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"Harmony in
Diversity"

PORTLAND CITY CLUB BULLETIN

"Fore"

VOLUME I

PORTLAND, OREGON, NOVEMBER 5, 1920

NUMBER 6

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CHICAGO PLAN COMMISSION

CHICAGO has furnished a most conspicuous example of City Planning in which the City Club of Chicago has had a prominent part.

The report of ten years' operations of the Chicago Plan Commission is a record of achievements of which the following review gives but a brief outline.

Preparation of the Plan:

A comprehensive plan was prepared at the expense of the Chicago Commercial Club and presented to the city. Thereupon the City Council appointed a City Planning Commission to study it and recommend what parts of it should be carried out.

The wisdom of the Commission is now apparent in adopting two improvements—Roosevelt Road and Michigan Avenue—and standing tenaciously for their construction. These have served effectively as object lessons.

Construction:

Since that time (1909) twelve basic features have been carried out or are provided for by bond issues and are either under construction or advanced in necessary procedure. Among them are street widenings and extensions, South Shore Lake Front plans including completion of Grant Park, several parkway schemes, railroad

terminal rehabilitation, and the acquisition of over 14,000 acres of forest preserve.

Cost of Project:

Toward the public cost of these improvements the people have voted \$61,000,000, the railroads have agreed to spend \$162,000,000.00 and other agencies have expended over \$13,000,000 or a total of \$236,000,000.00.

Most of the improvements under way will be completed within the next five years.

Financial Benefits:

City Planning is a profitable investment, both to property owners and to the City. This is clearly shown in the increase in property values and City revenue from the Michigan Avenue and Roosevelt Road improvements.

Due to these improvements, over \$100,000,000.00 of building is under construction or planned in the zone affected. The Court Commissioner states that land and buildings in one project (Roosevelt Road frontage from Canal Street to Ashland Avenue) were valued at \$8,000,000.00 prior to the improvement and although incomplete, this frontage has increased \$2,500,000.00. Michigan Avenue improvement values have increased \$35,000,000.

Due to these two improvements alone, the

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 3]

**FRIDAY,
NOVEMBER 5**

SPEAKER

Dr. Yutaka Minakuchi

SUBJECT

**"The Anglo-Japanese
Alliance, or Is There
a Japanese Menace"**

An eloquent Japanese
author, statesman
and lecturer just back
from Japan, speaking
on a live issue

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C. W. PLATT

ONE MONTH OF THE CITY CLUB IN ACTION

ONE MONTH of the season is gone. Now let us look back at the activities of the Club during the past month.

First.—The first Club meeting of the season was held on October first and five Friday noon meetings have been held. The programs for these meetings have been arranged by the legislative Bureau whose sub-committees, for several weeks previous, had been studying legislative measures and drafting reports thereon. The reports read at the Club meetings gave evidence of thorough study and careful preparation and they have been appreciated by the Club members who rely upon City Club reports for authoritative information on those questions on which we have to express an opinion at the

polls. As was expected and desired, some of the reports drew forth lively discussion at the Club meetings. Now that our first vice-president and chairman of the public affairs committee has returned we are sure of a continuation of good programs.

Second.—Number one of the "Portland City Club Bulletin" was issued under date of October 1, 1920. We are glad to be able to say that the Bulletin has brought forth many favorable comments from Club members and we hope it is going to be the means of keeping our members in close touch with what is going on in the Club. In this, we hope to have the active interest and assistance of all members—not only committee chairman and bureau chiefs but all members.

Third.—The average attendance at the five October meetings was 112 and the attendance has shown a steady increase during the month.

Fourth.—Forty applications for membership have been received during the month and in this work the members have co-operated enthusiastically with the membership committee in selecting new members and in promoting the healthy growth of the Club.

Fifth.—The Board of Governors holds weekly meetings to make plans for the activities of the Club, every Monday, at which time they are glad to receive suggestions from Club members.

Sixth.—We have reason to feel that the City Club is making progress. We are depending upon the support of every member, so that, building carefully and solidly we may build the foundation of a good City Club.

THE TREASURER

THE treasurer has just sent a personal communication to every member of the City Club.

THE CITY CLUB has been brought to such a position in growth and civic responsibility that its demands are absorbing more time than its members are asking be gratuitously pledged to their service. The commendation which came from all sides concerning the Club's service in the election was most encouraging. We must provide a method to become even

more efficient and continuously so. Hence a Ways and Means committee is necessary. Will some future date point to the present action as the one when the larger membership and housing problem questions began their most active solution.

APPRECIATION

CITY CLUB members will be delighted to hear from our old friend Charles C. Rich, one of the founders of the City Club of Portland, now living in Philadelphia.

We quote from his letter of appreciation of the first number of the Portland City Club Bulletin;

"I am surely glad to know that the City Club has grown to have some place in the civic affairs of Portland. I shall always take a very great pride in having had something to do with the organization of this Club. I am enclosing my check herewith for \$0.80 which amount appears to be the price of a subscription to the City Club Bulletin, and I wish that you would have my name placed on the mailing list so that I may keep posted as to the affairs of Portland."

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE NAMED

Following a meeting of the board of governors of the City Club, November 1, President Rankin named the following Ways and Means committee whose duties shall be to review financial conditions of the Club, its financial needs, to services being rendered, the way in which it is being provided for, the way it should be provided for, the question of providing City Club office room, stenographic services and services in detail work, and such other incidental matters coming to their attention by reason of their investigation;

Personnel:

C. W. Platt, Chairman, R. G. E. Cornish, G. Norman Pease, Ralph Doty, E. Holford.

Time and Place:

Report to be made in writing at 12:15 P. M., Imperial Hotel Grill, November 15, 1920, to the Board of Governors.

Organization:

A permanent Committee on Ways and Means whenever questions involving such are raised.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CHICAGO PLAN COMMISSION

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE]

City will annually receive a revenue of \$3,375,-000.00 if assessed on the value of the full increase."

These are cited to show that the City Planning Commission is a money earning institution rather than a spending one, and that it brings financial returns, aside from the benefits of greater convenience in travel and transportation, better light and air and housing conditions, better health and greater enjoyment of life.

Work for the Future:

Improvements now being studied by the Commission are: Widening streets, straightening the Chicago River, co-ordinating national, state, county and municipal offices at one central

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following applications for membership will be submitted to the vote of the Club at the regular meeting on Friday, November 19.

DR. HAROLD LEONARD BOWMAN,
Minister, First Presbyterian Church.

HARRY HALE,
President, West Coast Engraving Co.

J. G. HAWKINS,
Engineering Accountant, Pacific Power & Light Co.

B. L. HENRY,
Salesman, R. M. Gray & Co.

JOHN A. LAING,
Vice-President, Portland Gas & Coke Co.

DONALD LAMONT,
Secretary, Portland Cordage Co.

FREDERICK H. MILES,
Builder, 420 Failing Bldg.

DR. LUTHER T. NELSON,
Physician, 607 E. 59th Street N.

FRANK M. WARREN,
President, Warren Packing Co.

point, housing, boulevards, new bridges, new parks, etc.

Publicity of the Plan:

Two years after the Plan was prepared 165,000 copies of an explanatory publication were distributed.

A manual on the Plan was issued and used in public schools. Lectures to organizations, plans stories to periodicals, magazines and trade publications are more or less continuously issued. Department stores issue data on their catalogues; banks feature the plan in their advertisements, corporations use it on calendars, theatres paint it on curtains, magazines publish special Chicago issues, illustrated, and pastors preach from their pulpits upon it. An historical record of the work of the Commission is used as a text in Harvard University.

Permanency:

The Plan Commission is a permanent part of the City Government. The City has contributed about \$100,000.00 to it during the past ten years, but during this time the Commercial Club contributed over \$300,000.00 and without it the work would not have been successfully carried on. "The public spirit of the Commercial Club will live in history as long as Chicago stands, and its civic pride will ever shine in undimmed splendor as an unsurpassed example of unselfish devotion to the public weal."

The plan's progress has gone through several governmental administrations; it has had the support of the press, civic clubs, business, women's social and religious organizations.

"City administrations will change, men of power will come and go, faults will be found and remedied; and delays and setbacks will overtake the plan; but through all these the great Plan of Chicago will continue to wend its way to ultimate completion. And neither war, nor pestilence, nor panic, nor time will serve to efface that which has already been started or prevent the complete realization of that which is proposed." *Review of the report of the Chicago Plan Commission by E. T. Mische, chairman of the City Planning Bureau of the City Club.*

AMERICANIZATION

SOME of the foreign-born, who have been in this country for long years and who have gone through the Americanization mill, have some good advice for City Clubs and other present day Americanizers on the best methods to adopt. "By all means teach the foreign-born the language of the country, but do not insist he discontinue his own; for the love of it is stronger than death. It is easier to change a man's ideas of life and government by using his native tongue. What induces the foreign-born to become American? The American type of man and womanhood impresses him, the freedom of movement and thought, sympathy for the oppressed, the respect for the common country's great men.

It is suggested that: (a) a good history of the United States be published in the respective languages of the foreign-born, that it be sold at a nominal price and that it stress the contributions made to the greatness of the United States by the immigrants of the different races, (b) that the lives of Lincoln and Washington and Franklin, etc. be printed in foreign languages and (c) also the constitution of the United States, its history and influence upon the course of events in the world. The latter should be distributed in pamphlet form, the moment the immigrant arrives, so that he may understand the difference between democratic and autocratic forms of government and of the judiciary and educational system of our own country and the opportunities for education open to him."—*Czechoslovensky Legionar, Pittsburg, Pa.*

MEMBERSHIP

A month ago, you were asked by the Membership Committee to send in the names of two men that you would recommend for membership in the City Club. If you have replied, thank you! If not, why not? You have friends and acquaintances who ought to be in the City Club. Send in their names!

The Club is receiving the favorable attention of the thinking citizens of Portland. The strength and growth of the Club depend upon team work and the show of City Club spirit.