

NORTH SHORE NEWS-LETTER

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A QUESTION

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This seems to be an opportune moment to ask our friends whether we shall go forward with the News Letter. The present management came into the charge a little more than a year ago and found that the paper was not as prosperous or popular as he supposed it was.

But during the whole of the past thirteen months efforts have been made to gradually improve so as to make the paper in every respect, a representative of North Shore life and society. Frankly, we have not been encouraged as we think the efforts deserve. We find North Shore people slow to recognise any changes for the better. Our own aim is high. If we could bring the News Letter up to our own idea it would far exceed any present attainment.

But we are driven, finally, to the question of dollars. If it does not pay it cannot, in the true sense live. It would be easy to issue a sheet of "patent insides" with stories we could not edit or quack ads that we could not reject but our paper is printed in our own shop. This is our word to our friends. You can help us if you will. If we can double the circulation we can give a good paper and will make it worth the three cents a week (\$1.50 per year) that it costs.

ONE OTHER WORD.

We are printers and have a plant with which to print the finest work as well as the largest books.

Try us before you go further.

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

We called attention last week to the marked improvements in some of our North Shore towns, notably the changes in the boulevards and streets in Glencoe.

We can see no reason why Highland Park should not emulate the very best of them. The Park Boulevard of Central Ave. affords an admirable opportunity for the expenditure of a little good taste and would amply repay the money cost of it. Now that the new fountain is located with its tasteful mounting and electric illumination, there is a starting point from which the whole of the Park

east, down to the lake might be beautified, with but little cost, and become a source of pride and pleasure to all our citizens. We have authority to state that one of our citizens is willing to bear a fourth of the cost of such improvement and would place drinking fountain in the park facing the lake if there is sufficient appreciation of the idea to carry it through and support it.

Why not? Even from the standard of the dollar mark such improvement would pay; it would add considerably to real estate values. But far above this would be the ethical influence which would attend an increasing appreciation of our natural advantages. The little park ought to have some added territory before it is too late and the whole should be cared for so that nature may do its best for us at the magnificent site on the edge of the hundred feet cliff looking out to the great lake.

But improvements ought not stop here. Even more than these, there is need of a park on the west side—a peoples play ground where ball may be played without hindrance, where children may go from the street, and men may assemble at eventide instead of on our street corner.

THEIR ONLY RETREAT.

BY JOHN H. GREUSEL.

The Grand Army of the Republic is passing in final review. The total number of survivors is now 620,000. This figure is obtained as follows: The last official enrolment, made by the pension authorities at Washington, June 30, 1907, was 644,338. Deducting 2,500 a month, for nine intervening months, there were 22,000 deaths.

The Old Guard is dying off at the rate of 90 a day, but the death losses for each month are often higher. In 1906, Grand Army survivors died to the number of 29,208; and in 1907 the loss was 31,201; for the year that closes June 1, 1908, the death rate will be unquestionably between 35,000 and 37,000, if not higher. For the old soldiers of the Republic now have reached the average age of 63. At that rate, the deaths will come faster and faster still; and within ten years the noble army will be all but a memory.

Had the soldiers of the Civil War not been mere lads in their teens, the Grand Army would long ere this have perished from the earth. But the Union was saved literally by boys—boys in their teens, and many had not even reached their teens.

Startling as this statement seems, it is indisputably borne out by the official records:

There were 2,778,309 enlistments as follows:
At the age of 10 and under 25
12 and under 225
14 and under 1,523
16 and under 844,891
18 and under 1,151,438
21 and under 2,159,798
22 and over 618,511

The total enrolment was 2,778,309

But there are some very old men in the Grand Army of the Republic; and that is all the more reason why the death losses will be exceedingly high in the years near at hand. There will come a time when the last call will be responded

to each month by no less than 5,000 of the brave heroes of '61; for already that figure has been touched by one-half and over, and is growing with alarming rapidity.

Never in the world's history, before our day, was a nation saved by youths in their teens. In the stirring years of Father Abraham, these boys came forward by the tens of thousands, in response to the call to arms.

War expenditures reached \$6,000,000,000.

During the war, 67,000 were killed in battle.

The records also show that 43,012 died of wounds.

Disease claimed 224,586

And 24,872 perished from other causes.

There were 280,000 wounded in battle.

Between all these dread disasters, it is a wonder that even a remnant of the Grand Army of the Republic survives; and it should ever be the pride and pleasure of this American Republic to remember the debt owed to the boys of '61.

Happily, all soldiers who have survived "forty years after the close of the war" (to quote the language of the law) are now entitled to a "service pension."

From Record Herald Sunday Magazine.

Our Outlook

SLUGGING MATCH JULY FOURTH.

Two pugilists who have a reputation for pounding the life out of each other are to celebrate the National birthday by a forty round battle, unless one of them succumbs before reaching that number.

It is presumable that a great crowd will be present at much cost of time and money to witness this patriotic meeting. It will doubtless be attended with a great deal of profanity, and good citizenship will hardly have a place in the program.

But, while this is a base use to make of a national holiday, it will not be so prolific of evil results as the wild and lawless practices which attend the American celebration of the "glorious Fourth" in these latter years.

Two men will go home battered and bruised, one of them defeated, if not killed, and a few hundred men whose ideas of pleasure are debased and brutal will have been intoxicated with the scene.

But on that same day all over the country there will be lawless and peace disturbing explosives. Men and boys will rival each other in making night hideous with the rattle and smoke of powder and hundreds will be wounded and dozens, if not scores, will be killed in the midst of this national carnival of powder and smoke.

This is but one of the many instances of our national folly in permitting liberty to degenerate into license, which is reaping for us a harvest of false ideas of law and order even among citizens who are not naturally evil minded, or disposed to disobey law.

As a writer in the Record Herald points out, a slugging match may be about as sane as our usual way of celebrating the Fourth.

HEROES OF WAR AND PEACE.

There is always danger in comparisons. To say that "one star differs from another star in glory" does not minimize either star but when one asks which is the greater of any two things one of them seems to be less

ened by comparison.

Hence Dr. Hirsch's comparison between the heroes of war and those of peace when given in a Memorial day sermon seems to be a badly chosen occasion.

There are every day heroes in the fields of commerce, science, labor, politics, domestic life and benevolence, that shine as the stars in glory, and there are many others that are not seen.

And it is possibly true that many a soldier faced the enemy in battle because it is less dangerous than running away.

But the heroism of men who have voluntarily chosen to give their lives for country must not suffer by comparison. Great indeed are the men who go to the front in times when death is almost certain. At such times there are heroes who stay at home but the heroic quality is generally tested in them that go more than in those who do not.

SUNDAY BASEBALL AND PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT.

The great influence of any words of the President of the United States is a sufficient reason why he should be conservative in expressing any approbation of doubtful things.

If it is true that President Roosevelt has given public recognition of ball games for Sunday, it might be asked whether he is not by so doing encouraging a distinct breach of the laws of almost every state in the union.

A few days ago Father Thos. P. McLoughlin, of New Rochelle, N. Y., said he was in Washington last fall and had an interview with the president at which the subject was brought up "I told the president," said Father McLoughlin, "that I did not see how there could be any harm in people playing baseball or attending the national game on Sunday after their religious duties had been discharged. The president replied:

"That is the kind of talk I like to hear from clergymen."

Father McLoughlin says that the president told him that after he attended services in his church in Washington he often went back to the White house and played a game of tennis in the afternoon.

Now, it is one thing for the president, or any other man, to play ball in his own yard:—that is a matter for his own conscience; it is quite another thing to turn the Sunday into a great series of contests which have their chief support in "the money there is in it. If it be contrary to Sunday law to run a factory for gain, by what process of reasoning can it be shown that the law favors a commercial enterprise like baseball with its gate receipts?

Anyway do we not rather need a peaceful and restful Sunday than a day of strenuous pleasure seeking with money making as the chief aim of its promoters?

Would it not be better for the president, priest and parson to encourage a Sunday rest rather than a Sunday sweat with yells and noise and commercialism tainted with gambling?

The average American boy is in no danger of neglecting play. What he needs more is to learn moral restraint and to practice the virtue of saying "no" to desire.

WAR ON PROFANITY.

The prevailing tendency to profanity is becoming more and more general.