





# Community Building

## Proper City Planning Recognized as Vital

There might have been a time when cities of this country had an excuse for growing up in a sprawling, haphazard manner, with little or no regard to what the future needs of the communities might be.

The situation is different today. The cities, a great majority of them at least, have been established. Their growth or lack of growth is largely a matter of record. It is possible to gauge with some accuracy the nature and extent of future development. It is possible also to plan for that development. A recognition of this fact is perhaps the one big achievement of American cities generally in the last decade or so. Planning and zoning have been adopted in hundreds of cities and have made some progress in most of these.

The condition is the subject of a report by a national advisory committee on city planning and zoning that was appointed by Secretary Hoover of the Department of Commerce. The report, prepared by a group of widely known authorities, states that cities now have found that regulation of growth pays. It is coming to be accepted as a business proposition. The protection of home areas, the designation of certain districts for industries, the opening or widening of streets in accordance with traffic needs, the establishing of parks and playgrounds within easy reach of the people and other similar planning all have become a serious concern to the alert and enterprising city of today.

## Uniform Signs Make for Highway Safety

An important step to promote highway safety was recently taken by the United States bureau of public roads in co-operation with the state highway departments, in adopting uniform standards for warning signs to be used throughout the country.

The motorist will no longer be confused by a multiplicity of signs of various designs and degrees of legibility. Hazards will be indicated by signs which will be uniform in all states and which will plainly indicate the kind and degree of danger.

The new signs make use of a system of different shapes, thereby increasing their value at night. The shape indicates the degree of hazard and if the motorist cannot read the legend, the shape will tell him the degree of caution required. Twenty states are now actually engaged in erecting these standard warning signs, and other states have signified their intention of doing the same.—Scientific American.

## Protecting Highways

Highway engineers generally agree that an expenditure of, say, \$1,500 for grass seed to protect the embankments of highways against washing will oftentimes save the expenditure of \$15,000 for the repair of such embankments after they have been damaged by washing. Of course the grass also beautifies the highways, and this is not an unimportant matter, but the main purpose in grassing highways is the preservation of the banks, and not the beautifying of the highways, although the latter is not to be despised. By all means Tennessee's highways should be preserved against the effect of surface water, and the roadbed itself cannot be permanently preserved unless the embankments are protected against crumbling. The few dollars spent for grass seed is wholly inconsequential compared with the great number of dollars saved in the repair of crumbling embankments. It would be a penny-wise and pound-foolish policy to discontinue the grassing of our roadsides simply to save a few dollars in grass seed.—Nashville (Tenn.) Banner.

## City's Money Well Spent

Now that we know the worst about our cities, perhaps there will be a greater effort made to abolish the ugly and substitute the slightly. Although beauty is not something to be weighed by the pound, and although its beneficial results cannot be computed by the yardstick, somehow or other those cities that have achieved beauty in any degree feel that it has been money and effort well spent, although nobody should get the idea that money alone can purchase beauty for a city. There must be the eye of the artist and his sympathetic desire to achieve beauty. Let this rivalry by all means not be slackened.—Exchange.

## Making for City's Growth

Location with respect to railroads or rivers and accessibility to areas of varied raw materials have had much to do with the permanence and growth of cities in the past. These factors still will count; but another vital consideration will be the attention a city is ready to give to matters affecting the comfort, convenience and general welfare of its inhabitants.

## Costly Neglect

A paint expert declares that farmers in this country lose about \$800,000,000 a year from depreciation on farm buildings, resulting from failure to protect them by adequate paint.

## Milton's Great Work "Cluttered Up Shop"

Little Britain, near Smithfield, London, owes its name to the fact that the duke of Bretagne, the province of France we now call Brittany, had there a magnificent palace. In Stuart times it was famous for its second-hand bookshops, and it was while browsing amongst them that the earl of Dorset lighted upon several copies of an unknown work entitled "Paradise Lost," which the bookseller implored him to help dispose of, "as there was no sale for them, and they cluttered up his shop."

The earl bought a copy and was so struck with some of the passages that he sent it to Dryden, who returned it with the memorable opinion: "This man Milton cuts us all out, and the ancients, too."

## Lucky Child

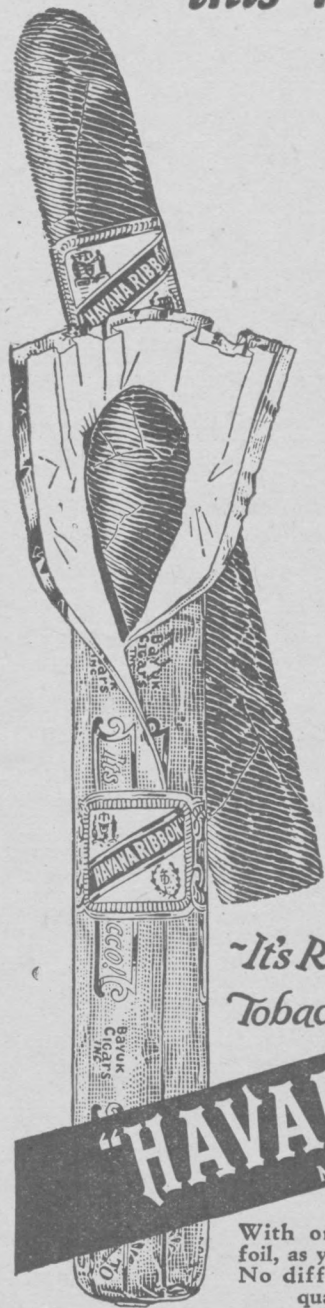
Some people are born lucky, even in small things. The child had asked for money for gum.

"No," said mother. "For candy, then?" "No," said mother, "I shall not give you any money today to spend on such things." And she went on brushing the grownup daughter's spring coat which was hanging on the line. She quickly turned a pocket inside out to get rid of the accumulated dust—and then dumped a package of gum and a fudge bar.

"O-o-o-o!" said the child in delight—and with one pounce she scooped up gum and candy. "And you can keep your old money!"

"It seems absolutely impossible to discipline some children," murmured mother, "for the gods are always on their side."—Springfield Union.

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