

Highland Park News-Letter

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SATURDAY JANUARY 13th, 1906

No Railroad Passes

A "reform wave" is sweeping over the United States. "Reform" is the watchword of the people. Everything is being reformed from the big corporations to the little village improvement societies of the rural districts.

When Folk instituted the railroad pass reform in Missouri, he struck a popular chord. And waves of this particular reform spread over the country to the Atlantic ocean and to the Pacific, rolling back with redoubled force to meet this week at the State House at Springfield with a crash that nearly jarred each and every plum pulling office holder from his beloved chair.

Yes, brethren, the officials of this grand old state may no longer ride free on the fruit of the pass tree, and still retain the executive favor.

Passes of all kinds are under the ban at the state house. Governor Deneen has let it be known among the employes of all departments and institutions under his control that they are not to ask for railroad transportation of any kind whatever, either for themselves or for any friend.

There has been no proclamation. There has been no order, but somehow the displeasure of the executive with the old forms and customs leaked out of the executive office and gradually percolated through the big building, then took wings and visited all the state boards and state institutions.

And thereby half or three-quarters of the fascination of feeding at the public trough has been banished and dissipated into thin air.

The free railroad pass has been the dessert of the office holding feast. It has been a plentiful dish. Many have partaken of it before and after the meal. Salaries and emoluments have been small, but the pass has been there in plenty.

The railroad and warehouse commissioner's office has been the general pass engender department for the administration, and through it hundreds and thousands of requests for transportation have been sent. In the state service passes have never been scarce. They have apparently grown on trees.

Shaking the pass tree has been a favorite after-dinner pastime.

All this is changed now. The governor does not ride on passes and never has. He pays his fare. This in itself has been considered hint enough by some. Others have to have a harder jolt. They have all felt it now. The governor has publicly advocated the passage of a bill by the next general assembly prohibiting the giving by railroads and the acceptance by officials of every rank and class of railroad passes.

The railroads are very well satisfied with the new order of things, for nine out of ten passes issued under the old order were sent to people who could neither do them harm nor good. The transportation was issued simply because the higher up man requested it.

To RENT:—A desirable cottage near Gray Electric Factory. \$10 per month. Apply to Highland Park State Bank.

A Worthy Project

It has many times been the privilege and pleasure of the people of Highland Park to witness excellent theatricals of an amateur class, but seldom indeed have they had the opportunity of seeing the first public performance of dramatic students who have had long and careful training histrionic art for arts' sake alone. The Dramatic Students' Company of Chicago announce their first public performance for Saturday evening, January 20, 1906, at Ravinia Park Theatre, under the stage direction of Mr. Donald Robertson, the instructor of the Dramatics class, and an actor of wide experience and recognized talent.

In their studies the Dramatic Class has taken up many plays which are comparatively unknown, many of which have never been presented on the stage.

Saturday evening's program will consist of three of these carefully studied and rehearsed plays—"The Silent System" by Brander Matthews, "In a Balcony" by Robert Browning and "The Intruding Widow" by Charles Lamb.

The freshness of the plays and the unique features of this departure from the set style of the professional theatrical company cannot fail to attract the attention and invite the appreciation of all playgoers.

Among the members of the company are several well known artists of ability in other lines. Mrs. Foster-Comegys is known to many Highland Park people as a reader, and Mr. Charles Squire is a pianist and musician of marked talent. Miss Marion Redlich, Mr. Milton Sills and Miss Vida Sutton are members of the Dramatic Club of the University of Chicago, and Miss Sutton has in the past two years aided a great deal in the production of amateur theatricals in Highland Park.

The patronesses of the company include Mrs. Walter Carr, Miss A. O. Mason, Mrs. Samuel Slade, Mrs. Frank Gardiner and Mrs. K. R. Smoot of this city, all of whom are well known in dramatic circles. Five Evanston ladies who are interested in dramatics are also patronesses.

The company is eminently deserving of the patronage of playgoers all along the North Shore, and if next Saturday night's performance shows a desire on the part of the North Shore people for a continuance of the plays a series will be given every two weeks during the winter season.

The tickets are on sale in Highland Park at Cumming's drug store.

Tax Figures For 1905

The figures given below, furnished by County Clerk Hendee, show the aggregate tax for the principal towns and villages in Lake County for each \$100 valuation, the figures including every tax levied. It will be seen that the tax rate for Highland Park is \$1.67½ per \$100 higher than Waukegan and \$3.38 per \$100 higher than Lake Forest, these cities being the three having the highest rate in the county.

It costs to be the cleanest and best improved city in the county, but it's worth it.

Following are the figures:

Zion City, \$4.93; in 1904 it was \$6.18.

Winthrop Harbor, \$6.30.

Antioch, \$5.75.

Grayslake, \$5.04½.

Waukegan, \$10.00½; in 1904 it was \$9.11.

North Chicago, \$6.03; in 1904 it was \$6.64.

Lake Bluff, \$5.28.

Lake Forest, \$8.30; in 1904 it was \$8.25.

Libertyville, \$4.12½.

Wauconda, \$5.84.

Barrington, \$7.23.

Lake Zurich, \$3.38.

Deerfield, \$6.54½.

Highland Park, \$11.68; in 1904 it was \$10.56½.

Highwood, \$7.50.

Ravinia Park

The fifth concert in the winter series at Ravinia Park Theatre will be given by the Theodore Thomas Orchestra on Monday evening, January 15, 1906, at 8:15 o'clock. Miss Otie Chew is the soloist of the evening. The program is as follows:

Overture, Fingal's Cave *Mendelssohn*
Symphony No. 1, bFlat, Opus 38 *Schumann*
Andante un poco Maestoso-Allegro Molto Vivace.

Larghetto-Scherzo

Allegro Aulmate E Grazioso.

INTERMISSION

Concerto for Violin *Mendelssohn*

Allegro Molto Appassionato.

Andante-Allegro Molto Vivace.

Suite, Impressions d'Italie *Charpentier*

Serenade. A la Fontaine. A Mules. Sur. Les Cimes.

Napoli.

The cold weather of the past week has put the skating rink in excellent condition, and many skating parties have taken advantage of the fine evenings to enjoy their favorite winter sport, and many jolly lunches have been served by Caterer Welsh at the Casino.

Death of Miss Holt

Miss Anne Katharine Holt, who died on Tuesday, January 9, at the residence of her sister, Mrs. Francis Thorne, had been for many years an invalid and on that account was known to comparatively few in Highland Park. By that small circle of friends, however, she was greatly loved and respected both for the unselfishness and sweetness of her character and for the activity and acuteness of her mental powers.

During all her years of suffering Miss Holt's cheerfulness and patience never failed and her industry never flagged. Not many months ago she completed a history of the Harding family with which she was connected on her mother's side and for which she collected much original matter and many letters and portraits. This has been printed for the members of the family and is perhaps, her best memorial. As a record it possesses not only value of a genealogical character but also distinct literary merit.

This is true of all her sketches and other work both published and unpublished of which the volume is considerable, since her pen was never idle.

For eight years Miss Holt resided with relatives in England and she was keenly interested in its history and antiquities and possessed a fund of exact knowledge upon these subjects which was always at the disposal of her friends. The members of the Ossoli Club, in particular, have been greatly aided by her in their schemes of historical and literary study for several years past.

Of Miss Holt's courage and cheerfulness throughout her long and exhausting illness it is impossible to say too much. Her example was an inspiration and an encouragement to all who were permitted to know her, and her memory will be cherished by them.

The funeral services were held at the family residence at one o'clock on Thursday, and the burial was at Racine, Wis., her early home.

During the yellow fever epidemic in Louisiana the telephone was found to be of inestimable value in the shipment of supplies to the quarantined districts and for several weeks the wires took the place of the commercial traveler. Wholesale houses outside the district called up retail stores where the quarantine was in force and through this means orders were filled without delay. Realizing the necessity for connection by telephone, authorities allowed linemen to enter the quarantine boundaries while all others were prohibited.