

CIVIC BEAUTY PAYS

IT IS THE ATTRACTIVE TOWN THAT GROWS RAPIDLY.

The Value of Spacious and Well Improved Public Parks—They Beautify the Town and Enhance Real Estate Values.

In seeking a change of residence or to locate a business the capitalist and moneyed home seeker will choose the attractive town every time, and the ragged, unsightly, parkless town will be passed by. The man who wants to sell his place cleans it up and puts it in the best possible condition. The hotel that secures the best custom, the store that sells the most goods and at the best profit, are those that are neat, clean, handsome, attractive. Just so with a town. The town that most attracts and interests visitors and investors is not the one that does the most business, but the one that presents a fine, modern appearance, that has well paved streets, neat and clean sidewalks, good business blocks, attractive driveways, and not least, if last, spacious and well improved parks.

Probably not one of the towns and cities that did not take kindly to the creation of public parks when the agitation was at its height, but finally accepted the idea, would, if it were possible, part with its parks for twice their total cost. It has been found in some of the towns that the parks have earned money for the taxpayers, and from a financial point of view are good investments, writes M. O. Stone in the Review of Reviews.

Attractive parks now occupy large areas that for years were obstructions to the extension and material prosperity of many towns and cities, and as these unsightly and waste places were gradually improved and beautified the value of land in those neighborhoods soon began to rise. Officials representing parks in fifty towns and cities state that real estate near their park territory has increased in valuation greatly beyond the average increase in other parts of their cities.

Ten years ago the board of park commissioners of Boston reported that the increase in the value of lands near the Back Bay system had been over 300 per cent. During the same time the value of lands in the rest of the city had increased in value but 18 per cent. Land values have also risen enormously near Central and other New York parks, and everywhere, though perhaps not to such an extent as in Boston and New York, appreciation in the value of real estate near parks has steadily increased and must continue to do so as parks are developed and grow more beautiful. Many park systems are but partially improved, and some years may be necessary to show their value in this direction. The improvement and beautifying of any section of a town or city by the erection of handsome buildings, especially when surrounded by beautiful grounds, immediately cause surrounding property to become more valuable, and attractive public parks in a still greater degree have the same effect. The phenomenal growth of our towns and cities during the last ten years is, in some cases, the most desirable tracts that could have been bought at reasonable figures a few years ago cannot now be secured at prices that will permit of their acquisition for park purposes.

There are in many towns and cities large open spaces which should be taken at once for park purposes and for great playgrounds.

Support the Local Paper.

Speaking of what a newspaper does for a community, United States Senator David Davis of Illinois made an address that remains ever green in the memories of newspaper men, says the Maroon (In.) Democrat. He said: "Every year every local paper gives from 500 to 5,000 free lines for the benefit of the community in which it is located. No other agency can or will do this. The editor in proportion to his means does more for his town than any other man, and in all fairness, man with man, he ought to be supported—not because you happen to like him or admire his writing, but because a local paper is the best investment a community can make. It may not be crowded with great thought, but financially it is of more benefit than both preacher and teacher. Today editors do more for less pay than any men on earth. Patronize your home paper, not as a charity, but as an investment."

What a Neighborhood Lost.

"A few weeks ago a man consulted me regarding the beautifying of a large lot on which he would soon build a forty thousand dollar residence," writes a landscape engineer in the Kansas City Star. "I studied the plans of his house and the ground he was to use. I advised him not to build there, for the property adjoining his would be an eyesore to him. The 'lawn' was a stretch of grass, weeds and bare places. The terrace had slipped into the street except where boards held it back. My client is seeking another place for his house, and that neighborhood lost a structure that would have advanced its tone and incidentally the price of the land. The man who suffers most is the one who didn't care for the appearance of his property."

scious arouse us to the necessity of securing land for park purposes before the most desirable tracts are taken for residential and manufacturing purposes. There is little reason to fear that rapidly growing towns and cities will obtain more park lands than will be required, and the danger of delay in buying is illustrated in many cities which find, when they are forced to consider the question of providing public parks, that the cost of procuring suitable land has increased enormously.

Health and Wealth.
The American business man of the present day spends his health to gain wealth and then immediately starts out to spend his wealth in regaining his health. But generally he finds the first feat child's play in comparison with the second.—Baltimore American.

CARE OF DIRT ROADS

A MISSOURI FARMER'S PLAN FOR THEIR IMPROVEMENT.

Road Kept in Splendid Condition All the Year Around by Use of a Drag, How These Highway Builders Are Constructed.

Missouri has discovered that it is the care that is given to dirt roads after they are made that determines whether dirt roads may be good roads. The discovery was made in a very simple manner, as set forth in a bulletin that the Missouri board of agriculture is distributing among the farmers of the state. After the same experience with roads that other states have had, good a little while and then bad a long while, it was suggested by some one that if every farmer would keep up the road running past his own farm all the roads would soon be in good condition, at very little cost to anybody.

One of the farmers to set upon this suggestion was D. W. King of Maitland, who with some ingenuity set about making a drag for himself, and it is this drag that is the subject of the state board's bulletin. The bulletin describes it as follows:

"The road drag is very simply constructed. It is composed of two split logs nine feet long, joined together with short crosspieces. After each rain the road should be gone over with the drag, carefully smoothing down all the high places and filling up the ruts. In the course of time the road so treated will become hard and firm and, with a little attention after each rain, always remain dry and smooth. Experiments have been made in every part of the state and, on every kind of soil with the drag, and it has been found to be successful."

We take pleasure in presenting this Missouri idea to our readers, says the Des Moines Register and Leader. It is the solution of the road problem in Iowa, and the only solution. Each farmer may not wish to keep a road



IMPROVED BY ROAD DRAG.

drag and to drag his own road, but every farmer ought to be willing to combine with his neighbors to secure a road tender, whose business it should be to keep our dirt highways smooth and passable.

Every township in the state should have a man, with sufficient tools and tools, hired by the year to do nothing else. In one year nine out of ten of our dirt highways would become so well hardened and so firm that no ordinary spell of wet weather would affect them further than to moisten the surface. Even if Iowa should secure macadamized highways they would require constant care. Why should not the state provide the caretakers for the dirt roads that it will be compelled to have when permanent highways come in?

In a letter recently to the Breeder's Gazette Mr. King explains his plan of improving dirt roads by use of the drag, as follows:

"For a number of years I have cared for a road running past my farm, using a drag made of a split log. I hitch a team so as to drag at an angle just as the road is drying. This levels the surface and pushes the loose earth and clods toward the center of the road. The grade was built solely by the use of this drag. Other roads hereabouts have been blockaded with mud for weeks at a time, but the dragged road has been ready to carry an ordinary load at all times. During the two or three weeks when other roads were at their worst, so bad that they could hardly be traveled horseback, the dragged road was smooth, hard and absolutely dry."

Charm of Circus Life.

"There is a charm, a fascination, about circus life that is hard to explain," said a veteran showman. "It is surely a tough existence, being buffeted about from place to place, often without a bed to sleep in, and the wages, outside of the salaries paid to a few stars, are amazingly small. Yet when a man once gets a taste of circus life it's all up with him. He's never good for anything else and never wants to be. There must be a germ, bred of the sawdust, that gets into the blood. Take the canvasers, for instance. They get \$20 a month and their board, which usually consists of bad grub and an imprudent bed in a wagon. Often they don't take their clothes off for weeks at a time. There's one fellow I know who possesses more than the average intelligence. He has a trade, and during the winter he makes on an average \$20 a week, and yet just as soon as the circus season opens he throws up his job and goes out on the road with a show for \$20 a month. In almost every town the management is beset by men and boys who want to go along, and many of them offer their services for their board. It's a queer state of affairs."—Philadelphia Record.

Profitable Politeness.

"The custom house nuisance can be greatly abated by a knowledge of foreign manners," says an experienced traveler. "Politeness is not absolutely thrown away even on American custom house officials, and in France it is three-quarters of the battle. The whole secret of getting easily and comfortably through the douane lies in the greatest possible politeness and the least possible appearance of flurry. 'Pardon, monsieur; si vous n'avez la bonte,' etc., is a safe prelude to a happy and rapid release. If you have nothing to declare say so at once and at the same time begin to open your bags and boxes. In nine cases out of ten this will have the effect of making the officer chalk all your boxes without a word. A little joke, too, about the absurdity of importing anything into so perfect a country as France or some such mild jest will often go far to put you on the best of terms with the douanier. But above all things be polite. Remember that in France you cannot lay it on too thick."

Small Plastic Judgments.

That insects think is the belief of a French neurologist who has been making careful observations of ants and bees. He thinks that, between the ideas of the naturalist who regards insects as mere automatons and those of the man who treats them as humanly intelligent, there is a happy medium of common sense, and this he has tried to attain. His observations teach him that, although most of the acts of insects can be explained by instinct, there remain what he calls "small plastic judgments" by which they avoid difficulties and steer their way beyond dangers. The directive faculty of bees especially and their wonderful memory for places can hardly be explained on the theory of automatism.

Plowing the Water.

A curious method of producing platinum is reported to be practiced by the inhabitants along the Tura river, in Tomsk, Siberia. They call it "plowing the water." A raft is constructed, and fastened to it is an inclined gutter of boards, which at its lower end is provided with an iron plow. While floating down the river they scrape or plow its bottom. The sand scraped out falls into the gutter and passes into a tub filled with pine boughs, upon which platinum is deposited. The sand of the Tura river and its tributaries is so rich in platinum that even this primitive production is profitable to the peasants.

"Two Pictures at Once."

A well known landscape painter was busy "dashing in" the colors of a sunset. The tins were hurriedly conveyed from tube to palette and from palette to canvas, for the artist was anxious to catch the effect.

A rustic standing by observed the operation for a little while and then remarked: "Ah, you be a-painting two pictures at once. That's clever." He paused a moment and then blurted out, "I like that picture best, the one you've got your thumb through!"—London M. A. P.

A Celebrated Salside.

Haydon, the celebrated historical painter and writer, overcome by debt, disappointment and ingratitude, laid down the brush with which he was at work upon his last great effort, "Alfred and the Trial by Jury," wrote with a steady hand, "Stretch me no longer upon this rough world," and then with a pistol shot put an end to his unhappy existence.

First Serious Trouble.

Mother—So you and Harry have quarreled, have you, Hortense? What is the matter? Did he find fault with the cooking?
Young Wife (sobbing)—No, m-mamma. My cooking suits him well enough, but he says I'm—I'm all wrong on the subject of baptism.—Chicago Tribune.

A Good, Big Figure.

"You'd never accuse Miss Millionaire of having her fortune in her face?"
"Never. It's plainly in her figure."

THE WRITERS.

Edwin Markham of Brooklyn spends most of his time in literary work at his home at Westerleigh.

General Lew Wallace's hair and beard are now snowy white, but he walks as erect and his step is as firm as ever.

Richard Harding Davis is ambitious to follow the example of Booth Tarkington and Winston Churchill by becoming a member of the legislature of his state.

Paul Laurence Dunbar made his first book, "Oak and Ivy," out of scribbles of verse begun in his high school days. "Ma, don't destroy these," he would say as he brought the writings home, and when he was twenty the verses all came ready for use out of an old box in the kitchen.

RECENT INVENTIONS.

A tumbler combination lock for post office boxes has been invented for those prone to lose their keys.

By the employment of certain rays a Bohemian inventor has discovered a means of canceling stamps much more quickly than by the present method.

John Muir of Scotland, an expert manufacturer, claims to have perfected a system of tanning hog hide whereby it makes a perfect substitute for rubber.

An engineer of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad company has designed a portable canvas telegraph office that can be carried on a hand car in cases of wrecks, washouts, etc.

A Doubtful Record.

The man who never makes mistakes His praise I shall not sing. For more than likely he's the man Who never does a thing. —Cincinnati Enquirer.

Luck.

"They say a horseshoe over the door brings luck."
"I would rather have an automobile before the door."—Town Topics.

No Hope For Them.

All weeping poets should be told, Who strive to woo the muse, That, though the muse is rather old, She's likely to refuse. —Philadelphia Press.

Ah, There!

Mr. Bragg—She's just crazy to marry me.
Miss Sweetly—Naturally; any girl would be.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Words and Deeds.

Great schemes by conversation, Also are often balked; We stop to talk things over Until they're swartalked. —Washington Star.

Why She Likes Him.

"Why does she take such an interest in him?"
"She says he reminds her of her dead fido."—Indianapolis Sun.

Extremes.

The man who would not take advice Met with a fate that's far from nice. The man who tried to heed each friend Was little better in the end. —Denver News.

Unanimous.

Mr. Ad Myers—Miss Pechis is a very pretty girl, is she not?
Miss Shells—Yes; she is not.—Philadelphia Press.

Keep In de Road.

De road is rough ter de weary feet, But it lead at las' ter de pastures sweet! —Atlanta Constitution.

GOWN GOSSIP.

Battiste, alone and combined with heavier materials, will be much used for blouses to be worn with tailored gowns.

Everything to match the gown will be demanded this fall. Not only hats, gloves and veils to match will be worn, but umbrellas of the same color will be carried.

Velveteen gowns are predicted, and the manufacturers advertise an altogether new production of this old time favorite, warranted to stand reasonable wear without crocking or creasing.

Practically all the new walking suits are ankle length, or at any rate escape the ground. The drop skirt has been found rather unsatisfactory worn with these short skirts, and there is a decided tendency to a return to the lined and slightly stiffened skirt.

Chiffon velvet is a new and very beautiful trimming material and one which will not become too common, as its price puts it beyond the reach of most purses. The material is so light in weight and so soft in texture that a half yard can easily be crushed in the palm of one's hand. It comes in all the new shades.—New York Post.

POPE PIUS X.

It is safe to say that no one but the pope knows what the pope will do, and it is probable that even he has not yet definitely determined upon a settled line of policy.—Providence Journal.

Pope Pius X. is crowned, the ceremonies are ended, and the world will now settle down to watch his course. This will not develop in a hurry. Rome always works leisurely. The statesmanship of Leo will be dovetailed into that of Pius, and if a change is made it will be months, perhaps years, before it develops fully.—Toledo Blade.

SIRES AND SONS.

Patti's husband, Baron Cederstrom has been appointed a justice of the peace in the county of Brecon, Wales.

Former Senator John P. Jones of Nevada has just purchased a gold mine in Mexico which he says is one of the richest in the world.

John G. Carlisle has purchased the Pindexter place, consisting of a residence and fifteen acres of land, at Diamond Hill, near Greenwich, Conn.

President John Mitchell of the United Mine Workers of America, it is understood, will deliver a series of ten addresses this fall to the miners throughout the anthracite region.

Colonel Myron T. Herrick, Republican candidate for governor of Ohio, has given a library to his native town of Wellington, O., in memory of his parents, Timothy H. and Mary H. Herrick.

Dr. John L. Dogget of Roanoke, Va., was seized with nightmare some nights ago. His wife caught him and tried to control him. He threw up both hands, struck the bedstead and broke both arms.

Mr. Cleveland has written friends in St. Paul, Minn., accepting conditionally an invitation to visit Minnesota on a hunting expedition in October.—The former president states that he will go if he can so arrange his affairs.

All England is wondering if George Wyndham will accept a baronetcy, as it seems certain that such an honor will be offered him. Mr. Wyndham descends from two lines of earls, and a title would not therefore be a novelty in his family.

Djelal Bey, who has been appointed Turkish minister of marine to succeed the late Hassan Pasha, is described as "a member of the palace 'gang,' completely ignorant of naval matters and held in no consideration either in official or diplomatic circles in Constantinople."

Great White Bear, the great-grandson of Tall Tree, whilom chief of the Crow Indians, will blow a bugle for Uncle Sam in the navy. Tired of the tame life which he endured for five years in the Carlisle Indian school, he has enlisted on the receiving ship Minneapolis as a musician.

Good Road Notes

As a result of state aid New Jersey has now 797 miles of improved roads built at a cost of \$3,500,000; Connecticut has 515 miles, built or under way, at a cost of \$1,910,000; Massachusetts has 483 miles at a cost of \$4,500,000, and New York has 833 miles, built or building, at a cost of \$2,330,000.

A Texas paper claims that in practically every place in that state where engineers have been employed to take charge of the road work better and more effective work has been done, all haphazard features have been removed and some unnecessary expenses lopped off.

Barrington, R. I., has constructed nearly all its main roads with a broken brick foundation and a top dressing of gravel, with excellent results. It is reported. The brick was acquired at a moderate cost from the refuse heaps that had been accumulating for many years at the brickyards.

While state aid is a good thing, it is not always best to wait for it indefinitely. So thought the citizens of Skamania county, Wash., and they now have a considerable stretch of good road as a result of adopting a co-operative system.—Good Roads Magazine.

JOURNALISM.

Accuracy should be the watchword of the school of journalism which is to be established at Columbia university.—Western Electrician.

Speaking of schools of journalism, Horace Greeley said the real student lived on ink and slept on a pile of newspapers.—Philadelphia Ledger.

A school of journalism cannot produce a good newspaper man any more than a school of law can produce a good lawyer.—Philadelphia North American.

If Mr. Pulitzer's school of journalism does nothing more than to teach the New York reporters not to "fake," the \$2,000,000 will be well invested.—Boston Globe.

There was a time when the superstition flourished that only practical printers could become accomplished editors. There is now a belief that only a newspaper office can train newspaper men. Mr. Pulitzer may be able to show that this theory is no less erroneous than its predecessor.—Detroit Free Press.

Now Troubled? Begun.

Two young mothers met for the first time on the street after their young hopefuls had begun to get their teeth, and straightway there was a volume of baby talk.

"Did your little one cut his teeth far apart?" asked the woman in white.
"I should say not," indignantly answered the woman in blue. "They came in very evenly and close together. You can look for yourself if you don't believe me."

It took a great deal more talk to square matters, and then they separated, after saying goodby only once apiece.—Detroit Free Press.

AMERICAN LEAGUE NOTES.

Billy Lush is playing wonderful ball for Detroit.

The extent of Ralph Orthwein's holdings in the St. Louis club is \$5,000.

First Baseman Carey of the Washingtons has joined the Nashville team.

Manager McAleer claims that the St. Louis club will break even on the season.

Outfielder O'Neill of Duffy's Milwaukee club has been secured by the Boston club.

Catcher McFarland has been suspended by Chicago for the remainder of the season.

Long Tom Hughes is one of the few great pitchers who recovered the use of a broken arm.

St. Louis is negotiating with the Milwaukee Western league club for Third Baseman Cockman.

Robinson is now playing right field for Washington. He has done a lot of shifting round this season.

Catcher Kittredge has made his first error in thirty games with Washington. He accepted 148 chances.

JEWELRY JOTTINGS.

The sunburst comes to the fore as one of the timely brooch patterns.

Shallow crescents of pearls or diamonds are pretty things on dainty gowns.

Men's large all gold seal rings assume some very handsome antique and green gold effects.

Small open face watches with plain gold case and graceful numerals in color are much in evidence.

Oblong plaques of carved gold, set with a gem at upper and lower diagonal corners, form appropriate sleeve links for men.—Jewelers' Circular-Weekly.

The Napoleonic Arch.

The grand triumphal arch begun by Napoleon is 147 by 75 feet at its base and rises to a height of 162 feet. The central archway is 95 feet high and 48 feet wide. The inner walls are inscribed with the names of 284 generals and 96 victories.

What's In a Name?

In New South Wales is a farmer named Stealing. He has just named his infant daughter Worth in the hope that her name will not harmfully affect her future.

TALES OF CITIES.

There are 5,000 barber shops in Greater New York, nearly two-thirds of which are 5 and 10 cent shops.

Chicago's "Two Million club" has changed its name to the "Three Million club" on the claim that, according to calculations based on the directory, the first figures are already exceeded. According to this reckoning, Chicago has a population of at least 2,616,000.

The city of St. Paul will reach its semicentennial next year, and several dates have been suggested for commemorative exercises. It appears that on March 4, 1854, the bill incorporating the city was signed by Governor Gorman; on April 11 the city government was put in operation and on April 18 the first mayor, David Olmsted, was inaugurated.

CHURCH AND CLERGY.

In the ten city churches administered by the Glasgow corporation 4,334 sittings out of 9,860 are unlet.

In the Dakota presbytery, composed entirely of Indians, there are twenty-seven churches and 1,458 communicants, ministered to by fifteen preachers.

The lord bishop of Thetford, who is considered to be the best missionary preacher in England, declares that the church "must enter into competition with a thousand and one things which engross the attention of the world."

St. Andrew's is the oldest Presbyterian church in South Africa, and it has for nearly seventy-five years been the garrison church for Presbyterian soldiers in Cape Town. It is proposed to erect a building to seat about 1,200 people.

The Cause of the Disturbance.—The Farmer (in the side show, looking around in alarm)—Gosh! Where's all the rattlesnakes?

The Lecturer—Don't be alarmed, my friend. It's only our living skeleton, who is suffering from the ague, you hear.—Judge.

Sands of Arabia.

In the sandy deserts of Arabia whirling winds sometimes excavate pits 200 feet in depth, extending down to the harder stratum on which the great bed of sand rests.

Mexican Vanilla.

Vanilla in Mexico is grown commercially only in the state of Vera Cruz and is chiefly exported to France.

Spinach.

Prominent specialists claim that spinach is the most precious of vegetables on account of its medicinal and strengthening properties. The emollient and laxative virtues of spinach, owing probably to the salts of potash it contains, have been long known.

Premature Grayness.

Premature grayness seems to run in families, and it is thought to be the result of dark haired men marrying the dark haired women for several generations.