

NORTH SHORE NEWS-LETTER

W. BURGESS, Editor

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FEBRUARY TWENTY-NINTH.

This is said to be an odd day. It is the day that makes this leap year and counts one more day to the regular 365 which makes the average year.

It is not often that a weekly newspaper

sure, but this is the first time in its twenty-one years of life that the NEWS-LETTER has reached the present size: an enlarged page and 16 of them.

NO LIQUOR ON PULLMAN'S.

The Pullman company has decided to discontinue the sale of liquor on all its cars in every part of the United States and the new rule will go into effect as soon as the liquor now on hand is disposed of. An order to this effect was sent out from the Chicago office several days ago to various district superintendents. The movement will begin in the east and work westward, reaching the middle western states about March 1.

POLITICAL BOSSISM

The political boss receives a vigorous blow from the Legislative Voters League, of the State. In a preliminary report just published and sent out broadcast the action of the League is reviewed. The report says that "Bossism was the curse of the 45th General Assembly, as it has been of previous Illinois Legislatures, but the new direct plurality primary law, in whose passage the Legislative Voters League was influential, has placed in the hands of public spirited citizens the weapon to end an intolerable condition.

The report also gives the names of a number of prominent politicians who signed a "round robin" to block this law, among whom we notice Mayor Busse, E. J. Brundage, William Busse, and a lot more of the wire pullers.

The office of the League is located in the Tribune Building Chicago, and we doubt not but the Secretary will gladly send a copy of the report to any citizen who writes him.

PREPARE FOR JULY FOURTH.

In a recent issue of the News Letter we urged that the citizens of these north shore towns between Wilmette and Lake Forest should combine to prepare for a suitable and sane celebration of the next National Birthday. We hope that this may be done.

But lest it should not be found practical to do this on such an extended scale, let any one of the cities or villages make a move before it is too late to organize.

Highland Park citizens possess un-

usual facilities for such a celebration. They have a park by the Lake Shore or are near enough to the fine grounds of Ravinia Park. They have also in their very midst the advantage of a Military school of young men as well as the High School, all of whom would be delighted to participate in a patriotic celebration.

We have not consulted the Heads of the North Western Military Academy on the subject but we imagine they would gladly co-operate—perhaps to the extent of lending their campus for the occasion if that were thought best.

But the one thing essential in the matter is to do something and do it now!

We have suggested that the G. A. R.

some other citizens to join them. This suggestion was made more than a month ago but it does not seem to fall on willing ears.

Another practical step would be for a meeting of citizens to discuss plans and ask the Mayor to appoint a committee—not too large—but representative to take the matter in hand.

At any rate let us be patriotic and let our patriotism be expressed in a manner that shall arouse the enthusiasm of the young and give pleasure and reflection to the older citizens.

Our Outlook

IN GOD WE TRUST.

It is now understood that the Bill before Congress to restore the use of the old religious motto on American coins will be passed. It was recently removed by President Roosevelt for reasons which seemed good to him and many others. But, as Representative Moore says "atheists have seized upon the action of the President and have tried to make it appear that the removal of the motto is a victory for those who do not believe in God. We may differ upon many other questions, but I do not think we are yet ready to have it proclaimed that this is a godless nation."

That is sufficient reason for restoring the motto. The presence of it on our coins do not make us a religious people nor would its absence be necessarily a sign of irreligion, but if godless people make capital of its omission, that is a good reason why President Roosevelt does not oppose its restoration.

THE BIGGEST YET.

This is an age of bigness, especially in America. We have ceased to wonder at a twenty-story building because there are many much loftier. And now we hear of the biggest roof-garden in the world. It is to be on the top of the New Pennsylvania terminal station at New York. The roof-garden will extend from Seventh to Eighth avenues and from Thirty-first to Thirty-third streets. If desired, a baseball diamond, completely surrounded by seats could be laid out and a game played without danger of the ball going over the fence. Frederick Thompson, showman, will probably have charge of the roof-garden. He is reported to have practically

reached an agreement with the railroad company whereby he will get a twenty-year lease at a total rental of \$5,000,000.

SLOT MACHINE FOR POSTAGE STAMPS.

The most practical use we have yet heard of for the slot machine is the proposed "stamp slot machines". It is now announced that the heads of the department at Washington intend to experiment with these machines in various parts of the country. Four of them have already been installed at the local post office in Washington. The four machines sell 1-cent, 2-cent and 5-cent stamps and postal cards. The 2-cent stamp machine is arranged for selling five stamps, for which a dime must be placed in the slot, or two 5-cent stamps may be had for the coin. If the machines meet with favor, they are likely to

be put in general use. Machines of this kind are already in use in some offices in other parts of the country. In case of the adoption of the machine here it is said that an American company, which is now being organized, will supply the demand. This particular machine was selected by postoffice officials in a competition of twenty-six machines.

If these machines are found to be practical they will prove a great convenience, especially in large cities. It is surprising how far one may walk, in Chicago for instance, before a place can be found where a stamp can be purchased without placing oneself under obligation to some one who only supplies us as an accommodation.

NEW MARRIAGE LAWS FOR CATHOLICS.

Pope Pius, in a recent decree, proclaims important changes in the marriage laws which will be read in all the Catholic churches throughout the world. The principal provisions are: Marriages of Catholics by civil magistrates after Easter will be null and void. Engagements to be binding must be written and signed in the presence of two or more witnesses. Private betrothals between Catholics after Easter beget no matrimonial obligation in the eyes of the church. Fallen away Catholics, whether they become Protestants or infidels, are bound by these laws. Bishops after assuming office can only marry in their own diocese. Priests after assuming office can marry only in their own parish. Marriages will be invalid unless consent of both parties is asked and received by a witness of the ceremony. Marriages will be invalid unless there be two witnesses besides the priest or bishop. Marriages should take place in the presence of the bride except for reason. Marriages entered into in case of danger of death can be witnessed by any priest and two other persons. In the absence of a priest for more than a month, Catholics can marry under the civil law in the presence of two witnesses.

The 25th Annual Meeting and Quarter Centennial of the Illinois Children's Home and Aid Society will be held at the Evanston Children's Home, 826 Ridge avenue, Evanston, Tuesday, Mar. 10, 1908, at 6 p. m. Dinner will be served at \$1.00 a plate, and will be followed by addresses by the Rev. R. A. White, Chicago; Prof. Chas. R. Henderson, Chicago University; H. H. C. Miller, Evanston, and others. Opportunity will

be given to inspect the new Home, which by the beauty and adaptation of its architecture, and its harmonious furnishings, is attracting wide attention among those interested in the care of homeless children. A cordial invitation is extended to all friends of the society to be present.

DRAMATIC NOTES.

Contracts between the Garrick Theatre and David Belasco, which call for the appearance in that theatre in the latter part of March and the month of April of Blanche Bates in "The Girl of the Golden West" and Frances Starr in "The Rose of the Rancho," will make it necessary for the Shuberts to curtail the present triumphant engagement of "The Witching Hour" which has been crowding the Garrick Theatre, Chicago, for the past few weeks. An effort is being made, however, to return the play to the Garrick

and towns around Chicago, but nothing definite has as yet been settled. William Winter, the dean of theatrical critics, has this to say of "The Witching Hour," which is also being presented in New York:

"The period is one of superlatives, of heedless opinion and extravagant expression. The word 'great' especially has been misused to such a degree, in relation to the stage and its professors, that it has almost lost its meaning. It becomes essential, therefore, that the writer who uses that word should consider the propriety of its application. The play of 'The Witching Hour' by Augustus Thomas is a great play. It is not a lesson, a sermon, a treatise, a discourse, a debate or a clinical diagnosis; it is a drama.

McVickers "Mrs Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch" is to have a two weeks run, beginning Mar. 1st.

The homely philosophy, the whole-hearted charity, the generous out-pouring of cheery good nature which abound in "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch" make the attraction one of the most charming productions of the day. The presence of the dozen or so children give a touch of "homeness" to the piece and the characters of Miss Hazy, Mr. Stubbins, Mrs. Eichhorn and other denizens of the "Patch" furnish laughs which follow one another like snow-flakes in a hard storm.

The big Auditorium theater of Chicago seems to be a failure as a business enterprise. Not even in the great Vaudeville prevents the feeling that it must be declared a "white elephant."

Plans are now under consideration to convert the building into a vast hotel or possibly a great office building.

The Auditorium was built in 1901 at a cost of over \$3,300,000. The theater seats 4,026. This is larger than the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, which seats 3,336.

"Are women as happy as their grandmothers?" asks Mrs. John A. Logan. Very few would care to swap places with them, we imagine.

"The best way to manage a woman is not to try it," says the Atlanta Georgian. As a matter of fact, isn't it the only way?

"The best way to get rid of an enemy is to make a friend," says the Chicago Record-Herald. Good! Now, which is the best way to get rid of a friend who has the borrowing habit?