

# RECONSTRUCTING AMERICAN CITIES

### Few Municipalities Have Well Defined Plans, but Idea of System Is Spreading—Illustrious Example, Washington, D. C.

- Tomorrow the Sons of the American Revolution will meet in annual congress at Baltimore.
- With his usual timeliness Mr. Haskin will present an article on this and other patriotic organizations that draw their inspiration from Revolutionary sources. The part the Pacific coast played in the promotion of this class of patriotic societies will be discussed.

By **FREDERIC J. HASKIN.**

(Copyright 1909 by Frederic J. Haskin.)  
 Washington, April 29.—Four events transpiring within the month in the national capital mark to the American public the growing strength of the nation wide movement for better and more beautiful cities. Yesterday the body of Mayor L'Enfant, that genius who planned the city of Washington in Arlington cemetery—a short while in the rotunda of the capitol, whose site he had selected.

On May 3 will be unveiled the statue of Alexander Shepherd, sometime president of the board of public works in Washington, and under whom the city received its first impetus toward its present beauty.

On May 21 a general conference, with representatives from many cities, will be held in Washington for the purpose of discussing the better planning of cities.

During this month Mrs. Taft, wife of the president, inaugurated a series of afternoon band concerts on the waterfront, lending a bit of old world attractiveness to Washington life, and at the same time introducing to the people of the city the beauties of Potomac park, that most exquisite proof of the possibilities in reclaimed lands and sandbars that lie in the power of every riparian city.

**Worked with Washington.**  
 A soldier of France, a follower of La Fayette in the cause of American liberty, drafter of plans for Buffalo, designer of the city plan that has made Washington a good pattern for all new cities in the making, Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant, the hero of the family, died on the 26th of this month, nearly 60 years ago. It was Jefferson who suggested L'Enfant's services to Washington, and during a week spent at about Vermont, with maps of many old world cities before them, the president and the French engineer drew out the plan for Washington, the only time in the history of the world that the capital city of any nation has been planned beforehand and built according to the plans. St. Petersburg, it is true, was named and the site chosen in 1721 with the view to its being the Russian capital, but when that city was built in the marshes it was with the object of having a key to the northern sea, and the idea of beauty was a minor consideration.

Washington had seen no European city. Glenn Brown asserts that any American cities offered suggestions to Washington in their plans they may have been Annapolis and Williamsburg. Annapolis, it is remembered, was built somewhat after the plans suggested by Sir Christopher Wren for the rebuilding of London after the fire of 1666, the two focal points with radial streets being from Wren's tower while Williamsburg has a distinctive mall, that may have suggested to the first president the mall for his federal city. L'Enfant knew the old world better. It is said that the planning of the capitol and the White House as axes for the many radiating avenues was suggested to him by Le Notre's plan of Versailles. There was an eye, too, for the possible extension of the city to the Potomac public, and from these two centers a car could be trained down the various avenues and offer the best fortresses for ruler and congress.

**Plan Endorsed Century Later.**

Whatever the origin of the plan, it has proved its beauty. It is the only city in the world that from the intersection of any two or more streets and avenues the horizon can always be seen. When the capital city celebrated its centennial in 1800 and realized that it was not all that the nation's head municipality should be, a commission was sent abroad to study other cities and see what changes should be made in L'Enfant's plan. The commission reported that his plan was best of all, and that insofar as it had not been permanently interfered with in Washington, it should be followed.

It was possibly the eccentricity of genius that made the gifted Frenchman soon antagonistic to the committee under which he was to work, for shortly after he had drawn his plans, had engaged the stone from the quarries and started the city's building, he was removed. Jefferson recommended that Major L'Enfant be paid for his services and suggested that it be liberal. "The president thinks," so Jefferson wrote to certain members of congress, "of \$3000, but leaves the determination to you. This was in 1792. In 1810 the engineers who visited L'Enfant, with interest from 1785 in consideration of his great work, invited by Mr. Digges to his farm. He spent the last quarter century or more of his life there, refusing an appointment as instructor at West Point in 1811, and in the year that La Fayette paid his final visit to this country, the French guest died at the Maryland farm and though the family burying ground was situated with the dead of the Carroll and Digges families when he was first buried there, this was later removed, and for many years his body has lain there in company only with that of a mysterious stranger who died in some lonely romance and found shelter there in death. Yesterday the nation honored the dust of the architect, and yesterday it is believed a suitable memorial will mark his new grave in Arlington.

**Saw the Millions Told to Be.**

The nation has now few men so far seeing as L'Enfant. He planned a city of 16 miles area, so accommodate a population of 80,000 when all the people in all the forty-eight States were only a little over seven times that number. He looked from London and Paris, cities a thousand or so years in making, and saw as in a vision, a century or so beyond his day, a city of many beautiful buildings on the hills and lowlands of the Potomac. He saw "squares in morasses and obelisks in trees." It has taken over a century to realize some of the dreams of the dreamer, long dead. The new city was a dreary sight for President Adams and his political family. Not until Jefferson's prosperous times did the city grow to 17,000 or 15,000 inhabitants. When Jefferson took charge of the public works many years later, the dreams began to take more definite shape. There has always played an important

part in the beauty of Washington. It has now more trees than any other city in the world. As early as 1809 there was an ordinance prohibiting damage to trees. Trees guard every avenue, these cluster in thickets on the reclaimed Potomac flats, the plans of the future, they stand in primeval grandeur on the hundreds of acres in Rock Creek Park. When the proposed Lincoln memorial has been erected, the Grant Memorial bridge across the river built, the further plans of the city beautifiers will have added the high and banks of Rock Creek to the speedway plan and a drive will follow the slivery stream where it is now utilized by dumpage and trash. The Burham plan calls for white administration buildings all along the mall from the White House to the capitol, and suggest a memorial arch on the great hill at the foot of Sixteenth street.

**Cities With Plans for Future.**

In 1903 there were only four cities in the United States, with definite, well defined plans. Cleveland was a pioneer in the movement, having inaugurated a "city beautiful" crusade in 1890. Now there are 60 or more. The latest of these is Denver, with a new scheme recently approved by its park board, calling for radical changes in existing plans and expenditure of \$1,000,000. Memphis, whose park system is only a few years old, is negotiating for the site of an old railway depot to be beautified and added to the park as a children's playground. New Orleans, with Bienville's old plan, and Salt Lake City, with its mathematical squares, look as Brigham Young drew them, have digressed in varying degrees from original intention. A plan is copied from Washington. San Francisco, missing a great opportunity for making of itself the model city of the world, is rebuilding from its disaster on pretty lines, but not, unlike the old ones.

New York, with the completion of each new bridge has had plans drawn for a parking about the waterfronts. Chicago expects to restore many of the good features of the Columbian exposition in a new park system, and Boston, with the highest per capita expenditure on parks of any city in the United States, and with the first women's civic societies, is planning to beautify its land and building more parks. Kansas City had one of the hardest fights for improvement of its harbor and river front. When all the other big cities were pointing with pride to their new buildings, their parks and their systems of beautification, Kansas City took an inventory and found that it had not one acre of park land. The charter was revised, land condemned and bought, and after 12 years' work it showed over 2000 acres of park to its credit. The preservation of the famous old Santa Fe trail came in the way of its driveway making.

**Gay and Its Big Promise.**

Cleveland, a municipal and federal building and its giant railway station, improved itself on a plan that cost from \$20,000,000 to \$30,000,000. Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Hartford, St. Louis and Springfield, have long since wheeled in line with the procession of cities beautifying and there is daily record of other cities planning and questioning and legislating with the aim of civic improvement along all lines well in view. The little town of Gary, Ind., which prophesy says will one day rival Chicago, was all planned on paper before a stone was laid, and its potential beauty is already apparent.

**Big Pay for Beautifying.**

Aside from the artistic and sanitary uplift that comes to a city from the erection of beautiful public buildings, the creation of parks and playgrounds and the opening of long avenues with a complement of trees and flowers, there is the economic and moral value that is often overlooked. Gary, for example, has spent over \$265,000,000 under the Hausmann plan, and is spending as much more. It is said that with such focal points as the Arch of Triumph, the Place of the Nations, the Bastille, and the resemblance to L'Enfant's plan of Washington is clearly seen. Increased beauty means increased attractiveness to tourists, and it is said that the expenses paid and prospective of regenerating Paris have already been more than paid by increased tourist

travel. It lies in the power of every American city of ambition and energy to rear a like financial harvest in the coming years if it only lives up to its chance.

The moral effect of civic improvement is said to be one of the greatest arguments in favor of city beautifying. When Blueberry street was cut through London, some 3 years ago, bringing light, health and beauty into some of the most degraded centers, the decrease in crime was not only notable, but marvelous. Crime cannot live among beautiful things, nor can it flourish long in God's out of doors, but marvelous. Crime cannot live among beautiful things, nor can it flourish long in God's out of doors, but marvelous. Crime cannot live among beautiful things, nor can it flourish long in God's out of doors, but marvelous.

## HOBOS SHOOT AT BRAKEMAN; ARRESTED

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)  
 Prosser, Wash., April 29.—The discovery of two hobos on a Northern Pacific freight train at Mabton Sunday evening, and the shooting affair that ensued between the two men and a brakeman, with the subsequent arrest of the hobos at Prosser, has resulted in a serious charge being lodged against the two, who give their names as James H. Black and Hollins. The latter claims to be a remittance man, and to receive \$500 a quarter allowance from rich relatives in England.

Received from Kittitas county, states that two men of similar description were wanted for breaking into a residence and stealing a revolver and two Yale keys. On this information and the statement that two men had been arrested here, Deputy Sheriff Gernard of Ellensburg came to Prosser today and returned to Ellensburg with Hollins, who will face the charge of burglary.

Special Agent Page of the Northern Pacific, located at Panko, has investigated the case and expects to bring a case against Black, who will be charged with shooting at the brakeman.

## DUNCAN M'KINLAY ON JAP EXCLUSION

(United Press Leased Wire.)  
 Pittsburg, April 29.—That the whole country must unite to find a solution of the Japanese immigration problem is the opinion of Congressman Duncan McKinlay of California. At a banquet given yesterday by the American club of the city in honor of the birthday of Ulysses S. Grant, McKinlay in an after dinner speech declared that the California question is not a party question, but a "yellow peril" question, and as such was not a question for California to settle, but for the whole nation.

McKinlay gave as his opinion that the talk of war between the United States and Japan was absurd. "Should Japan go to war with us, or with any other power, Russia would be at her throat in a minute," he said. "Talk of war with Japan is absurd."

"The question of Japanese immigration will be settled amicably in due time. I am in favor of Roosevelt's policy of giving the Japanese government an opportunity to settle this matter itself. If it fails, it will be time enough to consider exclusion laws."

## MRS. ELLA CARROLL CANNOT BE FOUND

(United Press Leased Wire.)  
 Sedro Woolley, Wash., April 29.—After another day and night spent in the search for Mrs. Ella Carroll, who disappeared from her home here last Saturday evening, her relatives and friends have practically given up the quest. Bloodhounds from Seattle last night and today tried to take up the trail. The dogs followed a scent to the bank of the Skagit river, but it was discovered later that they had been following the trail of a man who had passed that way. The bloodhounds will be taken back to Seattle.

## TORNADOES; KANSAS AND OKLAHOMA

(United Press Leased Wire.)  
 Douglas, Kas., April 29.—One man is dead and others are reported seriously injured as a result of a tornado that swept the southern part of Butler county today. The storm wrecked buildings, tore up trees and created general havoc. No estimate of the property loss has been made, but it is known to be exceedingly heavy. Louis Ayers, 70 years of age, was so frightened by the tornado that he died of heart disease after it had passed.

Tupelo, Okla., April 29.—The fruit crop is severely damaged as the result

of a tornado that swept this section last night. A number of buildings were wrecked, but no loss of life has been reported. Telephone and telegraph wires were torn down by the storm and it is impossible to learn the extent of the damage. Mesager reports received here, however, indicate that the loss is heavy.

**Rancher Fights Mountain Lions.**  
 (United Press Leased Wire.)  
 Whittier, Cal., April 29.—When Arthur Woodstock, owner of a bee ranch near here, returned to the ranch today he carried with him a shotgun in anticipation of an attack by two mountain lions which yesterday attacked him while he was driving into town. Woodstock noticed the beasts following him, but thinking they were dogs, paid no attention until they sprang upon the

## CALIFORNIAN IS NEW BILLIARD CHAMPION

New York, April 29.—H. A. ("Chick") Wright of San Francisco now holds the amateur billiard championship, having defeated C. F. Conklin of Chicago, 400 to 307. Wright won the title with a record of four straight victories, the last being at the Liederkreis club Tuesday night. Dr. L. L. Mail of New York was the only competitor who failed to win any games. Clarence Jackson of Chicago, Joseph Meyer of Philadelphia and

Conklin are tied for second, third and fourth prizes, each having won two games. Wright's honors were won by the average but he was tied with Jackson for the best average. Meyer won the high run honors, making 89 in two innings. The ties will be played off today and Thursday. Last night's championship game lasted 25 innings.

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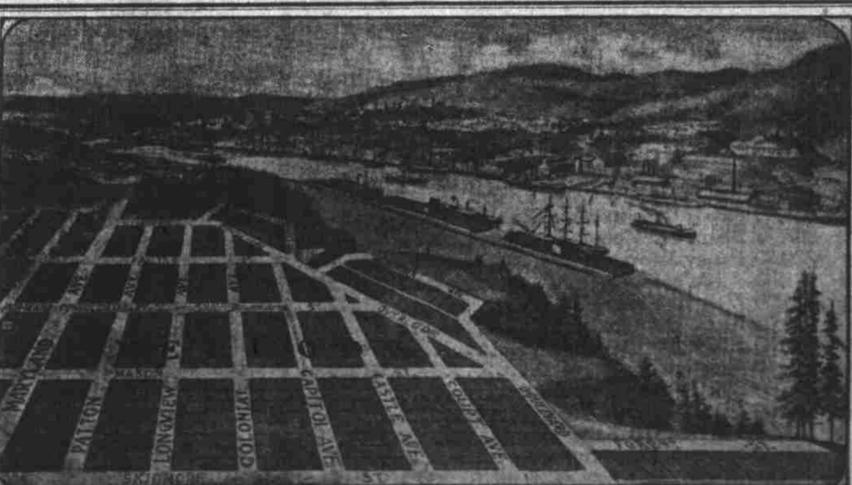
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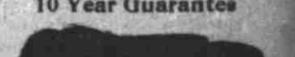
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