

AQUATIC PARK NEWS

By C. M. FARRELL

Slowly but surely the hopes and ambitions of the Rowing Clubs situated at the foot of Van Ness Avenue, the members of the Aquatic Section of the Recreation League and the advocates of outdoor sports in the acquiring and establishing of an Aquatic Park on the water front at Van Ness Avenue seem about to be realized.

On Thursday, April 22nd, in the rooms of the Recreation League in the Flood Building, a meeting of the committee appointed by his Honor Mayor Rolph, of which Mr. J. E. Scully is chairman, was held for the purpose of inspecting plans which were prepared under the direction of Chief Engineer O'Shaughnessy of the Board of Public Works.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Supervisors, a resolution was presented and adopted calling for competitive plans from architects for which prizes will be awarded to be used in the arranging of the Park. The committees selected by the Board of Supervisors to judge the most appropriate plans presented have already taken up their duties and it is expected that the plans will be ready for inspection very soon.

The State Board of Harbor Commissioners have consented to the removal of the unsightly trestle which now runs across the waters of the park, the railroad tracks will be placed on the shore and be included in that part of the parking scheme as contained in the plans submitted by Engineer O'Shaughnessy.

Among the many features contemplated for the Aquatic Park is to continue the grading and restoring the original beach line, the erecting of public bath houses, an indoor warm water plunge, safety life lines, diving platforms, rafts and grass lawns for lounging purposes. It is owing to the activities of the local clubs in rowing and swimming that has revived and retained the interest in establishing this Aquatic Park for public recreation purposes.

The necessity for such a park is universally admitted and in no scope or direction is the necessity more vital than along the lines indicated. In addition to the many features indicated above, it is the purpose to establish Aquariums, bathing pavilions, piers for fishing, recreation, diving and swimming, forming at the same time a breakwater.

These in connection with a public park or playground should commend themselves to every athletic club, every church and school organization or society interested in the physical betterment of the race.

The sloping hills surrounding this part of the water front at the foot of Van Ness Avenue form a splendid background and a natural amphitheater for the hundred of thousands of spectators who have already attended water events and features given in this cove, as well as furnishing protection from the predominating westerly trade winds in summer and the south winds in winter.

A water front boulevard from the eastern sea-wall to the Presidio will lend additional attraction.