

THE REPORTER.

By WHITE & WILLIAMS.

D. G. GRAHAM, Associate Editor.

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SANITARY CONDITION OF DOWNERS GROVE.

For some years past Downers Grove has been confronted with a serious problem that has at times threatened her otherwise excellent advantages, and will at no distant time prevent her progressive growth unless some action is taken to regulate the matter is soon taken. Reference is made to the sanitary disposal of sewage.

There is now no adequate method of accomplishing this with the present facilities. Each summer this fact becomes more and more apparent. The creek which is the only natural waterway affording an outlet for sewage is dry, with the exception of many stagnant pools of slimy filth. These give off deadly vapors and a horrid stench.

Every season the health authorities with the means at hand seek to remedy the evil so far as possible, but their efforts at the best can and have proved abortive. The conditions are almost identically as bad a week after raking and flushing the waterway, as before anything is done.

The health of Downers Grove citizens is threatened every summer and unless her people put their shoulders to the wheel by establishing a sewerage system it will only be a question of time, with our increasing population, before an epidemic of deadly fevers will more fully demonstrate the need of this sanitary regulation.

Again if Downers Grove expects to take rank with other progressive suburban towns and secure homesekers, she must have the needed conveniences to make an ideal home spot. This she lacks in lacking sewers.

The only solution to the problem of disposing of the sewage is to establish and maintain an adequate sewage system.

To erect a complete combined brick sewer system, capable of carrying all sewage, together with water and accumulations from gutters and streets, would be impracticable on account of the expense attached thereto. The burden of special assessments necessary to build such a system would be too great for the property holders, even if spread over the longest possible period under the law—ten years.

There remains, however, another means of disposing of the difficulty. That is to establish what is termed a separate sanitary sewer system, which provides for house and closet sewage only, excluding all water from streets and gutters. Such a system could be built for a small amount compared to the cost of a complete brick sewer, and as a means of overcoming the unsanitary condition of the village would prove a success. A sanitary system would be provided with automatic flushing tanks and the sewage find an outlet in what is termed the disposal works, consisting of properly constructed filter beds, so situated at some convenient point that the sewage would, by gravity, pass from one filter to the next until, emerging from the last, pure water, it would again resume the course of the creek waterway.

The cost of such a system suitable to the needs of Downers Grove has not been ascertained, nor can it be until competent engineers make a preliminary survey and obtain a knowledge of the natural condition.

This survey is in progress and the improvement committee of the village board of trustees are contemplating having done, and will come up at an adjourned meeting of that body which occurs next Monday evening.

They wish in this manner to arrive at an approximate estimate of the probable cost of a sanitary sewer system for the village of Downers Grove. If the cost is found to be sufficiently reasonable, commensurate with the benefits derived therefrom, such a system will undoubtedly be built by special assessments spread over a period of ten years.

The improvement board is of the opinion from investigation that a sanitary system can be built complete, suitable to the needs of the village, by levying a special assessment of not exceeding one dollar per front foot of all the property benefited.

If it is found that the cost will not exceed the above figure there is not a property owner who should object to the installation of a sanitary sewer system or paying his share of the cost.

As to the practicability of such a system competent engineers state there is not a question. Numerous plants, in successful operation in almost every state in the union, fully demonstrate this fact.

In this state the nearest plant is at the soldiers' home at Quincy, and before any steps are taken regarding sewers a committee of the village board will thoroughly investigate its operation.

In the meantime the fact remains that the sanitary condition of Downers Grove is bad—very bad, and must sooner or later be rectified or the consequences endured.

The master resolves itself to this: which shall it be—sewers, and a growing, progressive, healthy town, beautiful in natural resources; or, the present unsanitary condition and the continual possibility of a devastating epidemic of deadly fevers?

The Downers Grove property owner must choose between them.

a demand for an increase of 15 cents per ton, 11 are conceded. The difference between work at 54 cents a ton and at 65 is the difference between penury and comfort. The press and public that, with very few exceptions, have been in sympathy with the miners from the beginning of the strike would have rejoiced if 69 cents could have been gained, but from the first it was apparent to every thoughtful person that it would be a favorable termination if 60 were granted by the operators; the increase to 65 is beyond the expectation of most.

It seems as if 65 cents must be a universal rate, for a time at least, for those who go to work at the advanced rate will be able to give material support to those who remain on strike against the recalcitrant operators. Moreover, the sympathy of the public will be more than ever with the strikers—provided that they maintain a peaceful attitude—for since most of the operators have come gladly into the 65-cent compromise there seems to be no cause, other than that of heartless greed, for the minority to stand aloof. Furthermore, it will not be as if all the mines were closed; with more than half at work, and on profitable terms, the minority soon will see the wisdom of getting their share of business by the simple process of dealing fairly with the workmen.

COUNTY FAIRS.

The old-time county fair is a thing of the past. This may not be true two or three hundred miles from Chicago, but it seems to be the case in this and adjoining counties.

Eliminate the entertainment features from a fair and nothing remains to attract a crowd. Cattle, hogs, horses and grain exhibits are no longer features of the county fair. Competition doesn't stimulate farmers along these lines, hence they fail to bring their products and permit the annual exhibition to go by default.

The outcome of this disinterestedness in making the fair an occasion for trotting matches between horses, baseball games, and other amusements, which cost more than they are worth, and add nothing desirable to the practical elements in agricultural pursuits.

Farmers may not be alone to blame for the turn things have taken, but it seems they should bear some of the responsibility unless present arrangements please them.—Clarion.

Postmaster General Gary's announcement that the establishment of postal savings banks will be made the leading feature of his administrative policy will undoubtedly stimulate the hopes of those who for many years past have been vainly urging upon congress the advisability of enlarging on the present postal service certain limited and guarded banking functions.

The idea of enlarging the government's postal operations so as to include within their scope the maintenance of a system of national savings banks has found, indeed, in the new head of the postoffice department an eager and enthusiastic champion. Mr. Gary believes that public convenience emphatically demands the opening under federal supervision of small and easily accessible savings institutions everywhere throughout the country, and he can see no obstacle to the satisfaction of this acknowledged popular want by means of some slight and thoroughly feasible extensions of the existing machinery of postal administration.

That's the way with lots of folks. They meet the editor when they are excited about somebody or something and they say "go for him," "root him," "Give him fits." "He's a thief," a swindler and a liar," and lots of other hard things, and when the editor quickly says "that's so, I will just say you said so," the indignant citizen's hands go into the air in an instant. Oh, no he could never be quoted, that would never do. It's all right for the editor to denounce the wrong doing in high places and low, and he is no account if he isn't awfully down on sin and does not make it hot on the sinner. But "Citizen" he must remain anonymous. He doesn't want to get mixed up in the affair, so unpleasant, you know.

The butterin makers, who were supposedly shut off from doing business in this state by a law passed at the last legislature, have found a way to evade the law on a technicality. The law forbids the sale of bogus butter in Illinois, but these firms have factories in Kansas City. They have sent agents into this state who are drumming up quite a trade among restaurants, hotels, and other places. The negotiations are carried on in such a way that the sale an purchase is made in Kansas, where there are no hostile laws. If the farmers wish to reap the benefits of this law they should combine and see that the provisions are enforced.

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A new pension ruling has been made which will affect thousands of veterans. It has been in force for several days in the Pension Bureau, to the effect that "all new disability cases where he is now receiving a pension for one disability and wants another must be referred to a spec-

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cial field examined to corroborate the evidence of the applicant, and to look up the creditability of his comrades or neighbors who have acted as witnesses."

AN ORDINANCE.

An Ordinance providing for a Board of Local Improvements, and designating the members thereof:

Whereas, the village of Downers Grove has not provided by ordinance for a Public Engineer and Superintendent of Streets and has not created said offices.

Therefore, for the purpose of constituting a Board of Local Improvements in and for said village,

Be it ordained, by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Downers Grove, in the county of DuPage and state of Illinois, as follows:

Section 1. That the Board of Local Improvements of said village shall consist of the President and two members of the Board of Trustees, as hereinafter designated.

Sec. 2. That F. A. Root and J. W. Hughes, Trustees of said village, are hereby designated as members of the Board of Local Improvements of said village. Said designated Trustees shall serve as members of said Board of Local Improvements until otherwise provided by ordinance, or until they shall severally be incapacitated to act as members of said board.

Sec. 3. That said Board of Local Improvements shall have such powers and perform such duties as are prescribed by an Act of the General Assembly of the State of Illinois, entitled "An Act concerning Local Improvements," approved June 4, 1897, in force July 1, 1897.

Sec. 4. This ordinance shall be in force from and after its passage and legal publication.

Passed September 13th, 1897.

Approved September 13th, 1897.

GUY L. BUSH, President

BERT C. WHITE, Clerk

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