

**SHERIDAN ROAD NEWS-LETTER**

A Courier of North Shore Intelligence.

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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.

**HIGH-HANDED PROCEEDINGS.**

Two Members of School Board District 107 Decide to Boycott The Sheridan Road News-Letter for its Ridicule of the Fessenden Broken Engagement.

The Board of Education, District 107, Lake County, Illinois, met November 12th at Elm Place school house pursuant to notice.

Present Messrs. Rounseville, Schumacher and Cole, Mesdames Cummings and Tillman. Absent Messrs. Moseley and Warren.

Mr. Schumacher moved that the board give no further patronage to the SHERIDAN ROAD NEWS-LETTER. Mr. Cole moved to amend "until adequate apology is published," referring to the Fessenden affair. The amendment was lost, but the motion was carried.

Carried by the minority, though every member of the Board present except Messrs. Schumacher and Cole, has declared emphatic opposition to the resolution.

Why these two men should arrogate to themselves authority so absolute as to ignore the wishes of the other three members present should be a matter of serious inquiry.

Are the other members supposed to be mere figure-heads, whose vote is not worth considering?

Can two men attack the business interests of this paper and make the School Board stand sponsor for their malignity?

Is a Board of Education supposed to be a body of "Hen Biddies" whose mission is to look after

town gossip and punish a paper that dares echo the voice of the people?

In rejecting the amendment the Black Flag was raised, showing no quarter to the NEWS-LETTER. There was not even a hint of what would be considered an "adequate apology."

The plain facts are that the SHERIDAN ROAD NEWS-LETTER published nothing in regard to the Fessenden affair that had not already appeared in the Chicago daily papers.

No reporter of the NEWS-LETTER gathered any information concerning the privacy of the Fessenden home, and gave no account of private moanings and groanings over telephones such as appeared in the Chicago papers.

This paper had no feeling for or against the participants of this affair. It simply printed a piece of current news and what seemed to be the sentiment of the community in regard to it.

In Russia or some other foreign country perhaps even so much freedom of the press would not be permissible.

In America, however, we are accustomed to boast of a free country where every man is entitled to life, liberty and the expression of his opinion on current news of the day.

If this is considered an "adequate apology" it is also a plain statement of facts.

That these facts should be used as a pretext for attacking the business interests of the SHERIDAN ROAD NEWS-LETTER under cover of the school board, provokes the inquiry, who is this man Schumacher?

Will somebody furnish something in regard to his record?

Where there is presumption so colossal and malice so uncalled for there must be a biography that at least would make interesting reading.

We should like to know why the Central School Supply House seems to have a monopoly of supplying the school materials and why Schumacher makes the majority of resolutions to pay the bills to this trust company?

We should like to know his precise interest in the matter.

Since he is evidently "a man who would rather be kicked than

not be noticed," we propose to turn upon him the calcium light of inquiry such as usually falls to the lot of that imprudent class who "rush in where angels fear to tread."

We are in receipt of a postal card which reads:

"If Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ would mind her own business and let other people alone she would have enough to do. She put in a mess about Mrs. G. \_\_\_\_\_'s; now we will just tell her to shut up."

This would indicate that some reporter of ours has written something disagreeable about some nice, pleasant person who objects. We will try to find that reporter and deal with her. There are mean people enough and silly people enough in the world to "go for," without saying anything against pleasant, polite, easy going people that everyone can't help admiring.

Bulwer says: "It is hard to tell who do us the most harm, our friends with the best intentions or our enemies with the worst." A case in point is furnished by the highly respectable "Hen Biddies" who, in attempting to defend Mrs. Fessenden from ridicule, are simply advertising themselves and her as more and more ridiculous.

We are informed, by "a chief taksin notes," that the President of the School Board protested earnestly against the lack of dignity and the illegality of the boycott resolved upon by Mr. Schumacher. Mr. Rounseville is a prominent attorney and it is to be regretted that the motion makers and followers of the school board did not recognize the value of his advice.

Any simpleton can repeat sharp sayings apropos of nothing; yet it requires genuine ability to get hold of cold facts and state them effectively. Abuse is never argument.

Those who imagine that newspaper people have no rights which anybody is bound to respect, are always liable to have the unexpected happen to them.

The class of people who "rush in where angels fear to tread" generally rush in where a calcium light is turned on them.

We should like to have our friend Hibbard, correspondent of the Gazette, explain what he means by this announcement:

"Mrs. Fessenden's Women's club opened the season's study of Dickens by a paper on his childhood, by the club's president."

Does he intend this as a compliment to Mrs. Fessenden or a slur on the Woman's club? Does he mean to deny that the club has any individuality of its own? Would he insinuate that it merely revolves around Mrs. Fessenden as the author and finisher of its fate, and without her would relapse into hopeless insignificance? Of course our friend Hibbard has a right to his opinion but people who write for the newspapers ought at least to be explicit, especially as they are supposed to "mold public opinion" and make and unmake reputations.

A small Chicago paper called "The Public" has this to say of our chief executive:

"Whenever President Roosevelt grows eloquent over the beauties of personal holiness, his enthusiasm recalls, for some reason or other, the story of the little girl who prayed: 'O, Lord, make Martha Smith a good little girl, so that I may take her playthings away from her and she won't make any fuss about it'."

This is the sort of thing that could be said of any man whatever his position or deserts, yet the truth remains that it is utterly pointless as applied to President Roosevelt, since there is nothing in the history of his career that makes it seem in the smallest degree applicable to him.

A Chicago daily tells of a "Sunday school Vaudeville" held last Sunday at the St. James M. E. church on Ellis Avenue and Forty Sixth street. The Rev. Camden M. Coburn is pastor of the church and he believes that "many were present who were not members of the Sunday School" to witness a dog in the pulpit. It was a trained dog named Buzzie, whose specialty was answering all questions about the bible asked by the children. The only condition was that the questions should be susceptible to "yes" or "no" or involve figures. That any more irreverent and idiotic use could be made of a Sunday School is difficult to believe.