

**The Highland Park News.**

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LEWIS B. HIBBARD EDITOR,  
H. F. EVANS BUSINESS MANAGER.

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1897.

**AFTER THE CAUCUS.**

It was 10:45 Saturday evening, March 13, 1897, when we reached home from the East Deerfield Citizens' Caucus. Since that we have had several reflections on that quiet, orderly gathering—some of which we jot down for the edification of our fellows.

First—It was a credit to the town, in that it was orderly, quiet and good-natured. We heard not a word of profanity or low speech of any kind, and so felt proud of East Deerfield. All sorts of folks usually get into a town of our size, but there were no loud-mouthed, coarse and vulgar-talking men there, or they kept quiet. We emphasize this as a matter of local pride.

Second—Did the caucus represent the town? Yes, and no. "Yes," in that all parts of the town and some of classes were there. "No," in that the big tax-payers, as a rule, were not there. Major Vail, Colonel Davidson, S. F. Knox, C. G. Phillips, W. E. Brand, Cyrus Green, K. R. Smoot and John Finney were all the east side real estate owners present, while probably nine-tenths of the voters who are not real estate owners were there. That is, the non-property owners made the nominations, the tax-payers remained at home and can't complain, and we don't want to hear any complaint from them.

There were 254 ballots cast; two years ago at the election there were 562 votes. That is, about one half

the voters were at the caucus, and of course if half of those who were at home had been there they could have changed the result in every case. There was more talk about the assessor than any other office, before the caucus, but the taxpayers said nothing and did nothing; some of them will come up there in June and kick vigorously. This is a free country, let them kick, but not rebate a single cent. We came from a state where a taxpayer, for neglecting his primary duties in this matter, was liable to have his rates doubled and then have to bear it. If the taxpayers had done half the work either Messrs. Brand or Palmeter did, they could have had another man, if they had wanted him, as we have heard some say. Now we do not think any other any other man would run; we certainly would not, if we knew in advance we should be elected. Everything was fair and square and above board at that caucus and we propose to stand by it.

The News had the honor of bringing out Peter F. Dooley for the new justice of the peace and is glad of his nomination. He is not a lawyer; lawyers are liable to be dangerous as justices. But Mr. Dooley has a natural taste for the law; he loves it, has some familiarity with it, is level-headed, somewhat judicial in his mental and moral make-up, and above all is fair and honest and not carried away with conceits and prejudices. The News extends the right hand of fellowship to "Judge Dooley."

Constable Grant of Ravinia is a fine young man and will get "broken in," as they say of colts, and make a good officer. It is very desirable to have the village marshal of Fort Sheridan and the constable of that end of East Deerfield one and the same person. We say that after eight years' experience as a justice. The other men we don't know personally and can't speak of their qualifications. The others, the people have tried, both justices and constables, and are satisfied.

With this town caucus of 1897 East Deerfield has passed successfully another crisis in the history of its development and therein we rejoice.

**WHAT'S THE MATTER.**

We have once called attention to the fact that Chicago contractors come here and get jobs away from our local contractors and asked the reason why. We want our men to have this work, they can do as good work as any one, that is some of them can at least. We are not willing to admit on any evidence yet in hand that the Park has not, for all ordinary and practical purposes as good and competent workmen as any other place. Of course there are specialists in the large cities. It is also true that in a city like Chicago there are contractors of larger financial resources than most of our contractors, just as millionaires are more numerous there than in the Park.

But this is not the trouble. Some way a Chicago contractor takes a six to ten thousand dollar contract from \$500 to \$2000 less than our own will bid for. Why is it? It takes just so much material to do that job? why that difference in price? We think it lies in one of two directions, if we are in error we want the mechanics to study it out, it is certainly for their interest to do so, they are losing from two to four thousand dollars for labor on that Exmoor Club house and ought to bestir themselves and know the reason why. In our mind the reasons are either:

First, the contractors themselves are not as expert in figuring on the little details of a job as their Chicago rivals. The Club folks tell us there is one weak spot in the Park contractors. Running over two sets of bids and you will see the Chicago fellows are experts at every step while ours are not so efficient, they have not the matter "down fine." How much there is in that we don't know, but we do know that Mr. Clow, one of our leading carpenters has competed successfully at Lake Forest with all the world and the Forest folks are supposed to know good work and want it too, won't have anything else, in fact.

Second, we have contributed more to the incompetency of many of the journeymen mechanics. We