

The Highland Park News

Will be issued Monday from its office in the Post Office building, where all editorial and other business will be transacted, and where all communications should be addressed.

HIGHLAND PARK TIME TABLE.

Chicago & North-Western Railway.

Yearly Fare, \$25 100 Rides, \$25.50 30 Rides, \$7.50.

TRAINS STOPPING AT HIGHLAND PARK			
Leave Chicago.	Ar. High Park.	Leave High Park.	Ar. Chicago.
8:00 A. M.	8:07 A. M.	8:15 A. M.	8:00 A. M.
9:00 A. M.	8:57 A. M.	9:05 A. M.	8:50 A. M.
1:00 P. M.	1:15 P. M.	1:25 P. M.	1:10 P. M.
2:00 P. M.	2:17 P. M.	2:25 P. M.	2:10 P. M.
3:00 P. M.	3:17 P. M.	3:25 P. M.	3:10 P. M.
4:00 P. M.	4:17 P. M.	4:25 P. M.	4:10 P. M.
5:00 P. M.	5:17 P. M.	5:25 P. M.	5:10 P. M.
6:00 P. M.	6:17 P. M.	6:25 P. M.	6:10 P. M.
7:00 P. M.	7:17 P. M.	7:25 P. M.	7:10 P. M.
8:00 P. M.	8:17 P. M.	8:25 P. M.	8:10 P. M.
9:00 P. M.	9:17 P. M.	9:25 P. M.	9:10 P. M.
10:00 P. M.	10:17 P. M.	10:25 P. M.	10:10 P. M.
11:00 P. M.	11:17 P. M.	11:25 P. M.	11:10 P. M.
12:00 A. M.	12:17 A. M.	12:25 A. M.	12:10 A. M.

OUR PUBLIC SCHOOL.

The Principal's Report.

To Messrs. J. W. Preston, E. Carter and M. L. Burdick, Committee on Schools.

GENTLEMEN: I herewith present my second annual report of the condition of the Public School.

I can assure you it gives me no small degree of pleasure to be able to state that prosperity has attended our work, and that the efforts put forth by both teachers and pupils have been satisfactorily rewarded.

If, in a large measure, the character of the future population of Highland Park is to be molded in the Public School, then the very best thoughts of our best and wisest citizens should be given to this institution. They should bestow this thought and render this service, in order to promote the educational interests of the community, and to open wider fields of learning for their own and their fellow citizens' sons and daughters.

If we would have our youth occupy a position in accord with the progressive spirit and ever growing necessities of the age, we must not stint or fetter them in their advantages, but rather offer them every facility possible for attaining and maintaining that position.

Our town is justly becoming not a little renowned in the neighboring great metropolis for its natural location and its charming, health-giving climate—during at least the greater portion of the year. And it remains for you, gentlemen of the School Committee and your successors, to decide whether or not to give it an equal celebrity for educational advantages. If the foundation for this certainly desirable consummation be not laid broad and deep to-day, to-morrow it may be too late.

We cannot even remain passive in matters of such far-reaching importance as that of furnishing ample school accommodations for all the youth within our corporate limits. Nothing is more certain than the necessity of education, and a liberal one, for the practical uses of life.

In the United States, more than in most other countries, perhaps, it is the duty of every father and mother to open the best path to learning for the child. If we would have a sufficient guarantee for the permanence of the Republic and of all our Republican institutions, we must prepare our youth by education to live in a Republic.

He, who by neglecting to educate his son, sends into our American society an incapable citizen, deserves to have such a citizen-rule over him; or, in the language of another: "The parent who sends his son into the world uneducated, defrauds the community of a lawful citizen, and bequeaths to it a nuisance."

The question has been asked: "What have the children of the poor and the working classes to do with science?" "Let them learn the three R's and to count; that's the kind of education for them." And yet the working people, above all other classes, are just the ones who have most need of scientific knowledge, and who would derive the greatest benefit from it. Science is almost an absolute necessity to the poor man, who is liable to be thrown into a score or more different kinds

of employment during his checkered life, out of which to try to wring a subsistence. And, the fact is, the majority of the labor-saving machines have had their origin in the so-called "working-class." Need we entertain any fears then that they will gain too much general information? We trow not.

Who will, in the light of the nineteenth century, urge or accept the doctrine that "a little learning is a dangerous thing?" Let its advocates, if there are any among us, forever hide their heads in this land of free schools.

We are pleased to state that the school attendance has been largely in excess of what it was even last year, as our statistics, further along, will indicate. School committees, parents and teachers, should co-operate heartily in school matters, if they would achieve the largest success by their labors.

Regular attendance and punctuality should always be enforced. It is impossible for any pupil who does not attend to his entire school duties, and who is not prompt at every exercise, to long retain his class rank. Each recitation is a link in a chain. The loss of one lesson may destroy the unity of all lessons given upon the same subject. By absence or tardiness, the pupil not only injures himself but impedes the entire class with which he is associated. No pupil should thus be permitted to do himself, his class and his teacher so great an injustice.

If it is good and right for pupils to be at school, then no ordinary excuse should keep them away. If it is bad for them to be on the streets, associating with the idle and the vicious, the parent or the guardian should take time to keep them at home or at school.

We shall, in the next issue of the News, publish the standing of the pupils in the various departments of their school work since the first Monday in January.

The above thoughts, and many more, for which we have no space, have been suggested from the fact that the problem of schools and school accommodations constitutes just now one of the most important questions upon which our citizens are called to take almost immediate action.

In accordance with the suggestion made by his honor, Mayor Beebe, in his inaugural address, I submit this report at the present time. It cannot be expected to cover the school year thoroughly, as that does not correspond with the fiscal year of our city government. I shall, however, lay before you some of the more important facts and statistical information.

You will observe, by referring to my report of one year ago, that the sitting capacity of the building was increased last year by the addition of 37 new seats and desks, which made the total number of sittings 123. We were then of opinion that the building was seating as many pupils as it could advantageously.

But, as necessity has ever been the mother of invention, and it was evident that more accommodations were needed, while your committee had decided not to build for the present, we suggested that the present building be re-seated, making the aisles all through narrower. This plan being adopted, thirty more seats were provided, which it was thought would meet the demands of the natural growth of the school for one year. This increase has given us 153 sittings during the present school year.

There have been enrolled so far during the year, in the entire school, 198 pupils, of whom 97 were boys and 95 girls. The average number belonging each month has been 156, while the average daily attendance was 141.

The total number of days present, up to April 1st, is 19,740. If we base the future attendance for the balance of the school year on that of the past seven months, (which proved last year not to be too high an estimate,) it will aggregate 8,460 days; thus making the grand total attendance for the present scholastic year 28,200 days. I find by referring to the last published report of the Cook County Schools (outside of the city of Chicago), that but four, out of nearly 300 schools, had as large an attendance as our school presents—those being Evanston, Hyde Park, Lake View and Englewood; while only one of these (Englewood), which employs a large

number of teachers, and in which the grading is very close, shows as large an aggregate attendance to four teachers as our school does with but three teachers.

Our total attendance will be over 5,000 days in excess of what it was last year; while the annual cost, per pupil enrolled, for tuition alone, will be \$15.65, or about 11 cents, on an average, for each single day of actual attendance.

I would suggest to the Committee that, in order to establish and maintain anything like the proper grades in the school, it will be necessary, by the opening of the next school year in September, to add an Intermediate Department with the services of another assistant. The school is now of sufficient proportions to warrant a more thorough grading; and to make that practicable will require the undivided services of a corps of four teachers.

Last spring, I examined the highest class of the Primary Department, and found that some of the pupils were fit to be promoted, but from force of circumstances I was obliged to leave them in that department, as there was no other room or teacher to receive them. The rooms being already full, pupils are compelled to remain in the same room and under the same teacher, even though they may pass to a higher grade in their studies.

A few of the young ladies in the school contemplate teaching this spring, and some of the larger boys usually remain at work, so that for the brief Spring term we shall probably be able to accommodate in the upper room those who are prepared to be promoted from the Primary. But, in the Fall, again, all the sittings on the second floor will be needed for the Higher Department.

On the 19th of March, our highest class, composed of 16 pupils, attended a teachers' examination, held by the County Superintendent, Mr. J. P. Manchester, at Libertyville. Learning, after the examination commenced, that it was for candidates for second grade certificates, covering the following common English branches—Orthography, Reading, Penmanship, Geography, English Grammar, United States History, and Arithmetic—we made arrangements for the Superintendent to come to Highland Park and hold an examination for first grade certificates on the 9th and 10th of April. This same class intend to be examined, with other candidates from different parts of the county, on that occasion. Though only a few of them should receive first grade certificates when the results become known, still we believe that an examination of this character will tend to elevate the standard of education in our county, as it covers some four or five extra branches of study.

Our bills from the firm of Bradner, Smith & Co., show that they alone have supplied 405 quires of legal cap for the written work of the pupils in our higher department. This quantity was in addition to that furnished by our resident merchants and supplied in other ways during the past seven months.

There is much more statistical information bearing on the present condition of the School, its immediate and prospective wants, which we should be pleased to lay before your committee at this time were it not that our time is so limited by the press of school duties near the close of the term, coupled with the fact that this paper has already reached far too great a length.

In conclusion, I wish to extend my unfeigned thanks to the Committee for their uniform kindness, courtesy and acquiescence; also for the prompt and cheerful manner in which they have invariably responded to any demands made upon them for the welfare of the School.

Respectfully submitted,
W. S. LASHER, Principal.

A New Mexico editor, in a forgetful moment the other day, was so imprudent as to venture into his sanetum without having his revolver with him. The coroner's jury returned a verdict of "deliberate suicide," without leaving their seats.—Ez.

An item is going the rounds of the press to the effect that George Willim Curtis was paid \$1,000 for his eulogy on Mr. Sumner. Mr. Curtis, in a note to the New York Post, denies this, and says that he received nothing, the services he rendered being a labor of love.