

Beautify the Towns.

The Winnipeg Public Parks Board has just issued its annual report for 1909—the most elaborate report sent out by this progressive body. It certainly is a credit to the Board and should be an exceedingly good advertisement for the Metropolis of the West.

We are indebted to the Parks Board for the use of a number of cuts from the report.

Two of the cuts in the report are worthy of special mention, as showing what can be done on an open bit of land. One gives a five acre section of bare prairie at the southwest corner of Assiniboine Park. It depicts men breaking the ground and getting it in shape for beds, etc. The second cut shows the same section in the fall of 1909 planted out and the various plants in blossom. No planting was done in 1908—the walks and beds being laid out that year. In 1909 grass seed was sown and the shrubs, roots, etc., planted. The illustration gives the result in August of 1909. We cannot do better than quote from the annual report in regard to the charming spot:

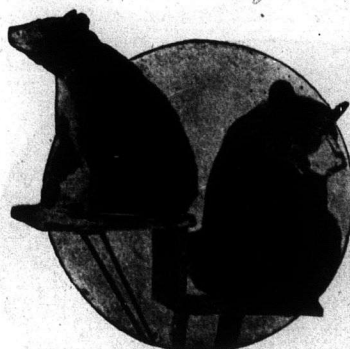
"It was as Kingsley said 'A garden, sir, wherein all rainbow flowers were heaped together.' Yet the flowers were not heaped together; they were in good order. They might well be termed 'rainbow' flowers, as the colors and shades were numerous, and they were in great profusion. Great credit for this display, and for other work is due to Supt. Champion, for he was handicapped at the opening of the season. Though the flower garden was taken in hand late in the spring it was a feature of the park system of Winnipeg which proved decidedly attractive. A section of ground of about five acres laid out in beds of various kinds was a beauty spot and called forth great admiration from visitors as well as from residents of the city.

"Work on the flower garden near the southeast entrance was commenced on May 29th. The lawn was sown with a special mixture of seed; the beds were planted with 1972 shrubs and 1920 perennials. Large patches in the beds were sown with annuals, and in June 9,600 plants of asters, stocks, etc., were planted. In spite of the fact that no water was at that time available, and that no rain fell until July 1st, the growth made by everything was marvelous, the lawns and beds in August being a picture of robust beauty. The area of the flower garden is 5 acres and there are 4,000 square yards of beds."

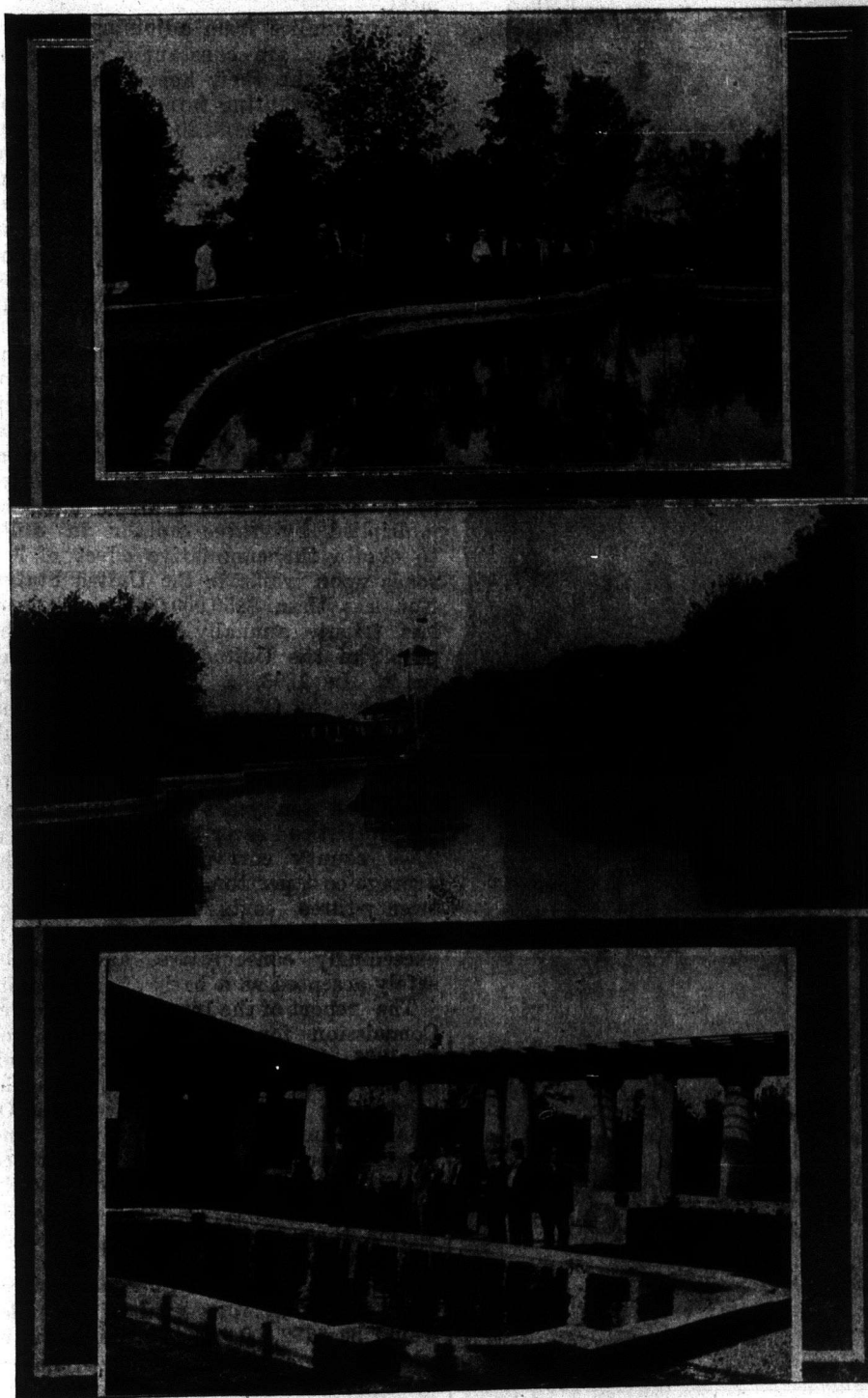
We call especial attention to this improvement in the hope that other places may be spurred to similar action. It does not follow that each town or village in the West should carry out designs as elaborate as has Winnipeg, but there is nothing to prevent each place taking in hand a piece of ground and turning it into an attractive spot in a

short time and at moderate cost. Winnipeg has laid hold of the parks work in good fashion and numbers of eyesores have been improved until they are now attractions. So other places can do, and the general attractiveness of the country would be greatly enhanced.

Should any of the western towns desire to move along this line and wish some advice we are given to understand that the Parks Board of Winnipeg would be pleased to render assistance.



A Couple of the Bears.



AT ASSINIBOINE PARK.—Combination of plant and human life. Swan pool showing Fountain and Pavilion. Lily Pond, and west side of Pergola.



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