

A CITY OF THE PLAINS.

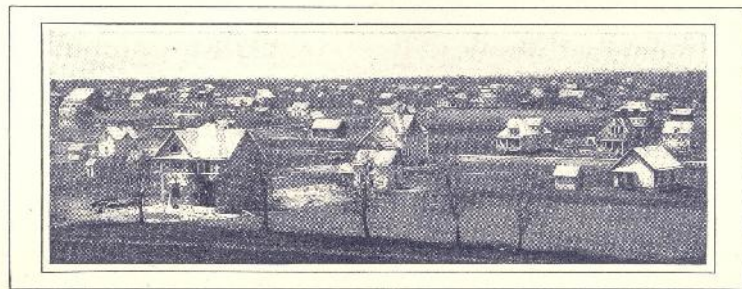
BY GROVER TOWNSHEND.

AMONG THE GREAT ORGANIZERS OF THE WORLD MUST BE RECKONED JOHN ALEXANDER DOWIE WHO, ON THE SHORES OF LAKE MICHIGAN, HAS LAID OUT A CITY WHICH IS DESIGNED TO HOUSE A MILLION OF PEOPLE, AND OF WHICH ITS FOUNDER INTENDS TO MAKE A WORLD CAPITAL.

THE world respects an organizer. Its heroes in religion, in war, in statecraft, and in commerce have all owed their practical success to their capacity for organization. It matters little what doctrine they preach, so that they have the power to group men about a central idea. Mahomet's "There is one God, and Mahomet is his prophet," and Napoleon's "The world for France," were one in their material effect upon a generation. Today the Kaiser Wilhelm, Joseph Chamberlain, J. Pierpont Morgan, and John Alexander Dowie are not so much emperor, minister of the crown, company promoter, religionist, as

they are organizers. Above the herd of statesmen and politicians they stand supreme; their genius for organization, in wholly different directions, has made of them rulers of the people.

kings, there is at least a divine right of leadership vested in certain men. To this category belongs John Alexander Dowie, the preacher who has founded on the shore of Lake Michigan a city, who out of a tract of farm land has constructed a town complete within itself, owning its own government, peopled by thousands of immigrants from all the States of the Union. In six months Dowie has accomplished what in other

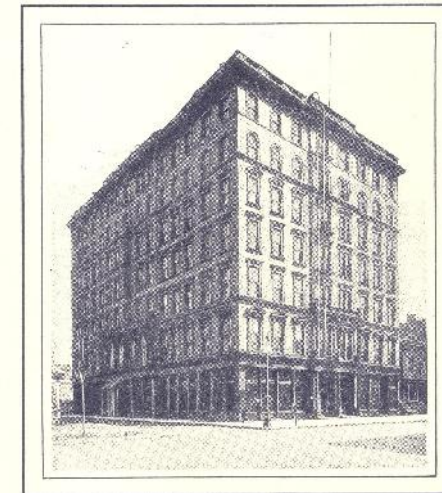


ZION CITY AFTER SIX MONTHS OF DEVELOPMENT.

communities, destitute of a central head, it would take generations to achieve.

With Dowie as a religious teacher the outer world has nothing to do; Dowie as an organizer commands the interest and the respect of every observer. To provide the means of expansion, Dowie exacted a tax of one tenth of the income of all those who accepted his direction. With the sum thus gained he purchased some ten square miles of territory on the shore of Lake Michigan, forty two miles north of Chicago and the same distance south of Milwaukee. There

spokes of a wheel. Each boulevard will be three hundred feet in width, with a central rib of parkway filling one third of the space. Connecting these main arteries will be the avenues, each one a hundred and fifty feet wide. Connecting the avenues will be the streets, seventy five feet wide. The whole follows a strict geometric plan, and when finished will be—so its founder declares—the model city of the world. The two and a half miles of shore will be embanked, laid out with docks, harbors, and wharves. There Dowie proposes to gather the commerce of the great lakes.



THE ZION HOSPICE IN CHICAGO.

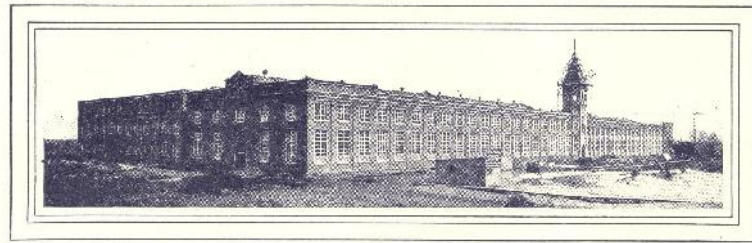
To insure proper sanitation, he has decreed that the residential and, the business sections of the city shall forever remain distinct. No citizen has any proprietary right in the land. He is only a lessee, though he holds title for eleven hundred years, such titles to expire on July 15, 3000 A. D. To insure the purity of the City, lessees undertake not to use their sites "for any purpose contrary to the will of God, and particularly not for the sale of drugs, tobacco, or alcohol in any form, for houses of ill fame,

he planned his City of Zion, and there within the last six months he has settled ten thousand people.

Just as in Washington the City radiates from the Capitol, so in Zion the center will be a great white marble temple. From this as a hub, boulevards will spray outward as the

theaters, gambling houses, or for the raising of hogs or selling them." In these ways the City is to be protected from the plagues which have cursed other aggregations of humanity.

All of this not merely exists in the brain of the organizer, but is in process of active development.

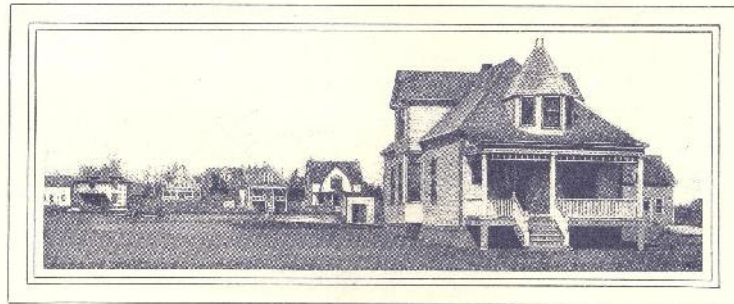


ZION CITY LACE FACTORY, CONTAINING EIGHT AND A HALF ACRES OF FLOOR.

Thousands of people are at work creating the City of Zion. Already there are brick works in operation turning out forty thousand bricks a day. There is also a lace factory covering five acres of ground, the only one of its kind in the United States. The temporary tabernacle seats six thousand people. The city is incorporated under the laws of the

usually a world capital. Politically he has founded what he calls the "theocratic party," whose platform is the extension of the Zion City organization throughout the United States. It is his intention, wherever possible, to place theocratic candidates in office.

Educationally Dowie projects another complete scheme of



THE HOUSES OF ZION CITY.

State of Illinois, and possesses its mayor and town council. In their hands is the municipal government of the community.

The organizer of Zion does not propose to confine his energies to his own city. He intends to make of it a metropolis. He dreams of it as event-

development. Starting with kindergartens and elementary schools, students will proceed through high schools and colleges to a university which will be the cornerstone of his system.

All great organizers have been men of wide ideas. Dowie's ambition



THE TEMPORARY HOME OF DR. DOWIE IN ZION CITY.

is bounded only by the terrestrial horizon. Beginning with his mushroom city on Lake Michigan, he proposes to control a county, a State, a nation, a continent, a hemisphere—eventually the world. Were he immortal, the task in some of its features would not be impossible—at least on paper. As it is, it is founded, as has been most earthly power, upon the inspiration of one man, his indomitable courage, his power to execute. A succession of great organizers, inspired by the same central idea, would mean the dominion of the planet. Fortunately or unfortunately, no great organizer has ever left his equal as successor and so the world is what it is today. A succession of great organizers would mean the millennium—or chaos.

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