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 FRIDAY, AUGUST 17, 1900.

**Streets and Bridges.**  
 There is a movement on foot to have a bridge built on Dean avenue, at the south end of the town, and another one on St. John's avenue, at the north end of the town. We presume that the taxpayers of Highland Park will make no particular objection to building bridges as fast as they are needed, but as we have always contended the individual citizen has rights which the public through their officials are bound to respect, so on the other hand, the general public has rights which the individual is bound to consider.

Some three years ago a petition was presented to the council to have the bridge at the north end of St. John's avenue built. The finance committee at that time reported that the city had not the money. And furthermore, it was argued that when the bridge was built the property owners on that avenue should pave the street, at least as far south as Vine. As far as we remember, nobody claimed that a bridge at that place was especially necessary for the general public, but would be of great advantage to the owners of property, at least from Vine avenue north to Bloom street. Nobody for a moment would contend that the bridge on Dean avenue is necessary at all for the public, but might possibly be a matter of occasional convenience to one or more individuals and to all who own property on that street near the ravine.

It certainly then is eminently just that the general public should not be taxed for these bridges unless the property owners, especially benefited by the bridges, added the improving of their streets, and this should be insisted upon by the council. We believe every taxpayer in Highland Park would recognize the justice of such a position, even those on whom the tax would fall, in paving the streets.

**Sewage Purification.**

We called attention last week to the sewage problem and the varied attempts to solve it. The rapid increase in the size and number of cities in our day without any increase in water supply facilities, has emphasized the importance of this sewage disposal problem. Years ago Boston tapped the Cochituate lake for its supply as New York did the Croton river. But since that time the population of those cities has doubled, trebled and quadrupled, but neither lake nor river supplies one gallon more of water than they did fifty years ago.

But with us we have lake Michigan, an inexhaustible supply of pure water at our very door, all we have to do is to "dip and drink," provided we won't empty all the filth of our homes, our streets and our city generally into the water before we "dip and drink." This is just what we are doing now; and to make matters worse, sewer "B," one of the larger sewers of the city, discharges its foul contents into the lake very near where we take the water out of the lake. That is to say the sewer pipe and the water intake pipes lie right along side by side very near each other, and their ends where the sewage empties out and the water comes in are only a few hundred feet apart.

The plan of the filter bed folks was to let this foul sewage still run into the lake and then filter the water thus polluted so it would be fit to use. Those who opposed the

filter said no, the water itself is good stop putting our polluting sewage into the lake. But all our sewers on the east side and some of the west side empty into the lake; we have expended lots of money in building them where they are. Hence the problem is what to do; that is the question of Highland Park today—how to keep the pollution of our city sewage out of the lake.

The remedy is very simple—build a septic tank. Ten to fifteen years ago such a thing was not known. Yes, and once the world did not have any railroads or telegraph or telephone or electric lights. It has been found very recently that what is called a septic tank can be built which will take out all the foul filth portions of the sewage, and destroy from fifty to eighty per cent of the disease producing elements, and do it perfectly, successfully and at slight expense. Such tanks are in successful operation in some of our smaller western cities as Champaign, Marion, Iowa, while many others as Galesburg, Princeton, DeKalb, Belvidere and Sycamore, Ill., are either putting them in or planning to do so, because they are so successful.

Such a septic tank at the outlet of sewer "B" Engineer Shields estimates would cost inside of \$5,500, and be sure and satisfactory in its operation. If, with all the filth and poison of the sewage going into the lake as now, the constant agitation of the water practically kills all these disease germs, there would be no chance at all for sickness or disease from the water if we put in a septic tank and kill fifty to eighty per cent of these germs before we let the sewage into the lake, the children and everybody else could drink from the hose or faucet with perfect impunity. Hence we should build a septic tank.

**Russia and the Liquor Traffic.**  
 The Russian bear is beginning to show himself quite aggressive along moral lines as well as aggressive, financially and politically. This time it is the liquor traffic.

One of the first steps the government has taken to restrict the selling of intoxicants is to limit it to eating houses, or where food is required to be furnished with each order for drink. And so the lover of intoxicants must eat another dinner every time he takes a drink.

The liquor seller is also prohibited from selling on credit or bartering spirits for produce. The number of liquor shops is regulated according to the population. The license for public houses has been largely increased, and thereby the number of such places reduced about one-half. What may be the effect of requiring the drinker to order another meal every time he takes a drink, or whether such a law can be enforced or not, we have no means of knowing. The policy of high license in our opinion is not proving a success in the United States.

It smacks altogether too much of the monopoly in the first place; in the second place, if as is often asserted, it tends to do away with the low dives and makes the places for the sale of liquor more reputable, then just in that proposition more young men are likely to start out on the broad and downward road to destruction. Nevertheless we will watch and see what comes of it.

Tuesday was the semi-monthly pay day at the Illinois St. El. Co.'s works, and 6,000 men drew their pay, the total of which amounted to the handsome sum of \$218,000, the largest amount the company ever paid out for help in a day and any school boy can figure out how much that would average each man.

The sudden death of the multi-millionaire Huntington Sunday night emphasizes the fact that wealth, social position, commanding influence or power in the political or business world afford no protection against sudden death. Time will show how largely he recognized his obligations to the world in aiding by or out of his great wealth institutions working for the good of mankind. Occasionally a man of great wealth fails to recognize that claim, but such men are growing fewer every year.

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