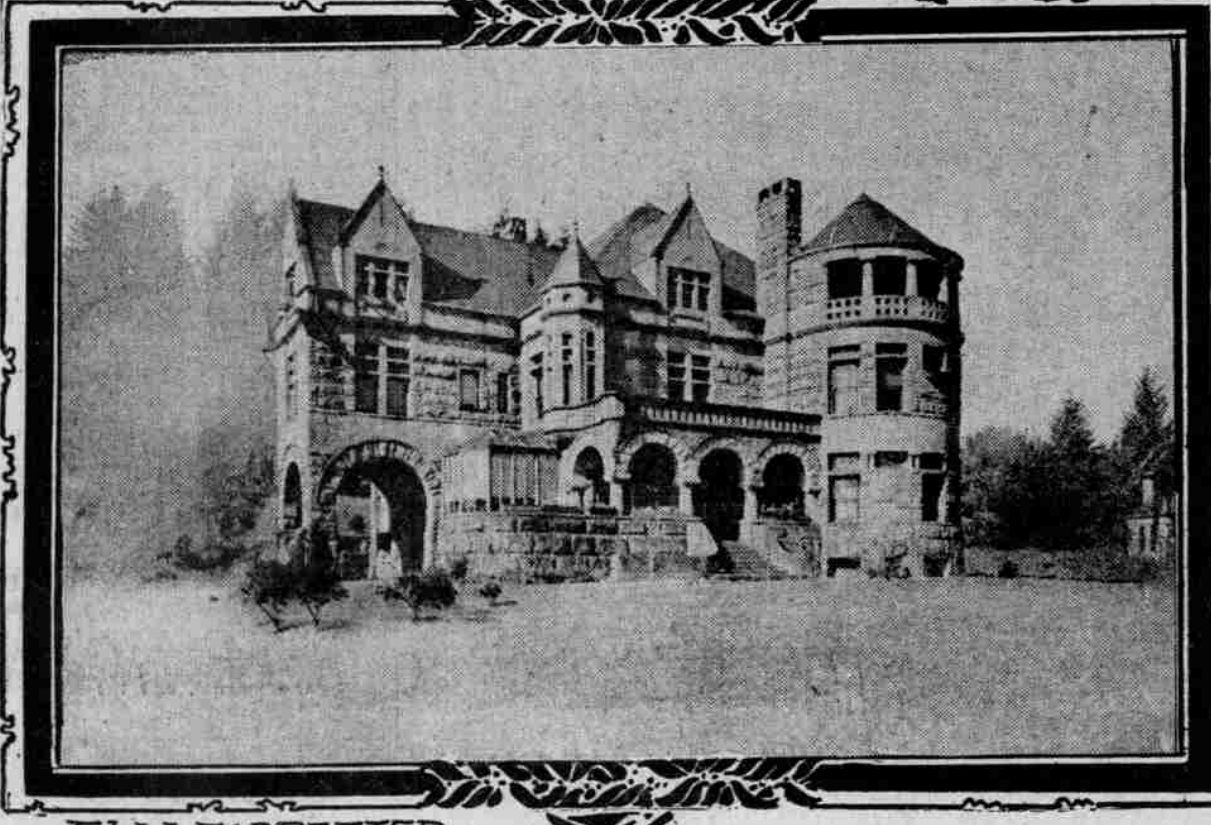
One cannot refrain from paraphrasing Judge Story's tribute to America, an oration familiar to every schoolboy: "Oregonians, you have a country vast in extent, embracing all the variety of the most salubrious climes. Held not by charters wrested from unwilling kings, but by the bountiful gift of the Author of Nature."



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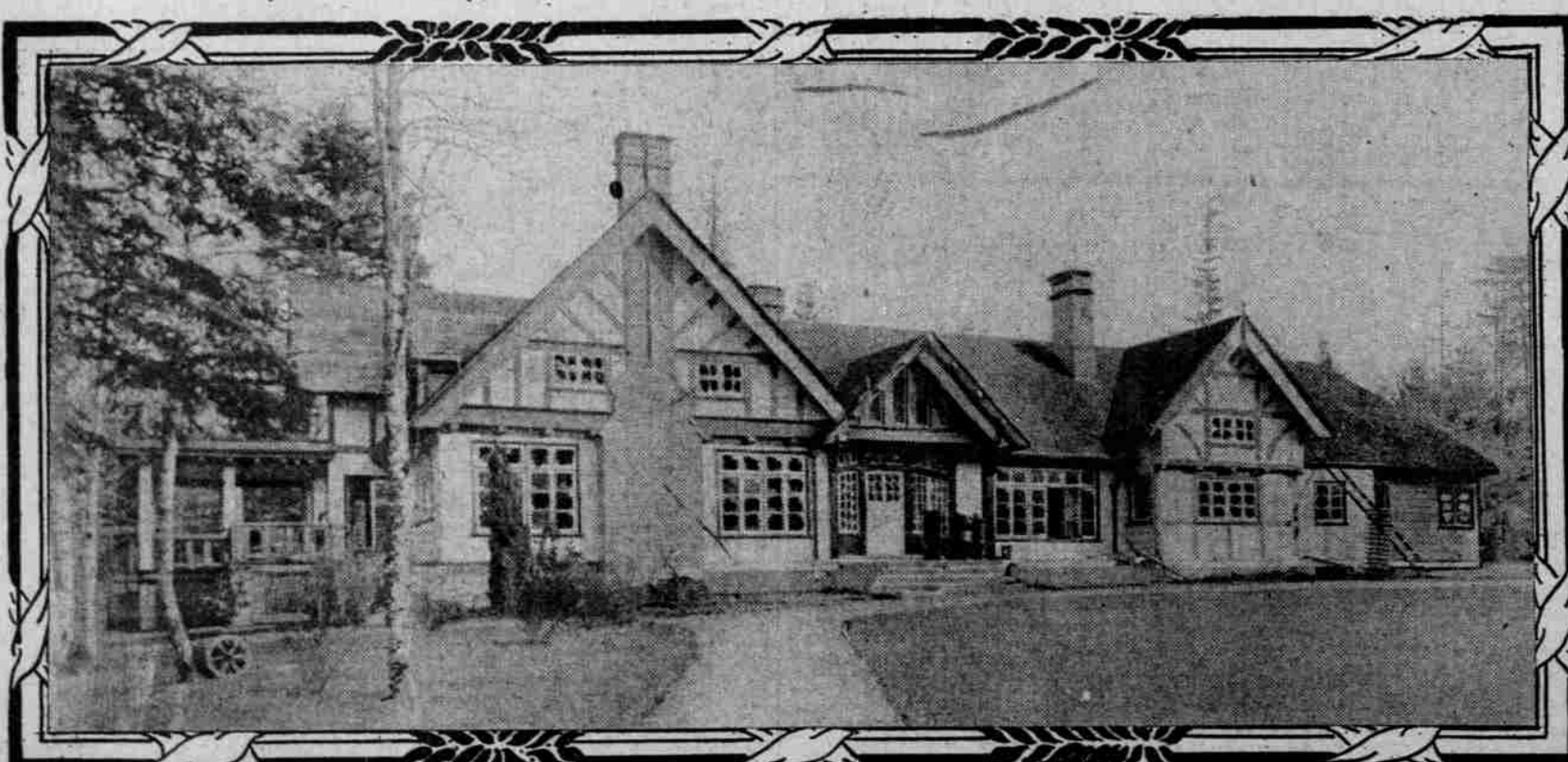


W. F. BURRELL, 828 HAWTHORNE AVE.

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