

**The Highland Park News.**

Published in the interests of Highland Park, Highwood and Ravinia, every Friday afternoon by Evans & Forrest.

Terms, \$1.00 per year, 50 cents for six months, 30 cents for three months.

Office: in News Building, 255 Central Avenue, Highland Park, Illinois.

Entered at the post-office at Highland Park, Ill., as second class matter.

Advertising rates made known on application at this office.

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12,

VENEZUELA is reported "short of funds." Sad, but there are several persons in this city who will have a "fellow feeling" for our South American neighbor.

WORD comes to us from a professor in a co-educational institution, that he will not wed till he is thirty. We chronicle the fact as an evidence that even a professor can learn by experience.

THE office of the Standard Oil Co. in Springfield, Mass. has been robbed of \$140. Sad, this may cut off the income of the University of Chicago, unless a public subscription is started to cover the loss.

NEW YORK elected Tammany the other day to run the city for four years, and sent an old woman, 73 years of age, to prison for five years for some petty offense. This is the last decade of the nineteenth century.

MR. D. W. HARTMAN, of Byron, Ill., an experienced newspaper man, has succeeded Mr. O. C. Cole as publisher of the Lake Forester. We extend the glad hand to Mr. Hartman and wish him much luck, honor and prosperity in his new venture.

THEY had an auction out in Omaha the other day which consumed about thirty minutes of time and netted the vendor a little over fifty seven million dollars. That puts the vendues of our West Deerfield friends, W. H. Wilmot and W. C. Pettis, in the shade just a bit.

THE London Times says a certain local judge was accused in his own court of keeping an unmuzzled dog, and so stepped off the bench and fined himself 10 shillings, or about \$2.50; then went back on his bench and fined the rector of the parish the same amount for the same offense, and the people were greatly pleased with their upright judge.

WE gratefully acknowledge the receipt of a copy of Morse's Indian Pill Almanac for 1898. The astronomical calculations seem all right. New Years occurs January 1st., Easter April 10th., July on its old accustomed date, Christmas Dec. 25th. The pills are doubtless all right for Morse, but such are the marks of differentiation in the human organism, that we would not dare advise others to take them. They are Indian pills, and on the theory that the only good Indian is a dead one, we can see how valuable a service these and kindred pills have rendered the cause of human progress, as it is a well known fact the red men are dying off rapidly. Any one can use these pills, but on their own responsibility wholly for the good results!

**A PERPLEXING PROBLEM.**

Mr. Driscoll a few weeks ago asked the city council for a rebate of a bill for water used by the contractor who built his house, amounting to some dozen dollars. The request went to the fire and water committee, who evidently gave it careful examination and finally reported against granting his request. The committee did more; they outlined a general policy respecting water rates. The corner stone, indeed the four or five corner stones of their policy is that the owner of the property is and must be held liable for the water rates. No one, we think, would object to that on general principles. The city furnishes so many thousand gallons of water to a certain lot, for the benefit of that lot or the occupants of it, and the lot is and must be held responsible for the pay. That is perfectly equitable and fair, and it is practically the only way the city can do.

Look at it a moment. The water

rates are collected every quarter: it would be better every month, like grocers' bills, electric light, etc., but it involves so much work to read the meters, make out and mail the bills, and make all the needful entries, that once in three months is about as often as it can be done. The bills are payable the first of February, May, August and November. Now see how this scheme works. Jones rents his house from May 1st to Oct. 1st to a summer resident. When Jones vacates his house, he has the water meter read, pays his bill and the water is shut off. In a week or so the summer fellow comes and has the water turned on, Aug. 1st the water bill is sent in, and like any honest man he pays it. When he leaves Oct. 1st, he has the meter read, his bill made out and pays it. Now if every renter was like this summer resident there would be no trouble. But there are scores of folks who rent a place, go in, and use all the water they want, leave when they like, and pay not a cent for water. The city clerk made out the bills on time and sent them to them, but they paid no attention to them and left when they liked, the bill unpaid. The owner of the property or the agent knew nothing about it. The city rules say the water is to be shut off in fifteen days if the bill is not paid, but the city policy has been to let the bills run on and hope these careless, or hard up water takers would sometime pay up, till now there are several hundred dollars of uncollected water rates outstanding. What shall be done with or about them? In some cases the renters have left the city, left one or two years ago, and in several instances new tenants are in who pay their water rates.

Right here the council split. The committee—Messrs. Cushman, Obee and Cobb, said "Turn the water off at once, no matter if the present tenant is paying his rates, turn it off till some one pays these bills." Aldermen Phillips and Davidson said "No. If you had shut that water off one or two years ago, when the first fifteen days had expired some one would have paid and you would not have a big unpaid bill. Your neglect to do your duty, to conduct your