



A General Courier of North Shore  
Intelligence.

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### The Special Assessment Law.

considerable agitation along the North Shore for some satisfactory substitute for the present special assessment law. The complaint is made that all public improvement is at a standstill because of the indifference of non-resident property owners. Under the present law the council must obtain the consent of a majority of the frontage holders before any street improvements can be made. This gives the non-resident considerable voice in the matter. The proposition is to give the council authority to order improvements when consents from a majority of the resident owners only, have been obtained. The cry is raised that the non-resident is merely holding his property for speculation, waiting to profit by other public improvements, and that he should be "taxed out of existence."

To the NEWS-LETTER this seems to be a one-sided view. Its logical result would be an application of the single tax idea, i. e. that a man should not be allowed title to land unless he actually occupies it.

The very basis of civilization rests on the protection of property. Anything that tends to weaken or neutralize this protection is a step in the direction of anarchy. It is proper

that the resident should have the advantage of being able to cast a vote for the town officers, but there should be no discussion so far as property ownership itself is concerned. To obtain the best results, the council should be given a considerable

degree of discretion in such matters, and then if the public takes a keen interest in public affairs, the council will not go far wrong. Official laxity and maladministration very easily arise when the citizens become indifferent to the interests of the municipality, and the only people who take an interest in the council meetings are perhaps a few workmen or those who have claims to be allowed. Give the council more authority and stimulate public spirit, but let there be no discrimination against any class of property owners.

### Attend

the Primaries.

Each North Shore municipality has its own questions to be decided at the April election; but there is one paramount issue that no community can afford to overlook, and that is the question of personal fitness. In a number of the towns some of the old-time tax-eaters and assessment-grabbers are particularly active this spring. If they succeed in carrying the primaries they generally manage to squeeze into office. In fact it has been the case for years that to carry the primaries was equivalent to an election, as it often happens that only one ticket is in the field. The NEWS-LETTER is not at this time discussing the various candidates personally, but only desires to urge upon the readers the importance of examining carefully the record of each man seeking nomination and then by attending the primaries you can see that only the best men are nominated. The primaries are held thirty days before election and no patriotic citizen should fail to attend.

The proverb says: "He who runs may read;" but, individually, we prefer to sit still while reading.

The smaller a man's assets become, the easier it is for him to borrow trouble.

### The North Shore in By-gone Days.

It is difficult to imagine the North Shore being anything but a Chicago residence district, yet one hundred and thirteen years ago it belonged

with the rest Illinois was known as Illinois county. In 1787 Congress passed an Enabling Act organizing this state with several others into what was known as Northwest Territory. In order to be a candidate for the legislature at that time a man had to own two hundred acres of land, and no citizen was entitled to vote for a legislative candidate unless he owned fifty acres of land. If this law still held good there would be mighty little legislative timber on the North Shore. In the latter part of the Seventeenth century the French began to explore and colonize Illinois. At that time the French flag could have been hoisted over the Glencoe golf grounds without causing any protest; though, come to think of it, we believe Charles V. did protest against the French exploring the country. So far as is known Father Marquette and Joliet, a trader, were the first white men to traverse the North Shore. It was when they were returning to Canada in September 1673, but they left only meager accounts of the trip.

### Pencilled Paragraphs.

A motion to federate the North Shore improvement societies is in order.

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As the NEWS-LETTER understands it, any suburbanite who has had to manage a base-burner this winter would be eligible to join the Pennsylvania Shakers.

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Think what a profit Marquette would have realized had he been farsighted enough to buy acre bargains east of the track, at prices that prevailed in 1673, and hung on to his purchase until now, having kept up all special assessments. Truly, opportunity came with muffled tread.

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