

Cheaper Street Improvements.

It is oftentimes said that it is more economical to buy high grade goods than cheaper grades. Whether this be true or not depends largely upon circumstances. A congressman might not find it more economical, all things considered, to wear a corduroy suit of clothes than to wear broadcloth, but the corduroy would probably be far more economical for a wood chopper or a ditch digger than broadcloth and yet answer every purpose as well.

One great obstacle in the way of street improving in small cities and villages seems to be the great desire to ape large cities in the kind of improvement to be made. The recent splendid improvement made on State street, Chicago, in the neighborhood of Marshall Field's store, would be an unendurable hardship if demanded in the streets of Highland Park, and, even if the property owners could pay for it, it would still be extravagance almost criminal.

There are probably in the neighborhood of 40 miles of streets in Highland Park. We have no means of knowing at the present time just how much has been added by the annexation at the south end, but for illustration we will call it 40 miles in the whole city. There are about five miles of the 40 improved by macadam or block paving. In round numbers these five miles of macadam and block paving have cost about \$25,000 a mile or, in round numbers, \$5.00 a linear foot on both sides. Time has already shown that with the exception of the block paving on Central avenue west of the railroad these improved streets should demand some little expenditure each year in keeping them in good condition. Such a large original expenditure is very discouraging to most of the inhabitants of our city. The people of the state of Illinois, through their legislature, have stamped their condemnation upon the former method of assessments which enabled city councils to ignore the wishes and rights of private individuals by slapping upon them costly improvements which often times were not demanded by the public needs and which were grievously burdensome. They have passed a new law which gives the people greater protection, but, on the other hand, the present law has had a tendency to oscillate too far to the other extreme, and it has been difficult to get streets improved that really ought to be improved.

We suggest, therefore, a cheaper grade of paving. We have not at

hand the minute data of cost, but suppose the property owners on a given street for one or more blocks were allowed by the council to excavate their street from six inches to a foot, as the case may be, and for perhaps fifteen feet wide, fill the excavation with crushed stone with a very little rolling, placing of course upon the top a layer of finer crushed rock. We estimate that this could be done for about \$1 a linear foot, or 50 cents assessment on each side. This would cut down the present rate of assessment to about \$5,000 a mile, instead of \$25,000. The interest on the remaining \$20,000 at 6 per cent. would be \$120 a mile per year each year. We claim this, that such a method would keep our streets in good condition for the next ten years, and most of them for even much longer. It would do away in large part with the expense of scraping streets in bad weather. We believe that with such a policy, or in other words, such an inducement held out to the people, it would not be five years before from one-half to two-thirds, if not even a greater proportion of the streets, would be put in good condition and at a cost that neither the private owners nor the public at large would especially feel.

The NEWS-LETTER will be glad to hear from other parties interested in bettering the condition of all our streets, not here and there a few blocks.

An error in the article headed "Do We Want a Saloon?" makes it read "Lake Front" for Lake Forest.

Wm. R. Kenney, a long time resident of the Park, left for Cuba Thursday night. He goes to take charge of some government work. Havana wants some sewers and water pipes put in and he will boss the job.

It may not be generally known that the house where Mr. Dickinson lived nearly twenty years, on St. Johns avenue south, is now occupied by the owners, Prof. and Mrs. Abbie Bastian, and her father, Mr. Beardslee, who have come on from the east to make their permanent home in the Park. Seldom can you persuade a family to leave the Park when once located here.

* **Lake Forest.** *

E. F. Gorton is in New York.
Jesse Hughes is on the sick list.
W. C. Larned and family are in the south.

Young Mr. Erskine is ill with pneumonia. James Anderson, Sr., returned from Kansas yesterday.

Mr. and Mrs. Granger Farwell have gone to the Bermudas.

Richard Kennedy has returned from his western trip.

Mrs. Jesse Moss and Miss Julia Moss are visiting in the east.

Miss Lizzie Masterson of Chicago is visiting Lake Forest friends.

Mr. George Finlay entertained Mr. Oke of Texas over Sunday.

G. G. Graff has been elected manager of the L. F. U. football team.

Andrew Cartley of Chicago spent the week with Lake Forest friends.

John Russell spent Sunday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Russell.

Mr. and Mrs. William Nash will spend the remainder of the winter in the south.

Mrs. Hewitt and Mr. Norman Hewitt have gone to town for the balance of the winter.

Prof. Bournique's dancing class indulged in a german Thursday afternoon at Blackler's Hall.

Little Melville Nordling is quarantined in the hospital, a victim to a slight attack of scarlet fever.

Miss Fuhmann, for many years a popular teacher here, is visiting her many friends in Lake Forest.

A carload of young people went to Waukegan Monday evening to attend a dance at Perine's Hall.

The College Glee and Mandolin Clubs gave the first concert of the season last night at Libertyville.

The White Ribbon Club gave a very enjoyable masquerade dance at Blackler's Hall on Tuesday evening.

This morning the household goods of Mrs. William Eggrah were sold at auction at her home on Illinois avenue.

Mrs. C. B. Farwell and Mrs. Chatfield-Taylor gave a luncheon on Tuesday at their town house, 91 Pierson street.

Mr. and Mrs. Reginald deKoven were entertained at dinner by the Russian Ambassador at Washington Tuesday evening.

The will of the late Leander J. McCormick was probated this week. The bequests amounted to some six million dollars.

A game of indoor baseball is to be played at the "Gym" tonight, the contestants being picked teams from the Freshmen and Senior classes.

The entertainment and dance given by the Oriental Club at Forester's Hall Wednesday evening was a great success in spite of the inclement weather.

At the Republican county convention held at Libertyville last Saturday George Rice was selected as one of the delegates to represent the county at the state convention.

An open meeting of the Art Institute was held at the Art Institute building Tuesday evening. A lecture on Yellowstone Park, illustrated with stereopticon views, was the chief attraction.

An unusual distinction has been conferred upon Mr. Hobart Chatfield-Taylor. To him has been given the entire management of the ball to be given in honor of Admiral and Mrs. Dewey upon the occasion of their visit to Chicago.

The Glee and Mandolin Clubs of the University will celebrate St. Patrick's day with a concert at Waukegan. The concert will be given in High School Hall, under the patronage of the Senior class of the High School.