

A MODEL SYSTEM OF PARKS.

The Many Beautiful Breathing Places of St. Louis.

COST OF THEIR MAINTENANCE. How They Were Secured by the City and How They Are Managed—Municipal Gifts of Private Individuals.

The City of Parks. St. Louis, May 23.—[Special to THE BEE.]—St. Louis has often been called the "Park City" on account of the thorough knowledge her citizens have of the inestimable advantages of fresh air and the practical way in which they have followed up that knowledge by a utilization of the almost unequalled natural advantages for park purposes.

Including the "Zoo" and Shaw's garden, both of which are properly classed as gardens of the city lungs, no less than twenty-four parks and squares contribute to the good health and natural beauty of the municipality. An aggregate of 2,110 acres inside the city limits is dedicated to this purpose and there is no talk of ever reducing the area, though the new million-dollar city hall may be built in the center of Washington square, a downtown park of four acres.

COST OF MAINTENANCE. No city has been more fortunate in the matter of parks than St. Louis, and no city has greater credit to its municipal institutions. Where it has been necessary to issue bonds, as in the case of Forest, Fallon and Carondelet, they have been made to run twenty years and bear 6 per cent interest. The park bonds of St. Louis, payable in 1905, are considered gilt-edged securities and never go under 123. The bonds are in a lien on the park grounds to secure payment.

The chief expense, therefore, in connection with the parks is the cost of their care and maintenance. The park commissioner, who is ex officio a member of the board of public improvements is selected by the mayor and holds his office for four years, his salary being \$2,000 per annum.

Every park down to the smallest has a keeper, who is appointed by the commissioner subject to the approval of the council. The smallest salary paid a keeper is \$450 per annum, the largest (Forest Park) \$1,800. All the larger parks employ practical gardeners.

The cost of maintaining those parks in 1888 was as follows: Benton \$2,061.08, Carondelet \$1,110.28, Carr Square \$853.03, Forest Park (minimum all parks) \$30,000, Gamble Place \$655.73, Gravois Place \$654.44, Hyde Park \$2,092.12, Jackson Place \$654.44, Lafayette Park \$711.24, Lafayette Park \$6,017.83, Lyon Park \$1,374.82, O'Fallon Park \$2,429.07, St. Louis \$1,741.77, St. Louis Square \$1,490.53, South St. Louis Square \$494.57, Tower Grove \$25,000, Washington Square \$1,307.43.

The total is considerably less than \$100,000, as will be seen, and the city is not only able to pay the cost of the parks, but to maintain them in the best manner.

Mr. E. G. Egging, the general superintendent of parks in St. Louis is a botanist of extensive reputation and an enthusiastic lover of the art. He has a private garden in the family of Jefferson Davis, ex-president of the confederacy.

THE VALUE OF ST. LOUIS PARKS. The value of St. Louis parks are, as appraised, 1882, as follows: Forest Park, 1,371 acres, purchase price, \$10,000; cost to August, 1877, \$15,854,426.76; since 1877 \$30,000 per year has been appropriated for it. It is more of a rural retreat than a place for botanical display.

TOWER GROVE PARK. This park, including land and improvements, is valued at \$243,174. Carondelet, 180 acres, \$11,000. Gravois, 8 acres, \$165,000. Hyde, 12 acres, \$70,000. Benton, 14 acres, \$75,000. Lyon, 10 acres, \$265,000. Washington, 6 acres, \$20,000. Gravois, 8 acres, \$20,000. Carr Square, 25 acres, \$150,000. St. Louis park, 15 acres, \$150,000. Lafayette, 30 acres, \$1,103,050. Jackson park, 2 acres, no appraisal.

Exchange square, 13 acres, \$6,150. Gamble place, 1 acre, \$22,000. It is proper to add to this that the value of reduced throughout the city has advanced materially since 1882.

BOULEVARDS. St. Louis was slower to awake to the importance of boulevards and drives than was in realizing the advantages of parks, but once public sentiment became aroused it took but a few years to bring to a state of perfection some of the handsomest improvements of this character in America.

The "west end" is the ultra-fashionable part of St. Louis, and is bounded by the sunset line of the city for a sweep two miles in length. Leading to this park from Grand avenue, a beautiful street running north and south, is the boulevard of the bank (St. Louis) on a bond in the Mississippi, are the two drives hinted at above. Forest park and Lincoln park are 150 feet wide, the latter 194 feet, and they are paved with asphalt. The average cost of these streets was approximately six dollars a foot front, including sidewalks, the most being raised by special and general taxation.

Under the charter property cannot be taxed, especially more than twenty per cent of its value. As all the property of these boulevards is worth many times six dollars a foot the property owners bear the greater part of the burden of the cost of the work, and in some cases, according to location, etc. Circling the extreme western boundary of the city, extending from the river Des Peres on the north, to the river Des Peres on the south, a stretch of more than ten miles is what will, one day be the equal of any Parisian driveway. It is a very popular resort for wheelmen. Including the sidewalks, the improvements cost \$7 per foot front, approximately, and residential property being valuable, nearly all the money was raised by special taxation.

Grand avenue thirty-six blocks west from the river front, a natural boulevard, is a residence street of great popularity. It is rapidly being paved from terminus to terminus with asphalt. The cost of the pavement is \$100 per front foot, raised almost entirely by special taxation.

Twelfth street, unless it is swallowed up by commerce, which is rapidly retreating from the river front, will be a down town boulevard in the near future. It is a magnificent street in bronze and gold, with Grand and Locust streets, which was unveiled about a year ago. General Sherman assisting at the ceremonies.

Approach the march of the business interests from the love west, a scheme is now in embryo that, if carried out, will work a fearful change in the appearance of St. Louis as approached from the east. It is to build a driveway and boulevard along the river front about seven miles from the city.

The Forest Park Improvement company has been granted permission to build a boulevard along the north line of the park from King's highway to the river. The work has not yet been completed. This cost the city nothing.

THE FAIR GROUNDS AND ZOO. In St. Louis all distances are reckoned from the court house, which for park purposes is arbitrarily considered the center of the town, though its magnificent dome points skyward but four blocks from the river front, the building itself occupying the square between Broadway and Fourth streets and Market and Chestnut.

October, 1887, when Mr. Cleveland occupied the seat of the Fair association and are of course maintained at no cost to the city, up to two years ago they were exempt from taxation, but a granger assembly decreed that they should bear their share of the burdens of the state.

SHAW'S GARDEN. Shaw's garden is one of the most famous spots in America. It is a very private property, but the public is allowed free access to it every day in the year except Sunday. It is owned by Mr. Henry Shaw, the bachelor philanthropist, many times a millionaire, who has spent thirty years and thousands of dollars bringing it to its present degree of beauty and perfection. The garden has an area of fifty-four acres, and is situated on Tower Grove between Shaw and Marconi streets. It contains the rarest flowers that the earth produces. The flora of the world is represented within its walls, all so charmingly arranged that the visitor walks as if in a garden, and with a few steps spans a whole zone, and breathes all the climates of the flower growing world. In the garden, the bananas are in full bloom, and the stately palm trees around rubber trees, century plants and other rare curiosities. It is regarded by botanists as without a peer as the finest garden in the world. Mr. Shaw, who is now in vigorous health at the age of ninety, will eventually make the garden his property. It is now maintained entirely at his own expense.

FOREST PARK. Forest park is the apple of the St. Louis eye. It lies four and a half miles due west of the court house, and embraces 1,371 acres of forest, through which a dancing stream of being and perfection. The park is a protection of great oaks. Four street and one steam car line reach it, and it is the central point of the city. It is the "central point" of the west. Two of the handsomest boulevards in the world, "Forest Park" and "Lincoln," also connect it with the city, and every afternoon, in season, they are blocked with carriages, alive with equestrians, and dotted with wheelmen. The park was established in 1873, long before the city was a city, and before the city was a city.

FRONTIER TELEGRAPHY. How the News From Oklahoma Was Sent to the Press of the Country. On April 22 the largest and most complete, to say nothing of being the most intricate, lot of circuits ever put up in the state of Kansas was completed at the Wichita Western Union office on the occasion of the filing of 50,000 words of Oklahoma press news, says the Electric Age. A special press representative train was run from Guthrie, Oklahoma, to Wichita, and the commission twenty-seven newspaper men with their correspondence for the eastern papers. The train made no stops between Guthrie and Wichita, and when it reached Wichita it was discovered that the train had been broken up and adopted all manner of means to get their respective "copy" to the telegraph office first, that it might have the preference in being sent out. Some of the wires of them had race horses, ridden by expert jockeys, in waiting at the depot, and before the train had fairly stopped the daring reporters sprang from it, and rushing up to the riders, handed them an envelope containing their manuscript, and the word, "Go," was given, when the horses dashed off on a dead run for the telegraph office. Others had secured fast cabs, and yet others, not to be outdone, had secured light buxys, and fixed alarm zongs on the front, that could be operated from the seat by their feet, in order to warn the street passengers at crossings to look out for their mad flight, and as quickly as possible they jumped into them and started. The scene on the route to the office was indescribable. First came a large white horse ridden by the correspondent of the New York World, closely followed by the correspondent of the correspondent of the Herald; then came the buggies with their gongs clanging as they swayed from side to side in their mad career. They were followed by the slower cabs on the dead run, the police in their effort to stop the headlong flight. So cunningly was it planned that a casual observer standing at the depot five minutes before the arrival of the train would have noticed nothing unusual, and the scene on the route to the office was indescribable. First came a large white horse ridden by the correspondent of the New York World, closely followed by the correspondent of the correspondent of the Herald; then came the buggies with their gongs clanging as they swayed from side to side in their mad career. They were followed by the slower cabs on the dead run, the police in their effort to stop the headlong flight. So cunningly was it planned that a casual observer standing at the depot five minutes before the arrival of the train would have noticed nothing unusual, and the scene on the route to the office was indescribable.

TOWER GROVE PARK. The citizen who has five cents and a leisure half day can ride from the court house to Tower Grove park on a not very swift horse line of the put-year-nick-in-the-slot variety, and enjoy the view of the city from a point of vantage which is almost unparalleled. The horse is a noble animal, and the driver is a noble man. The ride is a most enjoyable one, and the view is a most beautiful one. The park is a most beautiful one, and the ride is a most enjoyable one.

LAFAYETTE PARK. Lafayette park is one of the oldest breathing spots in St. Louis, and was formerly St. Louis cemetery. It was dedicated to the present purpose in 1851 and has since been under the hand of the gardener until it is one of the most beautiful parks in the city. It contains 20 acres almost in the heart of the city, situated within fifteen minutes' ride by horse car from the court house, bounded by Market, Lafayette, Missouri and Park avenues, aristocratic residence streets, whose stately mansions, if fortunately situated opposite, rejoice in a thirty-acre front yard maintained at public expense, whose estimated value is \$100,000 per acre. Bronze statues of Thomas H. Benton, thirty years a United States senator from Missouri, George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette attract the admiration of the tourist of keeper employed at a salary of \$1,300 per annum, looks after Lafayette park under the general supervision of the park commissioner. The entire cost of the beautifying of this park for the year 1888 was \$21,000, and it is probably visited by 10,000 people daily on an average. Lafayette park is also controlled by a board of private commissioners, which is a perpetual corporation. All the other parks (except Shaw's garden, which is private property maintained for public benefit) are controlled by the municipal assembly.

O'FALLON PARK. O'Fallon park, three and one quarter miles north of the court house, and a short distance north of the fair grounds, covers just one-quarter of a section of land (160 acres) and was formerly the country seat of Colonel John O'Fallon. It is dotted throughout by "clumps" of trees, making beautiful groves. It was purchased by the city in 1875 and in 1882 a commission fixed its value at \$243,174.

BENTON PARK. One of the prettiest and most popular resorts in St. Louis is Benton park. The field, the city cemetery being removed and its site made Benton park in 1860, after the great cholera epidemic. It cost the city very little to build the place what it now is. It is a beautiful forest, field and flowers, situated between Jefferson avenue and Arsenal street, and Wisconsin avenue and Wyoming street. It cost the city \$2,661.08 to maintain this handsome resort for South St. Louisians in 1888.

CARONDALET PARK. St. Louis has been fortunate in securing parks without cost. Besides the Shaw gifts, the gift of Lyon park by the government, and other parks which will be mentioned below, 180 acres now known as Carondelet park was purchased by the state legislature for the city in 1874. It is a most eligible situation in South St. Louis, and has received little attention. With rapid transit to the south end, which will be realized this year, Carondelet park will come more prominently into notice.

HYDE PARK. The city purchased Hyde park in 1854 for \$26,000. It lies between Salisbury street and Breunig avenue and extends to Fourteenth street. It contains 130 acres. It is a favorite resort with sportsmen, being beautifully laid out and admirably improved.

LYON PARK. By an act of congress approved March 3, 1869, Lyon park, that portion of the United States arsenal grounds lying between Carondelet avenue and Fourth street, was donated to the city on condition that the city finish the statue of General Lyon, then under way. It is a very attractive spot, and the Lyon monument at Fourth street, was sculptor's art that is fast gaining for St. Louis fame as the "Monumental City."

A MIDNIGHT TRIP SKYWARD.

Sensations of a Climber of a Conell Bluffs Light Tower.

MAGNIFICENT VIEW OF THE CITY.

Dwarfed Distances and Stunted Heights—How It Would Be in a Storm—Trials of the Watchman—The Six Towers.

At a Precipitous Height.

The municipal council of the city of Council Bluffs, although not given to following the admonitions of the scriptures touching all the proceedings of its executive sessions, has a shining testimonial to the effect that, on one occasion, the members of that august body were so fully impressed with the wisdom of the scriptural statement that "a light on a hill cannot be hid," that they resolved to withdraw their electric street lights from under the figurative bushel that had previously covered them, and place them on a candlestick 150 feet high.

The result was the tower light system that has for the past year shed a noon-day illumination over the city during the hours of midnight darkness.

There are probably, very few of the thousands who have stood around the base of these towers and gazed at the four lights shining like brilliant beacons 154 feet above them, who have ever stood at the other end of the tower and gazed upon the vastly more interesting spectacle stretched out beneath them. In fact, there are hundreds who have been heard to assert, as they watched the young man whose duty it is to daily carbon the lights shoot upward through space in his miniature elevator, that this tower as far as the fact of its being together to induce him, to make the trip.

And yet a trip like this doubly repays the adventurous climber, who has sufficient strength of limb and steadiness of nerve to carry him to the top. A few nights since the reporter, inspired by curiosity and a desire to win immortal fame, accepted an invitation from the night watchman of the towers to accompany him on a trip to inspect the court house lights. The lights on this tower are the farthest from the earth of any in the city, being 177 feet from terra firma. They are, however, the highest above sea level, as the Oakland avenue tower stands on a bluff nearly seventy-five feet above the foundation of the court house.

As the guide started at the beginning of the trip, this was the hardest and most tedious to ascend of any of the towers, as an elevator furnished transportation to the top of all the others, with very little motive assistance on the part of the climber, while to reach the summit and stand on a level with the court house lights, it is necessary to climb over two hundred steps inside the building, then up an outside ladder for the remaining distance.

Notwithstanding the discouraging prospect, the scenic decided to tackle the court house tower, as he infinitely preferred to die in the attempt, than to see his descent should be through the classical atmosphere of a temple of justice, burdened with familiarity with the disciples of Blackstone and Coke, than through the dull and friendly contents of outer space upon which the influence of man's association had seemingly never been exerted.

As it was nearing the hour of midnight, the great building appeared dark and gloomy, and the guide produced a key that proved to be the "open sesame" to the court house doors, and the tourist started upon his trip of exploration.

The familiar portion of the structure was traversed and left behind. After what seemed to be an interminable climb of countless stairways and ladders, the reporter was ushered into a little octagonal apartment from which he looked out upon the city. The hole in the wall through which entrance had been effected.

Eight little round windows looked out on every side, and a close examination revealed a little hook on each side of the hole in the wall, which could be used to second to lift out the window frame and all, and the guide disappeared through the aperture. A small platform, two feet square and an iron ladder extending upward was all that could be seen. "Come on," called the guide from some unseen point above and the tourist started again. A glance downward revealed the earth apparently 1,000 feet below, and the reporter's heart was so far away as to be unrecognizable.

A rather queer sensation passed through the frame of the beholder, and his hat rose involuntarily in respectful salute to the volunteer informant, that he had "gessed he didn't care to go any further."

"Put your back to the ladder, look straight up, and come up backwards and you will be all right," were the next directions, with the reporter followed, and was soon standing on the little platform inside the iron railing, with his shoulders on a level with the four great 2,000 candle power lights that swung noiselessly on all sides of him.

Away on all sides stretched an interesting picture, in the subdued and pleasing light of 56,000 candle power spread all over the city by means of this tower and its kindred towers. The reporter followed, and was soon standing on the little platform inside the iron railing, with his shoulders on a level with the four great 2,000 candle power lights that swung noiselessly on all sides of him.

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We wish to announce to the people of Omaha and vicinity that from this date on we propose to make a FULL SET OF TEETH on rubber for \$5, guaranteed to be as well made as plates sent out from any dental office in this city, and for which you would have to pay THREE TIMES AS MUCH.

This offer is not made by us simply to get you into our office and charge you more for a set of teeth than we advertise! Do not allow others to prejudice you before making us a call and examining specimens of our skill.

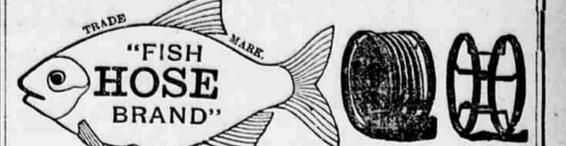
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The Illinois Central and Winona & Southwestern contemplate trackage in the immediate vicinity very shortly. Nicholas is now paved to 10th street, which gives a continuous line of level pavement to any part of the city. Many warehouses are now in course of erection in this locality.

DOCTOR C. M. Jordan

Head of the University of the City of New York and Howard University, Washington, D. C. Room 310 and 311. Range Building, corner Fifteenth and 14th streets, Omaha, Neb. where all curable cases are treated with success.

BRONCHITIS, ASTHMA, DYSPNOEA, DEAFNESS, HAEMIPLEGY, ALL NERVOUS AND SKIN DISEASES. CONSULTATION at office or by mail. 10 to 5 p. m. Office hours—9 to 11 a. m., 2 to 4 p. m., 7 to 9 p. m. For those unable to make a journey to Omaha, many diseases are treated successfully by Dr. Jordan through the mails, and it is thus possible for those unable to make a journey to obtain SUCCESSFUL HOSPITAL TREATMENT AT THEIR HOMES.

Send for book on Diseases of Nose, Throat, Lungs and Ear. REFERENCES: M. M. Hamilton, Phoenix Ins. Co. 1838 Orchard, Carpet Dealer. John Kelly, Grocer. John Bush, City Treasurer.

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