MORE BUSINESS HOUSES ON CONNECTICUT AVENUE

Gen. Buchanan Plans Extensive Improvemnts—Work on 14th Street.

Further extension of business interests along Connecticut avenue south of Dupont circle is contemplated in building plans which have just been accepted by Gen. James A. Buchanan for property which he recently purchased at 1226 and 1228 Connecticut avenue. On the former lot he will have built a two-story store and office building, while the design which is being worked out by A. B. Mullett & Co., architects, for the improvement of the property at 1228 Connecticut avenue contemplates the erection of a three-story brick office and apartment building. Preliminary estimates place the probable cost of the latter improvement at $25,000. The sale of the property to Gen. Buchanan was consummated through the office of Thomas J. Fisher & Co.

Besides his interests on Connecticut avenue, Gen. Buchanan has invested quite largely in property along 14th street. Some time ago he bought the lots at the northwest corner of 14th and I streets northwest, and the old residences which occupied the site have been razed to make way for the construction of a large modern business building. On 14th street just above K street Gen. Buchanan also recently erected a new business building on the site of another former residence.

IMPROVEMENTS IN PROGRESS.

Homes Built by Purchasers of Lots in Potomac Heights.

The Potomac Heights Land Company reports through its agents, A. C. Houghton & Co., the sale of two lots fronting on Potomac avenue, a boulevard overlooking the Palisades of the Potomac, to Dr. Chennay. Dr. Chennay will improve the lots with a five-thousand-dollar home, which he will occupy.

William E. Hamilton, who recently purchased two lots fronting on Conduit road in the same subdivision, has just finished the construction of a home.

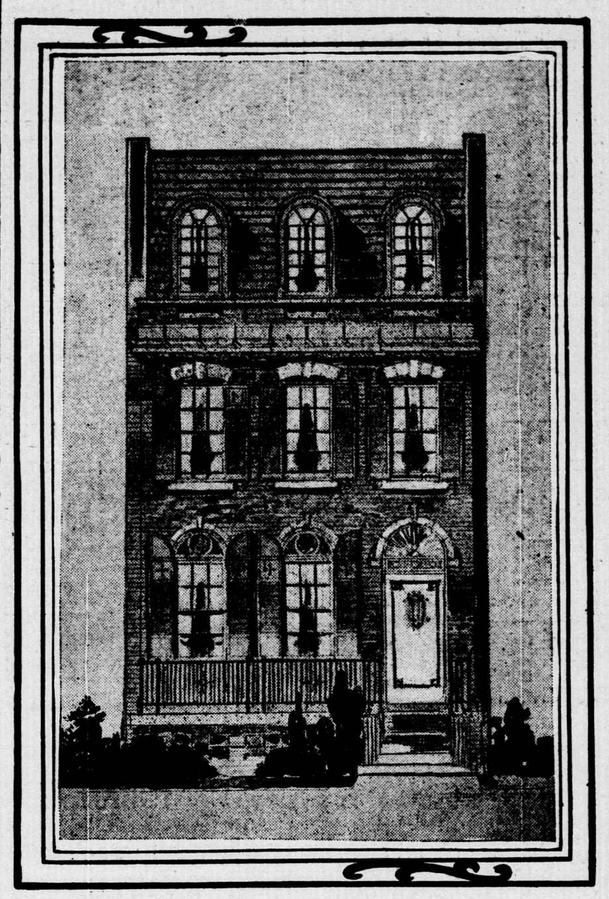
RESIDENCE TO BE BUILT.

R. H. Liggett Will Have New Home on Wyoming Avenue.

Building plans have been completed and construction work will be started on a handsome new residence for Richard H. Liggett on the lot which Mr. Liggett recently purchased through Thomas J. Fisher & Co., real estate brokers, at the corner of 23d street and Wyoming avenue northwest. Macneil & Macneil, architects, prepared the design for the house. It will be built after the Tudor style of architecture and will cost approximately $25,000.

The house will be three stories in height and built of brick and stone. It will contain fifteen rooms and four baths.

WILL SOON BE BUILT.



NEW RESIDENCE PLANNED AT 1918 S STREET BY BRADFORD & BRADFORD.

PLANS TO CONSTRUCT RESIDENCE ON S STREET

Granville C. Bradford Will Improve Recently Purchased Property.

Plans have been completed by Granville C. Bradford for the construction of a residence on a lot which he recently purchased at 1918 S street northwest. The property has a frontage of twenty feet on S street and a depth of ninety feet along a side alley.

Architect Oliver H. Clarke prepared the plans for the building, which will be three stories in height and contain twelve rooms and four baths, and laundry and servants' quarters in the basement. The house will be built of brick and stone. Bradford & Bradford Company, Inc., will have direct supervision of the building operations, and one of the members of the firm stated yesterday that an option already has been given to a client in the west, who has agreed to pay $18,000 for the property.

HOUSES AND FARM LAND FIGURE IN TRANSACTIONS

Several Sales Consummated by the Realty Firm of A. C. Houghton & Co.

The firm of A. C. Houghton & Co. report the following sales recently consumated:

For Meitzler & Riley to Manuel I. Walter, the residence No. 603 Taylor street northwest. It contains six rooms and bath. Sale price, $4,500.

For John Henderson jr., to Harry L. Strang, jr., the three-story brick residence at 2020 1st street northwest. It contains nine rooms and bath. It was recently built by Alexander Millar. The price was about $5,900.

For Robert W. Burroughs to Archibald J. Rose, the two-story semi-detached house at 4224 8th street northwest. It contains eight rooms. Mr. Rose will occupy the house as his residence. The price was about $5,750.

For Misses Pollock & Mintz to M. L. Eichelberger, twenty acres of land in the vicinity of High bridge on the Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis electric road, at a price of $3,000.

A Surplus Crop.

From Judge.

Hewes—How is it that Wildboy's sons all walk in the straight and narrow?

Crewes—Oh, they feel that their father sowed wild oats enough for the whole family.

MANY SALES REPORTED OF RESIDENCE PROPERTY

Shannon & Luchs, Brokers, Give Summary of Week's Transactions.

Many sales of residence property were closed this week by Shannon & Luchs, real estate brokers, the properties transferred being in several different sections of the city. Five of the sales involved homes in the new High View subdivision, which is in process of development by Harry Wardman and Thomas Bones, the purchasers being as follows:

110 V street northeast, sold to John M. Hammerly at a price of $3,975.

175 Uhland terrace northeast, sold to Mary E. Ricker for $3,300.

2014 Summit place northeast, sold to W. E. Olinger for $3,400.

128 Rhode Island avenue northeast, sold to Francis B. Becket for $5,500.

180 Uhland terrace northeast, sold to George L. Myers at a price of $3,500.

Each of these houses is two stories in height, of brick construction, and contains six rooms and bath.

In the Wardman operation on the Sherman avenue tract, the brokers sold to Florence E. O'Connor the two-story-brick, six-room-and-bath residence at 2901 Sherman avenue. The consideration in this transaction was $3,050.

The house at 3205 13th street northwest was sold for L. E. Breuninger to Clara Marx, at a price of $7,000. This residence is part of an operation involving the construction of nineteen houses, on which Mr. Breuninger is now engaged.

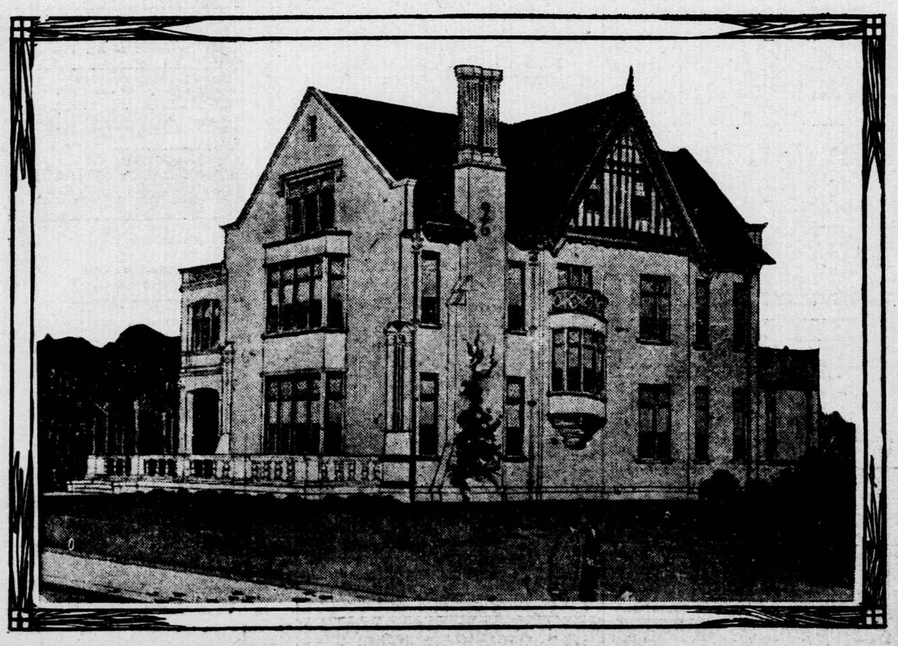
For Middaugh & Shannon, builders, the same brokers sold the house at 921 K street northeast, to Olin A. Walter. The consideration was $3,375.

MAY RENT SIDEWALK SPACE.

Mayor of Schenectady Finds New Source for Municipal Revenue.

What may prove to be a new source of revenue to Schenectady, N. Y., was discovered by Mayor George R. Lunn while passing along a downtown street. Digging for the foundations of a new building was in progress, and the excavations had been carried under the sidewalk to about the curb line, with the evident intention of using the space thus obtained for a cellar vault, probably to hold coal. The owner of the property was standing near, and he fell into conversation with the mayor. Before the two parted the mayor had evolved the question whether or not the city should be paid for the use of the ground under the sidewalk as a cellar. Later Mayor Lunn said he would have the matter looked up to ascertain if all such cellars, present and future, could not be made to pay a rental to the city as the real owner of the ground in which they are made. He said the question with him was yet in an entirely speculative stage, but if it were decided in favor of the city he would seek legislation authorizing the collection of such rentals.

RESIDENCE FOR R. H. LIGGETT.



Architects complete plans for new house to be built at 23d street and Wyoming avenue on site recently purchased through the office of Thomas J. Fisher & Co., Inc.

PARKS OF CAPITAL CITY ARE NOW AT THEIR BEST

Squares, Circles, Triangles and Larger Reservations Filled With Flowering Shrubs.

The season has come when the parks of Washington are in their best estate. These sodded public spaces, with flowering shrubs, trees and plants, are fresh and beautiful in their wealth of green and color. Abundant spring rains and favorable weather has put vegetation in excellent condition, and the parks never looked more beautiful than now, as midsummer approaches. The rigors of the past winter were hard upon some trees and shrubs in the public parks, and some of them were killed, but the work of the gardeners has now removed the dead trees and shrubs and filled in the places left vacant with something new, so that the loss is not observable, at least on casual inspection.

Each year the parks of Washington, big and little, become more attractive under the intelligent care given them by the officer in charge of public buildings and grounds, through the liberal appropriations afforded by Congress. At all seasons of the year, but specially in spring and early summer, these government reservations, as they technically are known, are much admired by visitors who see them for the first time and compare the wealth of park spaces here with the dearth of them in other cities. The parks are also a source of much satisfaction to Washingtonians, though they are a part of the daily sights to which their eyes grow dim from constant viewing.

Washington Leads American Cities.

Washington has more parking space, better arranged for public observation, and lending itself better to the purposes of the landscape gardener than any city of North America. A greater acreage of parks is not claimed for the National Capital, but in this city there is a wider diffusion of open spaces in the peculiar arrangement of streets and avenues. The parking spaces are scattered over the entire city, in big and small parcels of ground which have been converted into beauty spots, sodded, adorned with shrubbery and flowers, and many of them the sites of statues and flowing fountains. The effect in the aggregate as one passes from point to point through the city is a continuous picture of marvelous variety and delight to the eye. The effect of these reservations, with the wide parking provided in front of residences, which private enterprise has made quite as beautiful as the public spaces, gives to Washington a grandeur not equaled in any American city.

The variety and dimensions of the city's parking spaces are impressive. In the central group of parks, including the Capitol grounds, the Mall, Monument lot and the white lot, there are 336.00 acres, of which 356.21 acres are unoccupied by buildings and open to public view. Potomac Park has 730.4 acres, a large part of which is now under improvement and accessible to automobiles, carriages and pedestrians. Zoological Park has 170 acres, which, with the deep valley of the creek and the wooded heights, is one of the most picturesque public grounds to be found anywhere. Rock Creek Park has 1,605 acres improved with an extensive system of driveways and additions to the natural scenery. These parks together contain 2,881.9 acres, in itself a large allotment of ground to public uses for a city the size of the capital.

Beauty of Semi-Public Grounds.

Added to these parks is a group of semi-public grounds about the public institutions which increase the beauty of the city. They are the grounds about the Soldiers' Home of 502 acres, the park about the Government Hospital for the Insane, of 363.33 acres and numerous other parks of a similar nature, aggregating 2,495.48 acres. But the public spaces which come most directly under the eye of the visitor to the city are the smaller squares, triangles, circles and trapezoids, which lie at the intersections of the streets and avenues throughout the city. The squares and circles, which number twenty-six, ranging in size from one acre to twenty-six acres, contain 121.70 acres, with an average size of 4.68 acres. Besides these more pretentious reservations are 275 smaller ones, ranging in size from 400 square feet to 25,000 square feet, and nearly all of them in a high state of improvement.

The government allows between $150,000 and $200,000 annually for the care of public buildings and grounds, of which $16,000 annually is spent upon the parks alone.

Nature's Economizing

By Dr. Frank Crane.

Nature is an old rogue. She almost pulled the wool over my eyes, but I found her out.

She pretends to be extravagant. In reality she is economical. You would think from the billion of eggs that never hatch (as of fishes and insects) and of blossoms that never become fruit, and of babies that never grow up, and from all the wasted seed, useless rain, overplus of light, and lavishness of beauty and of force, that she was as spendthrift as a drunken sailor, and prodigal as a fool with his money.

There is where you would be mistaken. For she is like a woman who throws money out of the windows by day and sneaks around to pick it every penny up by night.

She seems a rollicking, devil-may-care jade; she is thrifty as a housewife.

She would have you imagine her a mighty waster, with her huge offal heaps and river sewage; secretly she is as saving as a French cook and uses over every bit and scrap.

And she has to be. Her supply is limited.

More, it is nicely balanced. She is only allowed so much matter to start with. And that has to do her forever. She has to use everything over and over.

Here is a great second-hand shop. Nothing is new.

The wood is burning in my fireplace; it is being changed to ash and gas; these go into the air and the ground; in time they are taken up by trees through the pores of root and leaf; they thus become wood again for my great-grandchildren's fires.

And it is far from being so simple as all that. For at a thousand points along the circle of transformation the gas and ash may enter into other combinations and become the man in front of the fire instead of the wood in the fire, or the food on the table, or the dog begging beside the table, or the flowers in the vase, or any of a myriad of other things.

And in all this gigantic mix, juggle and twist, nature keeps track of every atom, weighs every molecule, sees that every cent of expense is recorded on the cash register, and requires every force to punch the time clock.

There are only seven vigintillion and three atoms (if you don't believe it, count 'em!) and they have to be everything. It's a stock company performance. Each actor must take many parts.

Here's a little speck of dust on my thumbnail. What it has been would astonish you. It was on the lip of Bloody Mary when she lost her head; before that it was a part of the eye of Dante's Beatrice; it has been carrot, parrot, arrow and barrow, slave and master, eater and food, gland and secretion, eye and picture, ear and harp, ring and finger, and is still young and vigorous, just as full of radio-activity, electricity, and all sorts of strange cohesive, adhesive, life-giving and life-destroying powers as it was in the days when ichthyosauri were the fashion and such a thing as a man, homo or homunculus had not been heard of.

And nature keeps track of it all, saves every bit of string. There is no core, no rind, no peeling, no remains.

By the way, did you ever reflect how significant it was that Jesus, after He had fed the five thousand on the miraculous increase of the loaves and fishes, told His disciples to "gather up the fragments that nothing be lost"?

NEW YORKERS WORKING HARD ON STATE ROADS

Taxpayers of Empire State Are Spending Millions for Improved Highways.

From the Minneapolis Journal.

In the State of New York there are approximately 80,000 miles of road, of which about 3,000 miles have been improved as state or county highways, 3,000 have been macadamized as town roads, 8,000 have been improved with gravel as town roads, 40,000 miles have been shaped to some extent, and 26,000 miles remain in their original condition. In 1905, by a constitutional amendment, $50,000,000 of bonds were authorized for the purpose of constructing the state and county highways. Beginning with the year 1905 the appropriations made annually have been, respectively $5,000,000, $3,000,000, $3,000,000, $5,000,000, $11,000,000 and $8,000,000, making a total appropriation to date of $35,000,000.

In addition to this bills were passed by the last legislature for so-called "expedited routes" amounting to $13,955,000, leaving a balance unappropriated of $1,045,000. At the present time there have been constructed approximately 2,940 miles of completed highways and 710 miles are under contract, and most of them are nearing completion. These contracts provide for the remaining unimproved portions of a highway from New York city to Buffalo via Albany, and for the larger part of the highway from New York north to the Canadian border at Rouses point. "This," says the state highway commission, "will place the State of New York in the front rank as regards continuous construction, the total mileage completed and the amount of money appropriated."

In constructing these roads they are divided into four classes: State highways, the entire cost of which is borne by the state; county highways, one-half of the cost of which is borne by the state; "expedited routes" (connecting the more important centers of population and industry in the state), the entire expense of which is borne by the state, and town highways, a part of the cost of which is born by the state.

HAS FAST FIRE SERVICE.

Catonsville, Md., Elated Over Possession of Auto Engine.

Since the inauguration, several months ago, of automobile service in the fire department at Catonsville, Md., the efficiency of the service in that suburb has been greatly increased and the big motor car has proven its superiority over the slower horse-drawn apparatus many times. The Catonsville fire department claims that their automobile is the fastest in the state. It is a combined chemical and pumping engine, and was built by the American-La France Fire Engine Company. The car is of the four-cylinder, seventy-horsepower type and is capable of running sixty-five miles an hour. The same power used to run the engine operates its pumps. The car is equipped with 1,200 feet two-and-a-half-inch hose, twenty feet five-inch suction hose, a forty-gallon chemical tank, 200 feet one-inch chemical hose, three extinguishers and two ladders. The engine was secured by the Catonsville department largely through the efforts of Dr. Charles Mattfeldt, the president of the board of county commissioners of Baltimore county, who lives at Catonsville. This auto is now several months old, and a larger and more costly motor will soon replace this one, which will be transferred to Gardenville.

Vision as Evidence.

From the London Times.

In Dumfries sheriff court yesterday an application was made by the trustees of the late Robert Turnbull Scott to presume the death of his father, Archibald Scott, who went to Australia in 1851 at the time of the gold "rush" and was lost sight of. The object of the action was to complete the titles of house property. Mrs. Jane Scott said the missing man, Archibald Scott, was her father. He went to Australia in 1851 at the time of the gold "fever," and all efforts to trace him had failed. His eldest sister, Sybella, many years ago told the witness that she was convinced by a vision that her brother Archibald was dead. Her Aunt Sybella informed the witness of certain family traditions, and told her that while she was taking a walk with her father one summer evening she saw her brother Archibald walking along the path toward them dressed in the check suit which he used to wear. She was a little behind her father, and in passing the figure she did not speak, but she turned round to look and make sure. The figure also turned in passing and then disappeared. She asked her father if he had seen anything, but he said "No," and she was certain her brother Archibald had died at the very hour she had seen the vision. The presumption of death was declared.

Meerschaum Mines.

From the Argonaut.

Meerschaum mines at Nemlau have been worked for 2,000 years, it is claimed, and the process is quite simple. The mines, which at one time reached from Kahe to Mihalitch, on the Sea of Marmora, are concentrated around the city of Eski-Shehr and give employment to some 5,000 miners. The mines are worked in the most primitive manner by a foreman and two to five workmen with picks. The depths of the pits vary greatly and depend upon the depth at which a reddish brown earth is met, which is the first indication of the existence of magnesite. Sometimes this red earth is found only a few yards beneath the surface, but ordinarily at a depth of twenty yards, often forty, and even sixty. In this layer of red earth meerschaum is found, disseminated in nuggets of irregular shape. The size of these rarely exceeds twelve to sixteen cubic inches; the greater part are of the size of a walnut. No explosives are used, the ground being soft. Almost the entire output of this article is exported to Vienna, and thence distributed to the various European countries and to the United States, the latter buying only the finest selections.