

Highland Park News-Letter

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Our Christmas Number

It is a pleasure to be able to announce that Mrs. Laura Dayton Fessenden will contribute a children's story to the Christmas number of the *News Letter* which we shall publish December 24th.

While Mrs. Fessenden's story will appeal particularly to boys and girls it will be read with interest by every one who has not forgotten his childhood days.

The Czar and Peace

THE boot is now upon the other foot. The self-styled Son of God, Czar Nicholas II. of Russia who a few years ago was urging the rulers of the world to meet for the purpose of arranging a satisfactory universal and everlasting peace, and who was the foremost figure in that great conference at The Hague, now refuses the invitation of President Roosevelt to participate in a second peace conference.

The reason for this refusal, he states, is that "the moment is not opportune for the convening of such a conference." As a postscript he might have added that if the convention could be postponed until he had whipped the Japanese, secured Manchuria and Korea, and taken another slice of China, besides driving the English out of Tibet, forcing the Finns into serfdom, and a few other things on his calendar, he would then be heartily willing to assist in preventing the rest of the world from acquiring new territory by war, or settling any differences in the ring of war.

The Czar doubtless believes it to be eminently proper that he should hold up the progress of peace while he adjusts private differences.

It remains to be seen whether the small remainder of the world holds the same opinion or whether the conference will be held without his sanction, and he be forced to arbitrate those differences.

The Underpaid Teacher

It is a well known fact that the average country teacher does not receive salary in any way commensurate with the responsibility and toil of leading the unformed mind of children along the mental and moral pathways.

The following comment from the Chicago Evening Post seems to us to be a very good summing up of the situation in the country districts of Illinois:

"A scrutiny of the biennial report of Superintendent of Public Instruction Bayliss will reveal the interesting fact that the people of eighty-four counties in this state consider \$25 a month enough to pay the school-teachers to whom they intrust the instruction of their children. When it is remembered that the school year is approximately only nine months long, it will be seen what a high idea of education prevails in many communities of enlightened Illinois. An annual salary of \$225 for

assuming the responsibilities and the labor of teaching school is not calculated to inspire the average teacher with much pride or interest in her or his calling, nor to give much cause for boasting to the citizen of the state where such inappreciation of educational work is disclosed.

It would seem apparent that out of an expenditure of \$22,637,861 annually for common schools alone, exclusive of the normal institutions and the university, a greater proportion should go to the underpaid country teachers. Of course the amount of compensation rests with the community itself, and the entire state cannot be blamed for the inclination in some quarters to disregard the rights of a class whose work is of such inestimable importance; but there is undoubtedly a way in which this condition may be changed, and it is the duty of school experts to discover it and to see that it is carried out.

"It is not just to the teachers, to the children nor to the country at large that this neglect should continue. Teachers should receive at least as much as common laborers."

Take Joy Home

Take joy home,

And make a place in thy great heart
for her;

And give her time to grow, and cherish her,

Then will she come and oft will sing
to thee,

When thou art working in the furrows; ay,

Or weeding in the sacred hour of
dawn.

It is a comely fashion to be glad:
Joy is the grace we say to God.

Jean Ingelow

Less Than a Year

LESS than a year has passed since the Iroquois Theater tragedy was enacted. Yet the memory of that December afternoon endures only in the minds and hearts of those whose children or near friends were numbered among the 582 women and children martyrs to managerial and municipal carelessness.

The world has gone on, with fire, blood and shipwreck, and the disaster of to-day drives from the mind the tragedy of yesterday. Even the carelessness which causes it is forgotten when some fresh horror occurs. But the return of December 30th brings to mind the greatest theater holocaust we have ever known. The Iroquois Theater Memorial Association will hold services on that afternoon in Willard Hall.

The Next Speaker and Local Option

The Anti-Saloon League of Illinois has addressed to every member of the Lower House of the next Legislature, a letter in which it points out that W. E. Trautman, one of the prominent candidates for Speaker, introduced the amendment in the last session which cut the county, township, ward and precinct features out of the Local Option Bill.

The League declares its intention to keep clear of any personal or factional fight and does not ask Mr. Trautman or any other man for a pledge as to his action in the legislature when the question comes

to a vote, but insists upon a fair chance.

The letter says that a vote for Mr. Trautman or any other man opposed to the bill will be considered an unfriendly act and a part of the record upon which the League must go back to its constituency in every district unless such candidate shall have given satisfactory assurances that the bill will be referred to an acceptable committee where it will have a fair chance of being reported out, and that the Speaker will allow it to be brought up for consideration and discussion and will give a roll call upon it and all vital questions growing out of it.

The Purchase of a Reservoir Site

ANOTHER step has been taken toward the transformation of the arid West. The Secretary of the Interior has authorized the purchase of the Hondo reservoir site in New Mexico for the sum of twenty thousand dollars. It is in Chaves County, about twelve miles west of Roswell.

The site of this proposed reservoir is a natural depression, which, with a small amount of embankment, can be given a capacity of forty thousand acre-feet. This will hold practically all the water that the Hondo will furnish during low-water years. It is proposed to store here the flood waters of this stream and draw on them through lateral canals for irrigating the lands below the reservoir.

The lands that will be benefited by the reservoir water are naturally fertile and may be easily irrigated at slight expense. They are free from alkali and will be ultimately worth at least one hundred dollars an acre when planted in alfalfa and corn. If used for fruit growing, to which they are specially adapted, they may have a far greater value.—*Scientific American*

☞ The treasurer of the St. Louis Exposition is in serious condition caused by nervous break down. He probably attempted to make the books balance.

☞ The man Powers who was implicated in the assassination of Governor-elect Goebel of Kentucky several years ago, and who was sentenced to death, has been granted a new trial by the Court of Appeals. He may live long enough to be acquitted.

☞ Richard Canfield, gentleman gambler, of Saratoga and New York, has succumbed to Mr. Jerome's campaign, and this week paid a fine of \$1,000 "to protect his patrons," who would otherwise have to testify to visiting his gambling resort. Score another victory for the District Attorney.

☞ General Ricciotti Garibaldi, the last surviving son of the Italian Liberator, is dying, it is said. Like his father he was a lover of freedom, and was an active leader in the war of 1897 between Greece and Turkey, beside assisting in plans to free Cuba, and aiding in the Albanian and Macedonian revolutions.

☞ It is fitting that the acquisition of the naval training school should be celebrated by Lake County. Waukegan has taken the lead, and evidently intends to be the whole show. But should not Waukegan remember there are other municipalities in Lake County, which, if not as well favored as to locality, still share the common joy.

The Skeptic

Cat an' chickens slickin' up,

Geese are all a'squawkin';

Quail are hollerin' "More wet,"

Corns are kind er talkin';

Spider strengthenin' his web—

Knowin' lettle feller;

Weather man predictin' "Fair"?

Gimme my umbreller!

—Edward L. Sabin.