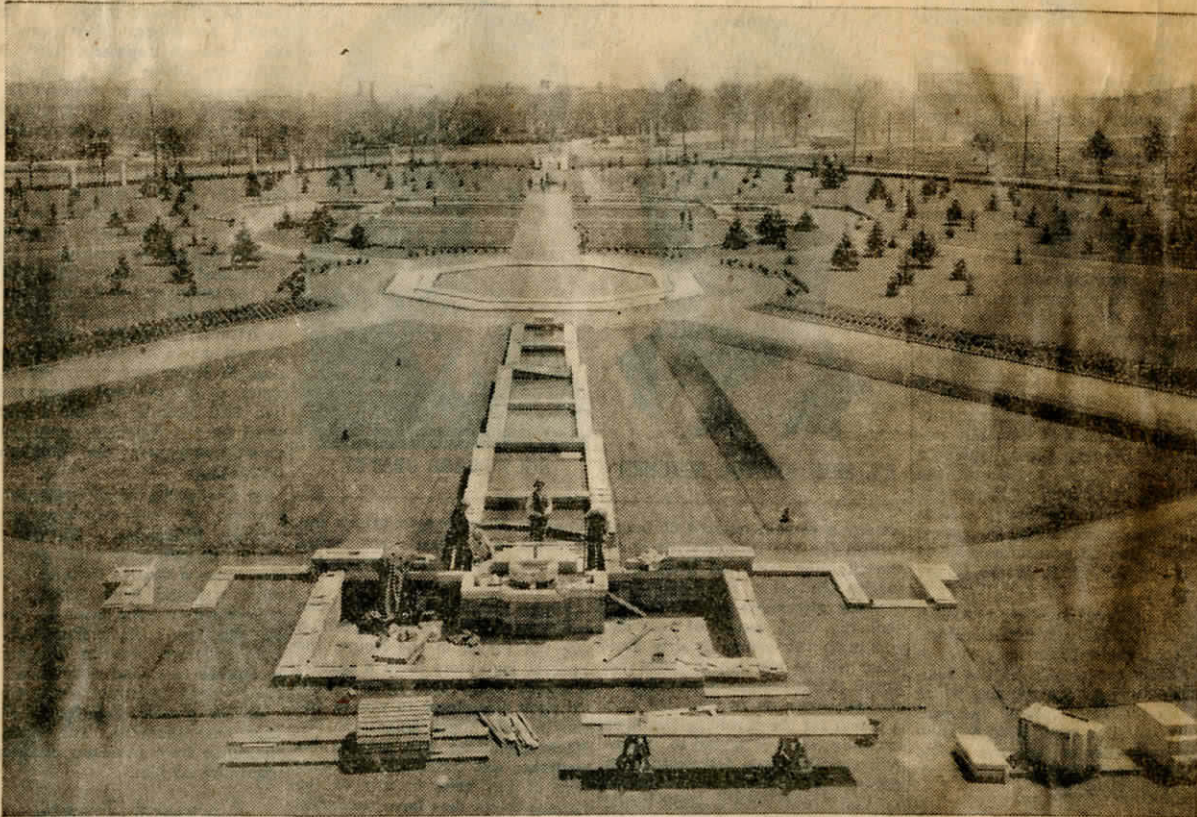


BOTANICAL GARDENS FROM ROOF OF MAIN BUILDING



In front of the administration building, in the formal annuals garden, will soon be in operation the prettiest of cascades, water trickling down a series of steps from pool to pool, while, at the very bottom, though, not connected with it will be a basin, containing a fountain.

The main entrance-path winds around the central basin, and then splits, moving up a couple of small flights of stone steps to the upper level along side the cascade.

An old-fashioned sun-dial is at the foot of the cascade, while paths lead out to the side where, on terraces, are further flowerbeds and lawns.

The whole area is enclosed in an iron fence, with stone pillars supporting it, and imposing gates every now and then, permitting easy ingress and egress of trucks with material, now, and thousands of visitors who are expected to come once it is formally opened.

Fairyland of Botanical Gardens in Preparation

Project Giving Work
To 1,200
Unemployed

BY DOUGLAS C. CAMPBELL

RISING, in an area of upwards of 300 acres in Maisonneuve Park, a mile one way by a third of that distance, the other, is the fairyland of the Montreal Botanical Gardens, which, when completed, will contain, at least, one variety of almost every known species of plant or flower, no matter from what continent.

Rapidly shaping, are formal gardens of annual flowers, formal gardens of perennials, display greenhouses, service greenhouses, service gardens, nurseries, displays of shrubs, medicinal herbs and trees, meadowland, Alpine plants representing each of the major mountain ranges of the world; native forests in their natural state, including the undergrowth; rock gardens, water and bog plants, and an almost unlimited choice of everything which will grow either in water or soil.

The area nearest completion is that at the corner of Pie IX Boulevard and Sherbrooke, where the precise beds of annuals stand out like the geometrical pattern of a rich Oriental rug. Behind that triangular piece of ground is the main administration building, in the process of construction, an H-shaped affair which will house the staff and provide for library, herbarium, lecture, and other rooms.

Glimpse of Finish

In that nearly-finished triangle, may be seen a glimpse of what will come, when the whole huge project is finished, a project which, under Hon. William Tremblay, Quebec Minister of Labor, is aiding some 1,200 unemployed find themselves again.

While major construction is still under way, the public will only be admitted on Sundays, for there would only be confusion of one sort or another, if visitors were allowed to roam around at will.

The service greenhouses are rapidly nearing completion, having been added to from the first establishment four years ago until there are now no fewer than 18 of them. They are ranged on both sides of a central passage, which will connect with the display greenhouses to be built immediately to the rear of the administration building, so that communication, between any one part and another, will be a routine matter in all weathers.

Though the public will be allowed to roam at will over the whole area, excepting, possibly, the service greenhouses and a few other similar points, no motor cars will be permitted in the gardens, proper, in ordinary circumstances.

So there will be no tendency for visitors to hold picnics in any of the forest or meadow areas, nor any difficulties about them using the same for games, a separate section is set aside for these purposes. With shade trees, tables, benches and other impediments, they will be well suited.

Playground Area

An adjoining playground area, offering tennis courts, softball diamond, soccer field, is approximately opposite Masson Street.

Varieties of flowers never seen here before, are to be on display; for they have sent to the four corners of the world for the seed of new types, sent directly to the man or men evolving them. When these flower and the seed is saved, then they will be that much further ahead, and may, possibly, evolve some of their own.

The site for the lakes couldn't have been better chosen, for directly beneath the surface, is clay, in large quantities, and of sufficient thickness, so that there is virtually no seepage of water from the two pools, and no need

for any artificial sealing of the bottom.

In the economic garden are being grown all kinds of edible vegetables, including types quite strange to this country. When all are planted, there will be 465 different varieties. Some, like celery, have the stalk eaten; others, like carrots and turnips, have the root, as the important part, while, in still others, tomatoes, peppers and the like, it is the fruit which counts.

Set apart in different beds, they will be separated either by paths, or by terraces, on different elevations.

In the orchard, will be the many different kinds of fruit-bearing trees, as well as the bushes coming in that category.

History Lesson

The medicinal garden will furnish a history lesson in addition to the general geographical one present elsewhere, in that it will be divided into three sections, including the plants and herbs of the North American Indian when the white man first arrived; the kinds used in the Middle Ages, and those which form the modern pharmacist's source of supply.

Another special section will be devoted to genetics, showing the advantages and disadvantages of heredity, the effects of grafting, and other treatment of trees.

Even the old quarry, will not be wasted, for it will be utilized as a rock garden, with a spiral road cut to allow the visitor to reach the bottom. At various points around the spiral, gaps will be cut through the rock wall, allowing a view of the gardens on the sides of the cliff, which, now perpendicular, will be sloped off.

The hills, where the Alpine flowers will be grown, are rising rapidly, two being already finished, and several others are nearing completion, so that planting can be carried out in the near future.

A series of concrete basins, complete, or nearly so, will constitute the basis of the largest collection of water and bog plants on the Continent, if not in the world. Each basin has its own individual drain, all being accessible in a tunnel, underneath.

A different system of display will be followed here. The surface of the pools is not much above ground level, and the path is in a pit, cast in the concrete, reached by walking down a few steps, so that the basins come up to the waist-level or thereabouts, avoiding the necessity of stooping to get a good view of the smaller plants. Some of them are really small, at that.

The whole plan was drawn up by Henry Teuscher, who is the chief horticulturist and superintendent of its construction, while to Brother Marie Victorin, of the University of Montreal, goes the inception of the idea. Both are well-known in the field of botany, especially the latter, who is a world authority.