

**WANTS MORE SUCH MEETINGS.**

March 20, 1902.

Editor of the NEWS-LETTER:

I was one of those present at the meeting in McDonald's Hall last Saturday evening. It struck me that the promoters of that meeting, whoever they were, had failed to make sufficient preparation to make the meeting as profitable as it might have been, and perhaps that lack was to some extent responsible for the misunderstanding that seemed to prevail. On the other hand it strikes me that meetings of that kind, where citizen meets his fellow citizen in a friendly way and talks over the public affairs are not only calculated to prevent a good deal of unkind criticism and rasping, but also to promote the progress and general welfare of a community.

Whether it was the intent of anybody that night to attack the public school system I know not. It did not seem to me that anything appeared there to justify such a charge; at the same time, why should not the question of schools be frankly discussed? I have no children of suitable age yet to attend the high school, nor am I complaining particularly

about my taxes, but I am one of the body politic and presumed, therefore, to be interested in knowing the facts concerning the methods of carrying on our public business. I would respectfully suggest, therefore, that Mr. Shields publish in your paper the statement that he made last Saturday night and let us all know his explanation. Then, if there are any who think the statement was not a fair one, let them either say so or else let us have another meeting to discuss the question in a friendly, business-like manner, the same as the directors of a company would discuss any proposed policy of conducting their business. It is hardly to be supposed that we will all agree upon any general policy, but let us understand each other, and I see no way so likely to avoid unkind feelings and raspings as to have just such public meetings. At any rate it seems to me the public is entitled in some way to know just what is being done, and either the school board should publish, at least once a year, a

full statement or else we should be able to get at the facts in some other way.

When a man accepts a public office he should expect, of course, to be criticised, and oftentimes public officials are unjustly criticised. That is to be expected, however unfortunate it may be.

For one I sincerely hope we may now follow that meeting with more of the same kind, but let us have no unkind aspersions or criminations.

FOR PUBLIC GOOD.

**MR. PATTON'S MISTAKE.**

R. W. Patton, president of the public school board (District No. 7), stated last Saturday night that the NEWS-LETTER had attacked the policy of the school board in its issue of the 14th inst. Now, the NEWS-LETTER will defy Mr. Patton or anyone else to show any article in this paper criticising the District No. 7 school board. On the other hand, this paper has been holding the financial management of the board up as an example for the high school board. The statistics read by Mr. Patton were most all from Cook county. Why did he not give us some from Lake county? However, we have no doubt they wanted to show a favorable light on the present financial policy of the board, which

will only tend to strengthen the fact that the high school board has been expending more money than was necessary. We have no doubt that the statement of Mr. Patton was brought on by interested friends of the high school board, and the comparison only acted as a boomerang. It is evident that Mr. Patton was following a shadow.

One of the finest jobs of landscape gardening which has been done along the north shore in recent years is being laid out at C. W. Merrelies place in Winnetka, Ill. Mr. Fritz Bahr, with three assistants, is doing the work.

It is amusing to think of how scared some folks were Saturday night. They flew to the defense when there had been no attack, and so far as we know no thought of any attack. Indeed, the colonel in his opening speech distinctly stated that nothing of the kind was wanted. There was an attack instead of a defense. But it has woke the people up to the facts, and the intended "roast" for the NEWS-LETTER turned out to be the best card yet played for the awakening of the people and the NEWS-LETTER has been receiving congratulations from all sides.

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