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DICTATED BY..... J. C. O.
TYPED BY..... M. E. M.
READ AND CHECKED BY.....
SIGNED BY *Jes*
THIS COPY CHECKED WITH ORIGINAL
BEFORE MAILING
BY..... M. E. M.

30th June, 1911.

Mr. George W. Marston, Chairman,
Building & Grounds Committee, Panama-California
Exposition, San Diego, California.

My dear Mr. Marston:

I received your letter of the 14th instant a few days ago and thank you very much for it.

I have since heard from Mr. Blossom, under date of June 20th, 23d and 24th and from Mr. Allen under date of June 20th, together with clippings, so I am pretty well posted up to the 24th. The last news is that the Park Commission has resigned and I have not yet heard who the new Park Commissioners are. I sincerely trust that you will be President of the new Park Board. It is clearly far more important that you should be in that office than Chairman of the Buildings & Grounds Committee, if you cannot be both. Owing to Mr. Frank Allen Jr's energetic but mistaken advocacy of the central

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site, the whole future value of the park to the City is greatly jeopardized. Whether the site question has or has not been acted upon by the Park Commission, when you receive this I should be glad if you would insist that they refer the matter to me for report, in accordance with the clause in our agreement with^{them} providing that all matters affecting the appearance of the park which it is intended to decide contrary to our advice should be referred to us for report before final action is taken.

I have felt that I could not very well send in a report on the subject on the assumption that the Park Commission were going to decide against our advice when I have had no indication of their intention to do so.

It is very much to be regretted that such unusually able men as Frank Allen and Goodhue should be so absolutely ignorant of the landscape value of large public parks as they appear to be. They evidently, like nearly everybody else, regard the park as vacant city land awaiting adornment by buildings and garden decorations.

I have sent a copy of my father's pamphlet

called "The Justifying Value of a Public Park" to Mr. Allen and also a copy to Mr. Blossom. If you have not already read this interesting paper I should be glad if you would borrow it from one or the other.

There was an article by Mr. Parsons entitled "Central Park" in Harper's Weekly for May 27th. I have only read the beginning of it but that appears to have bearing as an argument against placing buildings and other extraneous matters in a large public park and it would be worth your while to read it.

I desire to again express my great regret that I felt it necessary to leave San Diego during this most important controversy, but I had the strongest kind of personal reasons for doing so. I fully believe that Mr. Dawson will be just as capable, if not more so, of convincing wavering members of the Park Commission and of the Buildings & Grounds Committee as I should myself be were I there.

Mr. Blossom has said in one of his letters that he hesitated to appear before the Buildings & Grounds Committee because our contract was with the Park Commission. If you think it proper, I think it would be well for you to notify him to be present at all meetings. He will not,

I think, be obtrusive or too loquacious, but it seems proper that you, as Chairman of the Committee, should invite his opinion upon any matter affecting the appearance of the park before the general discussion goes too far in each instance.

Mr. Dawson has a great deal of work in the East and North and is not expecting to stay more than a week or two or possibly three in San Diego at this time. I trust, therefore, that you will be able to make use of his presence to good advantage by obtaining his opinions on all important topics likely to be benefited by what he can say personally.

It is perhaps well for me to add, as I explained to Mr. Blossom, that in case the new Park Commission decides positively against the southern site, my second choice would be the western border of the park, keeping the Exposition entirely west of Cabrillo Canyon. I realize that this would be a deplorable injury to the work which has been done, especially in the way of planting, but I am thoroughly convinced that the plantations could be satisfactorily restored within five or six years after the Exposition is over and that whatever damage is done there would ^{be} extremely small in comparison with the tremendous

damage, not to say ruination to the park which would result from placing the Exposition, and especially the permanent buildings, on the Central Mesa. If, however, the Park Commission cannot be convinced of this, my third choice would be to place the permanent buildings as close as possible to the north boundary on the assumption that plantations south of them would eventually screen them from the Central Mesa landscape after the Exposition is over.

I also venture to warn you that Mr. Frank Allen, in his anxiety to have the central site determined upon, will be likely to make strong statements as to the economy which can be effected in that site. Our studies of the estimates of cost of construction convinces me that the element of cost ought to be very thoroughly studied before that or any other site is finally adopted, and in such a matter as that, considering that it takes only 12 or 15 days to communicate with me and to receive my reply, I think it is no more than reasonable that I should be fully informed as to plans and estimates before final action is taken on them, and when any such estimate is presented to me it should be accompanied by the details of quantities and prices in as many items as possible so that I may be enabled to pass upon the matter intelligently. These details should very likely not be presented to the Committee or others, as it will be sufficient for them to know the total of each item, as

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in the estimate already submitted by Mr. Allen.

In his telegram and letter to me Mr. Frank Allen says that Brazil has decided to spend one and a half million dollars in buildings and exhibitions at the San Diego Exposition, and that the indications are that other foreign governments and some of the states will appropriate much more than was at one time thought likely; and hence he concludes that the southern site would not be a desirable one as it would not afford space enough for such extensive buildings and improvements. I disagree with him in this view. I think the space provided along Midland Drive, around the proposed lake and on Howard Hill will be ample for all these purposes.

I shall be very glad if you would write me fully from time to time with regard to matters of importance, although I realize that you are exceedingly busy with your own business and that you have little time to devote to letter writing.

Very truly yours,