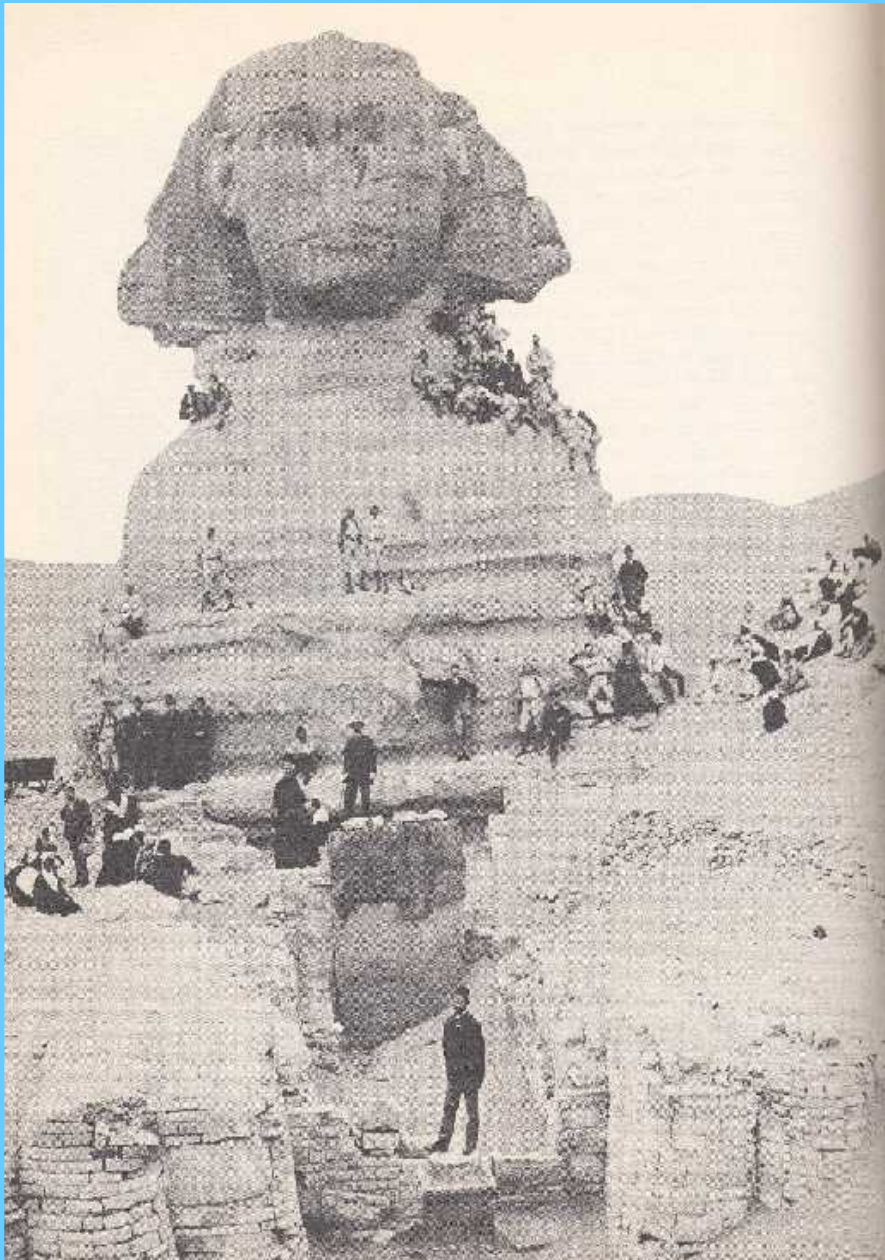


THESIS: Civic aspirations and market realities created sharp tensions within the game as it grew in popularity and cultural prestige. Promoted as a great civic treasure, something like America's national religion, baseball became more profitable than ever. Financial manipulation from the boardrooms to the playing fields increasingly landed the sport in the federal courts where its peculiar laws and its civic claim came under scrutiny. By the mid-twenties, however, the commissioner system and the anti-trust exemption had eased those tensions, at least in some measure. The commissioner system provided an supposedly independent authority - above the owners and pledged to protecting "the best interests of the game." The anti-trust exemption helped the commissioner keep the litigious owners out of the courts for the next two generations





The Task: from world tour to “*National Pastime*” show first Spalding clip

the 1889 Delmonico’s banquet: “research and patriotism” (Mills’ toast), “No Rounders” and lots of red wine

the 1905 Spalding-Chadwick debate

the 1907 Mills Commission and its “evidence”

Spalding’s America’s National Game (1911)

the 1939 “centennial”

“No rounders, no rounders,” went the somewhat drunken cries of the sportsmen assembled at Delmonico’s in 1889. They were endorsing the concept of baseball’s immaculate conception in America.



A Hero at
Gettysburg and
the inventor of
baseball (???),
Abner
Doubleday



OFFICIAL PROGRAM

Doubleday • Field

"The Birthplace of Baseball"

Cooperstown

New York

1839

1939



A Gathering of Hall of Famers - 1939



Top row - left to right - Honus Wagner, Grover Cleveland Alexander, Tris Speaker, Napoleon Lajoie, George Sisler, Walter Johnson. Bottom row - left to right - Eddie Collins, George Herman "Babe" Ruth, Connie Mack, Cy Young.

THREE STRIKES

TWO-STEP

By H. W. Bauer, Late of Sousa's Band



Dedicated to John Philip Sousa's Base Ball Team

PUBLISHED BY
BAUER BROS. MUSIC CO.
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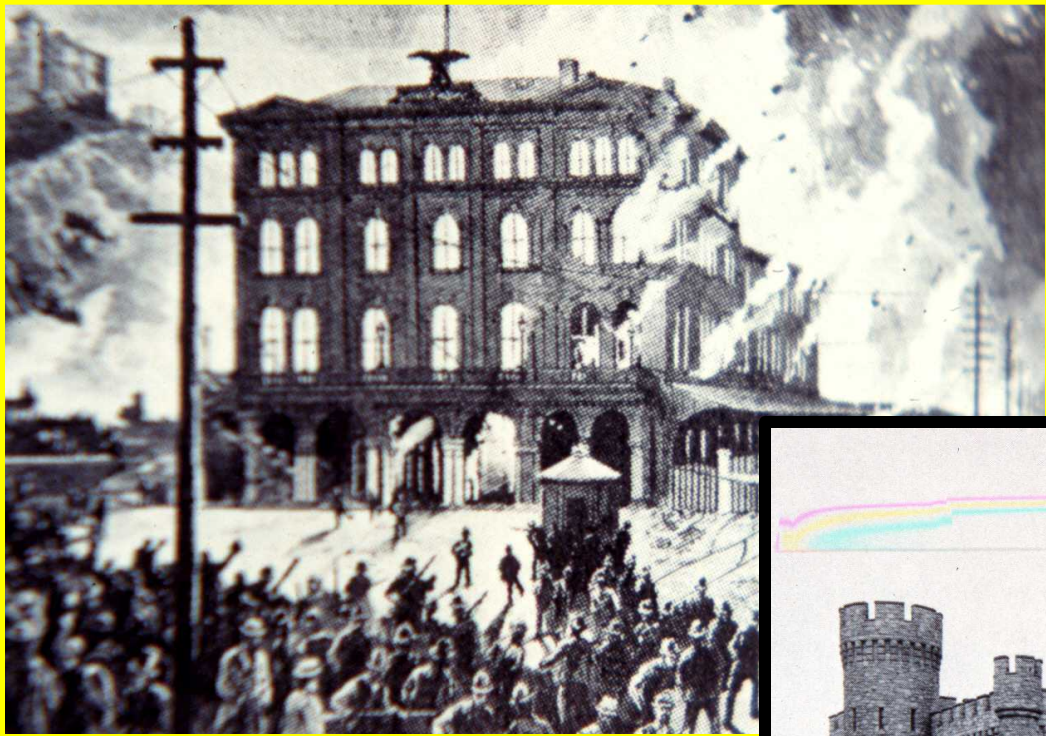
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The National Pastime a curious phrase, why national, why pastime?
Think first about the 1880s and 1890s when the claim of baseball's uniquely American origins first came up, then about the first decade of the twentieth century when the myth became solidified.

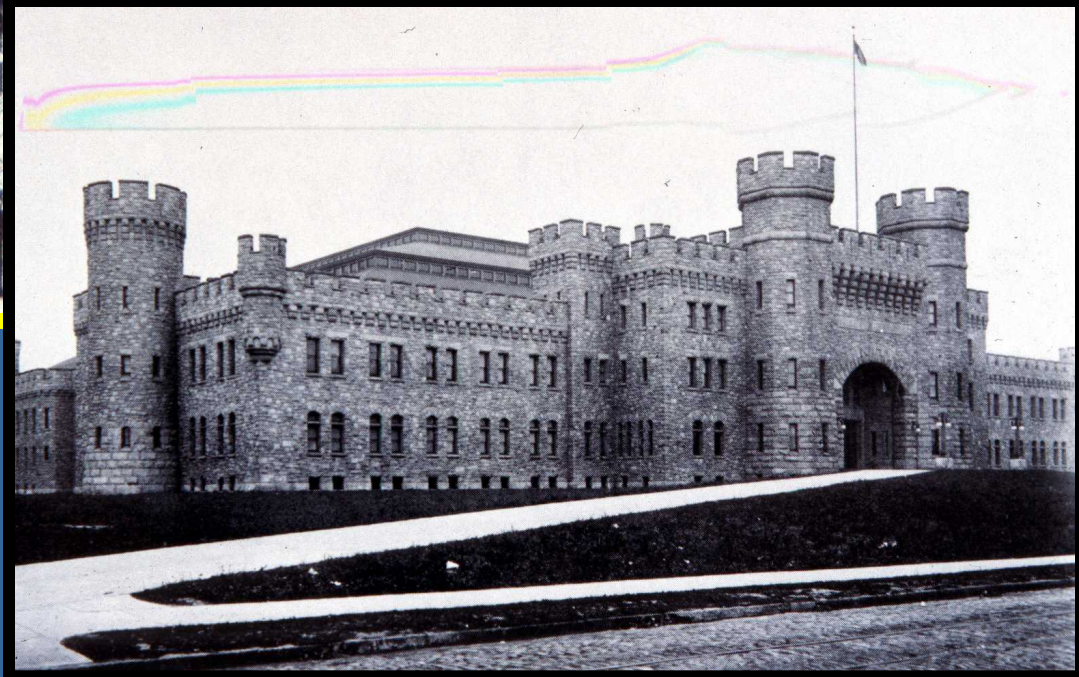


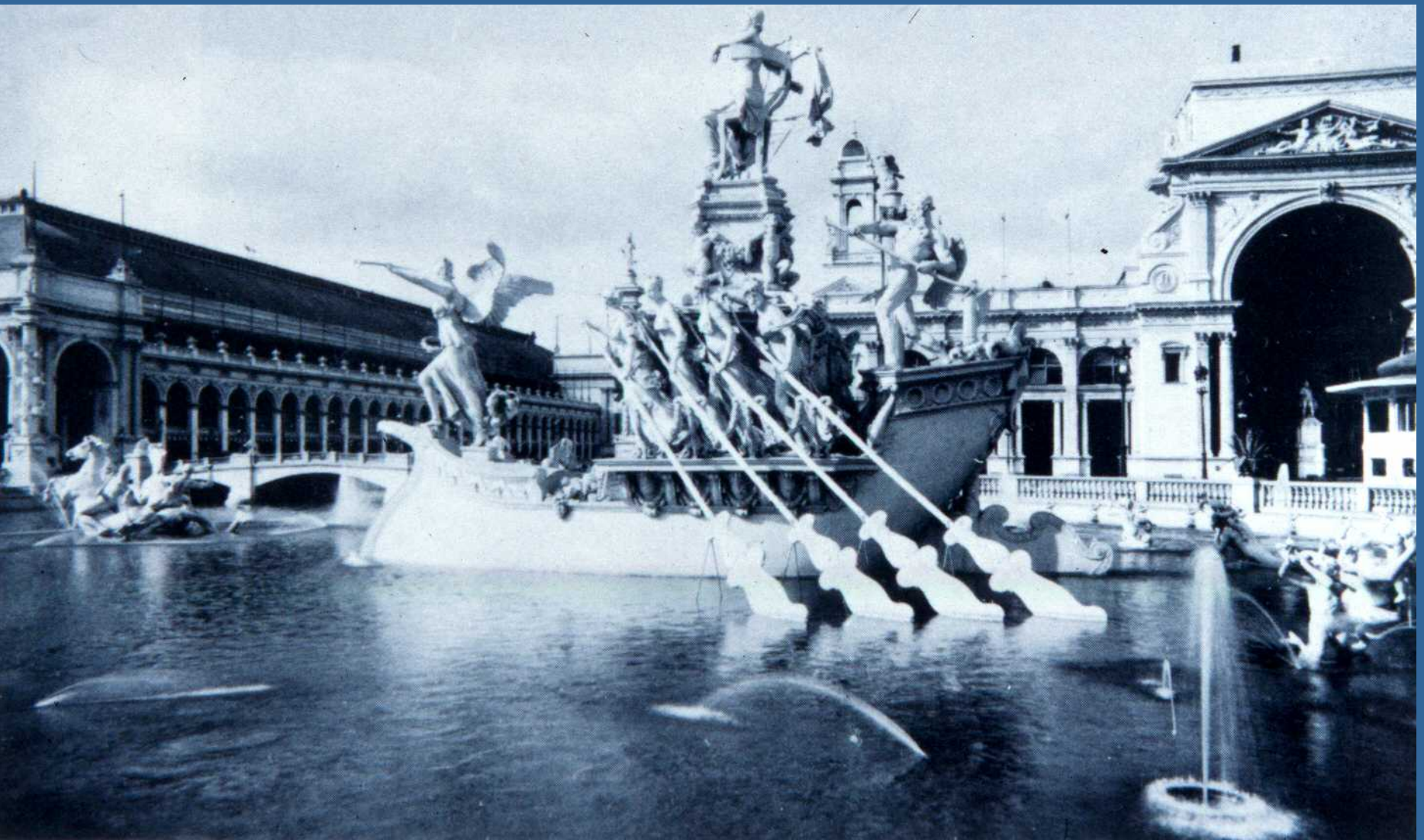
The Timing: a nation out of unruly masses, immigrants and island communities (see Trachtenberg, The Incorporation of America and Wiebe The Search for Order)



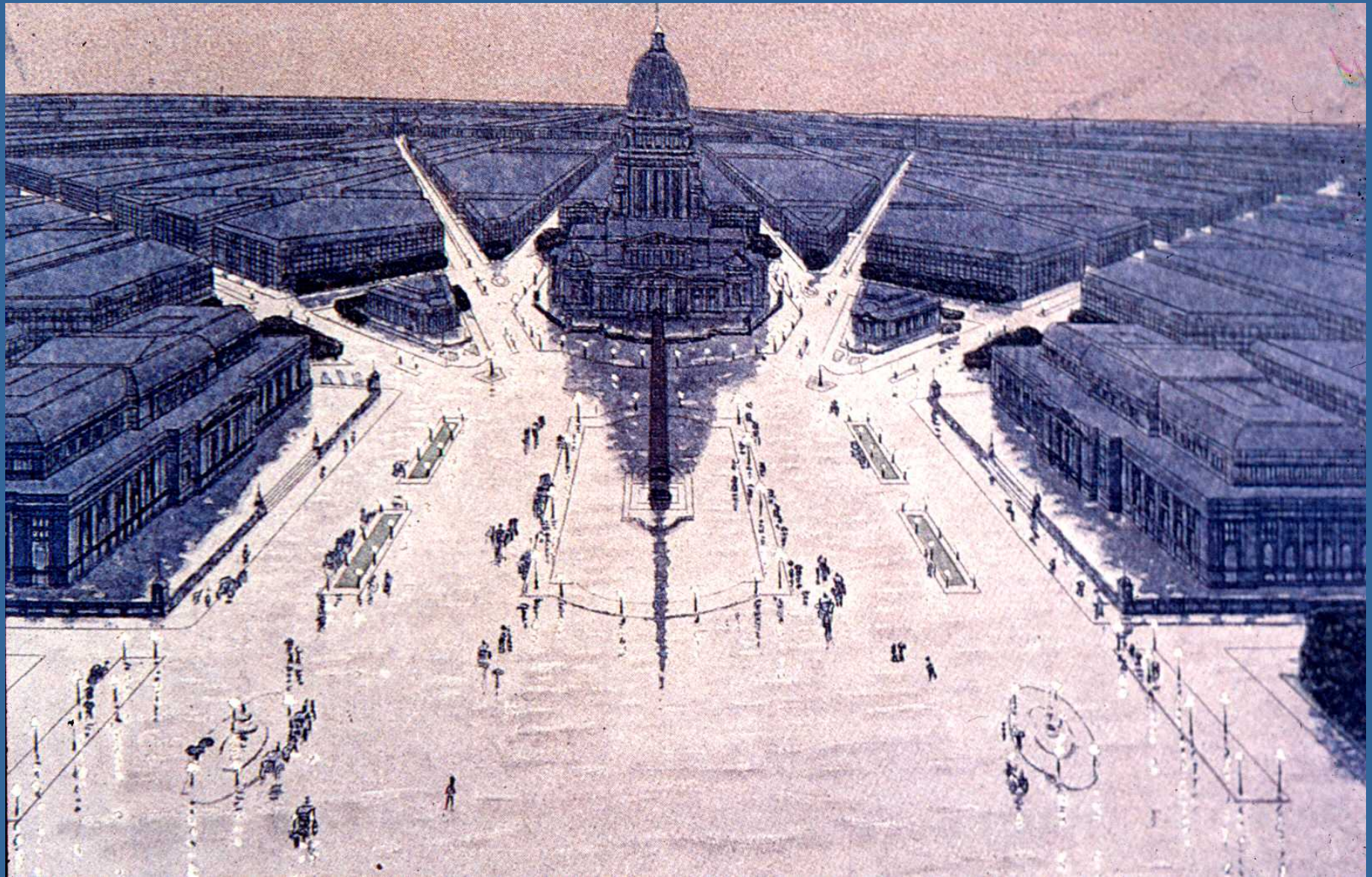
One of many armories (this one in Buffalo) built in American cities in the late 19th century

Cincinnati during the great RR strikes of 1877

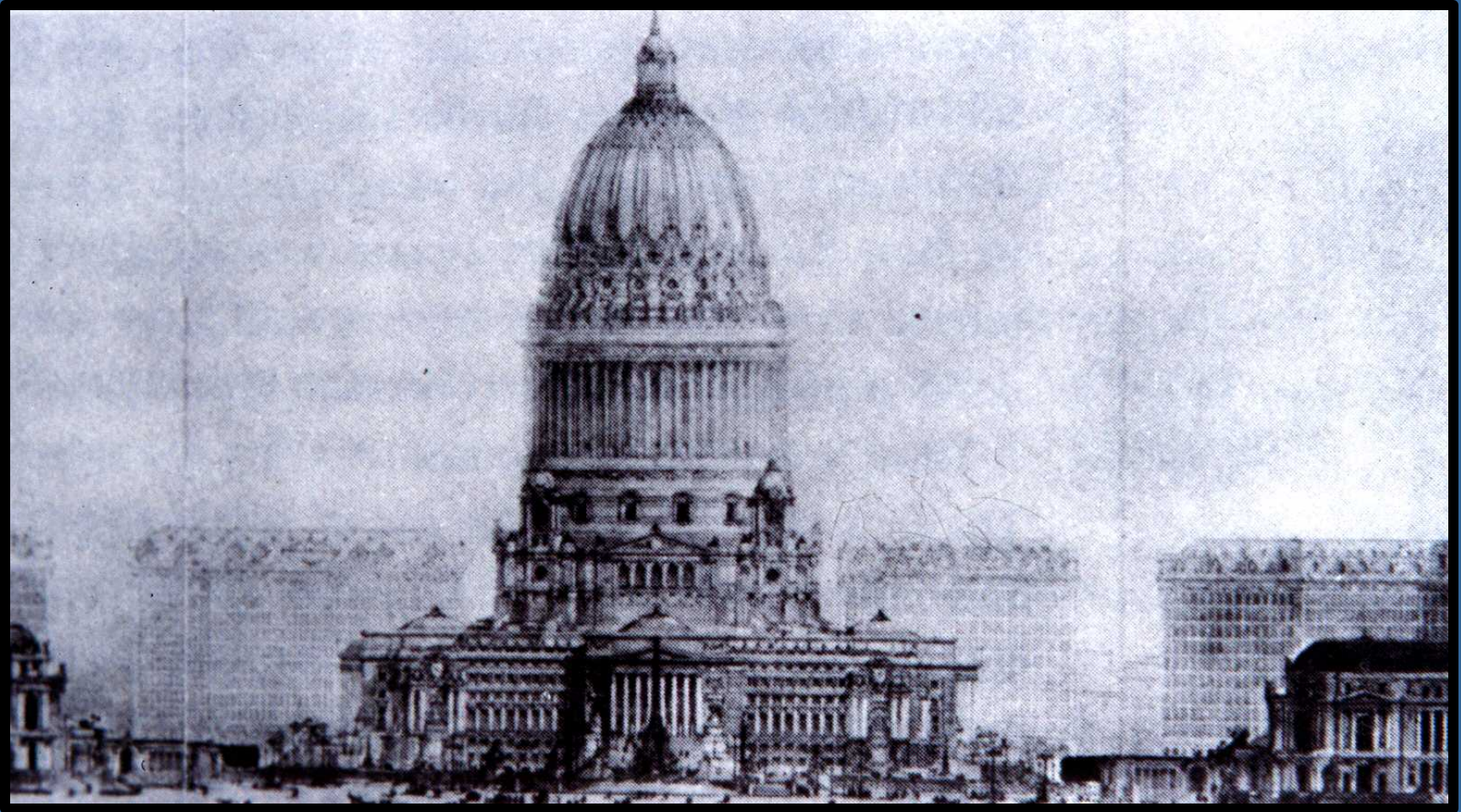




“The Incorporation of America” (Trachtenberg): the incorporation of culture into the task of taming the nation’s....



...unruly masses

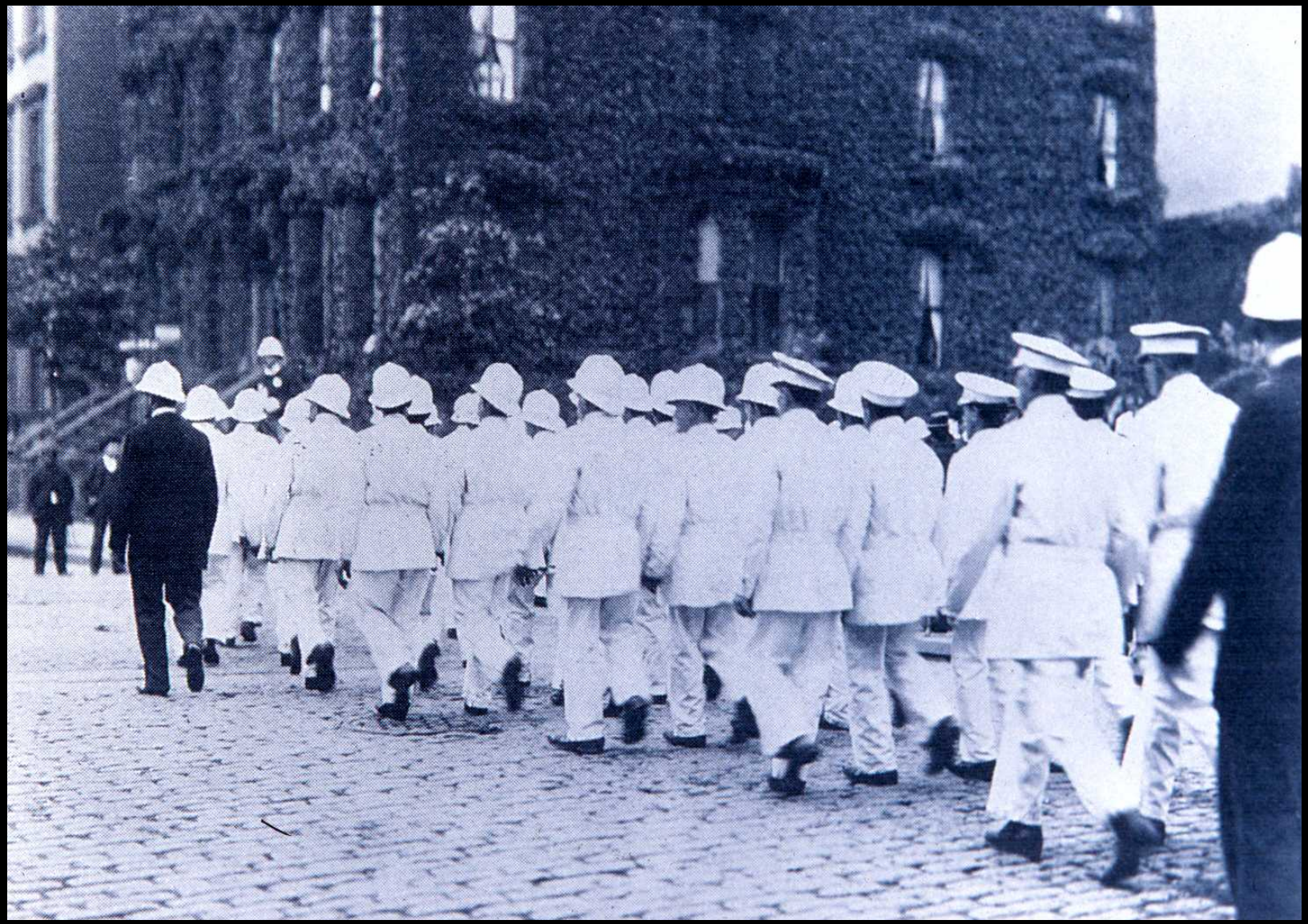


Charles Mulford Robinson, theorist and publicist for the city beautiful movement, thought public buildings should be grouped at a high, visible point in the city, where “the community would look up, seeing them lording over it at every turn, as, in fact, the government ought to do.” Drawing is of Daniel Burnham’s proposed Administration building in The Plan of Chicago (1909).

The National Pastime

a curious phrase, why national, why pastime?
Show second Spalding clip.





A civic revival and spirit - Progressive era America







The settlement houses and the Americanization of the immigrant (the garbage boxes secured from municipal government by Jane Addams.) Consider Pride of the Yankees in this context.



The Leisure revolution
and the leisure
question: a civic question
of what activities shape
character in a corporate
economy and consumer
culture

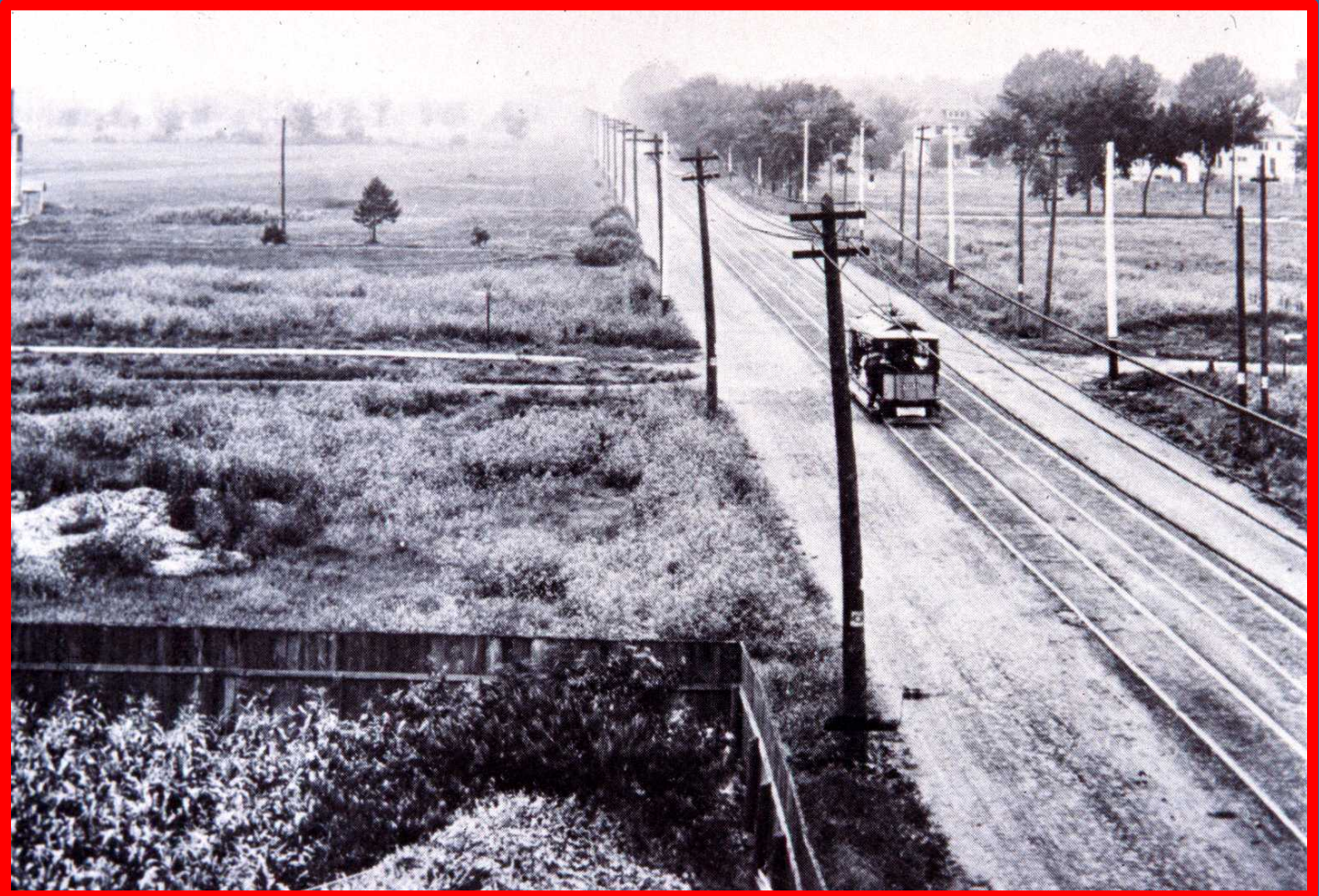


A Debate Gets Out of Hand?



Public ownership of everyday utilities like the streetcars, reformers like Cincinnati's Herbert Bigelow argued, would encourage ordinary people to become more involved in civic affairs.

Civic Life and Socially-Created Forms of Wealth



A single tax on the speculative value of land (exclusive of improvements) would help finance a host of public and civic amenities - or so said single taxers like Bigelow and Tom Johnson (a major figure in the Players' League)

Single-taxers also recognized public franchises (to sell water, light, power, transit....and what else?) as socially-created forms of wealth. Tom Johnson, a key financier behind the Players League, campaigned for publicly-owned and operated mass transit



"Why cannot the chief municipalities interested take over baseball and manage it themselves? We have municipal ownership of art galleries, of public parks, in some cities of choral societies. Surely none of these appeal more to either civic pride or pleasure than baseball?" - from a 1923 interview with Colonel Huston, co-owner of the New York Yankees

Ruppert, Landis, Huston, Frazee and Bronx Borough President Flynn at opening of Yankee Stadium in 1923



end





