

The Eighth Ward in Harrisburg Telegraph Articles, 1903

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This research focused on the Eighth Ward of the city of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, as it was portrayed in newspaper articles of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The purpose of this research was to answer questions concerning how the general public of the period regarded the Eighth Ward. Articles written by J. Howard Wert in the early twentieth century as the Eighth Ward was being demolished show, that in retrospect, it was considered a bad neighborhood. Did contemporaries see the Eighth Ward in this way? Were articles written about the Eighth Ward used mainly as filler between regular news articles? Were they usually stories about violence and crime used to provide entertainment for the residents of Harrisburg or were they serious articles regarding issues of the time?

The process of researching these issues was accomplished by scanning through bound paper copies of the *Harrisburg Telegraph* located at the Historical Society of Dauphin County. Issues of the *Harrisburg Telegraph* were examined for the year 1903. The original intent of this project was to include newspapers for either the entire year or just the first six months of 1903; however, several large articles for the month of January and the fragile nature of the papers resulted in a slow process. At this project's completion, only the months of January through March were included. Within this paper, the original spelling and grammar used in the articles has been maintained wherever possible. Editorial comments or grammatical changes have been placed in brackets.

News concerning the streets of the Eighth Ward appears on January 3 in an article noting an ordinance to provide road paving and curbing for many of the streets in the city. Among streets within the Eighth Ward, South, State, Filbert, Cowden, West, Cranberry, and Poplar

Streets, Tanner's Alley, and North Avenue are mentioned. Subsequent articles throughout the month note that the ordinance was held up on the mayor's desk, and it did not pass until January 26. News about the paving continues throughout February and March as debates raged over the costs and the hiring of contractors.

The first article concerning the Eighth Ward specifically appears on page two of the Tuesday, January 6, paper. The small article reports that Albert Brady, "a colored boy who has been giving the police considerable trouble in the Eighth Ward, was arrested Saturday night by Patrolmen Frank and Herman."

On Friday, January 9, a piece appears on page three under the headline "Lodging Houses Condemned by Mayor." It lists several "badly arranged tenement houses in the city" and their owners. Houses on South, Fifth and South, and South and Cowden Streets were given ten days to close by the mayor, or the owners would be fined or jailed. A house at South and Filbert Streets was granted a license when its owner showed compliance with the law. Another house just outside of the Eighth Ward on Cowden and Strawberry Streets was ordered to comply with city regulations.

Articles concerning reform began to appear in the January papers. Of great interest are the advertisements for a lecture to be given by Jacob Riis on Friday, January 9. Jacob Riis was known for his work in helping to document and later reform slum life in the Five Points area of New York City. Ads for the lecture appear in the January 6, 7, and 9 editions of the paper. A description of the lecture appears on page eight of the Saturday, January 10, evening paper, which notes that although "there is little comparison between life in the narrowest alley in this city and existence in the slums of New York, Jacob A. Riis' lecture on 'The Battle with the Slums' last night at Board of Trade was especially interesting to the people of Harrisburg at this time when the councils are considering the institution [of] general improvements." After the lecture, Riis met with Mayor McCormick and several notable Harrisburg reformists, including

Miss Myra Dock, to discuss the need for parks and other reform issues in the city. He noted that “he was glad the spirit of improvement had reached Harrisburg; especially did he commend the sentiment in favor of parks and playgrounds for the children.”

Coincidentally, the day after Riis’ lecture, page one of the same January 10 edition of the *Telegraph* announces “Harrisburg has an ‘East Side.’” The story noted that the “condition of affairs in the so-called ‘East Side’ of the city revealed by the testimony offered at the hearings of the proprietors before the mayor yesterday afternoon is as appalling as it is true, and in some cases barbaric enough to make experienced slum-workers shudder.” The tenement houses mentioned in this article are those listed in the January 9th paper as being condemned by the mayor. The article describes the conditions of the specified houses in some detail, stating that the “notorious hovel of Laura Popel, at 515 South Street, was said to have had seven rooms and 11 beds, the majority of the latter being on the floor. No conveniences or sanitary appliances were in use and in this coop both white and colored lived.” It goes on to note that, “In a case of fire the place would have made a perfect trap and the only egress was down a narrow stairway.”

The same article describes the Garnet House of South and Cowden Streets in fairly harsh terms, stating that the sewer “is not buried, runs along a wall and empties its filth into the cellar. The sanitary conditions and equipment upstairs are of a similar character and present a spectacle not suited to respectable eyes. The place is a veritable death trap and exit in case of fire would be a difficult undertaking.”

Jacob Riis’ presence in the city seems to have sparked some interest in reform. On Monday, January 12, an article titled “More Parks Are Necessary” appears, in which the author praises the words of Riis and notes that the “necessity for parks and recreation places has become so obvious that no voice is raised against them. There must be more breathing spots, more places where children can see nature in all her beauty and drink in health and virtue with every pure breeze and every bright ray of sunlight.” Again on Tuesday, January 13, an article

concerning the necessity for parks and reform appears in the paper. It notes that the growing population of the city would necessitate reform and that a “commission to establish a system of parks has been created by Councils and still further efforts should be made to provide breathing spaces for congested sections of the city.”

Ironically, the article covering the Riis lecture and the article of January 12 both comment that there is little comparison between the slums of New York City and the tenements of Harrisburg. The January 12 article states that “there are in this community none of the slums that have darkened the criminal annals of larger cities.” However, the details presented in the January 10 article concerning crowding and lack of sanitary conditions show that tenement life in the Eighth Ward may have been comparable to descriptions of some New York City neighborhoods of the time. Perhaps the size and extent of the Harrisburg “slums” were much smaller than those of New York, but the overcrowding and lack of sanitary conditions appear to be very similar.

On Tuesday, January 13, an article entitled “Why Not Executive Avenue Instead of State Street?” discusses improvements to State Street. It noted that the Harrisburg legislature had passed an ordinance “providing for the improvement of State street from Front to Third, from Fourth to Filbert, and from Thirteenth to the eastern limits of the city.” These improvements would include extending the curb and sidewalk out from the line of houses and planting grass and trees between the sidewalk and the roadway. It would also include “thirty-six feet in the center of the street planted with grass and separated with a roadway on either side twenty feet in width by a line of substantial curbing.” Space was to be given along the roadway for the future erection of monuments to local heroes. The *Telegraph* proposed then renaming the street Executive Avenue. It is difficult to tell if the improvements proposed by this ordinance ever took place. A photograph on page 26 of *Harrisburg’s Old Eighth Ward*, edited by Michael Barton and Jessica Dorman, taken between 1904 and 1909 shows State Street lined with a few

trees and with what looks to be grass and shrubs growing in the center median. It does not appear that the grass lined sidewalks or monuments were ever placed.

The last of the reform articles appears on Saturday, January 31. Noted architect Albert Kelsey lectured on “The City Beautiful” in Harrisburg as part of the same lecture series involving Jacob Riis. Kelsey complimented the city for its progressive planning to reform. He noted that the city “by its action in proposing to beautify, has placed itself in the front rank of American cities, and each step it takes is watched with interest.” He also “hoped that the result will be such a success worked out on American lines that it will show that popular governments can accomplish more than paternal ones.” On January 29, an advertisement for Kelsey’s lecture pointed out that his work fit in “with that well-known and highly esteemed method of procedure now known the country over as ‘the Harrisburg Plan’.” Although not fully described in the article, this plan appeared to have been a philosophy of beautifying through the use of public buildings, parks, monuments, and other architectural features, which complimented Kelsey’s work with the St. Louis World’s Fair.

With the closing of January came the end of articles concerning reform. Only one additional piece appears, on Monday, February 23, which addresses proposals to improve State Street. Further reform articles do not appear in any of the editions of the *Telegraph* for the months of February or March. Perhaps the January inauguration of the recently-elected Governor Samuel Pennypacker had inspired the reform-minded articles. Was it coincidence that the Riis and Kelsey lectures were held in January, sparking a bit of reform activity? It may have been that someone was hoping to encourage the new governor to take action or to remind him of earlier campaign promises.

The number of articles mentioning the Eighth Ward dropped dramatically after January. A total of seven small articles, including the above-mentioned February 23 piece, occur for the

months of February and March. These consisted primarily of arrests for thefts and of hearings for disorderly houses.

Results of the article search were surprising in many ways. In general, the society-focused nature of the news presented in the *Harrisburg Telegraph* produced few newsworthy local articles and almost no mention of the Eighth Ward specifically. Other than the local, regional, and international news presented on the first page, the paper typically featured a mixture of social news, sports and entertainments, and advertisements for such products as *Ozomulsion* and *Einstein Dry Goods Company*. Daily columns, such as “Of Interest to Women,” “Steelton,” and “Social and Personal,” rounded out the pages of each edition. An Old Maid Party “held at the home of Miss Bertha Senior, 603 Dauphin Street on Tuesday evening” featured on page one of the Wednesday, March 25, paper is typical of the news encountered.

It is difficult to determine from the newspaper articles how the Eighth Ward was viewed at the turn of the century. Most of the articles concerning the Eighth Ward in the 1903 sample were reports of criminal activity and reform proposals. However, in general, there were a large number of crimes reported in Harrisburg in the paper and few of them were specifically noted as being from the Eighth Ward. The majority of the “crime reports” gave only the person’s name with no mention of where the offense took place. Even assuming that some of these anonymous crimes did take place within the Eighth Ward, the number would not appear to be disproportionate. Other types of articles mentioning the Eighth Ward in the paper include a list of the Mt. Vernon Hook and Ladder Company’s elected officers, a fire report, and a list of the ward’s city convention delegates. These articles occur infrequently, and social news from the Eighth Ward is non-existent.

A larger sampling of articles throughout all months of the year may have provided a greater number of pieces concerning the Eighth Ward. Winter weather may have stifled some of the outdoor activities that would take place during warmer months, and reform activities, such as

creating parks or cleaning up slum areas, may have been done in the summer. Further research could include looking up names of persons or businesses mentioned in the paper to verify their residence within the Eighth Ward. The use of additional Harrisburg and area newspapers would also give a larger sampling of articles to look at, and police records would allow for an unprejudiced comparison.

The lack of news concerning the Eighth Ward could also be attributed to a lack of interest by the public. It is obvious from the articles that are available that the Eighth Ward had problems with crime and with crowded tenements that needed attention, but perhaps by 1903, the neighborhood was no longer seen as the crime-infested gambling den it once was. Perhaps the novelty of reading news about the “Bloody Eighth” had worn off, and residents were more interested in the process of creating a “City Beautiful” in Harrisburg.

Appendix 1: The Eighth Ward in the Harrisburg Telegraph, January-March 1903**January 3, 1903, Saturday; Page 7**

Ordinance passed on December 19, 1902 for paving and curbing of [among others] South, State, Filbert, Cowden, Tanner's Alley, West, Cranberry, Poplar, and North Avenue.

[Subsequent articles mention that the mayor has not passed this ordinance. Article on Monday, January 26, Mayor signs the paving ordinance. Article describes the exact streets and locations of the paving].

January 6, 1903, Tuesday; Page 2

Boy Broke Jail. Albert Brady, a colored boy who has been giving the police considerable trouble in the Eighth Ward, was arrested Saturday night by Patrolmen Frank and Herman. He is wanted at Hagerstown, Md. where he broke jail about two weeks ago. He was serving a sentence of ten months for larceny. The sheriff called for the prisoner yesterday afternoon.

January 6, 1903, Tuesday; Page 8

List of the Mt. Vernon Hook and Ladder Company's elected officers

January 6, 1903, Tuesday; Page 5

Ad: "Board of Trade, Progressive Lecture Course. January 9, 1903. Jacob A. Riis, The Battle With the Slums."

January 7, 1903, Wednesday; Page 5

The Distinguished Author and Reformer Opens Progressive Course Series. The opening lecture in the winter session of the Progressive Lecture Course series, will be honored by the distinguished author and reformer, Mr. Jacob A. Riis, of New York City.

Mr. Riis is a majestic speaker, a dramatic as well as accurate representative of the facts with which he deals, and he has that enthusiasm which is the result of knowledge and imagination surcharged with feeling, and which makes him one of the most convincing and uplifting platform forces. His hearers will become his followers and admirers when once they have passed under his spell.

The lecture will not begin until 8:30 so as not to conflict with the services of Friday evening.

January 9, 1903, Friday; Page 3

Lodging Houses Condemned by Mayor. This afternoon the proprietors of badly arranged tenement houses in the city were given a hearing by Mayor McCormick. The houses are run by Laura Popel, 515 South Street; Frank Cohen, Fifth and South streets; M. Cohen,

South and Cowden streets, known as the Garnet House, were condemned and ordered by the Mayor to be discontinued within ten days or suffer the penalty of \$100 fine or thirty days in jail.

B. Prusse, who runs a lodging house at Cowden street and Strawberry avenue, was ordered to comply with the city regulations. Doro Frank, the proprietress of a lodging house at South and Filbert streets, was granted a license, testimony having been offered to show that the house met the requirements of the ordinance.

January 9, 1903, Friday; Page 5

Ad for Jacob Riis lecture

January 10, 1903, Saturday evening; Page 1

Harrisburg has an "East Side" Mayor McCormick hears of horrible conditions in cheap lodging houses. The condition of affairs in the so-called "East Side" of the city revealed by the testimony offered at the hearings of the proprietors before the mayor yesterday afternoon is as appalling as it is true, and in some cases barbaric enough to make experienced slum-workers shudder.

In a house at Fifth and South streets recently four beds were used to sleep ten boarders. A second-hand furniture store and kitchen occupied the first floor, and the sanitary conditions were correspondingly bad. The house will be closed by order of the Mayor.

The notorious hovel of Laura Popel, at 515 South street, was said to have had seven rooms and 11 beds, the majority of the latter being on the floor. No conveniences or sanitary appliances were in use and in this coop both white and colored lived. In a case of fire the place would have made a perfect trap and the only egress was down a narrow stairway. This place too, will be closed.

The old Garnet House, at South and Cowden streets, with its history of repeated condemnations and investigations in previous years, still looms up with an atmosphere that is putrid. It was shown to contain sixteen beds in eighteen rooms, with a parlor, if you please, a general loafing room and a kitchen on the first floor. This place was probably the most unhealthy yet investigated by the authorities. The sewerage system is disgraceful and outrageous. The sewer is not buried, runs along a wall and empties its filth into the cellar. The sanitary conditions and equipment upstairs are of a similar character and present a spectacle not suited to respectable eyes. The place is a veritable death trap and exit in case of fire would be a difficult undertaking.

Another place of some notoriety in the city is at Cowden street and Strawberry avenue, ingress to which was obtained by the authorities by a ladder through a hole in the roof. Once inside, one who made the investigation reported the place as being "dead to the outside world." Matches had to be lighted to get along and escape in case of fire would be next to impossible. The stairway was so narrow that an ordinary person would have to go up or down sideways and in the language of a witness 'the place would make a good refuge for criminals.' This place's worst scar is the arrangements that permitted but a few days ago the birth of a child with the mother resting upon the bare wire springs of a

cot, with no bed clothing or comforts of any kind. The room was stinging cold and the lives of both mother and child were saved only through the philanthropy of a good woman who pays special attention to comforting poor people and who in this case furnished clothing and heat.

Four of the lodging house keepers heard before the mayor yesterday were ordered to quit business and a fifth must comply with the law or do likewise.

January 10, 1903, Saturday evening; Page 5

Listing of eighth ward delegates to the city convention

January 10, 1903, Saturday evening; Page 8

While there is little comparison between life in the narrowest alley in this city and existence in the slums of New York, Jacob A. Riis' lecture on "The Battle with the Slums" last night at Board of Trade was especially interesting to the people of Harrisburg at this time when the councils are considering the institution general improvements. The lecture was one of the series being given by the Commercial Academy and while it dwelt with slum life in general its particular theme was the redemption of the children, the citizens of to-morrow by sunlight, parks, and playgrounds.

Mr. Riis drew from his twenty-five years' experience as police reporter on the metropolitan papers and illuminated his talk with many witty allusions to his work. In the course of his lecture he paid several pretty compliments to President Roosevelt, with whom he came in contact when the President was Police Commissioner of New York and with whom he has been on the closest terms of intimacy every since. When the speaker had told what the board of health and other organizations with his aid had done for the slums Mr. Roosevelt's statement that Mr. Riis is the most useful citizen of New York city is easily understood.

With rare sympathy with his subject and insight into the character of the people of the slums, the speaker began by saying that if useful citizens are to be made out of children they must be brought up in happy surroundings. His talk was illustrated with pictures upon a screen and strengthened by contrasts of life in the old tenement houses and in the new. The horror and squalor of some of the rooms, the sunless air shafts and back yards were pictured along with the brighter home-like Riverside tenements erected by A.T.White and those of the City and Suburban Homes Company. Life was described in the seven-cents a spot lodging house and in the hotels built by Banker D.O. Mills. By contrast he showed how conditions had been improved and were still being improved. New York has spent millions of dollars for parks in the most densely populated sections of the city where places like Mulberry Bend, and Gotham Court have given way to public squares and playgrounds.

The removal of whole blocks of tenement houses has not only increased the chances of life of the children but has broken up gangs of notorious burglars and murderers. It is considered a good investment, this building of parks and cleanly but cheap apartment houses and is much better than putting the money into prisons and reformatories. Among the most handsome public school buildings in New York are those in the tenement

districts. The first floors and the roofs of these are turned into playgrounds and pictures of these and of the recreation piers were among the most instructive shown, illustrating the good that can be accomplished when the battle with the slums has been waged long enough and successfully.

Following the lecture Mr. Riis met a number of people including Mayor McCormick, President Gilbert, of the Board of Public Works, Miss Myra Dock, interested in parks and playgrounds and others. He conversed on the situation here and said that he was glad the spirit of improvement had reached Harrisburg; especially did he commend the sentiment in favor of parks and playgrounds for the children. He had not been here for thirty-one years but was able to note the many changes since his last visit when he passed through the city selling flatirons. He recalled memories of some of Harrisburg's best known citizens and remarked upon the absence of certain landmarks with which he had then become acquainted.

January 12, 1903, Monday; Page 4

More Parks Are Necessary. In his lecture on "The Slums" Friday evening Mr. Jacob A. Riis called especial attention to the value of parks as breathing spaces and recreation grounds in the battle against moral and physical disease. Every word of the eloquent speaker was worth attention and received it, and was of the utmost import to Harrisburg in the way of suggestion and admonition.

In every community where there is congestion of population moral and physical degeneracy is the rule. In every case where the environment of youthful residents of the slums has been changed there has been a steady improvement in physique and in moral stamina. To attain their full growth children need sunlight and pure air as much as do growing plants. Only precociously developed vice and undeveloped bodies are the products of the slums. And nature so abominates the enfeebled slum children that she destroys them as quickly as possible. From the vitiated atmosphere of the slums come most epidemics, and in them are committed or hatched most of the crimes that shock humanity.

These frequently demonstrated truths should be a guide to Harrisburg. True, there are in this community none of the slums that have darkened the criminal annals of larger cities, but there are places where the population is congested and it is a certainty that there will be considerably greater congestion within a year. The necessity for parks and recreation places has become so obvious that no voice is raised against them. There must be more breathing spots, more places where children can see nature in all her beauty and drink in health and virtue with every pure breeze and every bright ray of sunlight. The population of this city will be materially increased with the advent of Summer. Therefore, the plans to obtain park lands must be pressed to consummation. The park commission is working strenuously to this end, but it should have the material as well as the moral support of every citizen.

January 13, 1903, Tuesday, Page 4

Parks Are Necessary. The city of Harrisburg is going through the most remarkable period of development in its history. Our growth along substantial lines has been

tremendous and the outlook for the future is entirely satisfactory. But we must not lose sight of the fact that no city is truly great which does not give proper attention to the aesthetic features of urban life. It is in the comprehensive character of the improvement plans for Harrisburg that the hopes of the community at rest.

A commission to establish a system of parks has been created by Councils and still further efforts should be made to provide breathing spaces for congested sections of the city. Mayor McCormick is entirely right in closing the disreputable tenements and his further efforts in this direction will be commended by all public-spirited citizens. Jacob Riis is authority for the statements that the small parks established in the crowded tenements districts of New York have almost eliminated the criminal classes in those sections. It is no longer an experiment; parks and fresh air resorts are doing a mighty work.

January 13, 1903, Tuesday; Page 5

Why not Executive Avenue instead of State Street? Harrisburg has made good its pledge to the Legislature in the final passage of all the important measures authorized by the people at the election a year ago. Under the circumstances it is not unreasonable to expect that the Legislature will show their appreciation by making some provision for proper approaches to the new Capitol. The Telegraph would suggest in this connection that the name of State street be changed to Executive Avenue and be made a fine boulevard from the river to the eastern city limits. The above line sketch [**sketch in the paper**] will illustrate in a crude way one plan for improving the street. It embraces a paving of the center of the street, leaving spaces between the curb line and the paved portion for grass plots. At proper intervals would be located monuments to be erected from time to time by the Legislature to distinguished sons of Pennsylvania.

This idea would involve the construction of a subway at the Pennsylvania Railroad crossing or the erection of a bridge the full width of the street. As State street east of the railroad is still open to improvement at reasonable cost this plan ought not to be too expensive to undertake at this time. As the city has agreed to expend nearly \$2,000,000 in public improvements the Legislature should be willing to assist in making the proposed Executive Avenue a famous esplanade.

An ordinance has already been passed and approved providing for the improvement of State street from Front to Third, from Fourth to Filbert, and from Thirteenth to the eastern limits of the city, but no provision has been made for improving that part of the street from Filbert to Thirteenth, one of the most traveled sections of the highway owing to the Harrisburg cemetery. This ordinance provides that the curb line shall be moved to a line twenty-two feet distant from the house line on each side of the street; that fifteen feet from the house lines shall be the sidewalk proper and the remaining seven feet extending to the curb lines shall be sodded with grass and planted with shade trees. The ordinance further provides that there shall be thirty-six feet in the center of the street planted with grass and separated with a roadway on either side twenty feet in width by a line of substantial curbing.

January 17, 1903, Saturday evening; Page 1

Disorderly House Raided. On complaints that the house kept by J.C. Essig, at 715 State street, was an annoyance to the neighborhood on account of the frequent disorderly conduct of the inmates, the police made a raid last evening and arrested Mr. Essig, Stella Moore, who is said to be the proprietress of the place, and Mamie Crook. The three were before the Mayor this afternoon. Patrolmen Frank, Bender and Herman made the raid.

January 28, 1903, Wednesday; Page 8

Mudd Sisters in Trouble. Detective John Morgan arrested Minnie and Agnes Mudd, colored, this morning on a charge of keeping a bawdy house, at 519 South street. A charge of larceny was also preferred against Agnes Mudd by Melvin Wilkenson, who alleges that he was relieved of ten dollars while visiting the place last evening. Both were held for a hearing before the Mayor this afternoon.

January 29, 1903, Thursday; Page 2

Albert Kelsey, Will Lecture Friday Night. An event of great importance to all those who are interested in the era of improvements in Harrisburg will be the second lecture in the Municipal Progress Course on Friday evening of this week, to be delivered by Albert Kelsey in the Board of Trade auditorium at 8.15 o'clock, the subject being "The City Beautiful." The lecture will be profusely illustrated with lantern slides.

It is a curious thing to note that Mr. Kelsey is practically the only architect in the country who has of his own motion elected to make a special study of modern city making. From the time he won a scholarship in architecture at the University of Pennsylvania this idea has been with him, and in seven years since he graduated he has traveled extensively and devoted much of the time to the study of problems of great importance involved in his chosen life work.

Mr. Kelsey says: "I believe in giving unity and local significance to street furnishings, public buildings and park plantings" from which it may be seen that he fits in with that well-known and highly esteemed method of procedure now known the country over as "the Harrisburg plan." It is a signal illustration of Mr. Kelsey's strength that he has been made architect and director of the municipal improvement section of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, otherwise best known as the St. Louis World's Fair, where he is to show what modern civic conditions are to be.

It is especially hoped that the city officials will be largely represented in the audience on Friday night.

January 29, 1903, Thursday; Page 5

Held For Court. The Mudd sisters, Minnie and Agnes, were held for court yesterday by Mayor McCormick in the sum of \$500 bail each for keeping a bawdy house. Agnes was held in the same sum on a charge of larceny. Subsequently the sisters went to Alderman Caveny's office and brought suit against the prosecutor for perjury.

[See Wednesday, January 28 article]

January 31, 1903, Saturday evening; Page 3

Compliment to Harrisburg. Robert Kelsey Pays Tribute to the Progressive Spirit of the City. Robert Kelsey lectured last evening at the Board of Trade on “The City Beautiful” illustrating his talk with magic lantern slides.

The speaker was introduced by Robert Snodgrass, president of the Municipal League.

Mr. Kelsey said he was glad to learn that Mr. Manning was about to be appointed as the consulting engineer to the Park Commission and congratulated the city on that fact, saying that Mr. Manning stands at the top of his profession. The opportunities for the beautifying of Harrisburg are exceptionable, for there is not much demolition necessary.

“Harrisburg,” said the lecturer “by its action in proposing to beautify, has placed itself in the front rank of American cities, and each step it takes is watched with interest. It is to be hoped that the result will be such a success worked out on American lines that it will show that popular governments can accomplish more than paternal ones.”

The lecturer further said: “The trouble has been in this country that there has been no originality, but we have slavishly copied from the old world, hence most of our efforts are shams. I hear that you have the stone columns from the State Capitol. Let State street be treated on a broad scale, rather than horticulturally and as time goes on it will be marked with statues of the persons whom posterity loves to honor, and I hope one will be that of Miss Dock.”

“But everyone must work together. There must be no extremes of luxury and squalid poverty. Get the very best talent that is possible, map out all the proposed plans in advance, then compare them and evolve the one that is the best.”

February 2, 1903, Monday; Page 3

The store of Calvin Etter, State and Cowden streets, was again robbed early Saturday morning. Bacon, dried beef, cigarettes and one dollar and fifty cents in small change was taken. The robbers broke a glass in a door and forced open the lock.

February 10, 1903, Tuesday; Page 5

Frank Wales Caught While Visiting His Wife. Frank Wales, colored, wanted by the police for the past three months, dropped into the city Saturday night to see his wife, Ida, who keeps a boarding house on South alley. The husband lingered at home too long and Colonel Hutchinson, with Detective John Welsh, and Patrolmen Brine, Corey and Herman surrounded the place and Wales was soon a prisoner. He was a badly frightened man when taken into custody.

“Buck” Taylor and Harry Weber, both colored, who are now serving a fifteen months’ sentence in the Eastern Penitentiary, “squealed” on Wales. They said he opened a freight car and helped him to take several hundred pairs of shoes. Some of the latter were found in the possession of the two men.

Mrs. Wales at first denied that her husband was home and refused to admit Colonel Hutchinson until the warrant was showed. Following the arrest of Wales the wife ordered all her boarders from the house alleging that they were jealous of Frank and told the police of his whereabouts.

February 13, 1903, Friday; Page 1

Many Companies Ran to Small Fire. While the whole of the lower fire district responded to an alarm sent in from box five last night shortly before midnight, when the house of James Richardson, of 515 State street, was seen to be ablaze, only one company was put into service, the flames being extinguished by buckets of water and chemicals. The fire was caused by a defective flue and the damage done could be covered with \$25.

The Good Will Company dropped a wrench on its way to the fire and has been unable to find it.

February 23, 1903, Monday; Page 1

State Street A Boulevard. Proposition to improve Thoroughfare will be placed before the legislature. A proposition for the improvement of State street from the river to the eastern city limits by the city, the State and the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will probably be submitted to the Legislature this week. It is proposed to remove the Soldiers' Monument, at Second and State streets, to the river front so as to remove any obstruction to the western view from the Capitol and to complete the general plan of the improvement of the street from the east front of the Capitol to the city limits. Prominent members of the Legislature believe that the State should aid the city in the general improvement of State street so as to give proper approaches to the Capitol. This would involve the paving of the entire street with a park in the center and the substitution of a new bridge the full width of the street over the Pennsylvania Railroad. With the removal of the of Reading passenger station and the straightening of the tracks of the Pennsylvania Railroad westward the bridge at State street would have to be extended and the time is ripe for the construction of a new viaduct. Senator Fox and Representative Kunkel will give the measure their hearty support.

March 15, 1903, Saturday evening; page 1

Article on Harrisburg Pipe and Pipe Bending Works on State Street.

March 16, 1903, Monday evening; page 1

Alleged Disorderly Houses. Mrs. Annie Shields and Bessie Levan are each charged with keeping a disorderly house. That of the former was located at 602 South street and several inmates were also arrested. This raid was made at 11 o'clock Saturday night and created considerable excitement. It was located near the other place. Two men and one woman were arrested. The Mayor fixed the hearings for this afternoon.

March 25, 1903, Wednesday; Page 1

Suspects Arrested. Complying with orders from the Chief all suspicious characters found wandering about the streets at night are run in. Last night John O'Connor, George Jenkins, William Stewart, Stewart Keefer and William Fisher were picked up by Patrolmen Corcoran, Boas, Casey, Frank and Bender. They were doing the Eighth ward.