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FRIDAY, JULY 13, 1900.

A lot of soldiers of Fort Sheridan, created quite a riot in Huxtable's saloon in Highland Park a few evenings ago, smashing plate glass mirrors, windows, etc., besides discharging their revolvers promiscuously. We understand the war department plans to send these fellows to the Philippines. It would seem from their record at the Fort that they would help sustain the Manila saloon business and would be very efficient in the modern missionary work of shooting the gospel into the heathen of our new possessions. We are glad Gen. Wheeler proposes severe measures for the rioters should be taught there at once that the troops cannot go into the neighboring villages and terrorize the people.

Deerfield, our western neighbor, has a mineral spring, not done by Tillman's "Springing" and our own city's old artesian and the Gray electric artesian. This is named the "Deer Lick" and has two trade marks, one is a large stag with enormous antlers, the other is a picture of one of West Deerfield's numerous belles. The water is pictured as a running stream from a rock. Probably there is not a stone in all Deerfield as big as a robin's egg, to say nothing about rocks. The water cures dyspepsia, Bright's disease, indigestion and many or all of the diseases known and unknown. They have not sent us a sample case. Tillman did so we cannot pronounce one to Admiral Dewey and he that before he tried it, perhaps what cured his presidential fever.

Water Rates.

When we spent two seasons in New Orleans fifteen years ago, the city had a population of about 225,000,—in 1890 it was over 242,000—and all the sewerage flowed in open gutters beside the streets and many of them such gutters as you find in the country, full of weeds, and the condition of this more easily imagined than described. Now an efficient system of sewerage has been provided, and an adequate water supply is now under consideration and one contractor offers to put up a guaranty of \$500,000 to furnish a sufficient quantity and of a satisfactory quality at four half cents per thousand gallons—or one fourth the price we are paying. Of course the immense quantity that would be sold would enable them to sell at a lower rate than we can afford.

On the other hand we have an inexhaustible supply at our very door, up it, pure artesian wells, not less than 3,000 feet; silt and vegetable deposits go down 1,000 feet at least. Or they may know an almost impossible task, or go to the lake with adequate feeders. The experts who are known from Philadelphia know what they are about, and not making the contract from philanthropic motives. Hence the need of lower rates in this city. With all the needful expenses provided for, and a sufficiently large reserve fund for emergencies, our rates could be cut down at least one fourth, and the result would be the good of the water department increased sales. Scores of families that do not have it, would put water in at lower rates.

Waukegan Hygienic water is in great demand. Schumacher is selling more of this pure spring water than in previous years.

So far as we have noticed the appraised value of the property of this town, as published in last week's NEWS-LETTER, is a pretty fair and honest assessment. Men will differ of course, in their judgment but what we want is an evident intent to be honest and fair; no partiality shown and no old grudges paid off. Hence, we think Assessor Enoch W. Brand entitled to praise for his attempt to deal justly with us all.

Sanitation and Public Baths.

In the last two years more thought has doubtless been given by the readers of the NEWS-LETTER to the question of public health than has ever been given before by the people of Highland Park. About 18 months ago, or a little more, the question was raised of establishing a sand filter to purify our drinking water. Whether the scheme originated solely from an honest desire to benefit the public is a question. That some of the promoters were thoroughly genuine and honest, we believe no one has a right to doubt and, therefore, for the purpose of this article, we shall assume that they all were desirous of promoting the public welfare. While the scheme was voted down by an overwhelming majority, we believe an impetus was given to the public sentiment to improve sanitary conditions and we sincerely hope it will not die out.

We have, on several occasions, privately called attention to the value of a public bath in Highland Park as of vastly more value from a sanitary standpoint than any sand filter possible could be, even granting all its advocates claimed for it. We do not, however, grant that the assertions made by the promoters of that scheme concerning typhoid fever, ever had any sufficient foundation in fact.

We read about the public baths of ancient Rome, showing that 2,000 years ago they who inhabited the ruling city of the world appreciated the importance of cleanliness, if they did not seem to know much about Godliness in the present sense of that term. European cities have for some time appreciated the importance of erecting and sustaining municipal baths. More than a hundred years ago—1794, if we mistake not—the city of Liverpool purchased a private swimming bath establishment at a cost of about \$20,000 to be used by the public. In 1820 this institution was purchased for a public dock. A little later the city erected at the expense of the corporation public baths costing about \$100,000. Subsequently Glasgow, Manchester, Berlin, and several other European cities followed the example set by Liverpool. Recently Boston, Brookline, (Mass.), New York, Buffalo, and Chicago have made appropriations for the erection of public bath houses. We believe that the time is not far distant when this country will not be behind old Rome in her efforts to maintain this prominent factor in public sanitation, nor do we see the reason why the institution should be limited to the large cities. In fact, comparatively few municipal improvements can be established and maintained at a cost approximately proportionate to the size of a city any better or easier than can the establishment of public baths.

So far as we know, the Northwestern Military Academy has been the first preparatory school in this country to establish a first-class natatorium, though there were one or more similar schools privileged to enjoy such an institution where the school was connected with some college.

We believe such an institution could be constructed in Highland Park and maintained at a very trifling cost. In the European cities above mentioned, if we are correct, a slight charge was made for the privilege of using the bath, and, if our little city did not care to go to the expense of maintaining such an institution, we feel quite certain that the public could very soon be educated to maintain it without cost to the city, and we are equally certain that there are enough public-spirited people in Highland Park to pay the first cost by subscription or stock if they feel sure that the institution could be made in a little while to maintain itself. If the right parties take hold of it we have no doubt on that score.

Lieut. Williams' regiment, 1st cavalry, has been ordered to China and he is daily expecting orders to join his regiment and help put down the boxers.

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