

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.

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A. E. EVANS, BUSINESS MANAGER.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19,

It will be news, we think, to most people, that of the about 8,000,000 tons of sugar consumed in 1897, fully 5,000,000 tons was made from beets, and only 3,000,000 from cane. While Germany makes 1,800,000 tons of beet sugar, the United States makes only a paltry 40,000 tons, or Germany makes fortyfive times as much as we do.

THE assessed valuation of the city of Chicago is about \$32,500,000, which is about \$32,000,000 more than ours. And yet when our George Elvey was born there in 1836, it was only a fair sized village; its population in 1830 was only 70 souls all told, or about 14 families, not more than there is on one side of a single block on the west side.

It is said to have cost Cook county \$8,000 to try Leutgert the first time and is now costing the county \$100 a week to keep its witnesses on hand. A well informed Chicagoan said the other day probably 90 out of every 100 persons in that city believed him guilty—he judged that from what he heard people say—but probably not over 10 out of 100 believed he could be convicted.

OUR postmaster general in advocating postal savings banks, as in France, England and elsewhere says that France made a profit of \$170,000 in handling \$143,000,000 deposits, while Great Britain earned a surplus or profit of \$83,000 on \$480,000,000 deposits, and this, too, after

paying 2½ or 3 per cent interest. Very true, but how much does he suppose we would make under the kind of politics we are having in this country under Tammany and Tanner and all that set?

APROPOS of one Chicago Republican paper saying "Illinois has 25,000 men who would make a better governor than Tanner," and another republican journal responded by saying "Make it a million." That excellent journal the Springfield, Mass., Republican, asks "Would not that include Altgeld?" No it would not, and if it did as between Tanner and Altgeld, give us Altgeld: he did not pretend to be anything else, but Altgeld.

THE Chicago death-rate for October was a trifle below 12 per 1000, or to be exact 11.82, and that is phenomenally low, albeit the people use lake water. Why can't our city council instruct its board of health to keep vital statistics, requiring every practicing physician to make returns of births, deaths, contagious diseases, etc., and the undertakers of every burial, or preparation of body for burial, etc., covering the entire field. As it is now there are cases of contagious diseases, sometimes a sort of epidemic, and the public knows nothing of it, while it should know the whole truth in regard to it.

SCORE ONE more for our City Attorney Smoot, who is also the attorney for Lake Forest. Some few months ago the school board of that little city took it into their heads they would run the schools and show people how the thing should be done. The city council objected, and, as our readers are aware, there was the sound of something beside revelry by night, and a hurrying to and fro, with sundry other performances. Last week the whole matter came on before the circuit court, and Mr. Smoot, solitary and alone, like the stripping of old with his sling and stone, put the board to flight, and henceforth the council will perform its duties.

Rev. Mr. Vines is expected to preach for the Baptists Sunday at 10:45 a. m. and 7:45 p. m.

1621 - 1897.

Two hundred and seventy-six years mark the lapse of time between these two dates: the former being the first celebration of Thanksgiving on American soil, and the latter the festival we are to observe next week. The original festival occurred after the harvest ingathering near the close of the first year of the Pilgrims in Plymouth. They gathered in a generous harvest, although the peas were not worth the gathering, but of Indian corn, their chief staple, they had enough for a peck of meal per week to each person, while venison, wild turkeys and fish were abundant. The Pilgrims landed at Plymouth December, 1620 - a colony of 102 persons. By the next spring 46 of that number were dead, including Gov. John Carver, and before the arrival of the second lot of immigrants Nov. 9th., 1621, the dead numbered 51, just half the original colony, a most fearful and disheartening death-rate. But the little 29 ton ship "Fortune" reached them some seventeen weeks out - instead of less than one now - from England with provisions, reinforcements, and best of all, news from home.

That first Thanksgiving was for a whole week, with games and mirth, and the "exercise of their arms" by the men, while three full days were devoted to the entertainment of Massasoit, the friendly sachem from Narragansett, who had with him some four score of his people, who, not to be too great a burden, brought five deer as their contribution. The colony was happy and in good measure prosperous, as the winter closed in. The town was one street, with perhaps a dozen log houses on each side of it, each with its garden, and all guarded by a cannon on a platform on the top of the hill. Their homes were cheerful and their health good.

About 1628 - the year of John Milton's birth - the Massachusetts Bay colony, under the Winthrops, Dudleys, Endicotts and Saltonstalls was founded, and among them Thanksgiving seems to have been observed more regularly than down at Plymouth, but it was not an annual festival then, as now in either place, for many years. July 8th, 1630, the