

# The Highland Park News.

VOL. III.

HIGHLAND PARK, ILL., JANUARY 21, 1898.

NO. 8.

## CONSUMERS' LEAGUE.

Mrs. Florence Kelly, recently a state factory inspector, gave an address last week Thursday afternoon, especially to the ladies of the Park, on the evils of the sweating system, and how they are to be corrected. She spoke quite fully of the evils of the fact that there are over 2000 sweatshops in Chicago, where fully 15,000 men, women and children are making ready-made clothing in the worst kind of tenement houses, low dirty, small, poorly lighted, unsanitary cellars, in many cases reeking with filth and often with disease and not infrequently with contagious diseases. She had found families at work on ready-made clothing where one or more of the children had scarlet fever, scarletina, or diphtheria and the garments on which they were at work were used as a covering for these sick children and when the clothing is finished it is sent to the stores of the big merchants without being cleaned or fumigated. Most of this sweatshop clothing is for wholesale merchants to send into the country and the city department stores.

If we understood her aright, and it was most shocking and disgusting to us, much if not most of the bread, cakes, crackers, etc., are baked in these low dirty basement cellars, even those kinds you see in fine restaurants and shops. Some one asked her where the bread marked "Mothers bread" was baked, and her laconic reply was "In these cellars." And so she went on for nearly half an hour, telling us what she had seen with her own eyes, not only as public inspector, but as one of the members of the Hull House force.

It was an exceedingly sad, shocking and revolting story of unvarnished facts of poverty, filth, ignorance, oppression and degradation and yet this is the year of our Lord 1898 and these things in the city of Chicago, with all its wealth: its lavish expenditure for show and pleasure; its churches and forces for reform and better living. If you want the evils of this sweatshop system in a nutshell, put these figures into your memory.—Chicago has 35 factories for making clothing, properly built, lighted and in sanitary conditions, employing 2000 persons. It has 2,378 sweatshops in filthy, unsanitary, ill-lighted, damp, small basements or so called flats; employing 15,000 persons of both sexes of all ages and conditions, at wages too low to keep soul and body decently together. In these, Mrs. Kelly said, they do their hand sewing on children's clothing at from 7 to 15 cents per dozen pairs of pants or coats, and in these shops a family of four persons may earn from \$5.00 to \$12.00 weekly for rent and living. Little girls run sewing machines at \$2.50 a week, 10 hours a day. Is it any wonder they die off by the thousands. And all this grinding of the faces and lives of the poor to make money for avaricious dealers. A traffic in human flesh and blood as surely as was ever African slavery.

But what is the remedy? Get laws. Yes, but who will enforce them? Besides, experience shows that these oppressors of the poor will evade the law. Mrs. Kelly's plan is a league of the people who buy these goods; that they will not patronize them; that is that they will not patronize stores or merchants who handle sweatshop goods. This

league will find out what retail and department stores in Chicago handle these goods and they will furnish their names to all the members of the league, so they will know whom to avoid. The plan has been tried in New York and works admirably.

Not only is there a big league in Chicago of the consumers or purchasers of ready-made clothing, but Mrs. Kelly was out here to help organize a local or auxiliary league, in this city, to whose members all information about Chicago and suburban dealers in sweatshop goods will be furnished. The expense is 25 cents membership fee to pay postage for literature, etc.; there are no fees or salaries for officers, every one works for the public good. Mrs. Attorney Smoot is in charge of the local work and it is a measure in which every one should be interested.

We have only one criticism. The meeting was held in the Club house, it should have been in Goldberg's hall, thoroughly advertised and strong efforts made to get out the working folks, who buy most of this sweatshop work. They want fair play for themselves as working people, and so they want fair play for all other working people.

## PROF. ROLFE'S FIRST LECTURE.

The large hall of the Highland Park Club was crowded on Tuesday evening with an appreciative audience which included many who are not Club members, but who have taken tickets for the University Extension course of six lectures. Of the lecture and the lecturer it would be difficult to speak in terms of too great praise. Professor Rolfe combines with an attractive personality and a pleasing manner of speech, that rare absorption in his subject and mastery of it and a lucidity of expression which carries his hearers with him, and made them feel for the time that they were in London with Charles Lamb, that most delightful and most lovable of English writers.

The pathetic story of his life was charmingly told by the lecturer, who read illustrative extracts from his letters and essays. An interesting and profitable discussion of the literary questions suggested, followed the lecture, and this informal class for the exchange of ideas will be an attractive feature of every evening of the six. Copies of the lecture syllabus were sold, and books from the traveling library were distributed to those who wished them.

The next lecture in the course will be on Tuesday, February 1st, upon Jane Austen.

## A DELIGHTFUL PARTY.

Mr. and Mrs. William Witten entertained about 20 of their friends Wednesday evening, at their handsome home on Central avenue, with progressive euchre. Twelve games were played and resulted in Miss Mabel McDonagh winning the ladies' first prize and Louis Avery the gentleman's first prize, while Fred Periman and Miss Moran captured the second prizes. Supper followed the playing, after which came singing by several of the guests. Everything conducive to the pleasure of the guests was done by Mr. and Mrs. Witten and all present were delighted with their evening's entertainment.

Archibald McLean, proprietor of "The Enterprise," Waukegan's largest and most enterprising store, was a Park visitor Thursday.

## THE RAILROAD MEN'S HOME.

We have looked over the report of the Home recently presented to the board of managers and note the following items of interest. The Home now has 19 inmates, of whom two are away on a visit. Five new ones have been received during the year; one has died and two were dismissed for unbecoming conduct, which shows a high state of discipline. Several have left the Home to go to their friends or into business to take care of themselves. Improvements have been made on the grounds and buildings to the extent of \$2,125, while the expenses of running the establishment have been \$5,748, or a total outlay of some \$8,340, over \$6,500 of which has been paid out to Highland Park dealers and workmen. The total average expense per inmate is not far from \$5.00 per week.

For live stock they have two horses, two cows, and 100 chickens. The feed for their live stock cost them for the year, \$176.98 and the cash value of the milk and eggs raised was \$547, or a profit of \$370. Hence "heas pay," you see, even at a low price for the products. Among the items of expense we note \$251.15 for postage stamps, \$1110.37 for groceries, \$635.19 for meat and butter; \$446.03 light and fuel expended in the Park; \$224.92 for printing, most of it done in Chicago; besides water rates, \$39.72; salary of cook, \$231; manager, \$282.25 and so on to a grand total of \$8,340.04, including \$65.24 cash on hand.

## REPORT OF ASSISTANT CHAPLAIN.

In the regrettable absence of the Rev. John Brunton, the duty of presenting the Chaplain's report falls upon me, as by that gentleman I was appointed assistant chaplain, on July 16, 1897, since which date I have attended religious exercises here fifteen Sundays, besides which I have conducted divine service seven Sundays, and have visited the Home, at least once a week in addition.

My work has been exceedingly agreeable; the management extending very cordially its hearty sympathy and co-operation; and the inmates invariably receiving me with every attention and marked favor.

I have been greatly helped, too, in my efforts, and our services have been rendered more attractive by friends both from Highland Park and Ravinia, who have conducted the musical portion of our meetings in a manner acceptable to all.

To whom in your name, gentlemen, I would like to offer hearty thanks. But once has the prevailing harmony of our pleasant relations been broken, that being when we all gathered to pay our last tribute of respect, and perform our latest rites at the funeral of brother James Pennock, that took place on Sunday, Aug. 22nd, and with sincere regrets we spoke our last "Hail and Farewell."

Thanksgiving and Christmas, were each royally observed, sumptuous repasts were served; at one we were doubly favored by the presence and speeches of several of the official trustees; at both we enjoyed vocal and instrumental music from neighboring friends.

As a constant visitor at the Home, I beg to report, I have always found the place in good condition, with evidence of more than

good business management abounding; no unwarrantable and arbitrary restrictions imposed, no pretensions to superiority on the part of the management can I report.

For the greater part, the inmates have always been cheerful, courteous and contented, and the management approachable, brotherly and gracious.

A beautiful spirit called the Home to life, and it still pervades. I have little to offer in the shape of suggestions, I am too wise to do that, nobler elements of mind, loftier traits of spirit, greater capabilities of brain than mine, has so far guided and shaped its development, and to such qualities, I can calmly commit its future with a prayer for God's blessing; but I would like to say, that were it possible to give such of the inmates as were capable of doing it, some agreeable work, and to require of them all such work around the Home that they could accomplish, it would be wise; we are all happier when at work.

And if you could possibly see your way clear to offer some educational advantages that would fit some of the boys who are getting better, for less hazardous and arduous employment than their former work, it would prove an incalculable blessing.

Before closing, I would like to add a word of commendation for your esteemed manager, Dr. Ingalls. You have not here at the head of affairs—the mere smart, capable business manager, though you have that, nor the mere devoted able physician, though you have that, but back of these you have, in Dr. Ingalls, a man possessed of sterling qualities of manhood; a man with peculiar graces of heart and soul; this combination has made the Home what it is today.

Gentlemen, I am a minister; he, your manager declares to me, "He is on the outside of the church," yet, I emphatically declare to you, I am learning valuable lessons of him, from week to week.

Beloved the most by those who know him best, he commands your unqualified trust; he merits your admiration.

Words are idle, I must not eulogize; the Home is his eulogy, see and consider it for yourselves. He has brought it, his child, child of his heart, through all the annoying incidents peculiar to childhood—measles, heaven only knows how many, small-pox, whooping cough, mumps, etc.,—he has got it into knee-pants, and sewed and mended, and patched, and now it is asking for full length trousers; it's growing, that's the reason.

Gentlemen, I am not afraid of the future, with it in his hands; help him with this growing child, for it shall yet prove itself to be a blessing and benediction, both to yourselves and the great Brotherhood of Railway Men.

I bid you God speed; I thank you for the privilege of ministering here, and should you deem my services acceptable, kindly receive my assurances of renewed loyalty to the Home, and of the best services I can render you in the future.

I am respectfully,  
E. J. HEATHCOTE, D. D.

W. W. Boynton's many friends will be glad to know that he has so far recovered as to go to the city two or three times.

## THE OSSOLI MEETING.

Yesterday afternoon was regular meeting day. The President announced the next meeting and a brief statement was made concerning the proposed study of "Parliamentary Law," to be held one hour before the regular meetings of the Club for a time, so the women can learn how to run a congress. These can beat lots of men now. Miss Alice Cobb favored the Club with a bit of her excellent piano playing. The regular paper of the day was by Mrs. Captain Bubb of Fort Sheridan. She was a cultivated eastern lady, married and spent 30 years on the frontier in army life, and has come back to civilization. Her paper was an epitome of that 30 years' life in teaching and training her children where there are no schools. It was not in the form of a story, of course, but that was what it really was, and of a heroic life work, where she had to evolve her own theories and practice, and everything was tested by experience. It was intensely interesting, how those children studied nature, architecture, etc., from the mountains, the trees, the rocks themselves, and the solid, enduring character building, according to the individuality of each child. It was so modestly and quietly told that all who heard her were charmed.

A lively discussion followed. Mrs. Smoot told most amusingly of her visit to Prof. Dewey's "Experimental Kindergarten" which has caused so much discussion. Half a dozen ladies followed with suggestions and questions. One told of the English man who questioned the wisdom of young women graduating from Girton and, like Macaulay, reading Greek authors as a pastime, who could not cook a ration of potatoes. He thought boiling potatoes properly a greater accomplishment than perusing the tomes of Chrysostom or the classic Greek poets and perhaps he was not far from the truth. Miss Van Schaick, the secretary, recited by request, the poem of a girl, who had mused somewhat on the unequal distribution of the good things of this life. Mrs. Smoot suggested a few special evening meetings with invitations extended to men, some men at least, for discussion of the educational problem and it was heartily adopted, and we shall watch them with interest. Pie was added to the social cup of tea. We abstained, as pie is one of the great American sins, which we love, but put far from us.

## IMPRESSED BY IT.

Infant Suburbanite—"Papa, are there as many as 200 people in Chicago?"

Adult Suburbanite—"Two hundred, my child? There are nearly 2,000,000."

Infant Suburbanite—"What! Without Highland Park?"

Dr. Boulter, graduate in medicine in 1870 and in dentistry in 1880, has been practicing the dental profession in Chicago since that time. He likes Highland Park as a place of residence, but is unwilling to give up a lucrative practice in Chicago until the practice here is proved to be good, and will until May 1st visit this place but three times each week, Tuesday's, Thursday's and Saturday's. Any of Dr. Fernald's patrons who have had professional work commenced can have it completed by making appointments for those days.

Following are a list of our customers who are using washers, stoves, and other household goods. The list includes names such as Mrs. L. A. Conner, Mrs. J. H. Smith, and others. The text is partially obscured and difficult to read in many places.