

# NORTH SHORE NEWS-LETTER

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Wm. Burgess  
Manager and Editor

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## EXPLANATION.

We planned to issue a twelve page paper this week. Unfortunately the partial break down of our power engine made this impossible. We intended to explain, among other things, the matter of the annexation, especially as we have much interesting matter already in type, especially relating to the Easter week.

We have given place to the Election news and the question of annexation as of paramount importance—at least in Highland Park and Highwood.

## THE LITTLE BALLOT.

Shall Highland Park Annex Highwood.

The little ballot which will be submitted to the voters of both Highland Park and Highwood at the election on Tuesday, April 21st is arousing great interest among the citizens of both places.

The issues involved are such as will naturally lead to a variety of views and it is quite likely that the interest will increase every hour between now and the close of the polls Tuesday.

Judging by the present aspect of affairs, it looks as though Highwood will carry the vote in favor by a considerable majority, but that Highland Park will reverse it.

We have already discussed the subject in these pages from several points of view and we still believe that it is for the interest of both places that annexation should take place.

But the vote has come upon Highland Park people altogether to suddenly. At the meeting of Monday evening several gentlemen said they had only heard of it that day or the day before.

Talking of the matter with various citizens who were not at the meeting we find the same condition of things. "We do not know anything about it," they say, and we ought not to be asked to vote suddenly on a question of so much importance. Some of our citizens see in the proposition a serious danger. They regard Highwood as an undesirable neighbor and think it would be still worse if received into the family circle. As

one speaker said "a city, like a household has a right to question those who would enter the family."

Others think the financial question is serious and at this point facts and figures are called for.

For these reasons we favor the agitation of Highland Park voters to stay proceedings by voting against annexation at this time so as to give future opportunity to view the subject in the full light of facts and prospects.

## AS IT STRIKES RAVINIA!

Still another view of the annexation question is presented. A letter which we publish in another column urges that the city should take care of its present child before opening the door to others.

This is a very cogent and pithy plea, for if it be true that the mother city has not cared for its firstling what reason is there to suppose it would provide for another!

Certainly Ravinia offers very fine prospects to the future residence value of Highland Park and if properly cared for would doubtless repay the cost many times over.

It seem to us that the cry for sewerage ought to meet with very prompt and generous answer and that the cost of it might be properly made a charge upon the futures of the real estate.

But after all is this plea of the citizens on the south a fair or generous objection to the call of those on the north for admission with the family?

Highwood is almost a grown up boy who is capable of contributing a full share of his cost in the household expenditure although he makes a poor hand of keeping house for himself.

Ravinia has the same reason to object to the present vote for annexation as the rest of the city viz: that the conditions are not understood and the vote is premature.

But we hope and believe, not only that Ravinia will meet with a generous effort to meet her wants, but that ultimately, the northern section of the city will include the territory now known as Highwood and, if we cannot wipe out the name, that we may yet all join to make of this strip of God's country one fair and beautiful city that shall be the joy and pride of its people.

## ANNEXATION OF HIGHWOOD TO HIGHLAND PARK.

### Mayor Robertson's View.

To annex or not to annex, is the much mooted question for the voters of both cities to decide between now and next Tuesday.

Realizing that in the future I may be censured or otherwise as the public may view my attitude in the matter, I have decided to place my views before the people for their judgment.

I consider that annexation will be a mutual benefit to both cities, and that we have everything to gain and nothing to lose financially or otherwise by taking Highwood into the fold. The indebtedness of Highwood as ascertained by the Committee which I appointed to investigate the status of that City, report that their liabilities amount to less than \$4,000,00, and their City Hall and the ten acres of land with septic tank west of the City, without any other assets, is more than five times their liabilities.

The financial end of the deal,

compared with the other benefits which both cities would derive by uniting. Highwood for years has been notorious and looked upon as the one plague spot of the otherwise beautiful North Shore. The Law and Order League took the matter in hand and were instrumental in having a law passed at Springfield, making it unlawful to sell liquor within one and one-eighth miles of Fort Sheridan, the law closing all saloons taking effect January 1st, 1908.

This was perhaps a step in the right direction, but why stop there if their intention was to stop vice and purify Highwood? I am told, and it seems apparent, that since the discontinuance of the saloons there is as much, if not more, drunkenness in Highwood as before the law became effective.

Why is it so? I am not prepared to say why it is so, neither will I cast any blame or censure upon any one for a such state of affairs, but if they were not allowed to sell liquor under a license system where a revenue was derived from it, surely it should not be permitted under a system of "blind pigs" the proprietors of which pay no license and are very much better off than before the law became effective.

I never yet have made any promise during or after my campaign for office through which I have passed, as I do not believe in accepting any office bound down by promises, but I will make one now, that if Highwood is annexed to Highland Park, I will guarantee to clean out every "blind pig" in the former City within thirty days or admit that I am unfit for the position I hold.

It is all nonsense to say that the law cannot be enforced anywhere, and if the two cities become one, it is up to me to make good or retire, admitting my inability to fill the office, in favor of some more competent official.

If we become united we can

make Highwood just as law abiding as Highland Park is to-day, and I will say here, that there is no City between Chicago and Milwaukee more free from rowdism, or more orderly than our own beautiful City. If Highwood is a plague spot and detracts from the prestige of Highland Park, because of the near proximity of the cities to each other, does it not stand to reason that if Highwood is wiped off the map and becomes a part and parcel of Highland Park, that we can control it and make it as law abiding as our own beautiful city is to-day? I know we can, but can we do anything to change or better the conditions in Highwood if not annexed? No, nothing, until she is amenable to our laws and we have the right to act.

If the annexation does not carry at the polls next Tuesday, we cannot say one word or interfere in the most remote way in the affairs of Highwood, no matter how those affairs may be conducted, and no matter how the conduct of affairs there may affect our City.

Three-fourths of the people in Highwood are in favor of annexation and will vote for it, for the express purpose of getting away from the saloon element, because they say, it brings an undesirable class of citizens among them who have no interests at stake, other than the gratification of their appetites for liquor, and such a state of affairs has a tendency to keep down the value of real estate to the injury of the respectable property owners, caused by the undesirable class who have no property interests at stake and do not pay one dollar in taxes.

Should we, under the circumstances, turn from them and leave them in their present condition when appealed to, a condition which would be very much more injurious to our city if not annexed? We can control Highwood if united, but cannot lift a finger, or have a word to say, if allowed to continue as two separate cities.

In Bulletin No. 1, issued by a number of our citizens, it is asked, "shall we be acquiring a bankrupt municipality whose debts we would have to shoulder?"

The fact that we would receive five times what we would have to pay at the start, and that the revenue from taxation would be more than the cost of maintenance is my opinion.

The next question is: Shall we be taking over territory which cannot raise enough revenue to provide for its own expenses. I think it will more than pay expenses.

Next is asked: Shall we be endangering the control of our own city by throwing the balance of power to the new comers.

It would be absurd to think so inasmuch as it would add just one more ward to our city with two Aldermen as against eight which we now have. We will perhaps endanger the control of our city if we do not assume control as a whole when we have the opportunity.

Next is asked: Shall we be injuring the good name of our city by having the odium attached to Highwood transferred to us. No, because if annexed there

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