

## Highland Park News-Letter

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### Illinois Aids Uncle Sam.

The location of the new United States Naval Station at Lake Bluff for the training of young men for the naval service bringing, as it will soon, several thousand active American youth into our neighborhood is a fact, the full bearing of which has begun to dawn upon the minds of Illinoisians. The troubles that have arisen from the location of numerous saloons and places of resort near Fort Sheridan and for that matter near all military posts in large cities have emphasized the conviction that prompt and effective measures on the part of the people are required. These are necessary not only to protect the young men of the proposed training school, the plans for which indicate an early opening of the school, but for the protection of the brave boys in blue forming that part of the army which circumstances place among us. These men are Americans and represent a fair average, no doubt, of the good character and intelligence as well as the bravery, brains and muscle of the American people at large. The men, deprived as they are of home, family and social influences and restraints, are entitled to the aid and fullest protection which the people can give them. Laws have been in force for years in many States prohibiting the sale of liquors and the conducting of games of chance and other vicious practices adjacent to military posts, Federal or State as well as soldiers' homes and other charitable institutions. Illinois has such a law protecting Soldiers' Homes and a bill has been introduced at the present session of our General Assembly providing that it shall be unlawful to sell intoxicating liquors within  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles of the boundary line of land owned or used by the government for the purposes of any Naval Training School or Military Post and punishing disobedience by fine and imprisonment. One effect of this bill, if it becomes a law, will be to prevent the licensing and maintenance of saloons near the Lake Bluff Training School or within the present limits of Highwood. At the request of numerous citizens of North Chicago and Highwood the Legislature, although nearly unanimous in favor of the bill, appointed a special committee consisting of Representatives F. R. Covey and Dennis J. Gibbons of this district and W. T. Ap Madoc of Chicago to inspect the conditions adjacent to the School and the Fort, to hear the citizens and others interested in the subject of the bill and report its recommendations.

The committee spent at least five days of this week in the neighborhood from Friday to Tuesday, inclusive, looking over the ground and investigating. They held an open session for the hearing of all parties at Lake Forest on Monday, which was attended by several hundred citizens and property owners of the towns interested, from North Chicago to Winnetaka. The session lasted from morning until near midnight, with a few minutes intermission for supper, and proved instructive as well as interesting. The fairness of the Committee and their evident purpose to do justice to all the interests represented by and before them was a most noticeable feature and we feel that if the gentlemen composing the committee represent the average of those sent to Springfield, Illinois has reason to be proud of its Assembly. The more noticeable features brought out by the hearing were:

1. That at North Chicago the proposed bill would put seven saloons out of business but leave as many more active in the territory outside the prohibited zone. There was little evidence of violation of the laws at North Chicago, the proposed measure so far as that town is concerned and others adjoining the Naval School being simply a protection and provision for the future.

The evidence seemed conclusive of gross, open and continued violations of the law at Highwood and disclosed conditions the mere suspicion of which would require the most careful consideration and prompt action for the protection of the people in adjoining towns.

3. Although there was a large representation from Highwood at the meeting with an attorney as spokesman, the main effort on their part seemed to look to the postponement for a lengthy period of the enforcement or operation of the proposed law rather than to a denial of the necessity for or attack on the law itself.

4. It seemed to be the general belief that civic and property conditions in Highwood were about as bad as they could well be in a municipality. The values of land are at a low ebb. The public know and can ascertain nothing of the financial transactions or conditions of the city during the last few years. There was a probable income of twelve to fifteen thousand dollars a year and nothing to show for it. The evidence leaves no alternative but that the \$750 yearly license from each of thirteen saloons said to exist in the town \$0,750 has been either dissipated along unwise or illegal channels or not been collected at all. Fair minded citizens interested in the town have expressed the opinion that the last view is the correct one and that there has been wilful failure to collect license fees.

None of the leading officials of Highwood appeared before the Committee or furnished information save one alderman who spoke briefly. The town marshal was present.

Two large employers of labor testified to the evil effects upon their employees of working near or passing through the Highwood district.

5. The Highwood citizens present put the burden of wrong doing on the soldiers, charging them with evil habits and character and incidentally included the officers in their condemnation. It seems strange that no effort was made to present the interest of the soldiers. No representative of the army appeared save one fine looking sergeant who came with the Highwood residents to express his view that it was better for the discipline of the soldier that there should be plenty of saloons near the post. The absence of the army and navy people may perhaps be explained by the unwritten law of the service that they shall not interfere in any way with the political affairs or government of the people except when called on in their official capacity under the law to preserve the peace and protect the people. The Federal administration publicly as well as the officers of the army and navy privately have not hesitated, however, to express their views in favor of the passage of the bill. The letter of Secretary of the Navy Metcalf to Governor Deneen and letters of the Secretary of War and the Commanding General of this Department all of which are now before the legislature leave no doubt as to the stand of the Federal officials and the Army in the matter. It is to be regretted that some good citizen was not stimulated to present upon this notable occasion in our North Shore history the general good character and the needs of the American soldier and the debt which the people owe him. We learn as we go to press that a majority of the committee have reported to the House recommending the passage of the proposed bill, but that the date when it shall become operative shall be postponed a few months to give the dealers affected time to adjust themselves to the new conditions.

### The Highland Park Hospital

The proposed Hospital for Highland Park is in line with the new civic interest which is being shown in the welfare of the city. The paving of many miles of our streets during the past three years has added thousands of dollars to the value of our real estate. The erection of the beautiful Public Library building has established a center for the literary and artistic activities of the town. The growth of the Township High School, the Grammar School, and the Northwestern Military Academy has emphasized the importance of Highland Park as an educational center.

With the growth of the city new needs arise. No one who gives the matter a moment's thought will question the urgent need of a Hospital to care for the sick and injured of this city and entire region between Evanston and Lake Forest. Only patients of Lake Forest physicians and nurses are admitted to the Lake Forest Hospital and it was only recently that an aged Highland Park patient had to be bundled into Chicago late at night to undergo a serious operation that demanded immediate attention. The result was several hours of delay and agony not to mention the consequent risk of the life of the patient.

Mr. A. C. Frost has generously offered to contribute a site for the new Hospital and the doctors and leading citizens of the city are working together to formulate plans for securing the building. It is probable that a public meeting will soon be held to discuss the subject and appoint a committee to take the matter in charge. Citizens of Deerfield and other North Shore towns have already offered to co-operate in the matter. The Hospital is the "next thing" that needs to be done for the good of Highland Park. Shall we do it?

### Banquet in Honor of Rev. A. A. Pfanstiehl

The loss to the religious and civic life of our city, caused by the resignation of Rev. A. A. Pfanstiehl of the pastorate of the Presbyterian Church, to which he was called about ten years ago, was emphasized by the banquet given to their long-time friend and pastor by the Young Men's Bible Class of that church, Tuesday evening at the Ravinia Casino. These young men, all of whom are now prominent factors in our social and business life, have grown from childhood to manhood under Mr. Pfanstiehl's pastorate, and their associations with him on the athletic field and during the social hours as well as in religious services and Bible study has been very close.

The depth of the fraternal feeling between the young men and their pastor was much in evidence during the discussion of the excellent menu served by Manager Welsh and the sense of obligation of the members to Mr. Pfanstiehl, was voiced by all in many earnest and touching words during the toasts culminating in the speech of President Geo. R. Roberts in presenting a case containing an exquisitely carved ivory handled cane and umbrella as a testimonial from the class. Mr. Pfanstiehl was deeply touched by the tributes of his young friends and responded most happily. The organization of the class was broadened so as to include social and civic purposes and will hereafter be known as the "Phi Alpha Pi."

The following toasts were given: President Geo. R. Roberts Toastmaster. A few words, Mr. Allen Jones; New Boys View, Carl Pfanstiehl; Old Boy's View, James Shields; Class Prophecy, Norman Mason; One Good Turn, Raymond Lovell; Deserves Another, George Roberts.

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