

recreative adjuncts. I hope that other organizations and other individuals take this action of the Oakland Lions as an example to follow. There are many facilities, not only swimming pools, which the people of Oakland would welcome but for which the city government, holding in trust the taxpayers' funds, cannot appropriate money.

Lake Merritt Embankment

It is with pleasure, finally, that I report that the stone embankment on the shore of Lake Merritt from the vicinity of the Oak Street boathouse to the northern end of the western arm of Lake Merritt has been completed. The expense was practically limited to labor. The rock itself came from the vicinity of the Oakland Zoo in Sequoia Park so that erection of this wall gave double value to the city. More land has been leveled in the vicinity of the zoo, which will make that facility more adaptable to expansion.

The completion of this wall will not only make the shore line more attractive in appearance but will effectually end the washing away of the parked area along the shore.

CLEAR WATER FOR LAKE MERRITT

I wish at this time, however, to repeat and emphasize a recommendation I first brought up in 1919, and which I have urged for the Council's most earnest consideration in practically every annual message since. I refer to the necessity of cleansing the waters of Lake Merritt, and to the demand for the establishment of a municipal swimming pool therein. This is a matter, too, which from the fire hazard standpoint of our entire business and industrial district should have the advocacy of every taxpayer and citizen.

Lake Merritt should and can be maintained at maximum purity by bringing to it, via pipe line and high pressure salt water fire-fighting conduit and pumps, the clean, high-tide ocean water of San Francisco Bay. In my message of 1923 I stated that "bringing in this water, which can be accomplished at a relatively low cost, from the deep water of the western waterfront at the end of Fourteenth Street, will not only provide athletic clubs with clean salt water for plunge, bath and other purposes, but will permit the hotels of our city to take advantage of the supply. The greatest benefit, however, would be the provision for a continual flow of clean salt water into Lake Merritt, delivered to the lake through a series of electrically lighted cascade fountains erected at strategic points. The present Estuary opening will then be used for an outlet only."

Fifteen Acres of Park Land Can be Created

At the same time the Estuary inlet to the lake should be completely culverted from the present culvert at the Twelfth Street Dam down to the Estuary itself. This would not only eliminate a defacing tidal condition but would add fifteen additional acres of level land to the present city owned acreage south of the auditorium. This acreage is conservatively estimated by realty evaluators as being worth \$37,500 per acre, bringing the total additional valuation to the city of over Half a Million Dollars.

In addition to supplying clean water for the lake and thus eliminating danger of stagnation, and in addition to this creation of new park land, this plan would carry out the project of teaching our children to swim. Sand for lake beaches could be brought in at a minimum cost, and bathing houses of an architecture blending with the lake parking constructed for the convenience of all our public. The lake could then be used for international swimming contests and aquatic events for which our citizens must now avail themselves of the facilities of adjacent cities, spending their money in such localities when it should be spent in Oakland. That such a swimming facility would be appreciated even by those people who have swimming facilities directly on San Francisco Bay, is clearly indicated by the fact that government tests of the temperature of Lake Merritt water show it to have an average annual temperature some 12 degrees warmer than the waters of the Bay.