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COMMUNICATIONS.

EDITOR NEWS-LETTER:

My understanding of the article appearing in your issue of the 28th inst., and signed a reader, is that the proposed Park system has come into existence chiefly to guard against the possibility of the submerged lands lying along the lake shore falling under the control of a State Harbor Commission. Which commission, he tells us, does not now exist and can come into existence only through special legislation. If this is true, then why has the proposed Park district been outlined to include so large a territory? In what way would the property net immediately bordering on Lake Michigan be affected by such a State Harbor Commission? And would not our own Proposed Park Board have the same power to remove any or all piers, obstructions, city water works, etc., projecting onto such submerged lands, if they so desired, to beautify the landscape.

Questions worthy of deep consideration by property owners within this proposed park district are: Can we afford this additional taxation? Secondly: What benefits will the general public receive therefrom?

The recent fires in Highland Park demonstrate very clearly the need of more extensive fire protection for our homes, and what but the lack of sufficient funds, prevents our having such protection.

Should we not first consider the necessities?

Another problem arises, namely: the division of the Eastern from the Western portion of the city. Would not such a division be likely to furnish cause for controversies and complications arising out of the distribution of taxes?

Replying to the assertion of one of your correspondents that I have "willfully distorted" the subject, would say: The act governing the formation of Park Districts, portions of which were published in your issue of December 21st, sets forth very clearly the duties and powers of Park Commissioners. And my purpose in discussing the subject through these columns has been to urge upon the busy citizens of Highland Park the importance of reading the statute themselves and of voting with their eyes wide open. It is undoubtedly a question of grave importance and deserving of the most careful consideration by our citizens. As heavy taxation is frequently an almost insurmountable obstacle in the way of the growth of small towns and municipalities. TAXPAYER.

MR. EDITOR:

In your editorial last week on "Children's Children" your comparison of the Jonathan Edward's family and the Jutes family, I was reminded of a similar case first cited in N. A. Review for April, 1875, under an Art. on "Pauperism." It is also referred to in "Alcohol and the State" by Robert C. Pitman, L. L. D., associate justice of the Superior Court of Massachusetts, P. 33. A pauper named Margaret lived in Ulster Co., New York, she and two sisters have begotten generations of paupers and criminals to such an extent that the total number now known, mainly from Margaret—convicts, paupers, criminals, beggars and vagrants, including the living and the dead, is six hundred and twenty three! This mother of criminals cost the county hundreds of thousands of dollars.

I quote the statement substantially as made by Dr. E. Harns, Register of the Board of Health of New York. Every thoughtful and observing person knows perfectly well that these are by no means isolated cases. Such costly fruits of vicious influences and institutions and work in society have been so long common that we fail to heed the lesson which should be learned. OBSERVER.

MR. EDITOR:

My attention has just been called to an article published in the Highland Independent, criticizing my article published in the NEWS-LETTER of the 21st ultimo. I see no reason to spend any time in answering the article, beyond calling attention to the fact that the editor of the Independent (for the article in question is an editorial), is quite inclined to "presume." This is all very well, provided a man has the faculty of "presuming" with any degree of accuracy. "Postoffice patron" has no "near kin." Furthermore, he could not possibly have taken the postoffice if it had been offered to him for five times its present income. Consequently, there is no question of "envying" the present postmaster his position.

The editor is clear off his base in "presuming" that "Postoffice Patron" is a democrat. He was born and bred a radical republican, and has never voted a democratic ticket. That Mr. Fletcher is a "stanch" republican, nobody questions. Query: Is he as faithful a postmaster as he has always been a party politician? This is the question that interests "Postoffice Patron," and interests a great many others, both republicans and democrats. No doubt complaints would have been made to the postmaster, as the editor of the Independent suggests, had the postmaster been at the office where he could have been found.

As regards the rest of the Independent's editorial, the editor's english is quite too much for me, and I shall have to acknowledge I am unable to decipher just what he intended to say. But to the main issue: No party prejudice, no envy, no unkind feeling, no disrespect to the postmaster prompted my former article. I was opposed to the removal of Mrs Jennings, the widow of a soldier, who gave his life to save the country. Politics had nothing to do with my sentiment, and should have had nothing to do with her removal. She deserved the position. She filled the place well. I was equally opposed to the removal of Mr. Brand, a republican. He too was faithful in his place. In a word, took charge of the business himself.

Again, I was radically opposed to the removal of Mr. Dooley, democratic as he was, and opposed for precisely the same reason that I had been opposed to the removal of the others. The spoils system, from beginning to end, is a relic of barbarism in politics. The whole country pay the tax; not a person or party of it, and while the Federal Government must of necessity control the appointment of postmasters, nevertheless, the real wages of the people, without regard to party, should be respected, and no attention paid as to whether a candidate is of this party or of that, whether he has been "stanch" in his party or not.

Let the present postmaster attend to his business faithfully, and do it himself, instead of turning it entirely over to others, and making it practically a means of paying political debts, and the writer, and I have no doubt the rest of the public, will be just as much satisfied, and as contented with Mr. Fletcher as with any other person in town. POSTOFFICE PATRON.

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