

Copy sent to Blossom 6/30/11

J.C.O.
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M.E.M.

29th June, 1911.

Mr. Frank P. Allen, Jr.,

621 Timkin Building, San Diego, California.

Dear Mr. Allen:

I have received your letter of June 20th and also your telegram announcing that the Park Commission has agreed to the Division of Works Contract. This is a great relief and I think now everything will go smoothly.

I am very sorry that you and Goodhue are unable to appreciate the fact that we are dealing with a fine type of public park and not with a piece of vacant city land. Everything you and he say in favor of the central site would be admirable if this were merely a piece of city real estate intended to be assigned to various purposes other than that of a landscape park; but considering that it is an extraordinarily valuable opportunity for the latter, every such argument as you and he have made is beside the question.

No temporary advantage for an Exposition ought to be permitted to result in the ruination of the landscape park. Buildings, terraces and other formalities can very well be introduced into the southern borders of the park, as they can be considered a reasonable outgrowth from the city improvements, merely reducing the park by so much; but to jump the Exposition from there over to the middle of the park would result in an outrageous destruction of the absolutely vital characteristics of this landscape park.

I think you ought to concede that the weight of all arguments depends upon the point of view and I think your point of view is altogether too much in the direction of what is called "practical" and too little in the direction of appreciation of the aesthetic value of a piece of land such as this Balboa Park, not as an area to be decorated in the way that a garden is decorated but as a piece of landscape which is worth far more than any garden, as it is far more rare in the midst of a city and offers a kind of pleasure which no garden possibly can offer.

I should like you to read what Parsons says about Central Park in Harper's Weekly about May 11th or May 14th. You ought also to read what my father

wrote entitled "The Justifying Value of a Public Park."
It is of course nothing to your discredit that you do not
happen to know anything about these matters. There is
scarcely one in a million of our population that does know
anything about it. Nevertheless the fact remains that
it would be an outrageous extravagance for San Diego to
ruin the only part of Balboa Park which is adapted to
being preserved as a type of park landscape. of greater
value than is to be found in almost any other park that I
know of in the midst of a city.

Yours truly,