

SHALL THE CLERGYMEN AND PHILANTHROPISTS OF NEW YORK OR SHALL THE DIVE-KEEPERS OF CONEY ISLAND PREVAIL

Unanimous Voice of the Pulpit Raised for the Journal's Plan.

Hundreds of Ministers Seen in Greater New York, and All Say "Go On!"

CLERGYMEN of all denominations of the city of New York were united yesterday in endorsing the Journal's plan for a park at Coney Island. It appealed to them instantly for what it promises to do for the people in the way of furnishing a pleasure ground where they can breathe in the health-giving ocean breezes. More strongly even it invites their indorsement as it will afford means of rational enjoyment free from the contamination of the Midway Pleasure and its kindred disreputable so-called amusements.

TO a man, the clergymen seen by reporters of the Journal yesterday in regard to the project to make the lagoon sweet away by the purifying flames of the recent fire at Coney Island but an unpleasant memory indorsed the plan. After summing up the benefits to be derived by the poor from the proposed park plan, Father Ducey made this comment: "The city deemed it necessary to provide a speedway for millionaires with fast horses. Surely the authorities will not hesitate with this expenditure of money for the people at Coney Island."

To Father Ducey this parallel seemed to furnish a weighty reason for speedy action on the part of the city officials. No plan for the betterment of the people of this city advanced by any newspaper ever received more instant and hearty indorsement by the clergy than this one which calls for a transformation of a disorderly suburb into a beautiful park for the people.

THE REV. JAMES G. CAMERON, Holy Cross Episcopal Church, No. 300 East Fourth street.—The construction of such a marine park as is contemplated by the Journal will be a great blessing for the poor children, who live in the densely crowded districts on the East Side. It goes without saying that I am heartily in favor of the project.

THE REV. ISAAC ABRAMOWITZ, Rabbi Ames Anshe Synagogue, No. 44 East Broadway.—If those who have in hand the matter of constructing a city marine park at Coney Island will come over into this section of the city and see for themselves what the small children have to endure during the hot weather they will make speed in bringing the matter of a marine park before the city officials. I sincerely hope that with the enterprising efforts of the Journal and the kind assistance of the city officials, the marine park will soon be a reality.

FATHER THOMAS J. DUCHEY, St. Leo's Catholic Church.—In my judgment, the public is entitled to own and enjoy the privileges God has conferred on all his children. The ocean view at Coney Island should never have been the property of Amos Coblentz or other capitalists. If you go along the Sound you find all the water views owned by capitalists. Coney Island at least should be as free as the Battery, minus the latter's elevated railroad encroachment. The proposed park with the baths and pavilions at Coney Island will be a Godsend to the people. The wiping out of the Midway Pleasure and other degrading spectacles is a duty which any party or parties in power should recognize. The city seemed it necessary to provide a speedway for millionaires with fast horses. Surely the authorities will not hesitate with this expenditure of money for the people at Coney Island.

Approval of Every Man.
LAY ASSISTANT H. A. KINPORTS, Colegiate (Marble) Dutch Reform Church.—Of course the Rev. Dr. Burrell is the one to speak on this subject. In his absence I am willing to say that any project to change the character of that part of Coney Island that was burned down must meet with the approval of any man who knows the character of the place before.

REV. MELVILLE R. BAILEY, 411 East Fourteenth street.—Of course I heartily approve of the movement to convert the seashore at Coney Island into a public marine park. All who have at heart the good of the community must be in sympathy with it.

REV. JOHN H. DOOLEY, 110 East Twelfth street.—It is surprising that any people have not long ago thought of providing a park along the ocean water front. Nothing should intervene to prevent the park being built at once.

"WHO WANTS A PARK AT CONEY ISLAND?"—JOHN Y. M'KANE.



[Read the Journal to-day and learn that all the good people of Greater New York are clamoring for it.]

Board of Public Improvements Considers Two Plans for Pleasure Ground.

One Contemplates a Very Large Park; the Other a Smaller One.

WITH surprise and indignation the members of the Board of Public Improvement, which met to receive the report of Chief Engineer Lewis A. Risse, learned that he and his assistants, although officials of the city government, were received with anything but respect and courtesy by the inhabitants and "privilege" owners of Coney Island. These engineers were obstructed at every point, and in one instance they were forced off the Iron Pier and had to appeal to the police for protection.

At a meeting of the Board of Public Improvements yesterday President Holahan read the report of Chief Engineer Lewis A. Risse on the feasibility of converting Coney Island into a public park and pleasure ground. The report was variously regarded by the members of the board, some favoring the scheme and others opposing it.

The ultimate result of the discussion was the adoption of an alternative resolution or amendment offered by President Edward M. Groat, of Brooklyn Borough, providing for a public pleasure ground 400 feet wide above high water mark and extending from Sea Gate to Brighton Beach. A map will be prepared of this plan of Mr. Groat, and both propositions will be given a public hearing by the board in the Aldermanic chamber on July 10 at 2 p. m.

Comptroller Cole, who was present, said the city would be in a financial condition to undertake the work. The board learned with some surprise that the city's engineers were obstructed at every point by the residents of Coney Island. In one instance they were forced off the iron pier and had to appeal to the police for protection.

The total area of the proposed park, according to Engineer Risse's plan, is 720 acres. The owners of the property value it at \$3,000,000, or about five times the amount of the tax valuation. In the discussion over Engineer Risse's report Commissioner of Sewers Kane opposed the whole project, which he said was not "the proper case." It was a good thing on his face, he said, but the people didn't need the improvement as much as many others.

President Groat, of the borough of Brooklyn, said that the plan as submitted by Mr. Risse was too extensive, and would prove too expensive. He moved to amend the resolution so as to provide for an esplanade or parkway 400 feet wide above high water and extending from the Sea Gate to the Brighton Beach. Mr. Groat's amendment was adopted as an alternative resolution.

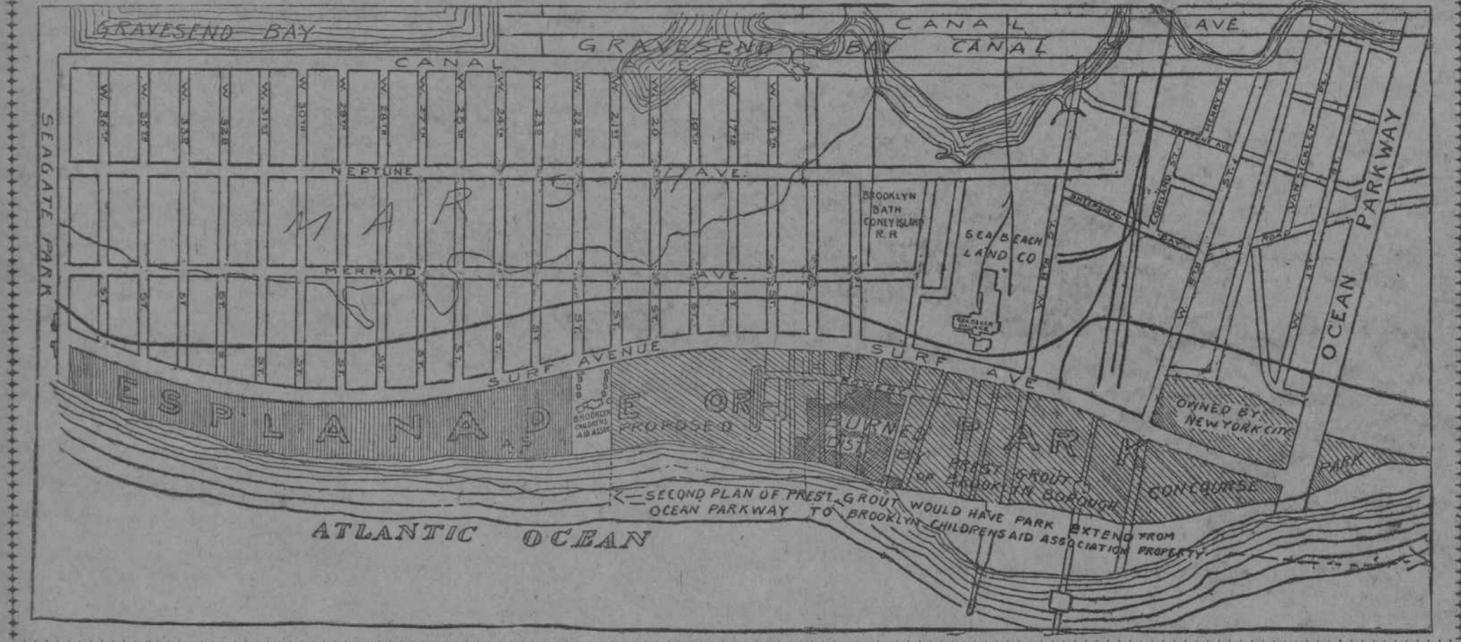
Commissioner of Bridges Shea declared himself in favor of the plan as submitted by the engineer. He said that great credit was due the Comptroller for the active part he had taken in the promotion of the enterprise, and that he hoped the larger plan would be approved.

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Plan of Park Proposed by E. M. Groat, at Yesterday's Meeting of the Board of Public Improvements.

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THE REV. HIRSH STEIN, No. 115 Broome street.—I am glad to see that our poor people will soon have a public resort where they may take their children during the hot days. It is strange that with New York's great water front the plan was not carried out long ago.

THE REV. EDMUND B. YOUNG, No. 300 East Fourth street.—No newspaper, no public official and no private person can be engaged in a better task than that of agitating for a public marine park. It will be the greatest boon for the poor in the lower part of the city.

THE REV. ARTHUR N. TAFT, No. 207 East Sixteenth street.—I am glad to see that the project of constructing a seaside park for the recreation of the public has at last taken definite shape. All good citizens will aid Comptroller Cole and the Journal in this laudable endeavor.

THE REV. CLARENCE, No. 100 East Houston street.—Any one who lives in this congested district must naturally be anxious to have the Coney Island marine park made a reality as soon as possible. The relief such a resort would offer to our poor is incalculable. The Journal's efforts in this direction cannot be valued too highly.

Noble Life-Saving Work.
THE REV. ISAAC M. BLANKFORT, No. 102 East Broadway.—We bestow medals upon those who save people from drowning or from death by fire, but the endeavor of those who seek to save the lives of hundreds of children by providing for them a cool breathing spot during the hot months is equally noble. I do hope public-spirited citizens and officials as well as the press will continue to urge the marine park.

THE REV. ALEXIS W. STEIN, No. 207 East Sixteenth street.—A municipal seaside resort properly equipped with facilities for bathing and other recreation is absolutely a necessity for a city as densely populated as New York. Now that the matter has been brought squarely before the people, I have no doubt of its ultimate realization.

THE REV. JOSIAH STRONG, No. 105 East Twenty-second street.—It goes without saying that I heartily indorse the Journal's efforts in having a public marine park built along the Coney Island coast. New York is a way behind other cities in things of this sort.

THE REV. HORACE W. BYRNES, Allen Street Memorial Church.—The people who will be most benefited by a public marine park are those living in my immediate neighborhood, and I am, therefore, eager to have the Journal's plan carried out. Let us have the park at once.

THE REV. VITO L. CALABRESE, No. 23 Bleeker street.—I congratulate the Journal upon the good work it is doing in urging the construction of a public park at Coney Island. Hundreds of lives will be saved thereby every summer.

THE REV. JOHN P. DAWSON, No. 420 East Fourteenth street.—There can be no difference of opinion as to the desirability, yes, the necessity of having a marine park where during these intensely hot days the poor and those in moderate circumstances may seek recreation and cooling sea breezes.

THE REV. FRANCIS DENES, pastor St. Elizabeth's Church.—I earnestly applaud the public-spirited motive that prompts the effort to have a marine park constructed along the shore at Coney Island. We need such a resort badly.

THE REV. JAMES J. DOUGHERTY, Pastor of St. Monica's Church.—Now that the public has taken up the agitation for an ocean-front park and has brought the matter before the people, I anticipate no further trouble in having the idea carried out. I hope it may be possible to provide some sort of a marine recreation place at once.

There Must Be No Delay.
THE REV. HENRY T. MEWEN, Fourteenth Street Presbyterian Church, No. 203 East Thirtieth street.—How badly we need a public park at the seashore has been amply demonstrated during the past days of heat and humidity. There should be no delay in carrying out the plans suggested by the Journal.

RABBI HARRIS TASCH, of the Congregation Ansh Wolcovick—I approve most heartily of the project for making a park out of the Coney Island Bowery. To redeem that plague spot of view and crime would indeed be a great achievement. I am sure that every rabbi in the city will join me in my indorsement.

PASTOR J. H. SIEKER, St. Matthew's Lutheran Church.—I fully indorse the park project. I believe that that idea of view, the Bowery, should be changed to beautiful pleasure ground. I think that it would greatly improve the morals of the city.

THE REV. C. H. BEERS, of St. Augustine's Chapel, Trinity Parish, in East Houston street.—I think we surely have enough Bowery in New York for the whole world without another one at Coney Island. A great many people who go to that resort are like children. They do not know what is best for them. If it were transformed into a beautiful pleasure ground the people of whom I speak would be pleased and would cease to be contaminated.

The report of Engineer Risse, after observing that the plan has been supported by the entire press, says: When the original idea was conceived the section lying south of Surf Avenue only, extending from Seagate to the Ocean Parkway, was under consideration; but it was soon found that one of the main purposes of the park plan, which was to abolish the nuisances in Coney Island north of Surf Avenue to the Gravesend Ship Canal, was included, thereby rounding off and bordering the proposed park by such obstacles and barriers that there could be no chance to mar its beauty or to prevent the fulfillment of carrying out of the intentions of the Board of Public Improvements.

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