

# **A DECADE OF CIVIC DEVELOPMENT**

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A decade of civic development by Charles Zueblin

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**CHARLES ZUEBLIN**

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DEVELOPMENT**



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June 1906  
A DECADE *of* CIVIC  
DEVELOPMENT

*By*

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## FOREWORD

"The Civic Renaissance" was the title given to the following chapters when they appeared in *The Chautauquan*,<sup>1</sup> to whose publishers obligations are due for the kind permission to revise and reprint. The periods of rebellion, reconstruction, industrial expansion, and imperialism will be no more conspicuous in the orientation of the end of the century than the civic awakening which is now too near in time and has been too spontaneous in character for proper appreciation. It is too early to measure the full meaning of the new civic spirit and its accomplishments, but to sum up a few of the spectacular evidences of civic progress may serve to interpret a movement already as broad as the continent.

While we have long been disheartened by municipal mismanagement and civic apathy, we must be stirred and inspired by the fact, already demonstrated beyond dispute, that the civic progress of the last decade is greater than that of all our previous national existence. So rapid has been the development since the days of the Columbian Exposition of 1893 that

<sup>1</sup> September, 1902 - May, 1903.



unrelated civic improvements, however imperative and worthy, no longer satisfy enlightened citizens. The goal has come to be the comprehensive city plan, the ripest expression of the new civic spirit, which it is the purpose of these chapters to describe. This very day marks the public opening in San Francisco for exhibition of the improvement plan of the Pacific metropolis, which is second only in importance to the scheme of the Washington Commission. The Society for the Improvement and Adornment of San Francisco, under the leadership of Ex-Mayor Phelan and with the co-operation of Mr. D. H. Burnham and his associates, has produced a plan for the comprehensive treatment of the city which is the herald of the next decade of civic development.

CHARLES ZUEBLIN.

BERKELEY, CAL.,  
September 27, 1905.

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