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## Municipal Stadiums

# STADIUMS

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Recently there has been considerable discussion regarding the necessity of erecting a municipal stadium in Toronto. When this question was being discussed last year, the Bureau wrote to the City Council, pointing out that before the money to build such a stadium was voted, some definite policy as to the amount of money to be spent and a definitely planned programme in connection therewith should be decided upon. The Bureau also communicated with many of the larger cities of the United States and Canada, in order to find out if municipal stadiums had been erected by them, and if so what their experience had been. A short resumé of the information received is given herewith:

Many of the cities report that they have stadiums provided either by private enterprise (such as baseball grounds) or in connection with educational institutions, and that these are sufficient to satisfy present needs. In addition, the general policy of the municipalities seems to be the conducting of playgrounds (including apparatus, baseball and football fields, running tracks, etc.), but, as yet, few have felt the need for a municipal stadium sufficiently pressing to require action.

**SAN DIEGO, CAL.**, has the largest and almost the only municipal stadium in the United States. It was built by the city in 1914-15. The estimated cost was \$150,000, and the actual cost \$165,000. The money was raised by means of a bond issue. It has a seating capacity of 30,000, and is of the Greek Stadium type, the shape being that of the letter U. The seats are of concrete, placed direct upon earth embankments. When entertainments and games are open to the public without entrance fee, a nominal charge of \$15.00 is made. When there is an entrance fee, the charge is \$15.00 plus 15% of the gross receipts in excess of \$100.

Climatic conditions here are such as to permit the use of stadiums 350 to 360 days in the year. In 1918 there was a total of 824 practice events and 72 match events held in the stadium.

**TACOMA, WASH.**, has also a large Stadium, which was built in 1910 in connection with the High School, at an actual cost of \$157,873.79, exclusive of the ground. Of this amount, \$50,000 was subscribed by citizens, and the remainder was borne from the revenues of the school district. The stadium is a concrete structure built in a horseshoe shape, in a natural depression of the ground. There are 32 tiers of seats, the top one being 52 feet above the floor of the field. A wide promenade surrounds the top tier. The original seating capacity of 32,000 has since been increased to 40,000. The acoustics are so perfect that a person may talk at almost an ordinary tone of voice from a certain place on the floor of the Stadium and be heard by the entire audience.

It is a public institution, operated without any idea of financial gain.

**NEW YORK**—The city furnished the site for the City College Stadium. The stadium was presented to the College, which is a municipal educational institution, by Adolph Lewisohn. This Stadium is a concrete structure, with a seating capacity of 5,880, and the cost of its erection was in the neighborhood of \$250,000. It has not been successful from a monetary viewpoint, but as serving a community need it has been a great success.

**ST. LOUIS**—Has an open air theatre in Forest Park, built of concrete, with the stage so arranged as to have a natural background. Six weeks of open air opera are held here, and children's festivals, Shakespearean plays, etc., are presented regularly.

Reports from each of the following cities state that in no case is there a stadium municipally owned and operated:

Akron	New Orleans
Baltimore	Newark
Cleveland	Philadelphia
Detroit	Rochester
Grand Rapids	San Francisco
Indianapolis	St. Paul
Kansas City	Toledo
Milwaukee	

From Boston we were advised: "The city has not built a stadium, although in 1912 the then Mayor sent a communication to the City Council advocating the appropriation of \$40,000 for such a purpose. The project died in Committee.

"The Harvard Stadium, belonging to Harvard College, is used for college activities and on Thanksgiving Day for the Army and Navy football game."

**Chicago** has no stadium built and maintained by the city, but the erection of one is under consideration. (Oct., 1919.)

**Flint, Mich.:** In 1917, movement for a Stadium was started, but when a special election was conducted to provide bonds for the completion of such a structure, it was lost by two votes. The matter was dropped during war-time, but it is hoped within a short time to revive the issue.

**In Minneapolis** the matter of municipal stadiums has been discussed at various times, but there are none operated by the municipality.

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The Tax Association of Alameda County, Oakland, Cal., writes: "Neither Alameda County nor any of its cities, in the true sense, have what you might call public stadiums.

"The City of Oakland has, however, a public auditorium which cost over \$1,000,000. It contains a theatre and a large hall, in which are conducted indoor games, also boxing exhibitions, fairs and expositions, etc."

State Bureau of Municipal Information of the New York State Conference of Mayors and Other City Officials: "No city in New York State has a Municipal Stadium."

Ohio Institute for Public Efficiency: "So far as we know, no stadiums have been built by any local government in Ohio."

Department of Internal Affairs, Bureau of Municipalities, Harrisburg, Penn.: "A number of cities in Pennsylvania have constructed and maintain playgrounds. . . . If you refer to large amphitheatres, such as are maintained by our larger universities, the municipalities of Pennsylvania have not attempted to construct stadiums of that character."

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The table on the following page, from "The American City," shows the cost, seating capacity, etc., of some modern athletic structures in America.

The figures given by the Bureau for San Diego, Tacoma and New York are from official sources. In some instances they do not agree with the figures in the table. This may be explained by a different basis of estimation and the difference in date of collection.

## DETAILS OF SOME MODERN ATHLETIC STRUCTURES\*

NAME	Type	Date Built	Permanent Seating Capacity	Dimensions in Feet		Uses	C O S T	
				Exterior	Interior		Total	Per Seat
Harvard Stadium, Cambridge, Mass.	Stadium	1903-4	23,000	575x420	465x224	(h) (i)	\$375,000	\$16.30
Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.	Half-Oval	1903-4	9,000	750x450	710x380	(k)	32,000	3.55
Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y.	Double-end	1907	20,000	670x475	540x345	(h) (i)	(a)	.....
University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.	Rectangular	1912	8,800	456x100(b)	.....	(k)	200,000	22.70
Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa.	Rectangular	1913	15,000 (c)	670x320	580x220	(h) (j)	.....	.....
Tacoma High School Tacoma, Wash.	Stadium	1910	20,000	560x475	400x390	(k)	135,000	6.75
Yale Bowl, New Haven, Conn.	Amphitheatre	1913-14	61,000	940x744	500x300	(h)	750,000	12.30
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.	Stadium	1914	47,000 (c)	396x122(b)	.....	(h) (i)	55,000 (d)	4.18 (d)
Palmer Stadium Princeton, N.J.	stadium	1914	41,000	652x520	517x240	(h) (i)	350,000	8.50
Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.	.....	.....	9,000	.....	.....	(e) (h)	.....	.....
College of the City of New York	Half-Amphi- theatre	1915	7,000	460x195	460x270	(h) (i) (j)	200,000	28.60
Central High School Washington, D.C.	Half-Amphi- theatre	1915	6,000	685x329	553x190	(h) (i) (j) (l)	.....	.....
Univ. of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.	Stadium	.....	22,000	590x443	520x330	(k)	1,000,000(f)	5.00 (g)
Municipal Stadium San Diego, Cal.	Stadium	1915	28,000	770x487	552x287	(k)	325,000	11.61

Costs must be used with caution, as the amounts given may or may not include cost of land, grading, accessory buildings, etc.

(a) \$500,000 together with gymnasium. (b) One side of field only. (c) Final capacity, when completed. (d) Cost of completed section of 13,200 seats. (e) Separate fields for other games. (f) Total value ground and structures. (g) Estimated cost stadium only. (h) Football. (i) Track games. (j) Baseball. (k) All games. (l) Drill.

Toronto has, at the present time, 130 acres of park area devoted to athletic grounds. Thirty-one baseball diamonds, 25 football and 3 lacrosse fields, 7 cricket creases, 106 tennis courts, 8 bowling greens, as well as 51 skating rinks, 39 hockey rinks, 4 toboggan and 8 miniature slides, are maintained thereon. In addition, the policy of providing supervised playgrounds is recognized both by the Parks Department and the Board of Education, and the city now has under way a plan for the provision of further athletic fields.

The University of Toronto has a good athletic field and stadium which is used both by the University and outside bodies.

Toronto has a privately-owned baseball park, artificial ice rink, and numerous natural ice rinks.

There is a large stadium in connection with Exhibition Park which is only in use for a few weeks in the year.

While municipally-owned stadiums will doubtless be a development of the near future, and while the erection of such structures—where the recognized sports of the people may have their proper presentation amid appropriate surroundings at a cost within the reach of all—is really a community need, yet, before the ratepayers are committed to such a project, two points should be considered:

That the city has already undertaken or will shortly be committed to large capital undertakings which will tax her credit to the utmost;

That when such a project is undertaken, a stadium should be erected which will be of a character sufficient to be a matter of local pride, and if possible a location should be chosen which will be naturally suitable so as to reduce the cost of construction to a minimum.