

THE SHERIDAN ROAD NEWS-LETTER.

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FRIDAY, JAN. 23, 1903.

All correspondence and communications for publication in the News-Letter must be addressed direct to the paper, or no attention will be paid to them.

OUR SEWAGE PROBLEM.

A bill has been introduced before the state legislature by Senator Clark concerning and authorizing the annexation of territory to sanitary districts that will interest our readers. The bill provides that any sanitary district drawing its water or a portion thereof from Lake Michigan may annex territory, providing any one thousand voters in the district, proposed to be annexed, petition the county judge to place the question before the voters of the district, and upon a majority of the voters declaring for annexation, together with a majority of the voters in the district to which it is proposed to annex so declaring, then the new district shall be deemed a part of said sanitary district and shall be entitled to all of the rights and privileges thereof, and become subject to its proportion of the indebtedness thereof outstanding at the date of annexation. All general taxes of such sanitary district shall be levied uniformly over all the territory of said district as so enlarged, and no special assessment or special tax shall be levied upon any property in any portion of the sanitary district as enlarged.

If this bill becomes a law the Calumet and Evanston districts will undoubtedly apply for annexation and then the question becomes a live one in this section.

There is no doubt that, after our citizens become fully acquainted with the question, the whole North Shore as far as Lake Bluff or Waukegan will become a part of the great sanitary district.

This bill is all right as far as it goes, and it goes as far, perhaps, as the legislature of this state has authority, but if the whole North Shore, as far as the Wisconsin state line, should join the sanitary district and divert its sewage from the lake, still the question of contaminating the lake water would not be entirely settled. So long as the cities and towns in Wisconsin send their sewage into the lake, just so long will the danger exist. There seems to be no way of settling this question fully except through congress, and that body should pass a law compelling every community on any of the great lakes to either divert or destroy its sewage. Such a law will probably be made some day, but the bill before our own legislature is all right and should pass.

The question is often asked: "Why, if the drainage canal is such a success, is the water in Chicago so generally unusable for drinking?" The answer is that the large intercepting sewers north and south of the Chicago River are not yet finished, and there are as many sewers emptying into the lake as ever, the canal carrying off only the sewage emptied directly into the river. These intercepting sewers will be finished in about a year, and the whole system will have cost about \$40,000,000, and then we may expect to hear from Chicago on the subject, for it is not conceivable that after spending this vast sum to take care of its own sewage that city is going to permit its neighbors on the north to continue draining into the lake and in any degree perpetuate the difficulty.

The trouble comes from the current that naturally sets to the south along this side of the lake and which will become stronger instead of weaker as the drainage district develops and draws more water from the lake. The conditions pertaining to Chicago pertain just as much to our town and immediate neighbors, for where are we to be benefited by diverting our sewage if all of the Wisconsin cities continue giving us

theirs? Consequently, we say, that congress will have to help us out ultimately, but in the meantime we should put our own house in order before complaining of neighbors, and so we hope Senator Clark's bill will become a law.

AN APPEAL TO THE PUBLIC.

Inasmuch as Louis Noethling, the 12-year-old son of Mrs. A. Noethling, has been stricken with blindness, this appeal is made to the charitably disposed and kind-hearted people of Highland Park to assist the poor, afflicted boy to regain, if possible, his eyesight, which can only be done through the kindness of the public in contributing toward the expense necessary for treatment by a first-class specialist.

Mrs. Noethling, an industrious and hard-working woman, has been the only support of her three children for years, and deserves great credit for the manner in which she has provided a living for herself and them by doing washing and other work, which she is now unable to do in consequence of her whole time being taken up in attending to her afflicted boy, thus losing the meager income derived from her hard labor at a time when she is most in need of it.

An entertainment for the benefit of the boy was given in Goldberg's opera house, December 10, but this appeal is intended for those who did not know of the entertainment, or who might not have cared to attend it if they did know.

All kind-hearted people who feel like helping the poor, afflicted boy will please send contributions to F. W. Schumacher, druggist, Highland Park.

The good people of Highland Park and vicinity have never yet refused aid in a worthy cause, and we feel that they will not do so now.

The contributions are coming in quite freely. Let the good work go on.

Don't forget that the News-Letter job department is better equipped than ever before to do all kinds of printing, from a lady's calling card to a three-sheet poster.

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