DOWNERS GROVE'S

To the Editor of the Downers Grove that fact a deficiency in interest ac purpose of relieving the situation. The Reporter:

doubt, quite generally known to the inhabitants of this vil- in reference to Special Assessment No. dent of the board, as well as to its lage that the financial condition of 25. This assessment was spread for attorney, that he was ready and willour municipality has been in a very the purpose of paving Maple avenue ing at all times to give them any asprecarious condition, especially that from the C., B. & Q. R. R. tracks to sistance in this matter that he could portion belonging to what is known the western limits of the village. The without any charge to the village. as the special assessment fund. By deficiency in this assessment is more in pursuance of this conversation, the reason of that condition, the village apparent than real. This improve President of our village, together with authorities have defaulted in the pay- ment borders what is known as Gen. the Village Attorney, met at the house ment of special assessment bonds and Ducat property, of which the Chicago of the writer one evening and disthe interest accruing thereon, which Title & Trust Company is the man-cussed the situation and at that time fact necessarily has brought the credit ager. It has been the custom of the the writer called the attention of these of the village in disrepute.

the writer's knowledge that the pres- installment, as it was returned dereflects upon the writer, who, during not paid the second, third, fourth, sevour village administration as attorney amount to several thousand dollars. and counselor.

its good name and credit. I take this ment than was really necessary and Grove a few facts in reference to the said property and the last installment amination of the village records.

The following figures were faken from the Treasurer's report, submitted monthly meeting of May, 1915.

leaves a shortage of \$591.21, which ture as the contingency might arise. appears on the books as an overdraft.

sessments, bonds were issued, all of did not arise until August, 1914, when None of our judgments of confirma- be done. most of these assessments have been sessment to default and have not up and judgments of confirmation contain action, to place themselves in comone or two installments, the additional to issue bonds against the tenth inshown herein will be slight. The over- the bondholders who are holding the benefits. Which fact, therefore, expenses. drafts as they appear from said bonds against this particular assess does not preclude the village as to it may also be germain to the issue Treasurer's report are as follows:

Special Assessment No. 8...\$1,456.89 Special Assessment No. 12... Special Assessment No. 15... Special Assessment No. 16... Special Assessment No. 19... Special Assessment No. 20... Special Assessment No. 21... Special Assessment No. 22... Special Assessment No. 23... Special Assessment No. 27... Special Assessment No. 31... Special Assessment No. 34... 1,104.57 is true. 411.21 Special Assessment No. 35... Special Assessment No. 36... 3,440.31 Special Assessment No. 38... Special Assessment No. 39... Special Assessment No. 40...

cing over these figures, which presents ficient to cover the entire cost. After itself to our minds is, why these over- this estimate has been submitted to vanced by members of the present ad- tion of the original assessment, any drafts?

Special Assessment No. 41...

state that the village of Downers olutions and submits an ordinance to have pursued a plan similar to that linquency of property, the Board shall be open for five or six months and pro-Grove on account of its own property the Board of Trustees for passage. and the assessment against it on ac. After the ordinance is passed and the count of public benefits, which should assessment has been spread and conhave ben paid by the village during firmed by the court, then, and not bethe last five years, amounts to fore then, is the municipality au-\$4,776.36, as shown by the village thorized to ask for bids. record, up to the year 1911, had man- In a number of these special assessaged to pay its own assessment out of ments, the bids were very close, but tillage its general fund, but since that time, in as much as all these assessments it has failed in doing so.

son that I have no facts in my posses- in interest would be. Such deficiency sion which would warrant a criticism. can only be ascertained after such as-

caused by forfeitures-that is, by rea- or seventh installment which took son of the fact that some of the prop- place about 1912, about a year after the time when it became due. erty owners did not pay their as the writer severed his connection with sessments and permitted the prop- the village as its attorney. small and for all practical purposes a plemental assessment could be levied their assessment and their assessment ment, the whole amount of which as negligible quantity.

The substantial deficiency in each ficiency when it was ascertained. gether with interest thereon at 5 per the credit of our village, which up to cent, then there would be no deficiency August, 1914, was unquestioned.

records show, a great many property owners did so, thereby stopping the interest on the assessment, which was assessed against the property. But lage had to be paid and by reason of

Indirectly, information has come to resist the collection of nearly every in order to meet the situation.

By reason of that fact, and the ment was levied, the village authori- the village of Downers Grove at this further fact that I am now represent- ties at that time expected that sooner time from levying such supplemental ing a number of special assessment or later trouble would probably come bond holders whose bonds remain un- up with this property and for that paid, and also as a citizen of our vil- reason it levied a larger assessment lage interested in the maintenance of for the construction of that improveopportunity of laying before the in- when the Chicago Title & Trust Comhabitants of the village of Downers pany pays the assessments against the conditions above referred to, which of it is paid, there will be a consid- assessment, to the effect that the bonds which are past due and not paid, "litinois population fifteen to nine facts are obtained from a careful ex- erable surplus which should be re- property by reason of the original as- there is only one thing that remains funded to the property owners.

was paid for, it was not necessary for hence no supplemental assessment village of Downers Grove, and that is to our Board of Trustees, at their the Village Board to issue and sell bonds against the entire ten install- forced to say, from my knowledge of in the Circuit Court of Du Page Coun-Special Assessment No. 7. The ments, and for that reason it left in special assessment proceedings and ty for the purpose of compelling the bonds that were issued on this assess | the tenth installment in round figures ment have all been paid and this about \$4,500 to be utilized in the fu-

The contingency to utilize said Against the following mentioned as amount by issuing bonds against it

ment. The excuse that is offered at the Special Assessment No. 10... 1,682.38 present time is that they would be Special Assessment No. 11... 740.04 unable to find a buyer for these bonds. 215.17 This is undoubtedly true, but the ques-Special Assessment No. 13... 3,285.15 tion that arises is who is responsible Special Assessment No. 14... 2,264.45 for this fact? Until the default was 30.22 made by the Village Board in the pay-164.06 ment of their special assessment Special Assessment No. 18... 1,681.71 bonds and the interest thereon, every-571.70 one in the village knews that such 297.42 bonds were in great demand, not only 84.01 in our local market, but also in the 213.50 bond market in Chicago.

Returning now to the remaining as-Special Assessment No. 25... 4,785.92 sessments against which there ap-105.39 pears an overdraft, past administra-Special Assessment No. 29... 1,023.65 tions have been criticised by innuen-290.18 does as being to blame for the condi-Special Assessment No. 32... 1,348.58 tion. Let us see whether or not this

gineer shall be employed by the village ered his connection with the village, due from private property, but, grant-pursuits. 339.46 in special assessment matters, whose resolutions were passed replacing ing for the sake of argument, that our 4. Schools offering instruction in the 161.28 duty it is in municipalities like ours such amounts as had been borrowed President in his statement is correct, domestic arts, including sanitation, structor generally conducts the 302.85 to submit an estimate of the cost of from various installments. This was then and in that event our statute cooking, sewing, care of children and 179.08 the proposed improvement over the done for the purpose of protecting the points a remedy in section 60 of Chap the sick, preserving fruits and vege three-day classes are held during a Special Assessment No. 42... 349.44 name of the President of the village. Treasurer in taking care of the bonds ter 24, of the Revised Statutes of Illi-The question naturally, after glan- This estimate is supposed to be suf- and the interest, as they matured. the Board of Local Improvement, the In answering this question, I must Board then passes the necessary rest former Treasurer, Mr. Rogers, should cannot be collected by reason of desummer months. These schools will

were spread over ten years, it was im-The reason for its failure in this possible to obtain a definite knowledge respect, I do not criticise, for the rea- in advance as to what the deficiency

the annual tax sale, to be forfeited to when the assessment was levied, did the second installment or any succeed-up the delinquency, it is in fact an exthe state. The amount, however, as not want to impose any heavier bur- installment, there was not suffic tension of time given such delinquent it appears from the village records den upon the property owners than tent money in these installments to property and affords an opportunity account of such forfeiture, is very by reason of the statutes a slight sup- the property owners not having paid stallment plan for a delinquent assessin later years to make up the de having been returned delinquent to accrued in five years the property

one of these assessments, or more | Section 59, Chapter 24, of the Recorrectly speaking, the nine deferred vised Statutes of Illinois, plainly ministration had been applied to the to divide such new assessment against installments of each assessment points out the duty of the village against which bonds were issued, was board in reference to such deficiencies. lage at that time, what would have bonds against the deferred installcaused by what is termed a deficiency This section provides that supple been the result? The result would ments, place them on the market and in the interest, which deficiency is mental assessments shall be levied for have been that the village would have thus obtain funds to meet its maturcaused by reason of the fact that the the purpose of meeting such de defaulted on the very first installment ing special assessment obligations. payments of each one of the special ficiencies, herein referred to as over- of special assessment bonds that maassessments herein referred to were drafts, and the amount which it would tured. And with the further result is responsible for the fact that such deferred or spread over a period of have been necessary and which is that the credit of the village would additional assessments on delinquent ten years and bonds were issued now necessary to levy upon each par- have been immediately ruined and all property were not made, as provided against each one of said deferred in- cel of land, would be very slight; in further sale of special assessment by our statute, within the five-year stallments, which bonds bear 5 per fact, so slight, that no property owner bonds made impossible and all imperiod. cent interest. The property owners would object even if he could under provements likewise, so that the vilare charged with 5 per cent interest the law successfully urge an objection, lage, instead of enjoying the improve- be found that special assessments No. on the deferred installments, and if for I am satisfied that all property ments which they now have and which 8, 10, 11 and 13 were confirmed in the the property owners paid the install- owners in the village of Downers they have enjoyed for years, would be year 1907 so that the five-year limitsments each year as they matured, to- Grove are interested in maintaining at this time without them.

in interest. The property owners, The question now arises, why did however, have a right to pay any or not the board comply with the law all of said nine deferred installments and take the necessary steps for levyat any time and thus stop the interest ing such supplemental assessment in on the various installments against order to take care of the bonds as their property, and as the village they matured. Why they did not act,

am unable to say.

of our village notified members former administrations of the Village the interest on the bonds of the vil- Board, as well as the writer, to participate in a meeting called for the writer attended the meeting and after Some special remarks are in order some discussion stated to the presi-Chicago Title & Trust Company to village officials to what was necessary

If I remember correctly, the Village ent incumbents of our village offices, linquent to the County Collector. Sev- Attorney made the statement that the at least some of them, have made a eral appeals have been taken to the village was unable to levy the supplestatement that this condition was Supreme Court and in each case the mental assessment because the village brought about by and through the court has sustained the assessment, was barred from doing so by the acts of former administrations of our but with the result that so far the statute of limitations. From my exvillage government, which indirectly Chicago Title & Trust Company has perience and by reason of the thorough investigation of the law which the period from 1906 to 1911, served enth and eighth installments, which I have made, I am forced to say that there is absolutely nothing in the law When this particular special assess of the State of Illinois which prohibits assessment for the purpose of taking care of these deficiencies. In fact, quite to the contrary, the statute makes it obligatory for the board to take these steps.

Another objection, as the writer remembers, was urged by the attorney sessment had been benefited to the for me to do, as attorney for such lilinois evening high school enroll-At the time when this improvement full extent of that assessment and clients, and also as a citizen of the could be levied at this time. I am to commence mandamus proceedings the law on that subject and from the Board to do its duty to the bondhold of high school age, at a given time there is absolutely nothing to that bonds and re-establishing the credit

the property affected.

he has acted on the advice of the come to me indirectly.

time a very few overdrafts existed property, is many thousand dollars. ment, which is permissible under the have only discovered minor amounts 3. Schools for boys and girls prepar-The statute provides that an en- law, and that before the writer sev- as disclosed by the village records, ing to take positions in commercial

> ministration of the village is that the which is being pursued by the present levy another special assessment upon vide training in agriculture, together board of the village.

> present procedure of the Village Board proceeding and the ordinance passed women trained both technically and and apply it to the conditions as for such special assessment to the practically in agriculture, who during they existed during the time that specific property, describing it, and the summer months will be employed Mr. Rogers served as Treasurer of the stating the fact of its delinquency, and in visiting the students at their home

> assessments knows that it is the ex- then the assessment is returned de- and business questions and giving lecception that all property owners pay linquent and the property again of tures and demonstrations on practical their assessments when due. There fered for sale as in the original assess- subjects connected with farming. One never has been a time in the history of ment proceeding. our village, and I venture to say in

the County Collector.

Mr. Rogers, the former treasurer, the year 1912, more than a year after conscientious in the performance of the writer severed his connection with his duties and having at heart the the village, and the subsequent special welfare of the village and its credit, assessments were confirmed later and paid these bonds as they matured and they are still now open to such a prothe interest thereon and the then ceding if action is taken at once. Village Board, through its Finance Committee, on the advice of the writ-

er, made up the deficiency by tem-During the last winter the President porarily borrowing from some installment to make it up and when the subsequent assessments had been collected by the County Treasurer, repaid the installments from which it was borrowed, thus equalizing the funds.

> It appears, however, and which was expected, that by the years 1911 and 1912, the overdrafts became more acute and the assessments had then been paid to such an extent that the village board could have easily ascertained the deficiency which would be created by the deficiency in interest and then there rested upon the Board the plain duty of seeing that the Village Treasurer was supported in his desire to pay the special assessment bonds of the village as they matured by levying supplemental special assessments upon the property to make up such deficiencles.

The question to be answered now remains, who is responsible for the condition? Can there be any other answer but that the present administration has been negligent in not seeing to it that the necessary supplemental assessments were levied time so that when the bonds matured, together with interest, there was sufficient money in the treasury to meet

Representing, as I do, a number of for the village to such supplemental clients holding special assessment various orders of confirmation entered ers and the citizens of the Village. in each one of these assessments, that alike for the purpose of paying the actually in the public high schools. of the village as far as the latter may helpful education to this large number

which bonds have not, as yet, been the village authorities, notwithstand- tion contained any finding by the court For that reason, I ask that other fourteen, and to offer it only to boys paid, and hence the entire deficiency ing this amount of \$4,500, permitted that the property is assessed to the holders of special assessment bonds and girls over forteen who can, or at this time cannot be exactly ascer- about \$2,700 worth of special assess- full extent of the benefits received. who have not as yet placed their will, no longer remain in the schools owing to the fact that ment bonds against this particular as The only finding which these orders bonds in the hands of an attorney for as now constituted. nearly all paid, with the exception of to the present time made any attempt is that the property is not assessed munication with the writer so that the more than it will be benefited nor entire matter can be handled in one deficiency which may be added to that stallment for the purpose of paying more than its proportionate share of proceeding for the purpose of saving time and in the shop the other half.

> levying a supplemental assessment on to state that three suits by bords holders are now pending against the Criticism has also been quite lib- Village and also two against the erally passed as to the action of our former Treasurer. The latter two past treasurer, Mr. J. W. Rogers, who were no doubt instituted by bondholdhas been the treasurer of the village ers by reason of misrepresentations youth over seventeen who may wish from its incorporation until last year and who is responsible for such misand by innuendoes of apparently ill- representations I do not care to state, bechnical training in day or evening advised persons it has been said that for my knowledge on that subject has schools.

> former Village Attorney, who is the In addition to the foregoing, I must call attention to the matter of de-In answer to these criticisms, I first linquent property. Statements have want to say that my connection with been made by the present President the board ceased in 1911 and that the of the village that the amount on acvillage records show that up to that count of forfeitures and delinquent ticeship. and those that had existed had been In my search of the record I fall to adjusted by transfers from one install- find that such is the case, excepting entering industries without the trainment to the other in the same assess- what is due from the Village itself. I ing of an apprenticeship.

nois, which provides that any time The criticism that has been ad- within five years after the confirmainstallment of a special assessment such delinquent property by making with business courses. Technical in-Let us for a moment analyze the reference in its special assessment struction will be given by men and if such second assessment against work on the farms, consulting with Anyone who is familiar with special such delinquent property is not paid, and advising the parents on scientific

It might be said that if the property the ordinary agricultural instruction Part of the overdraft was also sessments have run to about the sixth the history of any other municipality, owner did not pay the original assess. In the high school will be the practical where every installment was paid at ment, he would not pay subsequent character of the instruction given, due assessments. It must be admitted The bare facts are that when the that the character of property changes very first installment of special as and if a supplemental assessment is erty, in the absence of tax buyers at The administration, at the time sessment bonds becomes due against levied on delinquent property to make due these several assessment funds on was absolutely necessary and felt that pay the bonds, by reason of some of of redemption by paying on the inowner would be unable to meet.

If the present practice of our ad- Again, it would enable the village management of the affairs of our vil- delinquents into installments, issue

tion did not become effective until G. H. BUNGE.

OVER 400,000 YOUTH (16 TO 19) ARE NOT IN HIGH SCHOOLS-NEED SPECIAL HELP.

SUPPLEMENTAL WORK URGED

Bill Almo to Fit for Livelihood at Citizenship Youth Not New Helper by Public Schools-Special Schools Provided-Farm Courses a Feature.

Springfield, Ill.-Details of the Vo cational Education system proposed in the Commercial Club bill, soon to be introduced, show a plan for schools to supplement the work of the presen public institutions.

Friends of the measure make th following statement.

"At present practically the only at tention paid to fitting pupils for lifework is given in an incidental way and only in the high and evening schools. Elementary school work is properly devoted chiefly to general education.

"The following statistics, however, show that a very small percentage of youth between fifteen and nineteen are in the public high schools.

ment 11.050 Illinois trade school enrollment..... 3,730

*Statistics for 1912,

"This means that while about ten per cent of the Illinois population was there were about sixteen per cent

"The purpose of the bill is to offer who now leave the public schools at

"It is proposed to establish: 1. Co-operative vocational schools where they will be in school half the

2. Vocational continuation day schools which offer from six to ten hours per week of instruction closely related to the occupations of the pupils, given by teachers who have practical knowledge of the occupations. Attendance will be compulsory upon all to pursue further either general or

"Another type of school will be authorized for pupils between fourteen and sixteen who can remain in school all day. These schools may be:

1. Schools undertaking in a two years' course to prepare for appren-2. Schools for boys and girls be-

tween fourteen and sixteen who are

Winter Farm Schools. 5. Agricultural winter schools offering two-year courses for youth in the country who work on the farms in the of the advantages of this system over to the closer touch between teachers. parents and pupils, given both in the school and on the farm, and their recognition of the needs of boys and girls who have not qualified for the high school and cannot devote the entire year of nine or ten months to school attendance.

"This system of schools attempts to provide for the wants of those who are not and cannot be reached by the present system of schools. It is an attempt to supplement the present aystem of public education so that all will be given a minimum of vocational training. Until this is done we can hardly claim to have a complete system of free schools."

The course up to the point of graduation from the grammar school ought to be uniform for all pupils. The tendency to drive the separation of courses and the development of rocational instruction below this point in the pupil's development ought to be strenuously resisted. These are the powers which every youth ought t possess, and the information acquired in developing them ought to be the common stock of every man. It makes no difference whether the boy is to be a plumber or professor, tinker theologian, this is the solid,

EED OF EXPERT O

nation, L. e., elementary of plan was tried extensively. the teaching of agriculture in the c mentary schools was come have been a failure, and of the restdential schools all but two had been put out of business.

A new act for technical and agricultural instruction in Ireland was passed in 1900, providing the following program:

1. To provide at one central full tution the highest form of technic education for the men who were to become teachers and specialists in agriculture. 2. To provide at least one high-class

agricultural college which would prepare men to enter the Royal College of Science and become agricultural experts. 3. To provide provincial institutions

at which young men would be taken as farm apprentices and taught agriculture, both practical and technical. 4. To provide winter schools of ag-

riculture where the sons of farmers. at small expense, could obtain technical training during the winter months, when they could be spared from farm work. 5. To provide central institutions

for the training of women in the domestic economy of the farmhouse, and in the work which falls to the lot of woman to perform in connection with the working of the farm, such as dairying and poultry-keeping.

6. To provide education for young women, in domestic economy and "farmyard lore" in residential and day schools.

7. To provide for instruction in each county, in agriculture, horticulture, dairying, poultry-keeping and bee-keeping for the farmers and their wives, sons and daughters, by a system of itinerant instruction.

Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Campbell says that the only indispensable features of the scheme are numbers 1, 4 and 7—the training of teachers, winter schools and itinerant instructors.

One hundred and fifty-two itinerant instructors are now employed, in addition to fifty-three special teachers sent out by the department to sasist the small farmers, and a number of creamery experts. These instructors in the years 1911-12 gave 1,292 100 tures, attended by 55,263 persons, comducted 424 classes with 4,534 students and made 75,633 visits to farms and dairies.

The winter school work is now carried on in 76 centers in 28 out of 28 counties of Ireland.

A classroom is secured at some comvenient rural center. Provision is made for heating and lighting it and equipping it with plain benches or tables, and with agricultural specimens, such as seeds, manures, feeding stuffs and grasses. The county itinerant inclasses. Three two-day classes or two course of twenty weeks, extending from October to March. The number of pupils is limited to twenty-four and the classes are held for five hours a day. The subjects taught are mu the same as in the winter schools of Germany and Holland.

Lectures are given on horticulture. poultry-keeping, etc., by visiting teachers. Sometimes, when laboratory courses are offered, the work is given for five days a week for the twenty

In this way, although the education given is neither formal nor elaborate. the great mass of the country people are being reached, and all signs poin to the conclusion that Ireland is going to save herself from economic ruin very largely by means of sound agricultural methods.

DUAL VOCATION SYSTEM AIDS WISCONSIN YOUTH

For three years Wisconsin has had a system of public vocational education, conducted on the so-called "dual" plan-that is, by boards other than those in charge of the schools for general instruction. Citizens of states like Illinois, which so far have not established vocational schools, are interested in learning how the dual aretem has worked in actual practice.

Apparently there is in Wis almost unanimous approval of the ple of control of vocational schools h separate board. The superintes of schools of Madison, for an writes that "our separate board s to instill confidence and assuran the minds of the public, estimate taxpayers. They know that separate special body has been ed to work out and solve a were left to the regular have many duties and perform before fin