

North Shore News-Letter.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY AT HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS.

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EDITORIALS

OVERSEEING PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

A voter and taxpayer of Highland Park, came to us the other day presenting reasons why the voters should not authorize a bond issue. There was no claim made that the proposed improvements were not needed; no claim that a less amount would be sufficient. The burden of his argument was, that it would be a great temptation to graft etc. He also intimated that we had some officials who would not be able to resist the temptation.

If we have one or more dishonest men in Highland Park holding public office, who are responsible for it? We the voters. If we have public officials who steal the money, whose fault is it? If some of our unsightly, disreputable, old tumble-down bridges cause no end of expenditure to repair and finally end in some sad mishap, perhaps loss of life, whose fault will it be?

The trouble with us is, we are so engrossed in our own private aims and ambitions that we neglect our civic duties until the corruption and vice becomes unbearable and then we rise in our wrath and turn things upside down as did the citizens of Pittsburg, San Francisco, and other cities.

San Francisco Merchants Have an Inspection Bureau to Watch Expenditures

At an expense of \$18,000 a year, watch is being kept over the expenditure of the \$18,200,000 obtained by a bond issue for various public improvements. This work of inspection was transferred recently by the Civic League to the Merchants' Association, which is an active member of the National Municipal League.

Thus far the results obtained have justified the expenditure for a supervision which is based upon the assumption that without constant and intelligent vigilance there is likely to be a waste of money and costly mistakes in construction. There is no reason to suspect intentional fraud, though of course this is covered by the inspection.

As the money has been allotted, \$5,000,000 goes for fire protection, \$4,000,000 for sewers, \$5,000,000 for school houses, and the remainder for a hospital, a hall of justice and jail and a garbage system. In connection with the sewer construction, for example, recently graduated engineers and trained inspectors follow the various developments, noting all changes, all deviations from the specifications and examining the materials to see that they are of the requisite quality.

Work is under way on all the projects, and the jobs are widely scattered but the men employed are possessed of the intelligence and experience which enable them to cover the ground. Contractors are not harried, but to the contrary, co-operation is invited and the contractors appreciate the protection thus afforded in doing work properly.

As the plans have been drafted, San Francisco expects to have the best sewer system and most efficient fire protection service of any municipality, and the prospects of the things are improved by reason of the Merchants' Association's in-

specion. As many visits as necessary are made to the various points where work is in progress and notes are kept of all important items. As the association recently reported, "the inspectors will always be practical men, some of them engineers, and their observations will be valuable as expert evidence of what the taxpayer is getting for his money."

If need be let us do likewise, but don't let us stop progressing for fear something will happen.

A POLITICAL MARTYR.

In our Heart to Heart talks, we recently told the story of thirteen maimers who laid down their lives for their entombed friends. They made the sacrifice deliberately, which marks it the greater heroism. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

We have fresh on the pages of history the story of a millionaire statesman, a man whose life and whose public career is without a stain, a man who has devoted his talents and time to the public good. This man, Gifford Pinchot, born to ease and luxury, deliberately chose a public career that was beset with bitter opposition by powerful interests, hewed close to the line of duty until the administration sided against him, then deliberately took a course that meant certain official death for the sake of his friends, THE COMMON PEOPLE. Gifford Pinchot is a political martyr, and as is always the case of martyrdom, the cause he espoused will be the better for the sacrifice. He saved the public domain, but himself he could not save—and he is a man.

You have no doubt read the news in the daily press. The story runs like this:

After graduating from Yale some 20 years ago, Gifford Pinchot preferred to enter the arena of business though his inherited millions would keep him from starving without labor. With an inborn love for trees and nature, he chose the course of forestry—an untaught science in the United States then. He studied abroad a year, made trips throughout Europe studying the forest preserves and then came home to practice his chosen profession. He was soon given practical work in a large private forest of 100,000 acres where he worked until called into some government service. He climbed rapidly until he became chief forester for the government and it was through his untiring efforts that our natural resources were kept from the grab of certain big interests—and none to soon—for already a third of all the water power sites had been bought by the interests. Great areas of timber and coal and oil lands likewise had slipped out of public control. But Pinchot saved the day, backed by that far-seeing man, Presi-

dent Roosevelt.

The pages of History turned. A new order of things came on the stage. The new president chose some bad bedfellows and there arose dissensions in the offices of the government. The new Secretary of the Interior who controls public lands had a record as government land agent that savored of graft and crookedness. The people cried out against the man. The administration stood by him. This man had been working against the public good, as Forester Pinchot saw it, and he protested. It soon became evident that one or the other must go.

The President issued an order, evidently to catch Pinchot, that subordinates should not appeal to Congress or the Public except through department heads, or through him. It was an effort to gag the forestry department that was telling of crooked deals in the land department.

The gag rule did not intimidate the men who thought more of their country's welfare than of their jobs. Glavis spoke out—and was dismissed from service. Price and Shaw spoke out—and were dismissed. Chief Forester Pinchot spoke out AND WAS DISMISSED.

This man knew that he was violating the President's order. He knew that in doing so he would lose his position. And he loved that position—not as the politician hangs on to a life job—but because he had great work to do and he knew how to do it. But he could not consistently sit gagged and allow the enemy to discredit the graft exposures, could not sit still and countenance the false charges against him and his work. So he deliberately walked to his political or official guillotine and was beheaded after having spoken the last official warning to the people.

But Gifford Pinchot is very much alive yet. He is now in a position to arouse the public to the danger of its natural resources as never before. He will not be so easily quieted, for Gifford Pinchot is a man with a single purpose—not selfish, not political, but a purpose to serve his day and generation and leave a heritage to the coming generations.

PERPETUAL FRANCHISES

It is reported that a recent Federal court decision at Omaha, declared in the franchise under consideration named the Omaha Electric Lighting Co.—that "even if the Mayor and Council had intended to grant a perpetual franchise to the company, they were powerless to do so." This calls to mind the very great danger and gross injustice of granting perpetual franchises especially public service franchises.

In 1794 the legislature of Connecticut, with the noble design of encouraging education, granted a perpetual charter to the Episcopal Academy of Cheshire. The town of Cheshire was then and still is entirely a farming community. In that charter the Principal of the Academy was granted entire exemption from taxes, both personal and real, seventy-five years later, and the Principal of that institution owned twenty-three farms in that small township or town as they are called there. The town was small and this exemption mischievous in itself, worked great hardship to all the other farmers.

In the early days of railroads, the State of New Jersey granted a perpetual charter to railroads in that state. As the result, the time came in Jersey City when out of an

assessed valuation of \$125,000,000 of property \$64,000,000 or over half, paid all the taxes and the other \$61,000,000 was exempt from taxation.

The question was raised in our city council a few years ago of granting a perpetual franchise to the Chicago and Milwaukee Electric road. Fortunately it failed. Outside of life insurance companies and possibly some other cases no perpetual charter or franchise should be granted under any circumstances to private parties.

THE LOCAL NEWS-PAPER.

The primary purpose of a newspaper is to furnish news. But a local paper should do more than furnish news. It should be educational. But to furnish it's readers with items of knowledge is not necessarily educational even though the facts presented be new to the readers. A newspaper to be truly educational must furnish food for thought. At the same time it must be so presented that it shall inspire the reader to think. But no two persons in a community have the same interests, are moved by the same incentives, or desire the same kind of mental food.

To edit therefore a local paper, and so edit it that it shall accomplish successfully a worthy mission is a more difficult task than most readers suppose. It is therefore our earnest desire that the editing of the News Letter should not be left to the publisher alone.

A large city daily or a cosmopolitan weekly can afford to have a large staff of experienced writers and these writers if wisely chosen, can meet the tastes and talents of a diversity of readers. This the meager income of a local paper cannot do. Hence we have been anxious that our readers should be imbued with the idea that the NEWS-LETTER is their paper. It is for them to make it the medium of exchanging ideas. We read in excellent authority that is the multitude of counsellors there's safety."

THE GRUMBLER

No one has any patience with the grumbler. He is a nuisance to himself and those around him. He should be given a wide berth for he is in a class by himself. There is something wrong with his mental make-up. He needs to take an inventory of himself, to train himself to look on the bright side of life, to keep his face turned toward the sun so as not to see his shadows. He and he alone can cure himself of his bad habit and by persistent effort he will win. When the chronic grumbler knows that there is something wrong with him then and not until then is there hope of a cure.

Do not grumble. If things do not go to suit and your efforts upon a certain work seem to fail, as they often do, accept the inevitable and make another try. The fellow who cannot meet trouble face to face and conquer it will find his path strewn with thorns and very rough—but the one who can meet defeat, who can take the bitter with sweet and make the best of the bitter will find true happiness in the end. There is no place in this busy world of ours for the grumbler. His sphere of usefulness is nil. Don't grumble.

AVOID DEBT

Just a word to our young farmer friends who are starting out in life. Beware of the scheming money lender and remember that the mortgage works all the time, night and day, and the sooner a mortgage is raised on the property the

better.

Avoid the contracting of debts except in cases of sickness or for causes that cannot be helped. It may mean a little self denial, but this same self denial will lay the foundation for prosperity and affluence in after life. Our point is this: Live within your means and go up as your means increase. We do not mean that you should be overly covetous or niggardly, for this is a vice equally to be shunned, but remember that it is much easier to walk up the pathway of life without the burden of debt to drag down and darken the pathway, than it is to enjoy the fruits of your labor by keeping out of debt, and bringing better chances of ultimate success in the future.

Pay for things as you go along, is a pretty good guide to follow. You can usually purchase commodities for the home at a better price when cash is paid.

PUSH

There is an element in life that spells success when put into action, and that is pushing things. Push means giving a lift to a neighbor in trouble; push means a lift for yourself out of the slough of despondency and shiftlessness; out of trouble, real and fancied.

Push never hurts anybody if made along the right lines. The harder the push the better, if it is given in the right direction. Always push up hill—it is easy enough to push down hill. Use your head in the game of pushing; the sinews and muscles as well. Both of these members of your make-up were made to work together. They were meant for service. In the game of push do not be afraid of what your neighbors and companions may say; do not be afraid of your conscience; for it will never approach you for a good deed, but push with all your heart and might and soul. Whenever you find any one faltering by the wayside that will be better for a good, long, strong, determined push, give it to them; lend encouragement.

Push! This is the magic word for the grand clear morning of life; it is the word for the strong will and the brave heart; it is the word for a world that is full of work as is this old world of ours.

Home Paper Interesting.

The home paper is always interesting to you, whether you take it or not, says the Cuda (Kan.) Daylight. Some people who do not take the paper, borrow it from their neighbors, and while this inconveniences the neighbors and themselves, it cannot help but make us feel proud that they really care enough for our paper to walk half a mile each week to get it and also save three cents. It shows that these people are economical and that when our advertisers put an ad. in our paper they will be sure to read it carefully and take in all the bargains.

PLANTS FOR SALE.

For Flowers and Garden Plants go to

E. A. PARKS

132 BLOOM ST. TEL 1374

Orders taken and plants for sale at

H. P. JEPPESENS, Highland Park

SOBEY & MOONEYS Highland Park

BE IT ORDAINED LAND PAR

Section 1. That said city on Tuesday the voters of such city by this City Council bonds in the amount in and for said city amount of ten thousand public parks in said in the amount of for said city; respectively.

Section 2. That tively declared and for the first Green Bay Road of H. M. Prior, to be at the store of place in and for the and Second Street.

Section 3. That appointed and created First Ward—Judge Rogan T. H. Deck Second Ward—Judge Howard Mowers, Third Ward—Judge L. G. Yeo, Chas. E. Fourth Ward—Judge Inman, Edward L. Section 4. That and be closed at 5 Section 5. That directed to cause a Letter, a weekly newspaper twenty days prior to in after set out in said election, and by voting places in said election.

Section 6. That follows.

Notice is hereby election will be held the purpose of substituting the following

An Ordinance BE IT ORDAINED

That there be borrowed thirty-six thousand for said city, and the 1910, bear interest able semi-annually cluded, of one thousand dollars (\$ three thousand dollars 1921, three thousand 1, 1923, four thousand June 1, 1925; that lected upon the tax for each of the on said bonds as of at maturity; and city at a special election 28th day of June 19

Passed, May

Approved, M

Attest (Seal)

JOHN FINN

An Ordinance BE IT ORDAINED

That there be borrowed ten thousand dollars for public parks in such bonds shall be one-half (45) per (1) to ten (10) bonds mature one thousand (\$1000) on June 1, that there shall be the taxable property of the years 1910 bonds as it falls maturity; and that special election to day of June, 1910

Passed, M

Approved, M

Attest (Seal)

JOHN FINN

An Ordinance BE IT ORDAINED

LAND PAR land Park the sewer system of dated June 1, 1910 annum, payable included, of one thousand, one thousand June 1, of each year and there is hereby to 1921, both included and also to pay an advance be and said city for that

Passed, May

Approved, M

Attest (Seal)

The four sewer districts or precincts of the city of Highland Park, to-wit: First Ward at Second ward at Third ward at Fourth ward at The polls of will continue open