

The Highland Park News.

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LEWIS B. HIBBARD, EDITOR.
A. E. EVANS, BUSINESS MANAGER.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24.

SIXTY-SEVEN pupils in our high school show a wide-spread determination on the part of our young people to secure the best education possible. Every young man won't go to congress, and every young woman won't marry a millionaire, but what is better they will have an education for all their life work.

THE publishers of the NEWS are happy to say they have concluded arrangements with Mr. Hibbard by which he will devote all his time and strength as a newspaper writer to the NEWS after October first, that all connection with the Waukegan papers, on which he has worked for ten years, will cease from that date.

WE believe last Wednesday morning was the first time we ever stepped into a Catholic church; not because we are bigots, but we never happened to do it, that's all. We enjoyed the service very much. There was a beauty and solemnity about the wedding ceremony which befitted the occasion. We have no sympathy with these go-as-you-please justice of the peace weddings. The groom and his bride bore themselves admirably through the trying ordeal. The music was admirable; some one had a clear, resonant soprano voice which rolled out and filled the vaulted arches of St. Mary's, while there were occasional notes of a strong basso. The day was perfect and as the party left the church an honest "God bless you" went up from scores of hearts.

PRESIDENT MCKINLEY is spending a few days this week with his friend, William B. Plunkett, in Adams, Mass. That was one of our old stamping grounds. Mr. Plunkett, the president's host, was a young man in 1873 and his father, General Plunkett, was alive and the owner of large mill interests which his sons have greatly enlarged. They are prosperous, and better still, public-spirited young men. W. B. pays the expenses of the prize pupil in the public schools through Smith college each year.

HAS PROSPERITY COME?

A WAUKEGAN business man, a republican and a protectionist in politics, as he styled himself, asked us Monday if prosperity had come. We told him it had, in some respects at least, in others it had not. The NEWS has many workingmen among its readers, and we wish to offer a few suggestions for their special study. The shortage in the crops of Europe, especially wheat and rye, (the latter of which is the great staple bread supply of Europe's working millions), in the valley of the Danube, and on the steppes of Russia, has created a large and unexpected demand for our American surplus wheat. Hence, the farmers are getting much better prices for it than they have received for a long time. This puts money into their pockets and they are pay-off their mortgages, their floating debts at their country stores, for their farm machinery, clothing, supplies, etc. This of course makes business active in the country stores and country trade generally all over the northwest, and to a certain extent, all over the country. The Dingley tariff, had nothing whatever to do with all this; it came from the short crops in Europe and most of the great grain growing countries of the world, except our own. Every manufacturing industry which furnishes such supplies as the millions of farmers and their families need and buy, has been helped. Also, as the scarcity of wheat has greatly enhanced its price, all other grains as rye, corn and oats have felt the advance, and so as these make our pork and beef, these and nearly

all kinds of meats have gone up in price. Therefore, the farmers are prosperous, as are all lines of manufacture which supply the goods they purchase. So far and to those people prosperity has come.

What has the tariff done to bring prosperity to our people, farmers, mechanics and workingmen of all classes? Two dollars tariff on lumber has put up the price of lumber two dollars a thousand to every man who buys a thousand feet, and this two dollars does not go as revenue to the government, but into the pockets of the millionaire owners of our lumber forests. We use Wisconsin, Michigan and southern lumber now, just as we did before the tariff; we don't import it. The same is true of lots of things on which the new Dingley bill has put a tariff; it has enhanced the price while adding but little if any to the revenue of the government.

A careful, expert statistician has figured it out and finds that the new tariff has added about fifteen per cent to the cost of all family supplies. It is more on some things, and less on others, this is the average. The farmer getting from fifty to one hundred per cent more for his grains and pork and beef and poultry, can afford to pay this extra, enhanced price for his purchases. How is it with the workingman? Prosperity to the farmer has made but little if any more for him; it has not advanced his wages one cent. He works for \$1.50 a day, the same as he did before. Before the tariff and prosperity came, he could buy \$1.50 worth of family supplies, while now, owing to enhanced prices, his \$1.50 will go just about as far as \$1.30, or \$1.25 used to go. That is the farmers prosperity and the tariff has been a damage to him, in that it has raised the price of everything he has to buy and not added a cent to his wages or given him one day's extra work. Consequently, the retail dealers who depend on the trade of the workingmen, mechanics, etc. are rather worse off than before.

Now all this shows that the roots, the causes of our hard times, are deeper than tariffs, and that short crops in Europe one year won't remedy them. The average workingman has a hard winter before him.