

Downers Grove Reporter

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OUR SCHOOL SITUATION

With the laying of the cornerstone of the "Glenbard" high school several weeks ago, the villages of Glen Ellyn and Lombard are starting the first lap of an era in the educational system for their young people that will mean the finest and fastest progress for the two villages of any place in this county. To the people of this community the cornerstone laying has special significance. Quite a number of years ago an effort was made to join Downers Grove and Hinsdale into a township high school district, locating the school itself at a point midway between the towns, then Greggs, now Westmont. But the near-sighted people of the two communities overruled the more progressive element. The result of this union of the two districts would have been one of the finest high schools in the state of Illinois. The result is Hinsdale established a township high school district of her own and have an excellent school, one hard to beat and one which does not have to struggle continually to keep on the accredited list of the universities of the west.

Our high and grade schools are a disgrace for a community as wide awake and progressive as we are. An indication of this can be seen in a report sent to the University of Illinois in which an acknowledgement was made that three studies had been dropped from the curriculum of the local school because of lack funds. This report shows the overcrowded, unsanitary condition of the school and puts Downers Grove and Downers Grove people on record as NOT BEING PROGRESSIVE ENOUGH TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN THE SCHOOLS SUCH AS THEY SHOULD.

Every cent of the money now received by this district for school purposes should be used only for the grammar school or the first eight grades. It is in these grades that the very foundation of all education is laid, and an eighth grade education is all that a great many children can get. To maintain the high school an additional tax should be levied. The tax at present cannot support both schools, either one or the other or both must suffer if present conditions continue.

What is the remedy? The remedy is the establishment of a community high school district. But this has been turned down twice by voters of the proposed district and we now leave the problem of what's to be done up to those who successfully opposed this district.

Conditions in the schools of District 58 are deplorable. If anyone doubts this statement let him or her visit the school, talk with Superintendent of Schools Reed, or Principal of the High School Vernon. Five minutes conversation will change the attitude of the skeptic.

GARBAGE DISPOSAL

Following is a communication from a resident of the north side which is worth printing.

"Here is a nut for the Village Council to crack. Think it over this winter and next spring. Have metal cans placed on the premises of all residents for the deposit of all garbage and also provide means for hauling away and disposing of it. Look over the north side and see the amount of garbage in the rear of lots, and some dumped on the side streets. The Village Council will please make a tour of inspection and interview the women folks, the men are not at home during the day. Ask them what they think?"

This is a timely and vital need in this community. The indiscriminate disposal of garbage as it is practiced in this village is dangerous to the health of everyone. We are one of the last towns in this vicinity to provide for garbage disposal, the hauling away of ashes, tin cans and other refuse. This is one duty a municipality owes its citizens and Downers Grove people need and should have the service.

Japan Thicket Settled.

Japan supports 401 persons to the square mile.

WOMEN IN POLITICS

By Mrs. W. J. O'Neill

One of the best definitions yet given for politics is given by Nicholas Murray Butler of Columbia University. He said: "Politics is the science of living helpfully and happily in organized society."

It has become apparent to the pioneers in the field of endeavor to interest the best class of citizens in active participation in politics that the word must be interpreted differently before they venture in. As the word is interpreted now it means simply the rascally connivance of a group of selfish men to corral all they can for their own gain. Their last thought is the welfare of their country or the people. Naturally this group resents the coming in of the new element and so have been perfectly satisfied to keep the better class of citizens out of their field by making the atmosphere such as to be distasteful to discriminating people. However, the women since their enfranchisement have been so busy in an effort to change this condition that already the politicians of the passing regime are classing them as busybodies and persons pushing forward with but little idea of what they want.

Among some of the things which women and intelligent men believe we should have is a more thorough training of the students in our high schools along the lines of citizenship. Mrs. Bowen, president of the Woman's City Club of Chicago says: "Our much vaunted educational system of which we are not as proud as we were before we found out that one-fifth of the men who entered our army could not read or write) educates children and young people along certain lines, occasionally giving them vocational training, fitting them for business life, but except in very rare cases gives no lessons in citizenship. This means that every year thousands of new voters go to the polls without any adequate education as to our governmental machinery, our past history or our ideals for the future, except the training which they get from the various political parties as soon as it is known that they are future voters."

In one instance we know of a group of five hundred high school young men graduates were invited by disreputable politicians to enter a political club where they received their first lessons in the business of government. Afterward when they were approached by the head resident of a settlement formed in the neighborhood they could not be induced to drop the ideas they had received from these inferior politicians. They told her the politicians were the only ones that attempted to teach them anything on the subject and it was too late to change. Training in citizenship is what we need for boys and girls of the land and the sooner we get at it the better prospects we shall have for a sound government. Keep the young voters safe from the influence of corrupt politicians by informing them correctly while their minds are plastic."

News of Mrs. Oleson, who is running for the United States Senate from Minnesota is coming in steadily. She is evidently a hardy campaigner having covered over four thousand miles and made hundreds of speeches. She says: "The country is turning progressive. We have

passed through a period of reaction such as the country has never known in the past fifty years. The power of money controlled in the period of Mark Hanna as never before. Then came Roosevelt and Wilson. During the war the bulk of the people suffered while a few profited. The men in congress now present the period of the war time profiteer. We have two schools of thought in the nation at this time: The first, the belief that all legislation should be for the common welfare and the second that if big money is satisfied the common people must be." From which we would gather that the lady from Minnesota is hinting.

The following section from the new constitution is causing some discussion among lawyers and judges who believe that the provision for an additional judge for every fifty thousand of population above a population of fifty thousand in a county is an unjust expenditure of the people's money. It has been stated that one county judge can take care of a population of five hundred thousand.

County Courts, Section 113 — In each county except the county of Cook there shall be elected in nineteen hundred twenty-seven and every six years thereafter a judge of the county court except that contiguous counties may by law be made a district in which one judge shall be elected for all county courts in the district. An additional judge shall be elected for every fifty thousand population or major portion thereof in a county above a population of fifty thousand. The term of every county judge shall be six years from the date of his election.

Any person who wishes to occasionally travel with Mrs. O'Neill on her campaigning trips is invited to get in touch with The Reporter.

CAPT. PARKER INTERESTED IN INDIAN SOCIETIES

Capt. R. D. Parker was re-elected secretary of the Indian Fellowship League, U. S. A., at a business meeting held last Sunday, September 26. He is also secretary of the International League of North American Indians and a director of the Society of American Indians.

During the convention of the Fellowship League and the International Indian Pow Wow club held last week in Chicago, the Captain wrote and presented the following "Appeal to the Public." It has been adopted already by many clubs and societies and the Captain is confident that this is the start of "a shot to be heard around the world."

Appeal to the Public
"Whereas: The North American Indian is the only race living in the midst of the civilized world without a flag or country of its own. Resolved, that We, the Indian Fellowship League, U. S. A., appeal to all true citizens of the United States to assist in placing before the President and the Congress of the United States, a petition for the enactment of a law which will give the native American Indian the same rights and privileges of citizenship as can now be obtained by people of foreign birth; and that a copy of this resolution is sent to the President, the Presiding Officer of the U. S. Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Washington, D. C."

THE DU PAGE TAG DAY

On Saturday, October 7, every town in the county will participate in a tag day for the Crippled Children's home at Prince Crossing. This is one institution in which the entire county can take pride and which everyone can help support. We have been tagged going to Chicago, for every variety of purpose and usually give up a few jitneys without a murmur. For the local cause we should cheerfully give what we are able.

Pearls Long Limited.

The imitation of pearls is not a new industry, but was carried on centuries ago. In the inventory of the jewels of a French lady of high degree in 1731 there is named "un collier de perles fausses," a necklace of false pearls, but more than a century earlier pearls were made in France by a jeweler named Jaquin, and so successful was the manufacturer, it was said the finer ones were bought up by the nobles of Asia and became rare in France.

Foolish Superstition.

In "Ye olden days" in England some simple-minded folk believed that swans could hatch their eggs only in a thunderstorm—that is, it required a crack of thunder to crack open the egg of a swan.

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