

board here, they came and did a lot valuable work, and doubtless the committee felt they could not do less. They knew Mr. Millard would make a minority report, and the people would probably vote down the filter any way, at least until after Mr. Millard's plan of taking care of our sewage is carried out, and we know what the effect of that would be on the purity of the water.

The News-Letter Will Not Be Muzzled

In our issue of Feb. 9th we pretty plainly criticised some of our city officials. We trust we did not do so in any unkind spirit. We assumed that they would profit by the suggestions made in that number, and therefore in the issue of the 16th we made no allusion to past mistakes, but it seems some of the officials have not yet learned to profit by friendly advice. A resolution was introduced by Alderman Grant at a recent meeting to take the public printing from the NEWS-LETTER and give it to the Waukegan Sun. Evidently this was done with a sort of effort to "get even" with this journal for criticisms and also no doubt with the expectation of "muzzling the press" hereafter. To whatever extent the latter motive may have been in his mind, let it be understood once for all that the SHERIDAN ROAD NEWS-LETTER is not the kind to be muzzled. It is in the field for the good of the public, not simply for the loaves and the fishes. We hope hereafter this will be distinctly understood.

But why the Alderman should ignore the chairman of the printing committee, not even consulting him we understand, but take the matter entirely into his own hands, is not quite so easy to see. Not long ago the same alderman criticised the chairman of another committee for not sufficiently consulting the other members of his committee, but the alderman in this case was not even chairman of the printing committee. The chairman was allowed nothing to say in the matter, nor do we learn that Alderman Grant even consulted any other member of the committee. We are inclined to think that the

alderman has some good qualities about him and really does not intend to be vicious, but what seems to be the fact is simply that when he came into the council some two years ago he fell under the hypnotic influences of the ex-alderman of the second ward and he has never been quite able since to rally from his mesmerized condition.

Is the Mayor One or Three?

We had hoped our mayor would profit by the friendly criticism of him in the issue of Feb. 9th, but the trouble seems to be with the mayor that he is too thoroughly impressed with the idea that he is a kind of three in one, to learn much wisdom from past experience. He seems to have the impression that he is as number one, the mayor; as number two, a councilman; and as number three, a sort of czar. Now that might all be very well if there were only enough of him to make so many persons. We do not underrate the mayor's ability, but when it comes to the legislation for Highland Park, we have the opinion that there are about eight in that council any one of whom has about as much brains as the mayor has, and several of them at least seem to have their brain power under better control.

At a recent meeting of the council when the proposition was made to take away the printing from the NEWS-LETTER and give it to the Waukegan Sun, Alderman Clampitt saw the absurdity of the position and plainly informed the council that he did not know of more than two copies of the Sun taken in the north end of Highland Park, and we have good evidence that there are not over a dozen copies taken in the whole city. Nevertheless, the mayor was bound to have his own way, and when the vote stood four to four, ignoring all precedent, even the statutes of Illinois, he with a bold dash gave the casting vote and declared the matter settled. Wait a moment, Mr. Mayor. There may be a little hitch in that matter. We suggest that you go slow on that. Somebody else may have something to say.

What is the Matter?

It has been the misfortune of our city that for the last few years some of its councilmen have seemed to regard themselves as little gods seated on little thrones, and that the people have no rights which these little gods are bound to respect. They have seemed anxious to reverse the universal teachings of the greatest publicists past and present, and they insist that they are the sovereign power and the people have nothing to do but obey their behests and pay the taxes. All the teachings of our greatest writers on the principles that underlie a civilized state are that the people are sovereign and that legislators and the administrators of the laws are their wishes of the sovereign power.

What is the result? Nearly all tendency to progress and to make public improvements is at a standstill. East Clinton avenue is an encouraging exception. But what have they been obliged to do? They have simply ignored the public officials—mayor, councilmen, etc.—and kept the matter strictly in their own hands. They have been all winter about it, but what of that? No harm has been done. An immense amount of hard work and honest thought has been expended on the subject and we doubt not when the work is done that street will prove the best improved street in the city, and yet it will be done at a moderate expense. We have no fault to find and no criticism to make. Our only regret is that the public at large are not taxed at least in part for the improvement. If that policy were put in practice in Highland Park we should soon see our streets all over the city being improved and no one would be the poorer.

Take Courage.

The outlook for Alderman Obee seems to be a little brighter this week. So far it has been a hard winter for him. There has been so little snow he has had no excuse to buy for the city a lot of \$11 snow plows at \$15 apiece. Don't get discouraged, aldermen, there may be a chance yet before your term of office expires.