Shall WASHINGTON Become A Manufacturing Center or Remain A City of Residences?

An Interesting Collection of Conflicting Opinions Given to The Sunday Times by a Number of Prominent Citizens of the Capital

DO THE people of Washington want to see the National Capital become a field for the establishment of manufacturing plants along the banks of the Potomac and Anacostia rivers? Shall this city, whose history has as yet chronicled no whir of machinery's wheels in its neighborhood, hear the chug-chug of the powerful engines and the ceaseless clatter of hammers and saws?

This is the question which comes home to every Washingtonian. The first step toward putting manufacturing plants in the District of Columbia has already been taken by the Firth-Sterling Steel Company, of Demmler, Pa., which will this year move to Giesboro Point its plant for the manufacture of high class projectiles. The problem for solution by all who want to help toward the right future for Washington is whether or not manufacturing plants should be encouraged to establish themselves in the District of Columbia.

The prominent business men of Washington are unanimous in declaring the manufactures should be encouraged in every possible way to come here, provided they are restricted to the suburbs of the city and are governed by the smoke law now in effect in the District. The verdict of these men who are intimately acquainted with the needs of Washington say the wealth and increased population which will be brought here by such establishments will build up the city and make her more beautiful.

Here follows a list of some of the best-known men in Washington, with their views on the subject:

W. V. COX, Ex-President of the Board of Trade:

"I approve of the policy of encouraging manufactures to come to Washington if the plants are confined to the banks of the Potomac and Anacostia rivers, but I do not approve of it if the plants are to be allowed to infringe on the residential or official sections of the city. The coming of these plants will be good for Washington and its people. They will afford employment to the people and will increase the wealth of the National Capital. The graduates of our high schools and normal schools will also be afforded more opportunity to get employment suited to them."

W. RILEY DEEBLE, Real Estate and Insurance:

"I see no impropriety in encouraging manufacturing plants to come to the District so long as they are required to locate in such sections as the banks of the Anacostia river, and are also required to use smoke-consuming devices. Of course, we don't want them here if they are going to fill the city with smoke, but I can hardly imagine that they would dare to offend in this line in the face of our smoke law."

H. ROZIER DULANY, Real Estate and Insurance:

"I am in favor of encouraging manufactures in the District. All the outlying land, which is not available for other purposes, will thus be utilized. The proposition, I think, is too plain to be discussed."

W. B. HIBBS, Banker and Broker:

"I am in favor of encouraging plants to come to this city if they are kept on the outskirts. There is no reason why the outlying portions of Washington should not be used for this purpose."

WILLIAM L. POLLARD, Attorney-at-Law:

"I think it would be a benefit to Washington to have manufacturing concerns locate in the city of Washington. They should be encouraged to come here. More wealth is needed to build up the city, and the coming of these concerns will put more wealth here. The building up of the city as it should be built up will then, I think, follow as a matter of course."

LE ROY MARK, Real Estate, Loans and Insurance:

"It would be a good thing to have many manufacturing plants brought to this city if they were kept to the proper sections of the suburbs. The establishment of the plants would call for the building of more homes, the sale of more land, and the distribution of more money than is now the case here. From the real estate man's view, there is only one side to the question."

JOHN M. HENDERSON, Real Estate:

"I am heartily in favor of manufacturing plants locating here. The idea of preserving Washington purely as a residential city is antiquated. An industrial population should be, and would be, heartily welcome. The advantages from it are manifest in the way of more money and more business in Washington. It is a thing we all want."

MYRON M. PARKER, Investments:

"I think it is a good thing to have these plants come here so long as they are kept in the proper sections. It will do Washington good and will stir it up to have here the money that always comes with such enterprises."

PHELAN C. HAWN, Real Estate and Insurance:

"Manufacturing interests ought to be encouraged to come here. They could not possibly hurt the city so long as they are kept in the suburbs and are made to comply with all the rules and regulations of the District laws. I am heartily in favor of their coming here. They would help the business interests of the city to an enormous extent."

COMMISSIONER HENRY B. F. MACFARLAND:

"As I told Mr. Rose, the representative of the Firth-Sterling Company, when he came to ask in advance what the attitude of the District government would be toward his company's undertaking here, I favor the coming of all such enterprises, provided they do not interfere with our chief asset, the beauty and general attractiveness of the National Capital.

"I would be glad to see new factories in the District which would give employment to our men and put money in circulation, provided they do not spoil the National Capital as a place of residence. A strict compliance with the law against the emission of dense black or gray smoke is, for example, a necessary requirement. With the understanding that the factories will obey our laws, I am in favor of facilitating their coming in every practicable way.

"Of course, they ought not to be on Pennsylvania avenue or in the resident sections of the city of Washington. I hope the day will soon come when all the factories between Pennsylvania avenue and the Mall will be removed and that long triangle will be a park containing nothing but beautiful public buildings. This was George Washington's idea. Governor Shepherd tried to have it carried out and many of us have been hoping for years to see it done."

JOHN E. McLERAN, Real Estate, Loans and Insurance.

"From the business man's point of view it is a great advantage to us here to have as many manufacturing plants locate here as possible. The first step in this line marks an era, I think, toward a much greater business activity in Washington.

"From the artistic viewpoint, however, the outlook may be different and it may seem a disadvantage to have them locate here, but there can be no disadvantage in it so long as the plants are kept out of the resident portions of the city. On the whole, the coming of these plants to Washington would be an immense advantage to Washington. Their wealth would go a long way toward building up the Capital."

WILLIAM L. F. KING, Real Estate, Loans and Insurance:

"I believe it a good thing to have manufactures come here. They couldn't interfere with the charm of Washington as a residential city so long as they were properly supervised and properly located."

RICHARD R. HORNER, Attorney-at-Law.

"I think it will be a great help to the city to have manufacturing concerns established here. The best way to build up Washington is to encourage labor and capital to come here. I am heartily in favor of encouraging many plants to come here and do business."

MURRAY ADDISON, Real Estate:

"The erection and operation of manufacturing plants here will be a great thing for the city, especially for the eastern part of Washington and the far eastern part of the District."

M. V. RICHARDS, Loan and Industrial Agent of the Southern Railway Company:

"I see no objection to the location of factories in that section of Washington, as it is removed from the center of the residential section."

T. A. WICKERSHAM, Personal Representative of Thomas F. Walsh:

"While it is essential that we should foster such plants, I think it would be well to urge their location in Alexandria and other manufacturing centers in the immediate vicinity of Washington. So long as there is no danger of the city proper becoming polluted by veritable Pittsburg smoke, I am heartily in favor of factories coming to the District and contiguous territory."

COMMISSIONER HENRY L. WEST:

"I am in favor of the commercial advancement of Washington. I believe that there is a great future for Washington in this direction, one point in her favor being the excellent water front. While I would not like to see such plants established in the heart of the city, I can see no objection to manufactories being erected in such sections as Giesboro Point.

"The National Government has established a great ordnance factory in the very shadow of the Capitol. This plant some day will rival the great Krupp gun factories of Germany. If the Government can do this, I do not see that there could be any objections to Washington's taking steps to secure similar enterprises."

W. S. DUVAL, Lawyer and Patent Specialist:

"A city with as large a population as Washington has, must necessarily depend upon manufactories and industrial plants if business conditions are to remain good at all times. While I am in favor of maintaining Washington's character as a residential city only, I think that manufactories should be encouraged to locate in the vicinity, say between Washington and Alexandria. I do not think that Washington should depend solely upon the money put in circulation by Government clerks. Moreover, factories give an opportunity for the city's expansion in every direction."

GEO. T. DUNLOP, President of the Capital Traction Company:

"I am in favor of the establishment of such plants, and believe that we should have many more. I do not see that their coming could affect the city's position as a residential center."

F. B. McGUIRE, Director of the Corcoran Gallery of Art:

"I think it is all right to have such plants located at Giesboro Point and in similar sections, but I am certainly not in favor of encouraging manufactories to locate where the smoke will become a nuisance. That is bad enough now."

REV. ROLAND COTTON SMITH, Rector of St. John's Church:

"I think it would be important if the city should pursue a policy encouraging the establishment of such enterprises here. There are numerous other cities where manufactories could locate, but I think that Washington should stand for something else."

DR. WALLACE RADCLIFFE, Pastor of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church:

"I think the coming of such enterprises is a good thing. I do not see how the establishment of an industrial plant could affect the city's position as a residential center. As a matter of fact, all great capitals are manufacturing centers, and while no city wishes to have industrial plants in its residential or business sections, I do not see what objection could be raised to manufacturing sites in the suburbs. It seems to me that Great Falls offers an unusual opportunity for factory sites. I am surprised that this vantage point has not been fully appreciated in the past."

GLENN BROWN, Artist:

"My feeling in regard to the matter is that we should endeavor to make Washington the educational, residential and art center of the country, and not a manufacturing center. I am very doubtful of the advisability of encouraging such industrial plants to locate here."

WM. H. RAPLEY, Proprietor of the New National Theater:

"Viewing the question in the light of personal gain, I should say, encourage manufactories to locate here, but, as a matter of civic pride, I believe that we should discourage industrial plants from coming to this city. There are hundreds of cities throughout the country devoted to manufacturing interests, and I believe that there should be at least one community wholly free from the spirit of commercialism that seems to dominate the nation. Washington is already recognized as an ideal residence city, and it should be our desire to prevent anything from detracting from its advantages in this respect."

JAMES F. OYSTER, President Business Men's League:

"I am in favor of manufacturing concerns coming into the District so long as they are kept on the outskirts of the city. I do not favor their being established within the city limits. So long as these conditions are observed, I see no obejction to their coming here, and, in fact, I think they would be a great advantage. It would be well to have them so far from the city that all possibility of annoyance from the smoke nuisance would be absolutely precluded."

JOSEPH E. LUCKETT, Manager of the Columbia Theater:

"Under the present conditions, the city of Washington has about reached its limit of growth and expansion. We may get a few more Government clerks here, or a few more millionaires may form the habit of living here for a few months, but that's about all. What is there here for a young man now? He hasn't much chance to make a good mark in life if he stays in Washington.

"All this would be different if manufactories were allowed to come here, and I think they should be encouraged to come. Philadelphia has not been hurt by her factories, because they use hard coal there. Factories starting here might not be able to afford this at first, but if they came in sufficient numbers, they could make the price of hard coal better for them. Under such circumstances, eliminating the use of soft coal, I don't see how the factories could harm Washington as a residential center."

CUNO H. RUDOLPH, of Rudolph & West Company:

"There is no doubt that we want the main city preserved as a residential center, but we also must have something to bring wealth here and give employment to our unskilled laborers. Of course, the manufactures ought to be confined to the proper sections of the suburbs so that they cannot be a nuisance to the residents of Washington, and I think this will follow as a matter of course, because manufacturing plants would not expend the money necessary to buy the high-priced land reserved for residence purposes.

"The establishment of manufacturing concerns here would increase our railroad facilities. At present these are very poor here."

W. H. ACKER, Attorney-at-Law and Real Estate Agent:

"I am in favor of manufactures coming here, but I think they ought to be confined to Giesboro Point and the Conduit Road. They would, of course, be compelled to comply with the District smoke law. Their coming can not help but benefit the District in almost every way imaginable."

P. B. CHASE, Proprietor of Chase's Theater:

"Not merely from the standpoint of art, but for commercial reasons as well, I think it will be most unfortunate should Washington in the future adopt a policy favorable to the establishment of inoustrial enterprises here. The Capital City today occupies a unique position among American municipalities. It is the only city that has never encouraged the spirit of commercialism that has characterized the American people as a whole. For this reason Washington offers peculiar inducements to the capitalist and the man of means who wishes to retire from an active business career and enjoy the pleasures of home life far removed from the hurly burly of business cares. If Washington maintains her position as an ideal residential city, as well as an art and educational center, there will be much to attract the visitor and cause him to remain a guest of the city for weeks, whereas manufacturing communities will have no attractions for them. This is not a theoretical view, but has been clearly demonstrated in the cases of London and Paris. In the former city the visitor sees all that is of interest in a day or two, whereas Paris offers in its residences, its boulevards and its art galleries attractions that hold the visitor for weeks and even months.

"From an artistic standpoint there can be no question of the advisability of discouraging such enterprises. From a far-sighted commercial standpoint, I believe it would be equally well to preserve Washington as a residential center pure and simple."

COL. ROBERT N. HARPER, President American National Bank:

"I am greatly in favor of Washington becoming a manufacturing city. She has many natural advantages which should guarantee her a position of prime importance in the manufacturing world. The climate is salubrious, and plants would never be forced to shut down on account of the severity of the weather. The water facilities at this point would bring manufactories into communication with the entire world, as seafaring crafts can load at our docks for any port in the globe. The railway connections are unlimited, thus bringing the city in touch with all parts of the country. Washington is also within easy reach of rich coal fields, and great stretches of forest, an advantage which none of the great Eastern manufacturing centers possesses. It is essential for the welfare of our citizens that these industrial plants be encouraged, in order that the boys and young women, the children of department clerks, should have some avenues of employment. As conditions exist today these young men and young women are forced to leave their homes and seek employment in other localities, or else in some instances become a charge upon the community. There has been some uneasiness expressed on the part of many that the coming of manufacturing enterprises would have a very undesirable effect upon Washington's residential sections. I do not believe that any fears should be entertained on this score, as the property values in these sections would prove prohibitive to manufacturing concerns which measure their needs by acres and not square feet. There are desirable locations just across the Potomac where I believe the manufacturing industries of the future will locate. There are also great possibilities of developing the power now going to waste at Great Falls. It is not improbable that many of the industrial plants of the future will secure their power by electricity from this source. I am firmly convinced that to encourage the location of industrial plants in this section, is not only a sound commercial policy, but from a standpoint of humanity, citizenship and charity it is the best thing to do.'"

COL. ROBERT I. FLEMING:

"While I am in favor of manufactories and industrial plants of every character, I do not think that Washington city is the place for them. The laws of the District are now such as to discourage the location of such enterprises here, and it seems to me that the proper sites for these factories are in Alexandria, where there is plenty of room and where there are no smoke laws. Georgetown formerly encouraged such enterprises, but legislation on the smoke nuisance has made this section an unfavorable locality. Foundries and manufactories of nearly every character emit a great deal of smoke, and I cannot see why such industries should be urged to come to Washington."

JOHN JOY EDSON, President Washington Loan and Trust Company:

"I am fully convinced that Washington should by all means encourage the location of such enterprises as the steel plant in suitable sections of the city. My main reason for this wish is that as Washington exists today there are few avenues of employment open to our young men. In a city of more than 300,000 inhabitants this is certainly an abnormal condition, and the advent of industrial plants would insure many desirable openings for the boys of Washington who at present have only limited opportunities for employment. Of course, the proper restrictions should be placed upon such plants so that the smoke would not affect the residential sections of the city."

HON. JOHN BROOKS HENDERSON, Ex-United States Senator From Missouri:

"It appears to me that it would be quite advantageous to all interests in Washington if manufactories should be encouraged to come here, under the proper restrictions. A point which has occurred to me since this question first became mooted, is that it might be possible to get Virginia to cede back to the General Government that part of her domain which originally belonged to the District. It would be feasible to reserve this territory for manufacturing enterprises only. This would enable the District to develop commercial interests without in any way detracting from the residential advantages of Washington. Manufactories across the Potomac could not in any way affect Washington except advantageously, provided there were restrictions upon the use of soft coal. Should it prove impracticable to secure a retrocession of this territory to the District by Virginia, then the manufacturing plants should by all means be confined to the outlying sections of the District."

CHARLES J. BELL, President American Security and Trust Company:

"I do not believe in encouraging manufacturing enterprises to come to this city and locate in Washington proper. I do not see what objections could be raised to the establishment of such plants along the Potomac river, however. So long as they do not violate the smoke laws and do not encroach upon the residential sections they will not detract from the city's advantages as a purely residential center. I do not think that the coming of manufacturing enterprises to this city should trouble us, however, as I believe that the possibilities for development in this direction are very limited. Washington's growth will always be along other lines, rather than as a home for industrial plants."

BELMONT'S MONTE CARLO.

August Belmont and his New York, Brooklyn and Boston associates in horse racing have taken from New Hampshire three square miles of territory and on it will maintain the first American Monte Carlo that has ever received legal sanction in the United States.

The tract of land acquired is in Salem, that State, a point on the border line between Massachusetts and New Hampshire, only eight miles from Lawrence and Haverhill and a sort of country center for several lines of railroads. Hence, it is easily accessible to the people of Boston, and there is the real purpose of the promoters—to make it Boston's race track.

By a vote of the State Legislature, Mr. Belmont and his partners will be supreme in this reservation for ten years, and because they know they are beyond the reach of many of the laws of the Granite State they have begun to spend $1,500,000 in the finest racing ground in the world, not excepting even the now famous Belmont Park on Long Island.

Eight miles of fencing will shut out the police of the State, making void within it all the laws against racing, pool selling and other gambling, and inclose the most magnificent casino, clubhouse and racing stables in the land. It all comes because these men quietly secured a charter permitting horse racing and giving them the power of policing their own grounds, to the exclusion of the State and town police and the county constabulary.

It is said that not even could the State militia enter the grounds to quell a riot, and not even the very precise liquor laws apply within this inclosure.—Kansas City Star