

(Continued from third page)

or less degree by all the citizens, whether they live north or south of the artificial line above mentioned, running along Ravine and Deerfield avenues. But when it comes to school advantages, perhaps the most important of all, if you live north of the line your children enjoy as good educational advantages as are to be found in any system of public schools on the North Shore, but if you live south of that line, your children must go outside the district to be educated or attend school at little one and two room school-houses that remind you of "Hoosier School Master" days.

Do you think that is right? Of course we know that some people think modern progress pernicious. They deplore the passing of the good old days of tallow dips, clay roads, the old oaken bucket and the little red school-house. But are you in that class? Do you think your children can be properly taught by the one teacher who within the confines of a one or two room school-house spreads her teaching and attention out thin enough to cover twenty to forty pupils of all ages from six to sixteen, teaching them everything from the alphabet to algebra, or do you think it wiser to place all children of one age and one stage of progress in their studies in one room by themselves and in charge of a teacher who has had years of training for that particular task?

The time is opportune for affording them that advantage. It can be done by abolishing the division line and making a new school district to embrace the entire City of Highland Park.

But that is the only possible way it can be done, and the opportunity now open is the first that ever offered and in all probability it will be the last for many years to come.

Just consider the situation.

South of Ravine and Deerfield avenues lies some of the most beautiful residence property in the United States, lying fallow, lying idle, vacant property which should be populous, unpeopled streets which should resound to the voices of children.

In all the City of Highland Park

lying south of the line referred to there are not above one hundred children of school age, or an average of about one child to every fifteen acres.

The equalized assessed valuation of property in that area for 1902 is \$216,418, while the like valuation in District 107 is \$425,651.

You see the lack of children to fill such a school, as well as the lack of funds, prohibits the existence of a full-sized eight grade, up to date school in that southern district, and conversely the absence of such a school in the district prohibits the settlement therein of heads of families who account a locality eligible or ineligible for residence, accordingly as it has or has not, first-class school advantages to offer.

But here lies the one solution of the difficulty. About seventy of the children in the southern district live near the line dividing it from the northern district. Likewise in the northern district near the division line are many children who would derive an advantage by the location of a first-class school building on or near the present division line. There are perhaps one hundred and fifty of these, making about two hundred and twenty-five all told. Enough to justify the immediate erection of an eight-room school building, "A No. 1" in all its appointments. The situation in the north district which renders necessary such new provision for one hundred and fifty of its school children is this: The handsome school building at Elm Place and Sheridan Road, erected ten years ago and then supposed to be beyond the requirements of the district for many years to come, is already outgrown. At the present time two recitation rooms, never intended for use as regular school rooms, are being so utilized and the eighth grade class is occupying rented quarters in the High School building. Relief from this overcrowding must be had, and that soon. This relief can be secured by adding to the present building or by constructing another building adjoining it. Two objections to either of these plans are apparent: First, they both involve the purchase of a large quantity of land for building and playgrounds at from \$25 to

\$30 per front foot on Sheridan Road or Linden Avenue.

Second, they both involve what seems to be an incorrect principle for the distribution of the advantages and disadvantages that appertain to the location of a school building.

A well built, well equipped school building is the greatest advantage of which any locality can boast, taking the locality as a whole. Morally, intellectually and pecuniarily its good influence is felt. But let that school building outgrow a reasonable limit in size, and it will prove an annoyance to those householders who are in its immediate vicinity.

The erection of a first class school building on the present division line between the districts will, on the one hand, redound to the immediate financial advantage of all property within a half mile radius, at least, of the new school and it will, on the other hand, relieve householders in the immediate vicinity of the old school site from the frequent visitations of a too numerous body of vociferous and high-spirited Young Americans and from the view of a building or buildings expanded beyond the dimensions of a pretty village school-house into the useful but inartistic proportions of an educational "institute."

A school building located on the division line between Districts 107 and 108, which will provide accommodations of the highest class to the pupils who can be no longer properly cared for in the Elm Place school-house, and which can at that point be located on the most desirable of school sites at half the cost of property on Elm Place, will meet and overcome both of the objections mentioned.

If the opportunity to locate a school near the present division line, between Districts 107 and 108, is neglected, a double wrong will be perpetrated which years of time will not repair.

NOTICE—To persons interested in special assessment taxes, That the first installment is due and payable at my office at your earliest convenience on or before March 15, 1903, with interest on remaining installments from date of confirmation (as indicated on notice sent) to Jan. 2, 1903. Appreciating your kind attention I am,

Yours respectfully,
J. J. BRAND,
City Collector.

Additional Local.

Everyone in our city seems to be affected with the grip.

The firemen's annual masquerade ball came off Thursday evening in Goldberg's opera house. It was a grand success beyond the most sanguine expectation. The hall was crowded to its full extent. The costumes were elegantly fantastic.

The card party given by the Ladies Sodality of St. Mary's church, Feb. 5, at the beautiful residence of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Mills, on Green street, was a grand success, both socially and financially, the proceeds amounting to \$26.

Mr. Gerald Van Schaick left for New York City on a business trip, Thursday afternoon. He will be gone one month. While in the city he will connect pleasure with business and see the first performance at Robert Hood Bower's opera, "The Mummy and the Maid."

As we were going to press the sad news reached us of the death of that estimable lady, Mrs. J. E. Roosevelt, wife of our president of the school board. Mr. J. E. Roosevelt is in London and was not aware his wife was ill, which makes it doubly sad. Full particulars will be given next week.

One of the prettiest, and happiest events of the week was the birthday day party and family reunion, given Monday by Mrs. Mary Sheahan at her beautiful residence on Green street in honor of the first birthday anniversary of her little grandson Master Daniel James Sheahan, son of James E. Sheahan. An elaborate luncheon was served, the table being appropriately and handsomely decorated for the occasion, and loaded with good things that only dear old grandma knows how to prepare. Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. Dooley, Mr. and Mrs. Mills, Mr. and Mrs. James Sheahan and family, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Sheahan and family, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Sheahan, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Mooney and family, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sheahan and family. A delightful time was enjoyed by all present. Baby Sheahan seemed to realize he was the guest of honor and cooed his appreciation as each one wished him many returns of the day.

The NEWS-LETTER, \$2 per year.