

present Auditorium, built in 1915, constitutes a first unit. There is vital need, however, for a second exposition building immediately adjacent thereto. In this building can be properly housed the annual Pacific Slope Dairy Show, the National Horse Show, stock exhibits, airplane and automobile expositions, etc. It has been recommended by the Department of Public Works that such a new building have a floor area not less than 200x400 with all facilities to care for such big events. With such a new exposition building to be used either separately or in conjunction with the Municipal Auditorium, the \$7,000,000 noted above as having been spent in this city by convention and exposition delegates should be far surpassed. It is a facility the city has needed and of which I shall say more later.

Fire houses, despite the fact that many of them are very old, have never been in finer condition. Many new ones are of vital need to replace structures of obsolete type that were built during the time fire apparatus was horse-drawn. I wish to take this opportunity of congratulating Commissioner Colbourn on bringing these old housing facilities to such serviceable and sightly condition.

City Hall Attractions

Many alterations inside the city hall were made during the year. The opening of the new school administration building made available the entire eleventh floor for city government purposes. The Park Department has moved to the eleventh floor and its old quarters on the fourth floor are now used by the Plumbing Department, which long has needed office expansion. The Civil Service Department, which for two years was housed on the main floor where the noise of traffic was greatly disturbing during examination periods, has taken up quarters on the fifth floor formerly used by the Electrical Department. The Electrical Department has taken vacant quarters also on the eleventh floor. On the whole, the city hall administration offices are now far better arranged than ever before, each department has sufficient space to care for expansion for years to come and its services have been made more available to the public.

New Exposition Building

In connection with the Municipal Auditorium I have for many years urged a new exposition building on the city owned land between Fallon Street and the Estuary inlet. A large acreage is available and the site for such a new and needed facility would cost the city nothing. Such a building might cost the City of Oakland a quarter of a million dollars—but I have long been convinced, through offers already made the city, that space sold by the city to industrial expositions, to horse shows of a more or less permanent nature, and to other attractions, would in ten years repay the original outlay, and that thereafter the exposition building would be a money paying asset.

As far back as 1921 the Horse Show Association of America came to me and urged that Oakland furnish facilities for a permanent stock exhibition. This association had made a nation-wide investigation and had come to the decision that Oakland furnished, in convenient transportation facilities, equable climate and available land sites, the best location in the country for such a permanent show. I endeavored at that time to gain city-wide support for the construction of an exhibition building and arena capable of housing such an attraction. Council support failed, and I was forced to drop a plan that would have brought Oakland not only national and international advertising but actual money profits in our city treasury.

Again, therefore, let me urge that this City Council and the City of Oakland take immediate steps pointing toward construction of a second exposition building adjacent to the auditorium. I am glad to state that the Department of Public Works likewise now advocates such a new facility. Though its cost may add to the tax rate for one year, I am convinced, as stated above, that the outlay will be repaid within a few years and then will return good interest.