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Real Estate Values
Our neighbor, Edgar Snow, the real estate man, had a bright article in a recent Chicago paper on the prices of realty in Chicago, New York and London. To our surprise it is nearly as high in our young city on the lake as in old London, whose streets Caesar's Roman troops trod centuries before William the Conqueror went up to his new national capital, centuries after his wonderful victory at Hastings, A. D. 1066. Similar properties in these three cities sold as follows in recent years, the price being for square foot: London, \$37.50; New York, \$57.44; Chicago, \$48.00. He says the highest price paid in Chicago was for the northwest corner of Madison and Dearborn streets, \$250.00 per square foot. In London similar lots sold for \$300 per square foot; in New York for \$330.70.

Think of land selling at \$300,000 an acre, or that No. 54 Chestnut, London, at the rate of \$1368,000 an acre.

This article is written for the encouragement of our New England readers, where we saw a 9 acre farm, with fair buildings, a good sugar orchard, 40 acres under the plow, selling at \$700 all told. But property is "picking up" down there now.

An Important Matter
Petitions are being circulated or already filed with the county judge for him to order a special election to see whether our citizens on the east side of the railroad tracks from the county line to the military reservation if Fort Sheridan wish or will make that into a special park system for the care of its streets, control and improvement of its lake frontage, the policing of the same, etc.

Without going into any elaborate details of this scheme let us say simply this now. An attempt was made at the last legislature to pass a bill for a State Commission to have charge and absolute control of all this north shore lake frontage as the lake belongs to the State of Illinois. The bill failed through an error discovered too late. But it will come up this next session and become a law, and then when our north shore gets into the hands of a state commission we have lost all our control of it forever. The state owns 300 feet out into the lake, and the commission could remove any one of our expensive breakwaters, leave the right of way to a railroad company, or for docks for bumboats or anything else and we have no redress.

But if we form our part of the shore into a special park plan, appoint our own commission etc. before the proposed law is passed and the state commission gets hold of it, it is ours and will remain so, till we see fit to give it up. What the best informed north shore citizens fear most just now is some railroad scheme. The expense cannot be great, for the present law limits the taxation for this and similar purposes. But we have got to do something soon or our lake front is gone beyond our control

just as much as the other shore of the lake now is beyond our control. Let us think this over and act deliberately and wisely, for ourselves and those who come after us.

The place to take the true measure of a man is not in the market place or amen corner, nor in the field or forum, but at his own fireside. There he lays aside his mask and you can learn whether he is an ape or an angel, king or cur, hero or humbug. I do not care a copper what the world says of them—whether it crowns him with glory or pelts him with bad eggs. I care not what his religion may be. If his babies dread his coming home and his better half swallows her heart every time she asks him for a five dollar bill he is a fraud of the first water, even though he prays night and morning until he shakes the internal hills. But if the children run to the front gate to meet him, and loves own sunshine illuminates the face of his wife when she hears his footsteps, you may take it for granted that he is pure gold, his home is a heaven and the humbug never gets that near to the throne of God. I can forgive much in a fellow mortal who'd rather make men swear than women weep; would rather have the world's than the contempt of his wife; who would rather call anger to the face of a king than fear to the face of a child.—Brann's Inconoclast.

The City Building.
The present arrangement of the Council Chamber is very cosy and nice for the Aldermen, and when it is finished it will be very pleasant and attractive. The only difficulty is that with the aldermanic seats arranged as now, each ward by itself facing the Mayor, the audience can't hear very well when such modest young men as Messrs. Grant and Stubbs speak, at least that was the case Tuesday night.

His Honor, the Mayor, sits over the "murderer's cell" in the calaboose below, and if some fellow incarcerated there for making a row on Green Bay road, he might "blow up" the Mayor, besides throwing the clerk and attorneys out of the windows. It wants a couple dozen more chairs in the rear for spectators, and if that old desk by the door where no one can use it had been put on the west side, projecting into the spectator's side, the newspaper man could have used it; now it is good for nothing, save to lay hats, canes, etc., on. Somewhere there should be some good strong double hooks for hats and coats put up for each Alderman, and we hope they will have double windows near the Mayor and Aldermen.

Then, with a big table in the spectator's part that end will make a good police court room, and shelves or a "cupboard" can be arranged in that little room over the stairway for the police magistrate's files, dockets, etc., or that made into his private office, and a place arranged in the old library room for the supplies, blanks, etc.

The outside of the building will be immensely improved with those new gables, uniform slated roof and front platform. The clerk's office, with lavatory, is more of a good thing than he really needs, but it will make a fine committee room, Mayor's office, etc. Altogether the old building, miserably planned from the first, located in the wrong place, will come out quite a modern and serviceable affair, and do the city ten or a dozen years, when the Thompson estate will give the city that big lot just between Dr. Bergen's and St. Johns avenue for an elegant city hall, public library, etc. Meanwhile, our common folks, the pioneers of Highland Park's civilization and glory, will get along with our renovated and vastly improved city building.

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