

Olathe Paper 7-11-1907

### CITY PARK.

Again and again it has been demonstrated that Olathe needs a city park. The Fourth brought that subject very forcibly to the minds of the people. It is one of the very much desired things and at no distant day we will have one unless the public spirit of our people is not erroneously measured.

Recently much has been said about the park matter and the great problem has been the location. The Fourth very largely solved that problem. The committee of the Business Men's Association which had the celebration in charge, insisted that the "city park," part of the ground adjoining the cemetery, should be the place, as there was plenty of shade there and suitable facilities for holding the exercises. Many opposed this on sentimental grounds, honestly thinking that was not a suitable location. Amidst much opposition and prejudice the committee pulled off a good celebration and many who went with their minds honestly prejudiced against the place, came away well pleased with the location and delighted that we had such a nice, commodious grove so near the city.

Now as to the cemetery matter. In fact the cemetery should not be brought any nearer the town than it is. Its extension should be in the other direction. Moreover, the land known as the "city park" was only purchased because the people in charge of the matter could not get the other ground that they wanted without taking in this. It was ex-

pected, as a matter of fact, to be used for cemetery purposes. Then the ground is not really needed, and should not be used for that purpose at all.

So far as its being near the cemetery is concerned, there is really nothing in that but sentiment. A hedge fence can be grown that would entirely shut off the view of the cemetery which is so far in the distance, anyway, as not to interfere with the utility of the land in question for park use.

Now, let us see further, as to the use of this pretty location for the much needed city park. In the first place, the city owns it already and that expense is saved. Then all we would have to do would be to put it in good attractive condition. A few more trees should be planted on the south of the present grove making the grove extend to the ravine on that side. A lake can easily be made there by building a water wall on the west end, of solid masonry and by scraping down each side of the ravine it might be widened considerably. Trees might then be planted on the south side for a few feet and we would have a beautiful lake, which would be a source of pleasure to us, and be used for rowing, skating and bathing and the like. It might be stocked with fish and thus add more to its utility.

The hill should be leveled off some and we would have plenty of room for sports, such as base ball, tennis and basket ball. In short it can be made one of the most restful and attractive places in Olathe.

Permanent improvements should be made as band stands, auditoriums for chautauqua purposes and the like. Seats should be erected on the athletic field for those who wish to witness the games. With an expenditure of \$1,000 Olathe can have one of the most attractive parks and would be a source of pleasure to all her people. As it is, it is no particular benefit to any one. The small amount derived from pastorage is insignificant.

Then it is near the city, only six small blocks from the square and a sidewalk all the way. The road should be paved to the cemetery at an early day and that would give us a good road to the park.

In addition to the pleasures that a good park would bring our people, the summer shows that might be held there and other attractions which a park would bring, it would be an attractive point for people from the city and many picnic parties would come out to spend the day. Let us think of this matter and see if we do not want to do something at once to secure a good attractive city park.