

HIGHLAND PARK NEWS-LETTER

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The Round Table

Much is due to the boys of the "Round Table" for the very interesting and enjoyable entertainment secured by them for the people of Highland Park in the Glee Club Concert two weeks ago this evening. It was an evening of pleasure and fun without a flaw. It was pleasant to see so large a representation of the young people in the higher school grades, as well as those who passed some time since the gates of our local schools. The young people know a good thing when they see or hear it, and this concert was just what they wanted. The elder people, who composed the larger part of the audience of about four hundred that greeted the college boys, seemed to enjoy the music and the fun as fully as the younger. It is doubtful if the ministers, lawyers, merchants and other fathers of the people present could have enjoyed anything more. Several of these gentlemen enthusiastically stated that they had not had so good a time since they were in college. Others state that there had not been as good an entertainment given in Highland Park in years. The Evanston boys did well. They have the musical as well as the college spirit. One could not believe it to be true, as stated by Mr. Knapp, the leader, that it was their first appearance as a club on the concert stage, the present club being composed mainly of new men, only four or five of its members having had any previous experience before the public. It is pleasant to add that the efforts of the "Round Table" were a success in a financial way as they deserved to be, and the profit from the entertainment will yield a goodly sum for the Chicago Boys Club and the Art League fund of our grammar school, the two objects to be benefited.

The Great Debate

The long looked for Interscholastic Debate between the Deerfield and Waukegan High schools, came off Saturday evening, February 2nd, in the Art building at the Lake Forest University. It was worthy of the place, the schools represented, and the audience assembled. It was a debate which in substance and form, in argument and delivery, reached a high water mark. The utmost frankness and fairness characterized both teams, there were no traps or tricks of any kind, nothing from start to finish to which any fair minded, honest person could take exceptions, and we are proud of our Lake county teams, as representing the highest standard of excellence in this line of work. In the first place, the question "Resolved that Municipal ownership of Public Utilities in Chicago is desirable" was timely, and one which every intelligent person has a vital interest, because we are all a part of Chicago, that is Chicago and its suburbs are all parts of one stupendous whole.

Then we don't know how soon such a question will become a vital one in our north shore towns. Hence everybody wanted to hear the pro's and cons on the subject.

Second, the subject matter, the arguments themselves were first class, chiefly facts, hard and stubborn they evinced a wide reading, a patient study of all phases of the problem, with an immense array of facts and statistics well grouped and tabulated, and pretty thoroughly digested and committed to memory. Mr. Fitt's marshalling of statistics on the street car phases of the problem was a model of thoroughness, lucidity and logical grouping; his map statistics evidently did not produce the effect intended; such things are for the eye rather than the ear.

Third, the manner of "delivery" was not as evenly balanced as were the arguments. "Judge" Phillips, as the boys reverently style him, clearly took the palm for oratorical, ornate, oratory or the "Asiatic" style, as Cicero once described that of his first rival Hortensius, and his allusions to "Hinky Dink" and "Bath-room John" as the types of Chicago statesmen, can furnish as members of its public utilities went to the mark. No one can or wishes to deny the rare ability and concentrated force of Mr. Partridge's argument. The young ladies;—well they did admirably, and we repeat as a whole, was grand. The only criticism of the speeches I have to make is this; they put too much into them, and were obliged to speak to rapidly to keep within time. They were good and solid, and strong all of them, but not sledge-hammer alone. It was a great debate worthy of any man's attention.

The award went to Waukegan, by the judges; by the audience it went to Deerfield, and I frankly say that any one trained to weigh arguments, sift evidence and balance things, would approve the award. And this does not detract one iota from Waukegan's merits, the Deerfield team has had most experience and sheer force and weight of argument they took the lead, that was the judgment of fair and impartial unbiased hearers. Some of the Waukegan papers said the Waukeganites were surprised when the award was made etc. Of course they were, they had sense and saw that Deerfield fairly won the award. Ah, if only one "sweet sixteen," had been gowned in red—fire red, instead of that immaculate white, even a German professor, in spite of his national predilection in favor of municipal ownership, would have given her the award.

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Progressive Prohibition

The State of Tennessee is now practically a prohibition State, and it must be admitted that it looks as though the Prohibitionists had "sneaked up" on their adversaries, and accomplished by a sort of progressive prohibition movement what they would probably have found it very difficult to accomplish at one sweep with the issue squarely joined as between prohibition and anti-prohibition. Whether or not in the culmination of a campaign covering a period of nearly or quite fifteen years, the State has the law that the Prohibitionists have been steadily working for, the result is undisputed. The sale of liquor is practically prohibited in the State. When what is known as the Adams law was passed something like fifteen years ago, the advocates of the measure may or may not have had in view just the results that have been brought about. If so, they must be given credit for having played a shrewd and a patient game, and to have played it with skill. The law as originally passed was an innocent enough appearing measure. It simply prohibited the sale of intoxicants within four miles of any school house in towns of 2,000 inhabitants and under. In that shape it encountered very little opposition, as it was looked upon as of limited scope, and it is a well known fact that as a rule the people of the small towns and villages are favorable to the limitation of the sale of liquor. Some time afterwards, at a subsequent session of the legislature, the law was amended so as apply to towns of 5,000 inhabitants, and charters for new towns were forbidden without this prohibition clause. At the present session of the legislature, the final step was taken in the passage of an amendment to the Adams law making it applicable to the entire State. That is to say, the law makes it a crime to sell any sort of intoxicants within four miles of a school house any place in the State. As it is almost impossible, with but few exceptions, to get outside the four mile range of one school house without getting within the four mile range of another, this gives the State practical prohibition. And even in the exceptional instances, where school houses are far apart, all the people have to do to secure the benefit of the law is to build more school houses. Of course, in the large cities where school houses are plentiful, prohibition is complete.

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