

# Highland Park News.

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## HIGH SCHOOL HOUSE.

Some members of the school board tell us the plea that the "out west" people opposed a \$30,000 high school building, while they would not have opposed a \$15,000 one is not correct, as the heaviest tax payers out there have not entered any protest at all. Their attitude seems to be—the district takes in all this territory, the two Deerfields and a part of Vernon is as it is and we can't change it. We have got to bear our proportion of the expenses of a high school if there is one. The citizens of Highland Park, Highwood, Fort Sheridan and Ravinia need a high school, and therefore we are lawfully obliged to help support it. There is no denying the need of such a high school. If they need such a school they need a good one. Of course they need a school house, and a good one, too; it won't pay to build any other.

That is the way these heaviest out-west taxpayers reason, and they reason aright. The opposition comes from the small taxpayers, lots of them very small. The board claim that the large taxpayers, being successful farmers or business men, see things as they are, and hence seeing things as they are make no opposition. They are not anxious to pay taxes, but they are willing to pay them for a worthy and necessary object.

Now as to the cost of the school house. Let it be \$15,000 or \$30,000; do which is best in the end. One thing, we must build for Highland Park in the future, not for its 75 to 100 pupils of today; we think in ten years there will be nearer 300 than 200 pupils, and we must build for the future. If a part could be built now and a second part ten years hence, all right. Springfield, Mass., is building that way, but it is to cost over \$200,000—one or two wings now and one wing in the future. If we build a long, square building—the most economical, of course—like our public school build-

ing, of course it must be all built at once. Then the grand list for the high school is so large and spread out over so big a territory that it won't come high on any of us, not anything like our other school building. The remark has been made that the high school board in Deerfield pay more high school taxes than all the sixty odd protesters out west, or something like that. We shall hunt it up and see. Meantime, everybody keep cool.

## JUDGE DOOLEY'S COURT.

First his court room is a model. He has a regular sort of a pulpit desk, such a one as they used to have down east in their school houses at one end of the room. It is on a dais one step high and in front of it is a table and two chairs for the attorneys, and then half a dozen chairs for the witnesses, all shut of from the crowd by a neat railing. It is by far the best court room in the city and in general structure and style is such a one as the police court should have, only larger. It is well lighted with incandescent lamps. When painted and places for files and papers, it will be complete in every detail. It was formerly dedicated Wednesday evening by the suit of Lucian J. Rice vs. Julia D. Butler for carpenter work performed on her house down near the Blattels. Mrs. Butler let the house by contract to Chicago parties who did a certain amount of work for which and material she has paid about \$475. Then the contractor engaged Mr. Rice to finish the carpenter work for \$80, \$40 of which was to be paid when the plastering was on. Now Mr. Rice testifies that before he began work Mrs. Butler went to see him about it and then and at one or more subsequent times while he and his help was at work on the house, she assured him that she would pay him; he could rely on her for his compensation. His helper swore that he had overheard her make

such statement to Mr. Rice while they were at work on the house. She denies this; says she ordered him to "come down" off her house a dozen times or more. The issue in the court then was, as between Mr. Rice and Mr. Cole's testimony, clear, concise and practically exact, and Mrs. Butler's broad and sweeping statements.

There was no effort made to show that Mr. Rice did not do the work, that it was not well done, and was not worth all he asked; all that was practically conceded. As to her ordering him off the job, her only proof aside from her own statement was Mrs. Blattel hearing her tell him or some one working on the front bay window to stop, while Mrs. Blattel stood in her back pantry by the open window, which Mr. Rice explained as telling him to stop work on the bay till the contractor came out, which he did.

The whole force of Mrs. Butler's defense was to show that Mr. Rice's bargain was with the contractor, and that he had filed a mechanic's lien. As to what work and the price, the bargain was with the contractor, but Mr. Rice's testimony was to the effect that she guaranteed his pay. He did file a mechanic's lien and did bring this suit as the law allows; a decision in his favor annuls the other process. The mechanic's lien case has not come on.

Judge Dooley held the case to make up his decision, and we want him to make one which will stand the test of review in the circuit court, no matter what these folks say. "Julia," as her counsel respectfully and deferentially styles her, was not as voluble and pointed as sometimes, though she provoked several smiles and some laughter.

Our summer residents settle their bills before they leave town; that shows they are honest, and we bid them come again. The business folks of the Park have a weakness for folks who pay up.