

Winnetka Department

WINNETKA COUNCIL.

Regular meeting March 28. All present except President McConnel. A letter from John Chambers withdrawing his name from the gas ordinance petition was received. A communication from the Chicago & Milwaukee electric road, asking permission to locate a sub-station between Elm and Pine streets for use of their operator, was read and granted. In regard to the proposition of N. W. Harris & Co, to take up \$8,000 in school bonds now bearing 6 per cent and reissue them at 4½ per cent was discussed but no action taken as it is understood there is another firm that also has a proposition to make.

A request of the Electric Road to have ordinance changed so that it would not be necessary to ring bell and stop cars at Willow street in view of the proposed viaduct was laid over for the next meeting. The following judges of election were appointed: Carlton Prouty, B. A. May, E. W. Osgood and J. H. McFarlin. The voting place will be at Mr. Osgood's real estate office. The finance committee was authorized to print its annual report. The question of defective water service received some discussion, particularly a main on Ash street. Adjoined.

PUBLIC SCHOOL ART LEAGUE.

During the second year of its existence. Those most interested in it feel that its work has been in the right direction, and an encouraged to find that our county superintendent, Mr. Bright, considers it a most valuable influence in schools.

Article second, as put down in the modest little constitution of the league, reads: "The object of this association shall be to cultivate in its members and through them in others, a just sense of beauty." This is certainly primarily its aim, to place in the school-house beautiful objects, to cultivate in the scholars a strong love

for them, so that the unlovely and vulgar will have no attractions and that all through life they shall find delight in a beautiful thing whether owned by themselves or another. This, as said above, is primarily the object of the association.

A very important feature of the league is that it induces many people to work for the school and as we always grow fond of the thing we put something of ourselves into, a growing appreciation of the school is noticeable through the village and people who have had no common interest come to have this one, a pride in the institution where so many hours of the little lives of the rising generation are spent.

One very important branch of the work has been that of the portfolio committee. Any one who has visited a modern up-to-date school knows how important a part illustration plays in the instruction of today. Pictures from magazines, etc, have been sent to the chairman who sends them out through the various divisions of her committee, that of biography, geography, history, science, etc. The pictures are then mounted on strong manila paper. Owing to the fact that there has been no place to keep this collection-it has not been available this year. A case is being built into the corridor of the new school house where about five thousand sheets can be systematically arranged.

The dues of the league are fifty cents a year for adults and 10c for children. To increase a love for things artistic and to give people the feeling they have reaped some personal advantage from being members a course of five lectures has been arranged each year by the entertainment committee. Considering that people have kindly

volunteered their services, two most unusual courses have been offered through the efforts of this committee. The first evening Mrs. Schuyler Van Rensselaer of New York, whose world-wide reputation as an art critic and author, makes all comment unnecessary, talked on the work the art leagues were doing all over the country.

Next came Mr. William M. R. French with one of his delightful "chalk talks." Mr. Irving K. Pond then gave a clever and interesting illustrated paper and Mr. Walter C. Leonard in January entertained the League with his paper on Valesquez. The lecture was illustrated with beautiful slides and a lantern which Mr. Coffin of Winnetka has generously loaned and operated every time any such thing has been needed. The closing evening of the year was taken up by a talk on handicraft by Mr. George Toose of Chicago.

Last May Mr. Jenkin Lloyd Jones opened the series of the second year with his delightful illustrated lecture on Millet, and in September was good enough, out of love for the village that was once his home, to come again. His second talk was on Michael Angelo. Both of these lectures were beautifully illustrated with stereopticon pictures. The October entertainment was by the artist, Albright, on the technicalities of art, illustrated by rapid sketches made from models found in the audience. The next paper was by Mr. Troyman on the science of decoration. The final lecture was on the subject of photography as a means of artistic expression. A delightful entertainment which was at the time noticed in the columns of the NEWS-LETTER.

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