

North Shore News - Letter

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Published Every Saturday at Highland Park, Ill.
By the

Sheridan Road Publishing Co.

Entered at the Post Office, Highland Park,
Illinois as second class matter

Subscription \$1.50 a Year 5c per Copy

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 1907

THE WAUKEGAN-DAY GAMBLING CASES.

We do not know the merits or demerits of the particular cases which were brought against certain parties by the Rev. Mr. Tucker, of Waukegan. Nor do we know the parties concerned, and have never met Mr. Tucker.

In saying, therefore, that we are glad that the courts found it within the lines of justice to dismiss these cases, we are not expressing any opinion for or against any of the parties.

But we are inclined to think that the Gazette has been doing too much crowing over it. For the admission has had to be made that these cases were not technically legal.

Commissioner Foote, in dismissing them, says:

"The law does not draw any line on raffles. That has always been the trouble with big raffle cases that have come before the United States court as the offenders point out that church lotteries and raffles are just as bad as their's, therefore, if the government approves one, it must approve of the other.

"But in this case, it is a public enterprise that was to benefit by the fund, and if it is left to me to decide, it appears to me that the thing to do is to dismiss the case against Messrs. Just and Smith."

It seems, then, that the case was dismissed—not because there was no offense, but because the end was supposed to justify the means.

This, however, is skating on very thin ice, and if the defendants have any sense of modesty in the matter, they will say as little as possible about it.

To many people, it does not seem to be a very high standard of law which will permit a city to do anything for gain which would be criminal in a private citizen.

YELLOW JOURNALISM

Who is responsible for the evil effects upon the youth of our land which are the result of giving publicity to evil things?

At first hand we would say the yellow journals, but we are not sure that the most pernicious of these evils do not reach them through what are regarded as respectable newspapers.

Mr. William E. Curtis calls attention to this evil in his letter published on August 27th, a portion of which we give in another column of this issue.

We hope his letter will be read by the

editor of the Record-Herald, and indeed by all first-class journalists. It is true that there are large masses of people who read the papers with the lying headlines, printed in type fit only for a billboard poster, and that these "yellow journals" are prone to make the most of the sensational—especially if it is a story of vice and crime. "Anything to sell the papers!" seems to be the motto of some journalists. Not anything can be too nasty or too vile if it will only serve to make a red line heading, with a half column, more or less, of moral filth.

But our very best daily papers do the same thing, only qualified by a better regard to actual fact, and without the yellow line or red ink heading.

Society scandals, divorce proceedings, and murder trials, with degradation and vice, are all materials, gathered with avidity in order to rival competing journals with the most "attractive" story.

The sporting columns also are constant feeders of the gambling spirit and the hostilities of the prize ring are displayed in all their disgusting details and demoralizing slang, by the largest and most influential of papers, more especially in Sunday editions.

But does the responsibility rest solely upon the press? The answer to this is found in the single fact that the "yellow journal" has a paying circulation and the strictly true and moral paper goes under.

So finally, it comes back to the citizen—the parent and the teacher—to give support to the journal that does not make its record on vice, but holds up to view the things which make for manhood and womanhood.

DRINKING FOUNTAINS FOR HIGHLAND PARK.

Two to Be Provided.

We would have been much mistaken in our estimate of the Highland Park public had we not found that there is a spirit which answers liberally to so evident a need as that of public drinking fountains for man and beast.

For weeks past we have been urging immediate action in this matter.

The man who walked into this office on Saturday last expressed the sense of disgust which the stranger feels in coming to this city in hot weather. "This is a bum town!" said he, "What's the matter with it?" we asked. "Huh! can't get a glass o' beer, and—worse yet—not a drink of water!" The stranger evidently felt that this was "a dry town" with a vengeance.

We are indeed glad, however, to report that at the next meeting of the city council, on Tuesday, September 3rd, there will be presented a petition for permission to erect in prominent and suitable places, two drinking fountains as quickly as the work can be done.

One of these—a splendid example of artistic metal work, richly mounted and beautifully bronzed—will cost several hundred dollars, and will be an ornament to the town, as well as providing drinking accommodations for man,

horses, dogs, birds, etc. This will be presented by a wealthy citizen, who, with his estimable wife, has had it in mind for a long time, and the articles in this paper have suggested the way and furnished opportunity.

The second fountain will also be a beautiful metal drinking fountain for man, horse and dog, and will be furnished by a children's club called the "Young People's Humane Society of Highland Park," under the leadership of Miss Ruth Ewing. Their appeal for funds will be found in another column.

It is to be hoped that nothing will prevent the immediate acceptance by the city of these generous donations and that in a few weeks we may see this great need met by the installing of the two fountains.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Dear News-Letter:

I want to thank you for giving space to humane work topics. I feel that your paper has as much opportunity for doing good as any of the great dailies, for the reason that the summer-resort district has much cause for complaint, in the cases of deserted domestic pets that annually occur.

I think your paper does much to remind those who are only thoughtless, not really hard-hearted.

Some writer says, "people are kind when they think of it!"

Do you care to reprint the enclosed clipping? If not, please return.

Respectfully,

SUBSCRIBER

Editor North Shore News-Letter:

Dear Sir: Seeing the query of "Constant Subscriber" in your valuable paper, relative to the means of relieving cruelty to animals in Highland Park, permit me to say that the Illinois Humane Society and the Anti-Cruelty Society of Chicago are invested with authority under state laws and equipped for work at all times, in all places, for the prevention of cruelty to children and animals.

The Anti-Cruelty is the younger society, but we trust that its youth will be no impediment to its usefulness.

We are pleased to state that during the past six weeks, the Superintendent of the Anti-Cruelty Society, Mr. Hugo Krause, has made five trips to Highland Park and Lake Forest in response to calls for help, and has been successful on each occasion in meeting the need.

One case before Judge Dorsey resulting in fifteen dollars and costs, and a second a less amount in the same court.

The office in Chicago of the Anti-Cruelty Society is at 90 LaSalle street, Telephone Main 3669, where all calls will be gladly and promptly responded to.

It is with heartfelt gratitude that we realize the awakening of public sentiment in the protection of our dumb friends who serve mankind so faithfully, obediently and submissively.

We wish also to express thanks to the press for their firm stand with these societies, their only motive being to pre-

vent suffering, as also to the courts for just decisions.

MRS. EVERTT W. BROOKS,
Director Anti-Cruelty Society,
Chicago, Ill.
Highland Park, Ill., August 26, 1907.

William E. Curtis on Yellow Journalism—Publicity of Evil Things Demoralizing.

I have a theory that if we would look more eagerly for the good there is in this world and screen the evil as much as possible from public view it would be better for all of us. If the newspapers, for example, were to print the kind and charitable acts men do under sensational headlines and hide the horrors, the crimes and the injustices of mankind in the most obscure columns there would be less misery and people would imitate the good rather than the bad that we do. When I asked the superintendent of the Boys' Club which E. H. Harriman is supporting down on the East Side of New York what was the worst influence the youngsters of that section were exposed to he replied promptly:

"The yellow journals."
"Are they worse than the saloons?" I inquired.

"Infinitely worse," was his reply, "because they give the boys suggestions concerning crime, vice and mischief they never would think of otherwise and make heroes of criminals and the vicious. Everybody loves notoriety. There is a fascination about seeing your name in print, and down among our population here a man who is written up in the newspapers, particularly if his picture is printed, ranks as a hero, regardless of the reasons for the publication. This effect is stronger upon boys from twelve to fifteen years of age than at any other time of their lives, and therefore the yellow journals which devote their columns to the publication of sensations exercise the most pernicious influence we have to deal with"—
William E. Curtis in the Record-Herald.

Governor Hughes, of New York, knows, of course, that he cannot make a tour of the country fairs, as he intends, without being a candidate for something, and there is nothing for him but the presidency.

Russian editors have been forbidden to mention the Czar except by special permission. Presumably the bill from the clipping bureau has been getting a bit too heavy, and the danger of being classed with "self advertisers" much too great.

Uncle Joe Cannon hasn't saved any waitresses from drowning, but that kick in the ribs he gave a mad dog last week proved that he, too, has in him the stuff that heroic presidential candidates are made of.

Uncle Joe's kick against the costly smoke is worth more to him than naming of a new cigar "the Cannon" would be.

The country is too busy to fool with Wall street and too big to let Wall street fool with it.