

## THE SHERIDAN ROAD NEWS-LETTER.

**SHERIDAN ROAD NEWS-LETTER**

A Courier of North Shore Intelligence.

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All correspondence and communications for publication in this paper must be addressed direct to this office, or no attention will be paid to them.

**Announcement.**

Complete state and national bulletin will be posted next Tuesday evening and night on the News Letter Bulletin board in Levin & Larson's window.

**STOP WONDERING.**

The per capita bonded indebtedness of Chicago is \$24, of New York \$124, of Boston \$136. This is the money that has been spent for permanent public improvements, such as streets, parks and buildings which are going to last fifty or seventy-five years and be used by coming generations quite as much as by us. Why not let the coming man help pay for them?

And still we wonder why the municipal property of Chicago is so inadequate and so poorly cared for! We'd better stop wondering and vote "yes" on the new charter amendment.

**Torn Up Streets.**

The recent decision of the Supreme Court concerning the improvement of "streets, by special assessment has had the effect to stop work on some of our streets when they were in a condition practically impassible. The law of this state concerning the improvement of streets by special assessments has always seemed to us impolitic, unjust

and expensive. For this reason especially it is very proper that a street should not be improved by order of the city council until at least two-thirds of the abutting property owners had petitioned for it in writing. Be that as it may, we trust every citizens will see the importance of all parties concerned in any unfinished improvement, getting together at as early a day as possible and put all our streets in good condition. It would be a serious matter if this beautiful weather should be allowed to pass and leave some of the streets should to freeze up in their present condition.

A distinguished political orator at a banquet some years ago in Philadelphia, asked this question: "When did America ever count the cost of righteousness?" We should say when she holds up the liquor manufacturer for one dollar a barrel on beer and one dollar and ten cents a gallon on whiskey, whereby she becomes a partner in the traffic. Any proposition to give government sanction to a house of ill-fame would be promptly put down, but when we legalize a saloon we get the house of ill-fame thrown in.

We regret that the Democratic article promised this week has not appeared in time for insertion. It is therefore no fault of the News-Letter.

**CHICAGO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.**

(Editorial, Belvidere Daily Northwestern.)

On one of the questions which will come before the voters of this state at the coming election, both, and in fact all of the political parties are agreed as to favorable action. That is the proposed amendment to the constitution granting to the city of Chicago a new charter, which means that at last there will be conferred upon her the right of home rule, a right which should have long ago been given, and which should have resulted in good to the city, and benefit to the state. A new charter for that city IS NOT TO BE VOTED UPON AT THIS ELECTION. The proposed amendment is nothing more than an enabling act, conferring certain powers on the legislature, and stopping there. The legislature has been harassed, the state has become disgruntled because of the time given to the city, and the city has eventually found herself with such a complex system of government on her hands as to seriously interfere with the just operations of law.

The passage of the amendment will do away with all this, for it will say to Chicago, settle your own quarrels, attend to your own business and give the legislature a little time to devote to the state.

**WHY EAST ST. LOUIS SHOULD BE FOR THE CHICAGO CHARTER AMENDMENT.**

(Editorial, East St. Louis Daily Journal.)

At the coming election the voters are called upon to vote upon an amendment to the constitution of the state, which is submitted by action of the legislature at its last session. This amendment is called the "Charter Amendment," because its purpose is to enable the legislature to pass a law, or laws, giving Chicago the opportunity to adopt a new charter.

As the constitution now is, the legislature has no power to pass any laws relative to municipal government which do not apply to all the cities of the state; they must be laws general in their application. There will be no dispute about the declaration that Chicago has outgrown the laws that have a general application to all cities, and these are the only laws that the legislature has the power to pass under the constitution as it now is. It is to empower the legislature to afford Chicago the municipal laws necessary to her size and conditions that the proposed amendment to the constitution is sought. There is no reason that Chicago should not have this relief, and every reason that she should have it.

Several years ago, St. Louis found that her conditions were such that the ordinary city laws, that the legislature could only pass, were inadequate. St. Louis, therefore, obtained the necessary constitutional right to adopt a scheme and charter commensurate with her requirements and importance, and adopted it. Since that time the growth and progress of St. Louis have been marvelous. It is this same St. Louis remedy that Chicago now asks to be allowed to make use of, and which she greatly needs.

While the amendment will not affect or apply to any other place than Chicago, yet, as it is an amendment to the constitution, it has to be voted on by the voters of the whole state. And to be adopted, it must receive a majority of all the votes cast at the coming election, so that it is necessary to get as large an affirmative vote as possible, on account of the danger that lies in so many who may not vote on the amendment at all, and which counts against it.

East St. Louisans should take an interest in this amendment and vote unanimously for it, for they owe it to Chicago outside of the amendment's own merits. When East St. Louis went to the legislature, a few years ago, for laws under which to build a city hall, after the cyclone destruction of the old one, and to authorize the building of an outlet sewer, the members of the legislature from Chicago, Democrats and Republicans alike, came to our city's aid, voted for the necessary laws, and we got them. Chicago now asks for something that she greatly needs, and which affects us in no way, except that it may make Chicago greater, and East St. Louis voters should show their gratitude for and appreciation of what Chicago has done for East St. Louis by voting en masse for the Chicago charter amendment to the constitution.

It is not a party question. All parties in their state conventions have recommended the adoption of the amendment, and all the leaders and candidates of those parties are advocating the same in this campaign. Then let there be as large a majority in East St. Louis for this amendment as there are votes cast here.

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