

BEAUTY, HEALTH AND PROSPERITY ASSETS OF PORTLAND AS AN IDEAL RESIDENCE CITY

Green Lawns, Wooded Hills, Ever-Blooming Roses and Grandeur of River and Snowclad Mountains
Lend Charm—House Completed Every 54 Minutes Since 1907.

By George M. Hyland.

A pedestal to a statue, so is the relationship and importance of site to a city. The ideal site embodies not only the necessities of the pioneer builder, but the requirements of numberless generations to follow. Though man's ingenuity may sometimes supply favorable conditions, the ideal site possesses natural advantages that endure through the ages. It must combine pure water, perfect drainage, an inexhaustible supply of fuel, abundant agricultural wealth, scenic grandeur, climatic comfort, proper transportation facilities (by land and water) and a natural beauty more than passing. Such a site has Portland, the beautiful city of homes and the acknowledged temple of the rose.

For a period of more than five years, or since the Spring of 1907, each 54 minutes of every working day has witnessed the erection, completion and occupation of a home in Portland. Remarkable, but not extraordinary, for the older cities of the new world will skeptically say, "It may be so," while those who live in the cities of the old world most probably will say "Unbelievable! Impossible!" Yet the fact remains, it is true, and there is no cause to marvel. The nearby skeptic would do well to go and see, and the far-removed unbeliever must finally agree that it has been done, and there are many reasons why it is so.

First, nowhere in the civilized world can a home be built so cheaply, amid such splendid surroundings and in such an ideal all-the-year-around climate as in Portland. Nature has supplied such an abundance of building material that the finest home may be built and completed in the city of Portland with materials within a rifle shot of the city. As for scenery, it matters little in what part of beautiful Portland the homebuilder erects his habitation, it is possible for him or her to have an outlook incomparably better than any afforded by the cities of the Far East or Middle West. Snow-capped mountains ever look down upon it and singling, commerce-laden waters pass by, while verdant hills surround it and flower gardens around the spot he will call home. Added to this wealth of setting, glory-grown by sturdy pioneers, who blazed the trail and carved from the wilds the site on which is built beautiful Portland, it is the spot that all nature has selected as the home of the rose. Here roses, fragrant, rare and abundant, may be found in numbers running into the countless millions, which bedeck and adorn each of the more than 50,000 homes of the famous Rose City, Portland, beautiful Portland! who having seen could not love it, adore it, idealize and agree that, though man built it, the gods directed. Fortune then, it who followed his star and founded his home here. Little wonder at the record of homebuilding cited in the opening lines of this chapter. No marvel, when considering the incomparable natural advantages a Portland home possesses; hence, each succeeding year must witness thousands upon thousands of new homes, erected by those who come, and come to stay, to share the wealth nature has bestowed and the hospitality a happy people extend to the worthy from everywhere.

Great as is Portland's scenery, beauty and glory, her material advantages as a home town truly excel. The Portland water supply is acknowledged throughout the world of science and art to be one of the best, the best known to man. This abundant supply of ice-cold, crystal clear water

is brought to the site of every Portland home from above the line of grazing and agriculture, through nearly 30 miles of splendidly constructed iron causeway, and distributed to every spot in this, the ideal home city.

Besides scenery and water, there are streets and parks, boulevards, libraries, churches, schools, lodge temples and cathedrals, hospitality and good cheer, all developed by the appreciation of a prosperous people.

And there are streets, indeed streets by the hundreds of miles, and a greater percentage of sanitary, clean-swept, permanent, hard-surface streets than is possessed by any other city of its size on earth. Think of riding three days in a swift-moving automobile on the beautiful hard-surface streets of one far Western city and during the entire trip not doubling your tracks in a single instance, a performance that is

green forests, mines, mountains and plains, a mighty ocean, rivers of majesty, crystal lakes and sheltered harbors, curative springs and health-giving breezes from mountain and sea-shore, all within two hours of this charming city of homes—Portland.

The aspiration and will of a people are clearly shown in the character of their buildings and the nature and extent of their public improvements. It has been truly said: "If civic pride arises and there is regard for the appearance of the city, appreciation that the individual should show a respect for the public in what he thrusts before it, and a thought that in the building of the people's houses nothing can be too good, then we may be sure that underlying these are noble aspirations."

No better testimony can be given in support of the worth and nobility of Portland's citizenship than the magnifi-

POSTAL RECEIPTS GAIN \$103,699.71 IN YEAR.

An increase of \$103,699.71, or 10.32 per cent, was recorded in the receipts from stamp sales at the Portland postoffice during 1912 as compared with 1911. There was not a month that did not show an advance over the corresponding month of the previous year. Indeed, this has been true for every month of every year since 1906, with the exception of September, 1908, and January, 1909. The same condition probably prevailed for years before that, but the record for the earlier years has not been investigated. The following table shows receipts from stamp sales only, and does not include fees on money orders or interest received from banks on deposits of postal savings funds:

	1911.	1912.
January.....	\$2,607.42	\$6,982.30
February.....	7,909.96	88,592.12
March.....	82,962.38	82,962.38
April.....	81,212.44	94,671.06
May.....	80,905.43	86,584.87
June.....	81,826.39	83,998.54
July.....	78,880.67	83,222.59
August.....	79,241.93	85,941.27
September.....	79,275.08	89,848.40
October.....	84,059.29	117,090.16
November.....	111,817.97	129,731.35
December.....	111,817.97	118,527.05
Total.....	\$1,004,428.71	\$1,108,128.42

*Latter half of December, 1912, estimated.

possible in Portland, and it is part of the glory of Portland's citizens that they are in the vanguard of civilization's demands in this as in other particulars.

Pure mountain water by the millions of gallons daily and a perfect system of sewages, emptying into swift running rivers, means sanitation unrivaled and the lowest death rate in the Nation.

In considering home life advantages in Portland, it must be remembered that the marvelous home life growth and prosperity of this wonderful city is the result of the many natural advantages not combined elsewhere. It is not uncommon to read from the pen of some enthusiast a glowing description of the scenic grandeur of the isolated spot that he calls home, or to see in print the record of blessings bestowed by some favored clime, while others tell the inspiring story of an agricultural wealth that helps feed the Nation, or manufacturing industries that provide employment for the needy, or mighty forests that await capital and the woodman's ax, or mines that contribute billions to the National wealth, or some majestic river with banks and bosom laden with commerce, or some harbor of great importance, or the subject famed for its waterways, special treatment from another pen. So we merely mention in passing, that nowhere can be found a group of public buildings excelling in beauty and appropriateness those owned and occupied by the citizenship of Portland. These each and all silently, yet in language unmisgiving, proclaim the ambitions and industry of a hospitable, art-loving and nature-loving people.

Portland's civic and county buildings win the admiration of every lover of good architecture privileged to behold them. They are truly marvels of beauty as expressed by the stone, worker's art and represent millions of dollars liberally and wisely invested. Space forbids extended mention and the subject is reserved for a special treatment from another pen. So we merely mention in passing, that nowhere can be found a group of public buildings excelling in beauty and appropriateness those owned and occupied by the citizenship of Portland. These each and all silently, yet in language unmisgiving, proclaim the ambitions and industry of a hospitable, art-loving and nature-loving people.

head the entire provision by the city for the play of some fifty thousand children and young people living now in the city. Think of it—1000 children to the acre. Of course, this means that the greater majority of the children have neither no play life in a full sense or else are forced to take to the streets and perhaps some of the vacant lots. Neither of these are desirable as playgrounds for the children and are absolutely out of consideration for the highly organized games and sport activities of young people and adults. One hundred children an acre is a reasonable ratio of population to space. For fear that some may think that this is sheer extravagance, let us take the higher figure of 300 children an acre of play space, a very high saturation point for play, when we consider that for the full-sized game of baseball just two acres are required. Even at this figure there should be in the city of Portland today nearly 140 acres of playgrounds scattered in five and ten-acre tracts over the city. Under the other ratio there should be 600 acres of playgrounds.

And let it be the New Year's resolve of the people of Portland to provide this year two things: First—A strong, clean, highly trained superintendent of public recreation. Second—At least two recreation center buildings. Third—Space for play and athletic games and sports in those parts of the city in which there are so many children and young people with no place for their plays and games and sports.

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Side, South Portland (this has been secured), North Portland perhaps, and certain other sections on the East Side not necessary to mention here, but I am loath to mention the need of more space until adequate provision is made for the better use of the grounds already equipped, and I do it only because those sections of the city mentioned have almost no play space and property values are rising high and higher. There are large numbers of children in those spaces and the areas are almost totally built upon. Children deprived of a full childhood while growing up in the city, and when they return again and we believe truthfully that such children will never make efficient workers or good citizens. Fifty acres approximately comprise

EIGHT PLAYGROUNDS ADD TO JOY OF PORTLAND CHILDREN

Opportunities for Outdoor Life Are Offered, But More Land Is Needed for This Purpose.

By L. H. Weir, Field Secretary Playground and Recreation Association of America.

FIVE years ago there was but one little playground in Portland. Today there are eight—seven of these playgrounds have been secured within the past three years. During three years the playgrounds have been under the control of the city through the Park Department. The idea that the providing of playgrounds, their equipment and maintenance, the organization of the activities thereon is a public duty and function is therefore firmly fixed. Although the largest of these playgrounds are located in comparatively distant parts of the city, the need and popularity of them is attested by the large attendance for the short season they were open. For instance, had a recorded attendance during the past Summer of 108,384, and Sellwood was attended by 48,561 children, young people and adults. The fact that these playground centers have swimming pools adds greatly to their popularity and usefulness. The total attendance at all the playgrounds of the city during the 190 days they were open was 301,762. Considering the time open, the distance from the centers where the largest numbers of children live and the expense and time necessary to reach the more popular places, this is a remarkably good record and shows the great need in the city for such gathering places of the young and grown-ups as well, for we must always bear in mind when talking and thinking about playgrounds that these common play and meeting places are not alone for the children and young people, but for the grown people, too. To brighten and freshen and bring back the spirit of childhood in the hearts of men and women is one of the aims and objects of the playground and recreation movement.

These eight playgrounds have not only space upon which to play and things to play with and upon; there are not only many companions to play with, but what is more important than anything else save space and companions, they had play leaders, real live men and women, two for each ground, leaders who are men and women in stature only—simply big boys and girls who have not forgotten how to be children even though grown up. These every playground must have and more and more of them, for they are the "pieces of equipment" that make the playground worth while for the children and young people. The play leaders must be trained, too, for children in spite of their simplicity and naturalness are really very deep and complex beings, and sometimes difficult to understand. Some people in spite of their training can never understand children, and those we would never have try to be a play leader on the playground.

Now one of the great needs of the playgrounds in Portland this past year was the lack of a general play leader, or as he is called, a superintendent of play and recreation. The play leaders on the playgrounds need advice and direction constantly. It is the function of the general play leader to advise, counsel with and suggest new things to the play leaders. Where there is more than one playground in a city

there is always need of a general supervisor and never again should the playgrounds of this city be without the strongest, cleanest, best trained man that can be secured for this purpose. Another great need in Portland with respect to playgrounds is the larger use of these playgrounds as regards time. Portland is the only city of 100,000 or more people on the coast that does not use its playgrounds 100 per cent of the time they might be used during the 365 days of the year. Portland uses hers but about 25 per cent of the 365 days. Is that because the children of Los Angeles, or Oakland, or Seattle need play more than the children of Portland? The following is a true story. Two little Portland children were playing in their home with building blocks. One built a wondrous structure with high walls, but left no door or gate. His little brother reminded him of the omission and he replied, "No, don't you know what this is? This is a playground."

Innocently this child expressed the situation in Portland for the greater part of the year and the playground dismantled and locked was his most vivid impression of playgrounds. Now, before it will be possible to have the playgrounds efficiently open all the year, there will need to be constructed recreation center buildings—the common playhouse and meeting place of the young people and older people of the neighborhood. This is why the other cities of the Coast are able to get so much more out of their playgrounds. All have recreation centers, with baths, library, clubrooms, gymnasiums, lunchrooms, clinics, auditoriums which can be used for community dances as well as for neighborhood meetings, and sometimes swimming pools inclosed. There is a director and assistants always in charge from one year's end to the other. Should be placed where people dwell in greatest numbers.

Another great need in Portland is the need of more and larger playgrounds, especially playgrounds in Alameda, Central East Side, Central West Side, and other sections of the city. In spite of their simplicity and naturalness are really very deep and complex beings, and sometimes difficult to understand. Some people in spite of their training can never understand children, and those we would never have try to be a play leader on the playground.

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