

Glencoe Department

IMPROVING GLENCOE.

Another resident of Glencoe asks us to express our views per contra the "resident" who had his lining last week:

It is true the water system has been paid for, but the school house has not. It has already cost about \$1250 for interest on the ground before it comes into use, and the interest on bonds is now running at over \$700 a year. The cost of conducting and caring for the new building will be very much greater than the corresponding expense has been in the past. One of the workmen who put in the heating plant is reported to have said it would take \$1000 a year for coal. A janitor and engineer must now have a salary sufficient to cover his entire time. The house has cost about \$20,000 up to this time, and large sums have yet to be expended to grade, drain, sidewalk and otherwise improve the grounds. A tax of \$8,000, for building purposes alone, in addition to an amount nearly equal for maintenance of the schools, is being collected this year. Perhaps all this is necessary, but it will make the burdens on Glencoe tax-payers heavy for the future. It would seem wise to wait a little before shouldering a fresh load of sewerage, the need for which is not all urgent by reason of the residences being so widely scattered. The argument, assumed as a fact in the form of petition sent out, is that the depressed condition in Glencoe is due to a lack of improvements, ignores the existence of like conditions all over the country and the reason of them, which is found in the financial convulsion beginning in 1893 which wiped out property values in this country exceeding in volume the total cost of the civil war. Chicago is a fair illustration. The "improvers" have never stopped work there, yet for five years there were sections of Chicago where nearly every other building, residence or

business, was empty. It is little better yet. There has been no lack of "improvements" there—\$8,000,000 having been laid on the overburdened and impoverished tax-payers there in a single year. In Winnetka, which is held up to us on all occasions, the promoter of the largest subdivision, had to go into bankruptcy, and recently offered to give away a \$4500 house for the bare value of the ground. Small property owners there, it is said have not been able to pay assessments and have lost their property,—virtually confiscated by the "improvers."

The men in Chicago who furnish brains for the officials are planning a consolidation of city and county government and propose to include a good deal more than the present city limits if not the whole of the county. Two years ago they started the engineers to planning how the sewage from Shore villages this side Evanston could be carried by aqueduct along the shore to the dip between Wilmette and Evanston and thence to the North Branch. If we are not included in the city soon, we will be in a sanitary district which will dictate what we shall do about sewerage. It would seem no more than judicious to wait a little for developments in that direction. The form of petition that has been offered to the people of Glencoe is fairly open to criticism in more particulars than one. Those who sign it give council carte blanche, for it is vague and the signers virtually waive all the protection the new law was intended to give them, it contemplating that they have a right to know definitely what they authorize. The feature of authorizing the issue of bonds by petition is a novelty, but does no harm. Two or three sketches have been furnished by engineers, each different from the others but nothing that could be called a plan, much less such a carefully matured plan as "resident" would have us believe,

has been prepared by the Council, or, so far as known to the public, by the Board of Improvements. A great deal of very thorough work ought to be done by somebody before the Council will be prepared to take the first intelligent step. The lesson of the water assessment ought not to be lost. There a plan prepared in a hurry, spread over miles of streets on which there was not, is not yet, and may not be for years, a single house. An assessment was laid for double what need to have been laid, and nearly double what was required by the system as constructed—assessment \$85,000 and work done for considerably less than \$50,000. The contest over the excessive assessment ran preliminary expenses up to over \$6000. Great care should be taken not to repeat the error when we get to the inauguration of sewerage. But Glencoe is not suffering for lack of sewerage. It is suffering like the rest of the country from the sequelæ of the panic, and that is something only time and the restoration of confidence will cure.

NOTES.

Miss Grace Fuller spent Sunday with friends in Glencoe.

Mr. and Mrs. Park entertain the whist club this evening.

Daisy and Natalie Howell are among the victims of chicken-pox.

Dr. Flanders left on Friday for the Mardi Gras at New Orleans. She will be absent two weeks.

Miss Lelia White of Chicago, the guest of Mrs. Winslow over Sunday, pleasantly surprised the ladies of the reading club by attending their meeting a week ago Thursday.

The Ladies' Guild of the Episcopal church will hold their postponed annual meeting for the election of officers, with Mrs. Copeland, Monday February 13.

The Ladies Library Club had their quarterly meeting at Mrs. Coy's last Thursday afternoon. Thirty-five ladies were present and the program of entertainment consisted of a paper on American humor by Mrs. Butler of Oak Park; a talk on American personality by Mrs. Agnes Leonard