

The Highland Park News.

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FRIDAY, JULY 16.

HOT WEATHER has one thing in its favor in that it helps break the back of the coal famine.

THE wheel has fallen—in price—25 per cent.; the wheelman has fallen an hundred per cent. a good many times and picked himself up.

WHERE is our electric street car line? The engineers were here several weeks ago and located the new depot just beside Fred Schumacher's drug store and soda fountain.

LAKE BLUFF has the "Sea Serpent" on the brain in full force. We had supposed the Bluff was the stronghold of Prohibition, an ism which has no sympathy with "snakes."

A St. Louis paper says: "Push the horseless carriage." We can't; the streets are so muddy and the police won't allow us on the sidewalks. How would an overhead trolley work?

THE big Christian Endeavor convention in San Francisco, with its 12,000 attendants outside California, is at an end, and we now trust the members will come home and endeavor to lead Christain lives.

THE most beautiful woman in Europe has been found, the Crown Princess of Italy. But what is the use of talking: Highland Park has not yet been heard from. If we can't beat the published picture, we put our heads under the pump.

MUNICIPAL STATESMENSHP.

The following is the resolution introduced and passed at the last meeting of the city council. It was introduced by Alderman Daniel Cobb of the second ward, and after a long delay was seconded by W. J. Obee of the third ward. We insert the resolution in full as it may have a historic interest, just now it is something of a municipal curiosity; read it.

WHEREAS, Certain rumors and staements have been circulated, and published in the Public Press to the effect that the Mayor of the City of Highland Park was interested in the contract let by the City for the paving of Vine avenue. I move that a committee to consist of the Auditing Committee be appointed to make due investigation and report its findings at the next regular meeting of the city council."

Now if Aldermen Cobb knew half as much about municipal affairs as he seems to think he knows, he would have known that this matter was wholly beyond the scope and limit of himself and his associates: evidently he has never read the statute defining the duties and prescribing the limits of the city council and before he starts out again he had better do it, at least he might consult the city attorney. But it would seem that he and Alderman Obee think themselves above the statute the advice or anyone else. Josh Billings says one trouble with some people is they know so many things that aint so, but our plaint is that some people know so little of some things they ought and are supposed to know so well.

WHAT THE MAYOR DID.

Everybody seems to understand that Aldermen Obee and Cobb, backed by the gang politicians outside the council, are trying to make out that Mayor Evans has done something very wrong in connection with the recent improvement of Vine avenue, but just what it is they don't know. Now we will tell you just what it is.

Early in the spring the members and friends of the golf club, including Messrs. Higgins and Keeler, who own the land between the railway and the club grounds, wanted Vine

avenue west opened, graded and Macadamized. The council passed the ordinance and called for bids; finally on motion of Alderman Obee the contract was let to Laing and Happ at some little preference, chiefly because they were home men and would employ home working men thus keeping the money here at home and we approve of that. The assessment had not passed the court, but the golf folks wanted the work begun at ance and pushed as fast as possible.

Messrs. Laing and Happ made arrangements with Mayor Evans to furnish the money; payday came, he got the money and went up to the street and paid or saw that the men were paid. Every man in this city interested in the club grounds and that includes about everybody on the east side and some besides, wanted that road built and done at once and so someone must assume the responsibility of getting the money for the help and material used. Anyone was at liberty to buy those improvement bonds of Messrs. Laing and Happ but men had other uses for their money; Mayor Evans was situated so could secure the money. Aldermen Obee or Cobb could have taken them if they had so wished. Mayor Evans did it because some one had got to do it if that street was done early this season, and these men know it as well as any one. The law forbids the mayor or aldermen from being interested directly or indirectly, in any contract with the city. Mayor Evans had nothing whatever in any shape to do with any contract; he simply accommodated the contractors by arranging so they could get the ready cash to pay all bills. All his dealings were with the contractors, not with the city, and the bonds all go to the Evanston bank on the written order of Laing & Happ. His matter was no more a contract with the city than Alderman Obee's sub-contract last year with the contractors on Central Avenue, to build all their catch-basins and other mason work, and this year he partially bargained for the same with Laing & Happ, then changed his mind, we suppose and in all that he thought he did no wrong, and no one else thought he did any wrong. We do not allude to this to charge him with any wrong, for we do not think he committed any, but if he now thinks he did, why don't he have himself investigated and rectified, before he attacks Mayor Evans? Mr. Evans has not a particle of voice or vote in in approving a bill or paying one.

One word more. By doing as he did, he secured work, for many weeks