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PLAN IU GREATE THE GIVIC IDEAL

Schame to Survey Washington, the Capital City.

MODEL FOR LESSER CITIES.

John Purroy Mitchel Outlines What Is Needed to Make Washington a Standard of Efficiency to Which Smaller Municipalities May Turn In Solving City Problems.

Writing in Town Development, John Purroy Mitchel tells of a plan that he and Henry Bruere, director of the bureau of municipal research, submitted to President Wilson during last spring, "A Plan For the Establishing of a Model Government in the District of Columbia." At the suggestion of the president, the commissioners of the District of Columbia are making a careful study of the subject and will submit their findings to him.

The part played by New York's new mayor in this great civic proposition acquires particular interest now that be is about to deal with vast and complex problems of government in the greatest of American cities. Mitchel says:

It cannot happen in a day nor a month nor a year, but one national administration should allow time enough to make of Washington a standard of efficiency among cities, a giant laboratory for municipal research, a finished product of the distilled municipal wisdom gathered here. there and the other place by tesser cities working independently to find solutions to civie problems.

There are certain fundamental proc eases which all cities must adopt, irrespective of their several forms of



JOHN PURROY MITCHEL.

ized and codified in Washington.

these, each after its kind, that we

We have evolved, it seems to me, a survey of the city looking to a precise knowledge of just what it needs, and. second, for the president's influence to be put upon the three commissioners of the District of Columbia to have put into practice there all the valuable things discovered in all the American cities

By this means we hope to produce a scheme of government for Washington which will not only meet its own needs, but will by its adoption elsewhere work a similar benefit.

The importance of the preliminary survey must not be overlooked. We do not want to go down to Washington and construct an "ideal city" out of some man's head. We want to find by the most scrupulous and exhaustive search what it is that Washington stands most in need of, and we propose to supply her lacks by means of the information we have collected in other cities.

That is to say, we do not wish to do it ourselves. Mr. Bruere and myself have no ambition to get the job or even the supervision of it. We hope merely that President Wilson will find us reasonable enough and promising enough to set out along the lines we have suggested and that when the need arises for expert service in the execution of the plan he will be able to get the best brains of the country to

Will the project we have outlined affect the physical aspect of cities? That is rather a difficult question at the present stage of our work, but I

should say that it will. We are deeply interested in the laying out of cities. Much more depends on it than beauty, valuable as that is, Yes, I think that if our plan matures there will be no need for ugliness in our cities, at least not that ugliness which comes from ignorance.

BETTER HOUSING.

The idea of better bousing for the poor must be made practical, and then it can be made very easy to conform to the law. But it must be made practical at all times and not chimerical. The idea of the use of public money for building better homes for the poor is not wise or practical. I desire to impress upon you that this can be done by men who are willing to reap a good, sound interest, but who at the same time will allow the tenant to reap a substantial reward in regard to good byglene.

The laws regulating the building of houses are becoming better and are in harmony with human nature, but the chief difficulty as you will now find it is with the people themselves. One of the greatest steps toward progress that can be made is the education both of the landlord and the tenant to work not in harmony with themselves, but with the law .- William Howard Taft in Address Before National Housing Association

******************* CITY PLANNING IN SCHOOLS.

Philadelphia Children Interested In

New Course of Civic Instruction. An interesting departure has been made in his course on civics by Charles K. Taylor, executive director of the committee on moral and social education of the Home and School league and the Civic club of Philadelphia. The new idea is to teach city planning by making the students plan a city. In an interview Mr. Taylor thus de-"Without warning or notice paper is

distributed to the children, who are prepared with rulers and pencils. They are then told to think of the composttion of a city, its streets, public buildings and the like. They are then told to plan an ideal city to the best of their ability. Of course they make a dreadful mess of it, knowing nothing about such matters, but the experiment proved to them that they really did lack knowledge. Then they are given a series of talks, some filustrated on the blackboard, in which they are given ideas as to what an ideal city might be like. They are told the value of radiating avenues, open squares. playgrounds, workingmen's suburbs, and so on. Experts from outside the school have been asked to talk to the children on the subject. Dr. Alexander M. Wilson of the bureau of health and Mr. Andrew Wright Crawford of the municipal art jury have been of great help in giving the children of the schools where the experiment has been made clear and valuable ideas concerning city planning and the 'city

"When the children have their heads full of practical ideas concerning the planning of an ideal city they engage in a competition to see who can plan the best city, and these plans, made by children of thirteen and fourteen years of age, are sometimes remarkable. With schoolboys of this age gaining such ideas, in a generation we could have a strong popular support of im proxing the city

children become immensely interested in the 'city' idea, so that now be the psychological time for studying the political structure of the town and city, department by department, if possible having representatives from the government, and it is the best of different departments going to the schools and describing the work of would like to see discovered, standard- their department and the relation of their department to the city government as a whole. This has already very practicable and sensible plan. In been started, and different gentlemen the report which we have sent to in the city hall have already spoken President Wilson we ask, first, for a concerning their work, and others have promised to do so when the time

BUTTONS FOR STREET WORK.

Philadelphia Inspector Devises Scheme to Win Children's Co-operation.

Mrs. Edith W. Pierce, street inspec tor of the department of public works in Philadelphia, has devised a new way of winning the co-operation of school children in the movement for clean streets. She has designed a button containing the legend, "For clean streets. Philadelphia," which will be awarded as a badge of bonor to children who do something to improve the condition of the streets.

The button is round and white, with a blue square bearing the legend, emblematic of the streets surrounding a city square. The idea of using city colors is carried out in a yellow center

for the button. Mrs. Pierce is working for "preventive street cleaning." The buttons will be supplied to the schools, the leagues of good citizenship, social workers and settlement houses to distribute to children who have earned them and will show that the wearers are volunteer inspectors and real welfare workers.

Paris Historic Exhibition.

Each year Paris holds an exhibition in the historic Library of the City of Paris. The subject this year was the promenades and gardens of Paris from 1618 to 1830. It was a thorough study of the famous gardens of Paris, such as the Tulleries and the Luxembourg. and clearly demonstrated the practical and aesthetic value of such breathing spots in a city. A handbook was prepared in connection with the exhibit which forms a compact and valuable reference work.

LUCAL OPTION VALID

BY SUPREME COURT

Lawyers Say Decision Gives Council Right to Vote Drouth By Refusing Licenses

A blow was dealt to the liquor init so by passing an amendment or no sense is exclusive.

ordinance to provide against the sale of intoxicating beverages.

That the opinion in the charter amendment case practically gives LIQUOR FORCES ARE JOLTED the Prohibitionists far more opportunity to suppress the sale of liquor through licensed saloons is the opinion advanced by lawyers.

They say a majority of the city council of Portland could make that city dry by refusing to issue licenses to the saloonmen, and that the councils of all other cities and towns could do likewise.

By the home rule amendment to the constitution, says the opinion, a terests of the state last week when municipality has the exclusive power the Supreme Court held that local to license, control and prohibit the option elections last November in Sa- sale of intoxicating liquors, except lem charter amendment case that a it shall be subject to the provisions field, Gresham and Hilsboro, all of of the local option law. * * When which voted dry, were valid. The the Council refuses to prohibit, the Court even went further in th Sa- people may so provide by ordinance lem charter amndment cas that a or in their charter, not as a local City Council, by refusing to issue a option proceeding, but as an initiasaloon license, can make a city dry, tive measure. The local option law or the residents of a city can make imposes no restraint thereon, and in

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