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The Proposed Park District.
Editor News-Letter.
 The writer interprets the editorial in your issue of the 7th inst., entitled "The Park Commission," to be an invitation to discuss the proposed park district. Hence, I venture a few suggestions for general information.

The present movement to establish a park district is founded upon an act of the legislature passed in 1895. The ultimate object is to acquire possession of a least one continuous boulevard through the district and to keep it in repair, police it, and, in fact, to do, in a modest way, what the South Park Commissioners do for Michigan boulevard. Incident to this end, the public will have the benefit of better police protection throughout the district; fast driving, automobile racing, shooting in the woods, dumping garbage, ashes and tin cans all over the vacant lots can be controlled.

The question is constantly asked: "Will the organization of this park district add to the people's taxes?" The law provides that the property in the district can be assessed not to exceed four mills on the dollar of the assessed valuation for a general fund to be used in caring for and maintaining boulevards and parks. If the assessed valuation of a home is \$500 that home will be assessed \$2.00 per annum for park purposes; if the assessed valuation of a home is \$1,000, that home will be assessed \$4.00 per annum for park purposes and can be assessed for no higher sum.

The law provides for special assessments to improve a street. The machinery of this provision is cumbersome that it is not likely to be used.

By the law of 1897, providing for local improvements, no street in Highland Park can be paved without the consent of a majority of the owners of land abutting on the street. The city of Highland Park can improve a street when the land owners consent; but the park commissioners cannot do so until the property owners petition to the city and the city, by ordinance, shall turn over such street to the commission. Then the majority of the land owners must consent to the improvement by the commission. Hence the special assessment system is not a practical thing in this proposed district.

Can the commission issue bonds? The act provides as follows: "For the payment of land condemned or purchased for parks or boulevards for building, maintaining, improving and protecting the same, and for the payment of the expenses incident thereto, said district is authorized to issue bonds," in amount not to exceed three per cent. of the assessed valuation of the last state and county taxes.

You will notice the issuing of bonds is confined to be used on boulevards and parks condemned or purchased only. The object of the provision was to enable the commission to secure drives and parks where there was no means of acquiring them otherwise. It is conceivable how such a necessity can arise in the proposed district. If the district is established and allowed to take charge of Sheridan Road it will find the road completely through the entire district. No condemnation or purchase will be necessary.

It is estimated that the last assessed valuation of the real estate lying in the proposed district is from \$480,000 to \$500,000. If the limit of bonds for buying or condemning and improving the park boulevard were issued it would be enough to accomplish any practical results. Upon the foregoing valuation the four-mill tax would produce not to exceed \$2,000 per

annum, and that would be the full extent of taxation for such purposes. The people can rest assured that under the law the burden of taxation will be confined to the four-mill tax.

The commissioners can draw no pay for their work, hence it will be an inexpensive body.

The city is supposed to keep its improved streets in repair. If the park commission does the work the city will be relieved of the expense, and the municipal tax should be that much less. A certain sum of money is necessary to keep the boulevard in repair, and it makes little difference which body does the work—except that the commissioners should have no right to use the four-mill tax for any other purpose while the city has a dozen ways to use the money, as heretofore, the city has had so many calls for its funds that the improved streets have been neglected.

Respectfully submitted,
 S. M. MILLARD.

Any one contemplating buying watches, clocks, and jewelry; will do well to consult Levin, the jeweler. If you can't find what you want in stock he will order it for you, and save you about 40 per cent.

ELECTION NOTICE.

Public notice is hereby given that in pursuance of an Act of the General Assembly of the State of Illinois, entered on the 21st day of November, A. D. 1900, an election will be held at the Public Library building, on Port Clinton Avenue, in the City of Highland Park, County of Lake, on Thursday, the 10th day of January, A. D. 1901, between the hours of seven o'clock A. M. and five o'clock P. M. of that day, in all that portion of the Township of Deerfield, in said Lake County, described as follows, to-wit:

Commencing at the boundary line between the Counties of Lake and Cook, in the State of Illinois, at a point where the westerly line of the right of way of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway crosses said boundary line, and extending east along said boundary line to Lake Michigan, and to low water mark; and further extending easterly and at right angles to the shore line, at said boundary line, over the submerged lands of said Lake Michigan, three hundred (300) feet from said low water mark; thence northerly parallel with the western line of the shore of Lake Michigan, and three hundred (300) feet easterly, at right angles, from low water mark on said shore line of said Lake Michigan over said submerged lands to the north line, extended, of the south fractional one-half (1/2) of Fractional Section Fourteen (14), Township Forty-three (43) North, Range Twelve (12) East of the Third Principal Meridian, said north line being the south boundary line of Fort Sheridan; thence west on said north line, extended east, and along said north line of said fractional one-half of said Fractional Section Fourteen (14), to the west line of said Fractional Section Fourteen (14), Township Forty-three (43) North, Range Twelve (12) East of the Third Principal Meridian, said west line being the south boundary line of Fort Sheridan; thence south along the west line of said Fractional Section Fourteen (14) to a point where the said west line of said Fractional Section Fourteen (14) intersects the westerly line of the right of way of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway; thence southeasterly along the west line of said Chicago & Northwestern Railway right of way to said County line, or being in the Township of Deerfield (sometimes called East Deerfield), in the County of Lake, State of Illinois; for the purpose of submitting to the legal voters of said described territory the question whether said described territory shall be organized as a Park District, to be known as Sheridan Road District of Highland Park, under an Act of the General Assembly of the State of Illinois, entitled, "An Act to Provide for the Organization of Park Districts, and the Transfer of Submerged Lands to those bordering on Navigable Bodies of Water," approved June 24, 1895, in force July 1, 1895, and amended April 22, 1899; and to elect five (5) commissioners to serve, as provided under said Act.

D. L. JONES,
 County Judge.
 Dated December 4, 1900.

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