

# CARILLON FOR CAPITAL

## Chiming Bell Tower Proposed for Meridian Hill Park.

### WOULD SOUND OVER ALL CITY

Proposal Made by J. Marion Shull  
as Soldiers' Memorial and Tribute  
to Belgium—Cost of a 52-Bell  
Instrument Probably \$50,000.  
Art Club Speakers Indorse Plan.  
Heartily.

The interesting project of a bell tower, with a carillon, for Washington was proposed at the Thursday dinner of the Arts Club by J. Marion Shull. It was suggested that the chiming bell tower should be erected in Meridian Hill Park, whence the carillon could sound forth to all Washington in a fitting manner a reminder of America's heroes in the world war, and at the same time serve as a tribute to Belgium, which country, with Holland, is the home of the carillon's peaceful chiming.

Warren N. Akers presided at the meeting and Mrs. Akers was hostess to the members attending. Mr. Shull, who is an artist in the Department of Agriculture, spoke on the subject, "A Bell Tower and Carillons for Washington." Immediately his proposal met with hearty approval in expressions from Professor Smith, Henry K. Bush-Brown, Mrs. Bush-Brown, Dr. Mitchell Carroll, Mrs. Carroll, Representative E. L. Davis, of Tennessee, Representative Edward E. Denison, of Illinois, and Capt. Chambers, U. S. N.

#### Suggests 52-Bell Instrument.

Mr. Shull described in detail the carillons of Belgium and Holland, where the best examples are found. He made special reference to the famous carillon at Malines, Belgium, which is composed of 59 bells, or nearly four octaves of the chromatic scale. It was proposed that the Washington bell tower should have a carillon of 52 bells, which would constitute the four full octaves of the chromatic scale.

In nontechnical terms, a carillon differs from a chime simply in having forty or more bells instead of five to twelve and in having the bells fixed and struck by hammers instead of swinging and struck by tongues. Bars, wires or tubes are sometimes used in place of bells. The bells or bars are so hung and arranged that they can be played upon by either automatic mechanism or hand to produce a harmonious tone in the way of psalms, popular airs or national anthems. The hand or mechanism depressing a key operates cords, levers, cranks and weights, the latter tripping hammers that strike the bells to produce the melody desired. By the chromatic scale is meant a succession of twelve semitones equal to one another, each approximating about half of a major tone.

#### Cost About \$50,000 Without Tower.

Some of the finest carillons have sounded for centuries in the Netherlands and were imported to England. The Antwerp cathedral carillon has sixty bells and that at Bruges is reputed to have many more.

It was estimated that a carillon of fifty-two bells would cost about \$50,000. This would not take into account the expense of the bell tower. The latter's cost would depend upon the style of architecture and the materials used.

The speakers stressed the matter of the more or less sentimental side—that of such a tower serving as a memorial to and frequent reminder of our soldiers who gave their lives in the great conflict as well as a tribute to the part Belgium bore in the war.