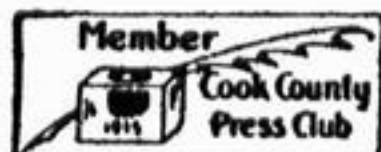


### Downers Grove Reporter

Issued every Friday morning from the office of the Downers Grove Publishing Company, 37 North Main street, Downers Grove, Illinois.

C. H. STAATS, EDITOR

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#### MICKIE SAYS

OLD PETE WAMPUS SAYS, "DIDJA SEE TH' SWELL AD THAT TRAMP SIGN PAINTER PUT ON TH' SKUNK HOLLOW BRIDGE FER ME?" "N TH' BOSS, HE SAYS WEARILY, "BRING YER BRIDGE ROUND TO TH' HOUSE COME TIME WHEN I AINT TOO BUSY 'N ILL GIVE IT TH' ONCE OVER. I AINT GOT TIME TO BE CHASIN' ALL OVER TH' COUNTRY READIN' ADS ON BRIDGES 'N FENCES 'N COWBARNS!"



IF THEY AINT ENOUGH NEWS IN THE PAPER TO SUIT YOU, SEND IN SOME!

#### THE SHORTAGE IN SCHOOL FUNDS

The Board of Education of School District No. 58 are facing a shortage of funds available to run the local schools totaling nearly \$10,000. It is through no fault of theirs or of the old Board which has just been replaced.

A representative of The Reporter attended the hearing at the Maple ave. school several weeks ago to determine if possible, who was to blame for the shortage. Testimony was taken from everyone interested and the blame was not fixed, as it could not be. The fault lies in the statutes regarding this particular case.

Elsewhere in this issue is a statement of both the old and new Boards regarding the shortage they are facing for educational purposes. It will pay everyone interested in the schools to read this closely that they may be advised of the truth of the matter and settle a few of the many rumors that have been flooding the village.

#### A COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL.

Under the law a school district is able to raise money by taxation for educational purposes up to a certain per cent. No matter if the expenses of the district are twice what their revenue would be under the law, they cannot get more money by direct taxation.

There is, however, a law under which this can be accomplished. It is the one whereby a "Community High School District" can be established. In this way a tax can be levied for the grade and one for the high school. Both of them together being but slightly higher than the one alone.

Unless Downers Grove establishes a high school district immediately, they will be forced to close the local high school within two years because of lack of funds. There is no middle course that we can see. It is either the high school district or no high school at all.

Talk this over with any member of the Board of Education and get some figures that will surprise you.

#### SCHOOL BOARD STATEMENT REGARDING FUNDS

(Continued from page one)

and he sends his tax levy to the county clerk but there is nothing said about the certificate which should accompany it. Mr. Simonson's letter which he says was sent did not come to our notice, therefore when receiving the tax levy for that year showing an increase the spread was made by the process of reduction. We assumed that you had asked for more money than you were entitled to and reduced it to the proper amount."

After closing the interrogatories Mr. Hadley advised the Board as follows: "I do not believe any of your

officials are open to censure, Mr. Simonson or anyone else. It is simply a thing that is liable to happen. The school law began years ago, and then it was a simple thing, but now we have the most complicated thing imaginable. The statute was to blame. The statute should designate someone to notify the county clerk. There is not a blessed thing in that statute to tell you just how the county clerk is going to know there is or has been an election, and your case is just like hundreds of other cases."

Mr. Bowman: "The position taken by Mr. Hadley is well taken. It is a new revenue law and nothing said about notice of an election or anything at all, the supposition being there was no further notice conveyed to the county clerk that there was an election and the county clerk has done that and there you are. If you want any good excuse to explain to your people that it is not going to warrant any justification for condemnation upon any one individual the explanation can be that it was through the lack of explicit instruction on the part of the law as to the notification of the increase that the extra tax was not spread. Some formal statement of that kind is within the absolute fact and does no injustice to anyone and is the best rational explanation to the public. It is not trying to cover anything. It is a fact.

The above is a digest of the statements, remarks and testimony of the parties having knowledge of the facts and they are self evident that no responsibility can be placed at the doors of the Board of Education as it was constituted in 1919 with reference to the tax levy and its spread. No one individual or official, either collectively or otherwise can be charged with the neglect of his or their duty. The present Board, it is conceded, will have difficulties perhaps when meeting the requirements of the school and not retard the educational progress of the children, but the financial stringency can doubtless be overcome and this is explained in a communication from the Honorable F. G. Blair, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, who is the chief legal advisor of the Boards of Education of this state. He makes it clear that while it may be embarrassing, the law provides for a method of coping with difficulties such as these. His letter states in substance as follows:

"While the school district that includes the city of Downers Grove has a taxing power of only 2 per cent, it has a credit, or borrowing power of 5 per cent. That is to say, orders may be issued for the wages of teachers, including existing indebtedness, to the amount of 5 per cent of the equalized assessed valuation of all the property of the district. Will not this power enable you to bridge the difficulty there? If I have not made myself sufficiently clear, please let me hear from you again."

Sincerely,  
Signed, F. G. Blair,  
Superintendent.

The situation having now been clarified it is the desire of the Board as now constituted to inform the people of School District 58, and the Village of Downers Grove, that the tax payers will not suffer by reason of our failure to receive the increase nor will the standard of our schools be impaired or allowed to retrograde. We must maintain the highest ideals that

tend to promote efficiency and quality in our educational institution, and therefore the Board will leave no stone unturned to obtain this result.

School District 58 voted to increase the revenue for the purpose of maintaining our education facilities in August, 1919, and the Board would now have this additional revenue had the levy been spread, but on the contrary, the people of this district escaped payment of this additional tax against their property for 1919 and are that much ahead. The levy however has now been properly certified and entered of record in the office of the county clerk, thus assuring us that the financial benefits derived from the election will accrue to the Board and be payable out of the taxes paid by the people in the spring of 1921.

Should anticipation warrants be authorized and issued to meet the deficit in the 1919-20 budget, such warrants will carry an obligation of six per cent interest.

The meeting thus held and testimony given exonerates the entire Board of Education of our district from any responsibility for the unfortunate situation, and the entire proceedings and testimony having been taken down verbatim in shorthand and transcribed by a reporter, the Board invites public inspection of the transcript which is a part of the records of the Board of Education and in the hands of Mr. F. E. Dowe, the secretary.

J. R. Shaffer. M. H. Prince  
H. E. Tank. W. R. Curtis  
R. E. Rassweiler. C. A. Carlson  
A. C. Miskelly, N. R. Feasley.  
F. E. Dowe. C. W. VanBeynum

#### Official Proceedings.

April 13th, 1920.

The Board of Education met in regular session at the Maple avenue building. President James R. Shaffer presiding. Members present: Mrs. M. H. Prince, W. R. Curtis, H. E. Tank, F. E. Dowe. Absent—R. E. Rassweiler.

The minutes of the regular session of March 9th were read and approved. The following bills were presented, having been approved by the finance committee:

Fred C. Witt, Janitor service for March	\$ 125.00
Gust Johnson, same	85.00
Jos. Pfaff, same	85.00
Village of Downers Grove, electric light	41.40
Gas Co., gas	1.89
Chicago Tel. Co., rental and tolls	12.35
G. C. Butler, incidentals	1.70
Ferd E. Dowe, service & postage	17.50
Lord Lumber Co., supplies	9.92
John C. Winston Co., readers	12.42
Standard Oil Co., floor dres.	14.40
Thos. Chavlin Co., supplies	22.25
Garden City Ed. Co., sup.	16.60
University Pub. Co., books	1.33
J. H. Frankenfield, repairs	53.00
E. I. DuPont Co., supplies	11.16
Underwood T. W. Co., rental	48.00
Mertz & Mochel, Coal & sup.	232.69
Teachers' Salaries, 3-8 to 4-9	3468.80
Total	\$4260.41

On regular motion the bills were ordered paid. Voting Aye: Mrs. M. H. Prince, W. R. Curtis, H. E. Tank, F. E. Dowe.

The secretary reported that he had sent a certified statement of Special Election held on August 2, 1919, to

the County Clerk and had received an acknowledgement.

The finance committee reported that the High School teachers had requested a meeting of the committee and protested the action taken by the committee in reference to salaries and after a general discussion of the existing condition expressed themselves as satisfied with the recommendation made by the committee.

Mr. G. C. Butler and C. B. Blodgett were appointed as Judges and W. J. Staats as Clerk of election to be held on April 17th.

The finance committee reports that upon investigation they find that the increased tax levy authorized by the special election held on August 2nd, 1919, had not been made, and had invited the Township Treasurer, County Clerk and County Supt. of Schools to meet with the Board on Friday evening, April 16th.

Moved and seconded that the Board adjourn to Friday, April 16th. Motion carried.

Fred E. Dowe, Sec.  
April 19th, 1919.

The Board met in Special Session at the Maple avenue school building for the purpose of canvassing the returns of election held on April 17th and organization of the new Board.

President J. R. Shaffer, presiding. Members present: Mrs. M. H. Prince, W. R. Curtis, H. E. Tank, F. E. Dowe. Absent—R. E. Rassweiler.

The poll sheet of the annual election held on Saturday, April 17th, was then read showing that Mr. A. C. Miskelly had received 92 votes for President; C. A. Carlson, 80 votes for full term; N. R. Feasley, 85 votes for full term; C. W. VanBeynum, 86 for 2 year term.

The returns showing that Mr. A. C. Miskelly had received all the votes cast it was moved and seconded that he be declared elected as president of the Board for the ensuing year. Motion carried and so declared.

The returns showing that C. A. Carlson and N. R. Feasley had received the majority of the votes cast it was moved and seconded that they be declared elected as members of the Board for full term of three years each. Motion carried and so declared.

The returns showing that C. W. VanBeynum had received the majority of the votes cast it was moved and seconded that he be elected as member of the Board for two years.

(Continued on page 6)

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