

The Highland Park News.

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

FRIDAY, MAY 7, 1897.

AFTER A WEEK of winter weather, during which the thermometer was not above 40, spring broke out again Tuesday morning.

WE ALLOW OUR male friends to select their own wives, as they have to live with them. So we shall allow our St. Johns friends to pave that street as they like, but our fancy is for a central parkway, street cars on one side and a boulevard on the other, so as to make the Sheridan road come up St. Johns. Is not that all right?

OUR esteemed contemporary, the London Times, is stirred up not a little over the rapid growth of Russian influence in the east, especially in Korea at present. At present the Tsar's Pacific ocean harbor is at Vladivostok, which is frozen up three or four months every year. Once established in Korea he would not only have an open harbor all the time, but one right in front of Pichili bay and Peking, so that England would play second fiddle only among the dominant forces in China. Russia may be slow, but she gets there all the same, and when there, she stays.

THE MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

Without making any invidious comparisons, we are frank to say that we never heard a better deliverance from any mayor of this city than Mayor Evans' message to the old and new councils last Tuesday evening. They were the frank, straightforward, honest deliverances

of a level-headed business man to his associates concerning the business of which they are the business managers, and as such, it merits the careful consideration of the council. We ask our readers, especially the taxpayers, to peruse these messages with the utmost care, noting in particular the following points.

First—the rapidity with which the city has been paying off its bonds. Mayor Evans, on his first term, at the rate of over \$17,000 a year; from \$85,000 two years ago, our debt is down to about \$52,000 including over \$22,000 added last year. That explains the high standing of our paper in the financial markets. When the proposition was broached to build a \$10,000 town hall in Highland Park a couple months ago, bankers from all over the country, as far east as New York sent for them at once. They don't do that for bonds of cities whose credit is a bit shaky. Highland Park's credit is the best, gilt edge; Mayor Evans recognizes the high duty of keeping it there.

Second—Look at that Water Works account. Two years ago it had obligations against it of over \$4,600—now it has a surplus to its credit of over \$250—not a large sum, but it is on the right side of the ledger. We have heard ex-Mayor Fletcher's administration scored, pretty hard, too, for the extravagance of such a plant. Today it is paying its way, leaving a handsome surplus which will go far toward putting in a street lighting plant of our own. Two years hence, with wise business-like management the city will own and operate at small cost its own street lighting plant, and put at least \$2,000 of the present cost of street lighting into street repairs. Then ex-Mayor Roche won't have to take his grip and hasten back to Chicago, as he did last Sunday morning, because our streets are so bad. That is a thorough-going business man who would see and make such a suggestion.

Third—The "old, old story" of our sadly inadequate city building receives proper treatment. Sometimes the wisest thing a city or business man can do for his business in

terests is to run into debt a bit. It is an imperative necessity that confronts us, and the mayor faces it as a brave, sound, sagacious business man. There is hard sense in every word he says. He favors economy, strict and rigid everywhere, but he knows there is such a thing as a so-called economy that is in reality expensive extravagance. The mayor has "blazed the way," for the city councilmen shall prove themselves worthy of their place, by putting his suggestions into practical shape. The council are in the balances—will they be found wanting? We trust not.

Finally—The mayor's suggestion that our improvements hereafter be made in such a way and with such rapidity as to give work and trade to our town people, has the right ring to it, and all the people, working people, or otherwise will say "Amen."

ABOUT TOWN.

For mortgage loans on real estate call on D. M. Erskine, Jr., & Co.

Note John H. Mohr's advertisement in another column. He removes to the old Moore stand on the west side. Drop in and see him.

There is to be a wedding in a few days—watch next week's News. And things have a very suspicious look for two or three more in the near future.

Frank P. Hawkins' family returned from Chicago Monday and settled down in their old home. It seems natural for the citizens to see the city's first mayor on the streets again.

We have lived like a prince for nearly a week. Dan. Sheahan left a can of his best Jersey cream—the genuine article—on the editor's table Sunday morning after his return from his wedding tour in Wisconsin and perusal of last week's News. If that's the way the Park dairymen treat the editor, we won't object to some of them getting married every week.

Dr. Newman of the north end of the town, moves away, we understand, to Chicago to take charge of a north side hospital. The news reaches us via Chicago, and is therefore perfectly reliable, as is everything else from that wicked place. We regret to have the doctor leave the city, but if he can do anything to relieve suffering humanity in Chicago, we recognize the duty.