

avoided altogether, if the people in the early history of these cities had had sufficient foresight and faith to realize how rapid would be their growth. Washington stands almost alone as a remarkable exception, for when the plan was made by Peter Charles L'Enfant, over one hundred years ago, it was designed for a city which would accommodate between five and eight hundred thousand people, and this when there was not a single house built, and only about four millions of people in the United States. Unfortunately, some fifty years ago, the plan was discarded, and since then buildings and streets have been located without regard to it, until last year the Government appointed a commission of experts to plan for the future of the city. They went abroad, and after studying the chief cities of the old world, recommended practically a return to the principles of L'Enfant's original plan, which can now be accomplished only by the expenditure of several millions of dollars. I merely cite these facts to show the importance of planning well for the future of the city, and if we examine carefully the records and statistics of the larger cities of the world we will find that they prove nothing more clearly than that crowded populations, if they would live in health and happiness, must have space for the enjoyment of that peaceful beauty of nature which, because it is the opposite of all that is sordid and artificial in our city life, is so wonderfully refreshing to the tired souls of towns-people. Most of the larger cities have now provided themselves with parks, and open spaces to be used as such when necessity requires. The older cities have only accomplished this at enormous expense, while many of the newer cities, especially in the west, are setting aside land for future parks while it is