



Courtesy of the Advertisers' Agency, Trenton, N. J.

DESIGN FOR A NATIONAL PARK AT WASHINGTON'S CROSSING

(The building with a dome at the foot of the picture represents the New Jersey State Capitol, while the bridge at the upper portion of the drawing represents Mr. Juncker's plan for a magnificent crossing over the Delaware).

In connection with the resolutions adopted at the Knights of Columbus celebration Tuesday night at Taylor Opera House, it is interesting to know that the project of suitably marking the scene of Washington's Crossing of the Delaware has engaged the attention of patriotic Trentonians at various times in the past. The action of Tuesday night may lead to definite action on a popular undertaking. Following is an extract from a letter written by Dr. F. V. Cantwell and published in the Sunday Advertiser of April 11 last:

"Editor Sunday Advertiser:
"Dear Sir—It is impossible to find a fit simile for the process now going on among the various races in the United States. It is not like mixing several powders to make one, nor like the making of an amalgam nor yet like the combination

of several differing chemicals to get a different one, for in all these the original elements can be recovered. The process we are concerned with is vital one and so is beyond comparison. The human world is getting smaller, distance is destroyed by electricity and time by thought so that we may never be a more homogeneous people than we are now."
"As a country becomes old and rich it grows proud of its history and builds monuments to commemorate incidents and individuals. In the middle ages the present European countries had no organized and hence their art has been perpetuated in cathedrals which represented their religion and not their patriotism. Later on we find tombs, arches, bridges and monuments to perpetuate their ideas. In these things we have been built without thought of cost. If the plan of the architect was beautiful it was materialized."

"The old countries are like an aristocrat strolling in the hall of his castle surrounded by the objects of art which have been collected by his ancestors. We are like the son of a pioneer standing in the door of a log cabin while he watches the walls of his new dwelling rise in the magnificence of marble. We are entering into the period when we should begin to collect for those who will succeed us. In the old countries every place and object which testified to their past is preserved and marked with fitting memorial. Everything from the monoliths of Stonehenge to the battlefield of Waterloo is remembered and marked. Here we have made a beginning. We have saved our great trees, some of our prehistoric ruins and have marked the notable battlefields of our fraternal war. In Trenton we have been somewhat apathetic. We are surrounded by historic and prehistoric places. Trenton boys have wandered over forgotten fields of battle and picked up stone axes and arrow heads; they have played in the hollows where once the squaw ground the corn and over the paths that led to the river village of the red man. We see these disappearing without an effort to save them and in a few years they will be but a legend of the buried past."

"Some time ago I was driven over a magnificent roadway extending from the City of Mexico three miles to the hill of Chapultepec. On either side stood a stately row of trees and at short intervals there stood a statue of a Mexican man of renown. Twice the road ran around a group of statuary representing a historical incident and ended on the field of a battle which we claim to have won, but which the Mexicans glory in as the Bunker Hill. I have since often thought of the public spirit which built this road and wondered if we would ever do like here in New Jersey."

"I may seem to wander in this letter, but these thoughts arose during a spell of self-communing. I do not suggest what follows, but talk of it as a pleasant subject. Imagine a boulevard extending from the Trenton Battle Monument to the spot on the New Jersey shore where Washington trod the Christmas morning he crossed the Delaware. This boulevard to be one hundred yards wide, lined with trees and bordered with grass and flowers and a strip of green in the middle. Every half mile there should be a clump of trees surrounding a rest house with every accommodation. Statues of our noted men of all the professions should stand at frequent intervals, while at the end of every mile in the centre of the boulevard there should be a group portraying some incident of our independence. Fountains would add to its beauty and the sounds of falling water please the ear. The roadway should be as bright by night as by day, and lights be so placed as to afford extra illumination on days like the anniversary of the battle, Washington's Birthday and the Fourth of July."

"Several hundred acres of land should be acquired around the Crossing on both sides of the river and laid out appropriately."

"The crowning glory of this work should be a bridge. A bridge has always been one of the favorite methods by which nations expressed their pride. From the earliest times he who built a bridge has been considered a public benefactor, and the Romans could confer no higher title on the Emperor than Pontifex Maximus, or Great Bridge Builder."

"Here at Trenton and near it occurred events which will be told in song and story as long as history exists, and here in Trenton lived and worked the Pontifex Maximus of the American Industrial World, so that place and incident suggest a memorial, and what more fitting memorial could there be than a bridge."

"It should be a stone, firm and wide and high, overlooking the whole park and defying the worst floods. In its centre, as a crown, should be a heroic statue of Washington. Along the parapets should be statues of Revolutionary heroes, and at frequent points embrasures should be built, platformed to hold benches, where the people could sit and develop patriotism in the thought of what had occurred below them. I need not go into further details."

It will be observed that Dr. Cantwell's suggestion embodies a proposition for a magnificent boulevard running from the Trenton Battle Monument to Washington's Crossing as well as artistic treatment of the surroundings of the Cross-

ing, and certainly the prospect he holds forth is most inviting to contemplate.

PICTORIAL DESIGN.

Advocacy of the same patriotic enterprise also came from another quarter a few weeks ago, when Gustav F. Juncker, proprietor of the Bismarck on East Hanover street, employed his skillful pencil in depicting a handsome design for a boulevard running from the State Capitol to Washington's Crossing and a national park at the Crossing. Accompanying Mr. Juncker's design the following description was printed:

"A proposition to commemorate the most stirring event in American history in a convincing and material form is being urged by Gustav F. Juncker of Trenton, N. J., his plan being to glorify the episodes relating to the Battle of Trenton by the establishment of a national park on the hallowed spot where the troops of General Washington crossed the ice-bound Delaware on Christmas Day, 1776."

"Mr. Juncker's plan, as pictured in an accompanying design, is to convert the woods and fields at and in the neighborhood of the little settlement known as Washington's Crossing into a beautiful parkland tract radiating from a convention hall that shall be dedicated gratuitously to the use of American citizens."

"The Pennsylvania as well as the New Jersey shore of the Delaware will share in the commemorative plan proposed by Mr. Juncker. On the Pennsylvania side he suggests the erection of a suitable monument, and his plan also includes the building of an artistic bridge that shall span the Delaware and join together the two States at this historical point. Should this national park project win the favor that it deserves, Mr. Juncker feels that the patriotic States of New Jersey and Pennsylvania will unite to give the financial support necessary to make such a novel undertaking a complete success."

"Pennsylvania would do itself proud by beautifying the land in the vicinity of the old farm house still standing that served as General Washington's headquarters previous to the crossing of the Delaware by the Continental troops; New Jersey should not be lax in responding to a movement that has in view the glorification of the sacred historical ground which lies within its own borders. Such a magnificent scheme to perpetuate the greatest event in our nation's history should be accomplished by popular subscription and appropriations from the

States of New Jersey and Pennsylvania and from the National Government. The proposed location at Washington's Crossing could not be improved upon. People in some parts of the United States might ask, 'Why Washington's Crossing? Why so obscure a place?' Tell them this:

"Historically the incident of Washington crossing the Delaware was the turning point of our great war for liberty. What better than to make this, then, the mecca for all patriotic Americans—a shrine in the form of a free convention hall, open at all times for the public's use?"

"Washington's Crossing is located about seven miles from Trenton, on an elevation commanding a most magnificent view of the Delaware Valley. It is easy of access and the railroad facilities from this city are good. Railroad companies are never slow in providing good service as long as traffic warrants it."

"An ideal park, laid out as suggested in Mr. Juncker's illustration, with imposing architectural structures, fountains, statues of the nation's heroes, &c., would be a most attractive adjunct to the proposed immense convention hall."

"Imagine the great value of such a national shrine to Trenton. Trenton would be the logical headquarters for the delegates and visitors to the Crossing. That would mean that the merchants of this city would derive incalculable benefits, the hotels and boarding houses would do a land office business, as such a hall would be in demand all the year around. Patriotic pilgrimages would be made by thousands. Would not Trenton benefit?"

"Vee Cee," the well-known local ventriloquist, has also exerted himself in behalf of the scheme, as the following lines indicate:

A PIPE DREAM.
I dreamed a dream of Trenton,
Which may not all come true,
It was so realistic,
Let us hope to pull it through.
I recited it to Juncker,
At his restaurant one night,
And Gustave reproduced it
With his pen in 'black and white.'
A park with boulevards and trees
Existed in this dream,
Extending from the State House
To the "Crossing" up the stream.
But why go into detail?
Mere words are useless, when
A bird's-eye view is furnished
By Gustave's ready pen.
VEE CEE.