The Highland Park News.

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A. E. EVANS, - BUSINESS MANAGER.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17.

How many of our people know that Lake county once had a hanging all it's own? Well it did Feb. 27, 1874, when Chris Rafferty was executed in the Waukegan jail for the killing of John O'Meara in a Chicago saloon.

IT has been ascertained that the census of 1890 cost over eleven million dollars, or every six persons enumerated cost the government one dollar, or every family about eighty cents. The enumerator did not get all this; half of it was steal, or money wasted.

THE Scripture says "Man shall not live by bread alone," but the chief business of some Waukegan churches seems to be the giving of church suppers with elaborate menus. We have been told the way to some peoples' hearts is through their stomachs. That seems to be the "king's highway" in the Bluff City.

THE fire inspector, a state official with power, has been in Waukegan looking over their public buildings, halls, stores, etc. and he has ordered fire escapes on about a dozen of their buildings, and when he says, "Put them on," they have to do it. He will be here soon, as the grand jury in October, took notice of these things, according to law.

A Baltimore editor is somewhat excited over the statement of a prominent scientist, to the effect that butter can be made without any cow. We have a suspicion nearly every time we take dinner in Chicago, that the butter is wholly innocent of any past relation with a cow, The enterprise of the west is something marvelous. This Baltimore chemist is a back number.

WHEN H. C. Paddock started the Independent in 1892, a trifle over five years ago, most people shook their heads and said no paper could succeed in Libertyville. Perhaps it can't, but to-day the Independent stands in the front rank of the county press; indeed it is an honor to the press of the state. It has been enlarged and shows every sign of prosperity and enduring vitality,

THE Lake County fair last year had a very successful show. Gate and entrance fees amounted to $3,765.95. They paid in premiums $3,407.15. Total receipts were $5,709.15, and they have, after paying all bills, including $1,000.00 on the debt incurred by rebuilding after the two years ago cyclone, just $10.46, in the treasury. That is a good showing and we are proud of Lake County

THE NEWS begs leave to acknowledge not only a personal call, but a pile, 15 to 20 pages all told, of names and history of the high school from Daniel Pease, nearly every word of which will be available when we come to write. Mr. Pease has kept his records full and accurate, and he did this work for us while making up the semi-annual account of stock and business for his department of the wholesale house of Carson, Pirie, Scott & Co.

A WAUKEGAN paper tells us of a new army rifle at Fort Sheridan which carries a shot two miles, has gone through a prisoner's head, a a tough oak tree and then bored a hole into a clay bank deep enough for an artesian well. When reading such startling news it is best to remember that the countyshire has a score or so of saloons which sometimes superinduce vivid imaginations.

A FRENCH statistician says there are 10,000 libraries in the world worthy of the name. We don't know whether he has included our public library in his list or not. If not, he better not come here to spend his next summer vacation. We move to amend by making the list 10,001, for ours is worthy and will be more so when some public-spirited citizens erect a new library building on Hazel park in front of the chuches.

IT costs the Lord Mayor of London somewhere from $50,000 to $150,000 above his salary to extend the hospitalities of his position and perform the other social functions of his office. That is a little worse than in Highland Park. But then London has no Exmoor or Ossoli club, or a skating-rink, or lots of other good things of which we boast. Give us the "Peerless" city with its simple democratic institutions and life.

ONE of our Lake county men, Wm. M. Odett of Gurnee, is shipping 8000 pounds of our choice county turkeys to Boston for the holidays. He sent 12,000 pounds for Thanksgiving. Lake county's first white settler came on in 1834, Capt. Dan. Wright from Rutland, Vt., and now we are supplying cultured, aristocratic, baked-bean, Boston with her choicest turkeys. The world moves. "Westward the course of empire takes its way."

WE again call the attention of our city officials to the shabby condition of the crossings on Dale avenue on either side of Central avenue. We were over the north one Tuesday morning and found on careful examination that it is about two inches below the level of the macadam, and the water and the mud covered it up entirely, so that a lady who came along at the time was obliged to leave the crossing and walk in the street. The stone crossing at the Bingham-Cheney corner is in about the same condition and we hoed off three inches deep of mud. The difficulty arises from the fact that these crossings are laid on a level with the street; when put in were filled in underneath with loose earth, not tamped down, and the constant driving over them beats them below the street level. This can be seen in the ends of the plank crossings on Dale avenue.

WE took dinner one day last week at the Chicago Club, as the guest of one of it's prominent members. The Chicago, we need not remark, is the highest toned club in the city. It takes something besides mere money to get in there. It requires some blood and breeding and standing socially and morally. Well we met a few such men as Marshall Field, Mr. McCormick, several judges, Hugh T. Birch, and others, and that we enjoyed a royal dinner goes without the saying. It was a dinner which in it's substance and serving showed that there is such a thing as living being reduced to a fine art. But perhaps the most surprising of all, was the fact that everything went on as though we were not there! Our presence did not occasion a ripple, such is the culture and decorum of the club.

Fred Schumacher has just received a consignment of fine perfumes, imported and domestic: also a fine assortment of fancy box paper.

POSTAL SAVINGS BANKS.

Our old friend, S. B. Pettingill of Grafton, Vt., —who has seen service in journalism from the Atlantic to the Pacific—has contributed a brief article on the postal savings bank question, and raises this, in many places fatal objection, that it would collect all the little sums from the homes of the people and send it off to Washington, or other financial centres. This objection is a serious, if not fatal one, in the rural portions of New England and older sections of the country. When our city first went into issuing bonds, we wrote a New England savings bank president to see if his bank did not wish to invest in gilt-edge muncipal bonds and his reply was, "Yes, if the time ever comes when the business demands of our home enterprises do not use it all." Savings banks have helped make New England the workshop of the nation. Postal savings banks would have taken all that capital away from those communities. State savings banks have kept it at home, developed home industries, so that nearly every New England village is a manufactureing one, with prosperity, peace, and plenty, and some to spare, to send the boys and girls through college and then give them a start when they come out west.

THE DOG TAX.

Probably nine persons out of ten think and speak of it as a tax. If it was so, the tax would have to be levied on dogs according to their worth and not so much a head. But the supreme court,—103 Ill., 30 s. q. decides that it is not a tax, but a license for its words are: "The license fee imposed under the provision of the statute is in no sense a tax and is not therefore within the operation of section 1, article 9 of the Constitution" * * "It is simply what it purports to be, a license fee" and then it goes on to say that it is imposed under the police power and not under the taxing power of the state. Also, that dogs are vicious animals sometimes, a public nuisance and pest the same as a saloon is. and is an evil which cannot well be wholly exterminated. The person who wishes to own or keep one pays a license for doing so. It is on this ground of the dog tax being a license fee that the supreme court holds that the person who keeps or harbors a dog is liable for the license fee, as well as the person who owns it, just as the law holds not only the owner of the saloon, but the attendant liable. If the "dog tax" was strictly a tax then keepers of dogs could get out of paying the license fee by saying or the dog belonged to someone else. But it being a license fee the supreme court makes the keeper liable and it is worth all the bother of these suits to have this fact clearly brought out.

We are glad to record the fact there is one lady in town—we expect there are others in the Ossoli Club—who agrees with us that the Atlantic Monthly is the highest grade literary periodical in the country. We sat up nights, after lessons were learned, to read the first and subsequent numbers 40 years ago. We have not read all from that day to this, but it holds the same high place in our esteem now as then.

Mrs. Elvira S. Green spent last week in Chicago, with her daughter Mrs. J. R. McQuiston. The special occasion of her visit at that time was the death of Mr. McQuiston's mother, following so soon after that of her daughter a few months ago. The daughter's remains were taken from the receiving tomb and with those of her mother were inteered in Oakwood Wednesday last.

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