

NORTH SHORE NEWS-LETTER

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The terrible storm of this week has brought to all of us something of the real hardships of severe winter weather and ought to evoke much sympathy toward those, who are ill provided against it. There are many thousands, even in this land of abundance, who are poorly housed and scantily clothed against such extremes

by necessity or duty to face the storms to their suffering and danger.

We have some fellow-feeling for the train-men and the snow plow-men on railway and street, for the man who must wade through the snow drift to bring us the morning milk and the news-boy who faces the blinding drift and brings us the morning paper even if he could not keep it dry.

TO THE NORTH SHORE NEWS-LETTER.

The map in the last issue is worth the price of the paper for one year. Give to the women the right to vote on the local option question and your map will be all white. A. SUBSCRIBER.
Feb. 18th, 1908.

The People's Advocate, edited and published by our fellow citizen, Frederick Mains, has taken on decidedly new vigor in its recent issues. It is a bright, able and exceedingly interesting magazine, devoted to the subjects which take their roots in popular government, equal privileges and unselfishness. Nothing but good can come of the circulation of such a periodical.

HIGHLAND PARK LOCALS.

Mr. Max C. Mueller was called to play in the English Grand Opera Orchestra all this week.

On Valentine's Day Mr. Maerklin gave a birthday surprise party for Mrs. Maerklin.

Mr. and Mrs. Eddy attended the reception at the Masonic Temple on Saturday given to the Grand Worthy Matron of the Eastern Star.

The Ladies' Afternoon Euchre Club met with Mrs. Eddy last Thursday at the home of Mrs. Levin. The first prize, Mrs. Wm. Grant who was an invited guest, while Mrs. Merklin took the consolation.

Mrs. Mullen has returned from spending the winter with her sister in Chicago.

The Quill Needle Co. with Mr. Wm. Lourie as its manager is now seeking quarters in Waukegan to carry on the extensive business which resulted from Mr. Levin's unique and interesting invention. The company are now occupying quarters over Brand's Paint Store but will establish another facto-

ry in Waukegan. The business is rapidly increasing and the demand is greater than the output.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Hill gave a birthday party to their son George, the occasion being his eleventh birthday.

Mr. Albert Larson and George Washington have the distinction of having their birthdays today.

HIGH SCHOOL.

Roland Brand, Harold Harbough, Lester Levin, William Wrenn and Harry Bock attended a Valentine party given by Miss Lillie Andrews at her home in Lake forest.

Stealing is again prevalent in the school. For two or three years, owing to the supervision of Mr. Sandwick, this has been almost unknown in the school. As honor does not appeal to all, drastic measures will have to be taken with the culprit.

OUR OUTLOOK

A GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER.

It seems that the suggestion for a government Journal is nearer to practical endorsement than we thought. Senator Bryan of Florida advocates the issue of "1,500,000 copies printed and distributed free of charge and without payment of postage. Each Senator to have 25,000 copies at his disposal and each representative 15,000 copies."

This is a good suggestion for killing the entire project. An official government newspaper issued under which could be the organ of government and its editorials inspired by the heads of departments ought to be of sufficient interest to the citizens of the country to find instant acceptance and easily to pay its own way even if the cost were as great as that contemplated by Senator Bryan.

But to make it the instrument of favor through the Senators and Representatives would destroy its value and reduce it to the level of the seed-graft.

POST OFFICE REFORMS.

Congress has under consideration a report which calls for a thorough revision of the business methods of the post office and postal service. It is recommended that the postmaster general, as a member of the cabinet, be charged only with the general determination of questions of policy and that the actual direction of the business be given to an officer, or officers, appointed by the President for long terms.

The report under consideration says:

"the most efficient service can never be expected so long as the direction of the business, is as at present entrusted to a postmaster and certain assistants selected without special reference to experience and qualifications and subject to frequent changes. Before the postmaster general and his assistants can become reasonably familiar with the operations of the service they are replaced by others, who, in turn, are called upon to resign before they can, in the nature of things, become qualified by knowledge and experience to perform their allotted tasks. Under such a system a large railroad commercial or industrial business would inevitably go into bankruptcy and the postoffice department has averted that fate only because the United States treasury has been available to meet deficiencies."

It is indeed a wonder that society has so long tolerated the lack of system and efficiency in the great post office business of the country.

Everywhere the heads of post offices are mere political nominees, many of whom are quite incapable of con-

ducting the business.

And changes are made without any regard to the efficiency of the business. In our large cities just when a man has begun to master the details of the departments he is either removed to make room for a political favorite or he removes himself suddenly to capture some other political plum.

So it was that Postmaster Coyne was removed to make way for Busse who knew absolutely nothing of the post office business and just when he (Busse) began to adapt himself he resigned in favor of the bigger office of the Mayorality.

Uncle Sam would do well to take a leaf out of the books of some old countries in the matter. In England, for example, a man must qualify himself to be postmaster and once appointed his position, is as secure as a bank manager so long as he proves himself competent and worthy. And this affords a fine incentive to the highest qualifications of efficiency. Post office clerks are eligible for ad-

the religious opinions of another class."

If "experience has taught us the necessity" of Sunday rest so as to justify the action of law to secure it" there is no more enforcement of religious "opinion" in stopping a noisy, yelling, sweating crowd from doing business at a base ball park than in closing a store. Religious opinion is not enforced in either case. So far as that act is concerned a man may still be a Protestant or Catholic, a Jew or Christian, a Seven Day Adventist or a Mormon, or, for that matter, an atheist.

All that the law does is to maintain the peace and rest of the one day in seven which "experience has taught us the necessity of."

THEATRE AND PULPIT.

In "Our Outlook" we saw recently that, in the course of a sermon delivered in his church at Englewood, the Rev. Dr. F. Hopkins somewhat strenuously advocated the popular

because we are opposed to dancing but because we claim that it is already indulged to excess and is not in its nature, entitled to any endorsement from the pulpit.

Dr. Hopkins wrote us a personal letter protesting against the criticisms then offered, on the ground that we had not first enquired of him as to the accuracy of the newspaper report.

But it is with the newspaper reports of a public man's sayings with which the public has most to do. It is through the papers that he has the larger audience and is not only open to him but it is his duty to correct through the press, any radical misstatement in order that his influence may be rightly directed.

Precisely this is our view of Dr. Hopkins' more recent utterances on the theater. According to the Record-Herald he spoke as follows in his sermon last Sunday:

"I think preachers who condemn theater-going are sitting in judgment upon men and women as good and intelligent as themselves. Theaters ought not to be closed. They afford innocent and helpful amusement. Often they are educational. All the sermons and editorials in the country will not do as much to cure silly girls and others, with more money than brains, of the count, the duke, the prince, the foreign title disease as a play like 'The Man From Home.' Some of us have read 'Hamlet' all our lives, but never understood him as we did after Mr. Robertson's interpretation. The same as to Ibsen and Mr. Mansfield's unfolding of the eccentricity of 'Pere Gynt.' In the lighter vein, one often drops a load of care by stepping into a clean vaudeville show.

"Of course there are evil-minded actors, actresses and managers. The newspapers warn us against them. The police ought to arrest them for indecency and everybody who attends ought to be taken out and fumigated. A good Christian, however, using a little common sense, can enjoy the theatre as well as other amusements without any injury to himself or anybody else."

Now all that is here said about

no man who can say it with more force and ability than Dr. Hopkins. But surely if preachers advise young people against obvious evils connected with the theater they are not, by doing so, "sitting in judgment" upon any men or women, nor are they condemning the legitimate drama. It is perhaps true that some preachers believe and say that the tendency of the stage is all evil—but even that is not imputed evil to all who attend them.

The drama may be and often is educational and it is the function of the press and public teachers to discriminate and advise the jury in reference to it.

But after all, does Dr. Hopkins be-

THE SUNDAY QUESTION

Open Stores or Base Ball

"The Public" quotes apparently with approval, a sermon by Herbert S. Bigelow of Cincinnati. We take the following from that quotation:—

Experience has taught us the necessity of our having one day's rest in seven. The state has a right to compel a merchant to close his store on Sunday, for if one merchant kept open his competitors would be forced to, and there would be no rest for any one. But what reason could be assigned for the legal prohibition of Sunday base ball games? The only possible reason is that Sunday is a day of special religious significance. Those who think so are privileged to keep the day as they see fit. But what about those who think otherwise? Such a prohibition is an interference with their rights of conscience. A law prohibiting base ball games is unconstitutional in its motive. It is an attempt to use the power of the State to enforce upon one class of citizens the religious opinions of another class. My neighbor has no more right to invoke the power of law to keep me from playing ball on Sunday than I would have to invoke the power of law to make him play Sunday ball. One man believes that Sunday games are wrong. Another, just as sincerely, and perhaps with better reason, believes that Sunday games are right. Each man holds to his opinion with a good conscience. And the constitution says that there shall be no interference with their rights of conscience. One man is as much entitled to the protection of the constitution as the other. The preachers have a right to preach that it is wicked to play ball on Sunday. They have no right to enforce their teaching with a policeman's club.

It may be that our vision is not very clear but it does seem to us that if "experience has taught the necessity of one day's rest in seven" and that to obtain this the "State has a right to compel a merchant to close his store" by the same rule it may have the right to prohibit Sunday base ball. The latter is pursued, now a days, not as a pleasure but as a business. It may be said that thousands of onlookers are not participators in the business but are pleasure seekers. So also the thousands who patronize the Sunday store do so for their pleasure or convenience.

It is surely no more inconsistent with Sunday rest to purchase a loaf or a coat on Sunday than to attend a ball game.

One might very properly paraphrase Mr. Bigelow's statement by saying that "my neighbor has no more right to invoke the power of law to keep me from buying groceries than from playing base ball."

But it is quite another thing to say that either of them would be "an attempt to use the power of the State to enforce upon one class of citizens