

The Highland Park News.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 1897.

SUCCESS is attending the NEWS. We move to better quarters about May 1st.

OUR late city election suggests lots of profitable reflections. One is that if the little spasm against Mr. Schumacher, on account of what some supposed was his hostility to women on the school board, which on a low estimate cost him, say 15 votes, had not happened, Mr. Greenslade's majority of 50 or thereabouts, would have been cut down one half. Also, if Messrs. Greenslade and Dooley had not worked in harmony both would have had fewer votes. Hence, it does not follow that two years hence Mr. Schumacher could not overcome this 62 opposition votes. Mr. Greenslade turned an adverse majority of over 100 into a successful majority of 62.

In our boyhood there was a justice of the peace who became notorious, and many people wondered why, as in other respects he was a first class man. One day he asked our father, another justice, to sit with him in the trial of a case, a very common custom there. While the people were gathering, he turned to father and said, "Well deacon, what do you thing of this case?" to which the deacon replied, "Why I can't decide anything until I hear the evidence." Greatly surprised, the old justice looked up and said, "Evidence, why, I never pay any attention to evidence. I always decide a case before the trial." Everybody then knew why he was notorious.

WOMAN POLITICS.

Last week the NEWS said Mr. Schumacher opposed women in the school board. That was a misleading statement, and error. What he did object to, was not a woman, and least of all Mrs. Smoot, but to an east side woman displacing Mr. Evans, the west side choice. As that side furnishes much over half the pupils, he felt that it was, in all fairness, entitled to at least two out of the five members of the board; and he was right, certainly, so long as we claim to regard locality in the selection of school directors. Or, if they would select a good west side woman, he would not object. It was neither the person nor the sex, but the locality, on which he based his opposition. What the women should have done, was to put Mr. Evans and Mrs. Smoot on their ticket, been wholly fair to the west side and had their woman director also. Perhaps that seemed too big a job, and they, like the wicked men, were in politics to win. Mr. Schumacher's contention was right, and besides, as Mrs. Smoot—no woman, in fact—should be even seemingly handicapped by any possible charge, as we have heard it, of being a weapon to Mr. Evans' defeat: that was the "politics" of the woman movement, a phase which will be eliminated in future.

WHOLESALE IMPROVEMENTS.

[CONCLUDED FROM FIRST PAGE.] yet how to make streets; let us go slow till we do. Cheap macadam means a big expensive waste. We on St. Johns avenue want our street improved in a way that will be good and that will last."

Several of the speakers put in a few words explanatory of what they had said, and then Aldermen Rice, Phillips and Obee spoke, not so much in reply, as in explanation of the council's course and position. Messrs. Lasher, Hipwell, Middleton and several others asked about who ordered and who was expected to pay for a lot of street surveys that had recently been made, and some of them said if that money had been put to scraping and grading Port Clinton, it would have made a good street of it for five years. It was explained that these surveys were a part of the plan to secure grades of all the streets and sidewalks in the city. Mr. Lasher suggested that

there had been two official grades established on Port Clinton already and they did not want another, especially this cutting down and leveling up process which had been so ruinous elsewhere.

Alderman Charles B. Rice—"I am glad so many people are out tonight and they speak so freely, though some have 'rubbed it in' pretty hard, but we can stand it. There has been a strong demand for better streets and our committee asked citizens to give us their views, and this scheme grew out of it. Some who wrote us did not come to this meeting." [Laughter and calls of "who," "name them," etc.] He scored citizens for not attending the council meetings, and helping the aldermen with their advice. There was no secrecy; the time was short, and the committee had to act quickly to get it before the last meeting, so as to publish to the people.

Alderman Copley G. Phillips—"I have been surprised at some things said here tonight. There has been no secrecy; no attempt to force things, and so long as I am in the council, there will be none if I can help it. [Cheers].

(The editor of the NEWS wishes at this point to bear testimony to Mr. Phillips' determination every time that the people shall be heard on all these important matters before definite action is taken.)

Alderman W. J. Obee spoke briefly as we left the chamber in the same general line.

NOTES

Evidently the council was a little surprised at the strength of the opposition, at its intense earnestness and its overwhelming unanimity. It was a volcano, an avalanche, a cyclone, a flood bursting of all levees and burrows, it was in short a pure, but intelligent self-conscious democracy aroused and on the defence for self, family and home. Whatever one may think, pro or con, of these improvements, that meeting was a grand and inspiring sight to one who believes in popular institutions.

The testimony was unanimous on two points: first, to press those improvements now would be confiscation of property; there are many, more than most think, who simply could not pay these assessments, some can barely do it now; another added burden would break through; as city collector for three years we know the financial situation of many of these taxpayers and that meeting only voiced the naked truth, when it said "this means confiscation."

Second: "The point is, that we