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THE STADIUM ON SOLDIERS' FIELD

The Harvard Stadium

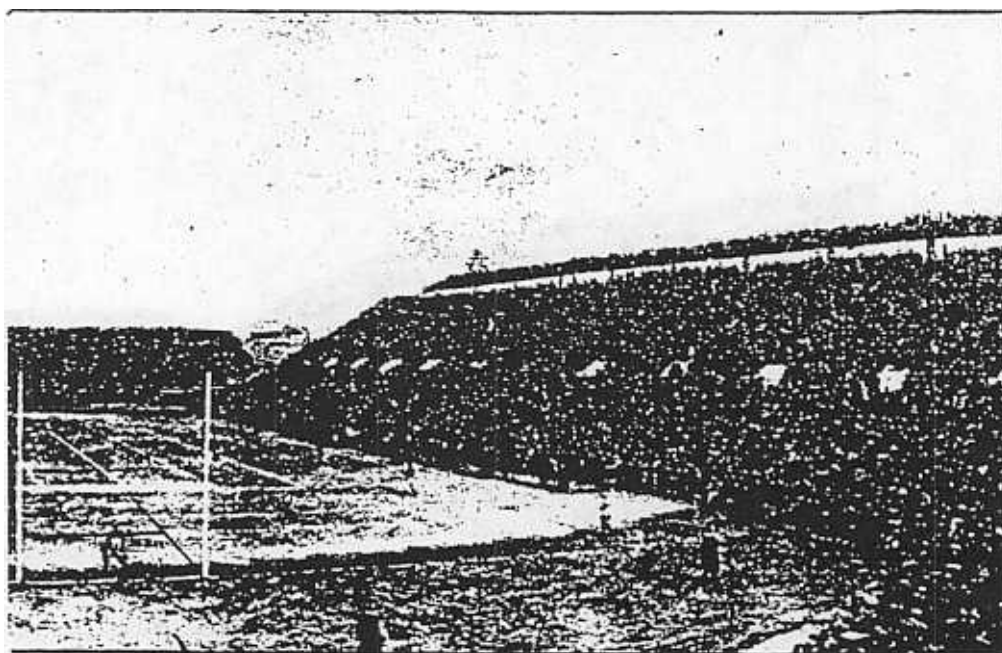
By George P. Morris

HARVARD'S spacious athletic field, given to the University by Major H. L. Higginson as a memorial of his Harvard comrades in the Civil War, and known as Soldiers' Field, now has standing upon it, on a site harmonizing with the scheme for its development outlined by Frederick Law Olmsted, a vast structure of steel-concrete known as the Stadium. In it football and lacrosse are to be played, and track sports carried on. While not entirely finished, it is nearly so. It is usable and already has been the resort of nearly forty thousand spectators at a single game. When completed it may have within its walls dressing-rooms for players, handball courts, a rifle range, and other accessories of sport. Besides furnishing a vast, imposing, fire-proof, durable structure suitable for watching rivalry in sport, this edifice bids fair to be the scene of other academic functions of a less strenuous sort. Class Day exercises were held on the sward near the upper end this year.

Greek in its design, more than any other building in the country it suggests and rivals those stadia built by men in classic times for vast crowds to sit in and watch tests of the strength, speed, and agility of Greeks and Romans. It is a U-shaped structure with a single curved end and two straight sides, and includes within its outer walls an area of 537 x 420 feet. Tier upon tier of concrete seats resting on steel girders and beams of concrete rise to a height of fifty feet, the seats being arranged on three variant angles or slopes. There are thirty-seven sections of seats, with thirty-one rows in a section, each row seating from fourteen to twenty-six persons, according to the position of the section. At the first football game played in the Stadium, that with Yale in the fall of 1903, 23,400 persons occupied seats in the Stadium proper, and 38,400 persons saw the game, the extra attendants being seated on temporary seats or standing on the sward.

The mainspring and chief personality

THE HARVARD STADIUM



DURING A YALE-HARVARD FOOTBALL GAME

of the corps of Harvard men responsible for this striking structure has been Professor I. N. Hollis, head of the Department of Engineering of the Lawrence Scientific School. With him have been associated very closely Professor L. J. Johnson, of the same department of the University, and Mr. Joseph R. Worcester, '82, consulting engineer, who are responsible for the work on its engineering and constructive side, and Messrs. C. F. McKim, the well-known architect, and Mr. George B. de Gershoff, '88, who are responsible for the general appearance of the structure and for converting a design guaranteed by engineers into one pleasing to the eye of the critic of architecture and to the average man. Construction was not begun until in Harvard's physical laboratories there had been thorough tests of the concrete-steel type of building, which, because of its first low cost, durability, non-inflammability, and other advantages, is likely to be used more and more.

The Stadium is a memorial of the generosity of the class of '79 and of the thrift of the management of the Athletic Association. The class of '79 gave \$100,000 outright, the Athletic Association added \$50,000 from an accumulated

surplus set aside for this specific purpose, and the balance of the estimated cost (\$225,000 to \$250,000) will come from money borrowed, to be repaid from future profits of the Association.

Forty thousand people intensely interested in a contest of such importance and such fierce rivalry as a Yale-Harvard football match furnish a spectacle rarely surpassed and very informing for the student of humanity *en masse*. It is a rare place to study the psychology of the mob. The scene visible when this building is crowded with people is unsurpassed for its brilliancy of coloring, intensity of human feeling kept within bounds, and the evidence it furnishes of the hold which intercollegiate sport has on the well-to-do classes of American society. Along with fine sport and exceptional opportunity to witness it with unimpeded view, there now goes assurance of personal safety for the spectators, which was not the case when the former wooden grand stands were in use. Moreover, the structure itself serves as a model, educationally and aesthetically considered; and it doubtless is but a forerunner of many structures of the kind on academic athletic fields.