

North Shore News-Letter.

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H. P. DAVIDSON, Prop

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EDITORIALS

Work Condemned

We learn that William Edwards who is superintending the work of improving Ravine avenue has condemned several hundred feet of concrete retaining wall on the ground that the material was improperly mixed. We do not learn that there is any evidence of dishonest intent on the part of the contractor. But a machine mixer is being used of a kind that cannot be depended on to do good work as the superintendent contends and proves his contention by showing samples of the concrete which had been in the wall for a week and is not yet well set.

There are two kinds of machines for mixing the ingredients to make concrete. In one the materials are put into a hopper and thoroughly mixed for about five minutes more or less and then drawn off. In the second kind the machine is started, the materials shoveled into a hopper, water run in and at the same time the mixed mass is being drawn off and put into the molds to harden. This second kind is the one being used to construct the retaining walls for holding the road bed in the Ravine Avenue improvement.

The misfortune is very much to be regretted for not only does the contractor use his work so far as it proves imperfect; but it delays the improvement of the avenue making it possible to fail completing the improvement of the avenue to St. Johns avenue before cold weather sets in; but it also raises a lack of confidence in the durability of the improvement when it is completed. We will hope however that the defect will not prove general.

It is however a timely warning. For as we have had our wooden age; our stone age; our iron age; so now we are marvelously experimenting in a concrete age. We therefore warn our readers that if any one is contemplating the use of concrete in any structures that he take good care that the material is good, of the right kind, of proper proportions and especially well mixed. We know from personal experience in former years that all the other conditions may be correct, but if the mixing is imperfect there will be a dismal failure.

Suppression Of The Sale Of Intoxicants.

A few months ago a clergyman wrote a letter to a certain rural newspaper opposing the movement for the suppression of the sale of intoxicants. We would not question his sincerity for ministers are as human and as fallible as laymen, but his arguments appear to us very gauzy. He began by claiming to be an earnest desirer of temperance. So do the saloon keepers. He condemned prohibition on several counts. This first point was that it interfered with personal liberty. That point we answered in a recent issue of the News Letter, secondly; He says, "If beer and wines are driven out boys may be supplied by unscrupulous men." Who does not know that if a minor wants a drink an unscrupulous agent can always be found to act as "go between" and get it for him in spite of law, if the saloon exists.

Third: The laws now existing are not enforced, therefore it is

useless to pass others prohibiting the traffic. But he does not object to laws regulating the traffic in spite of the fact that they are not enforced. Why then object to prohibitory laws on that ground? In fact everybody who has watched the methods and the trend of the liquor traffic knows full well that a prohibitory law can be enforced much easier than a law "regulating" the traffic. But why not apply the same reasoning to other evils, vices, and crimes? Why prohibit stealing, perjury, rape, arson, or any other offence against good order and the welfare of society? Why not pass laws to regulate them? No! No! No! Away with all such nonsense. If you want to protect yourself and your children from a rattlesnake, cut its head off. Don't try to "regulate" the reptile. If we have an institution among us that breeds "snakes" just kill the cursed thing. That is the surest way to settle the matter.

We are reminded of a little incident. Years ago there was in Connecticut a prominent lecturer against the liquor traffic. When lecturing on one occasion, he suddenly stopped, gazed a moment at the audience and then put this question, "Why not pour all the whiskey into the gutter at once? It is bound sooner or later to get there. No, you persist in straining it through a man and spoil the strainer."

New Health Laws

We sometimes hear the population of Florida spoken of with somewhat of a slur as not being up to the standard of the inhabitants of Northern and Western States either aggressively or progressively. And sometimes we hear it intimated that the land itself is so low and swampy and so infested with insects and other pests as to be of necessity very unhealthy.

For the purpose of correcting such an erroneous impression we clip the following from a Florida paper, The Advocate.

At a meeting of the State Board of Health held in Tampa last week four important rules were adopted, which should be vigorously enforced, and if they are health conditions and the general comfort of the people will be greatly improved. They cover matters in which practically every one is vitally interested, the gist of each being as follows.

The first is legislation against the flies, as follows:

"It shall be unlawful for hotels, boarding houses and restaurants in the State of Florida, where persons are served with food or drink of any description for pay, not to have kitchens and dining rooms securely screened against flies and that all lunch counters operated at railroad stations or elsewhere in the State, and all the fruit stands and butcher shops shall protect food and fruit offered for sale by wire screen covers or netting so placed that the flies cannot crawl

over fruit or food."

The second is war on the mosquito:

"That it shall be unlawful to operate a hotel, boarding house or lodging house for pay, in the State of Florida, without having the beds effectively protected against mosquitoes, either by screening the windows and doors of the sleeping rooms or providing efficient mosquito nets."

The third relates to horses, mules and flies.

It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to keep or maintain any horse or mule within any incorporated city or town in the State of Florida, within 500 feet of any residence or store, except under conditions as shall effectively prevent the breeding and liberating of flies. It shall be the duty of the municipal Boards of Health or where there is no health organization, of the mayor and municipal council, to enforce the provisions of this rule."

The fourth relates to sanitary toilets for public and private schools.

"No public or private schools shall be operated in the State of Florida, without adequate sanitary toilet facilities. It shall be the duty of the several county Boards of Public Instruction in the case of public schools, and of the principal in the case of private schools, to see that the above rule is put into effect."

We would especially call attention to the 3rd recommendation of the Board of Health concerning "horses, mules and flies. How about stables &c. in Highland Park?"

The One Thing We Absolutely Know.

The one thing that I know absolutely is that I am. I am before I think or act. So, if I take that truth as a premise to start with in all my reasoning, my conclusions must be correct. It is the rock of truth, the sure foundation upon which to build, and the structure which is built upon that foundation will stand the test however strong the force brought to bear upon it.

The spiritual Ego cannot be destroyed. It is unchangeable, indestructible, eternal, and when one has awakened to consciousness of this, the true self, he has entered into eternal life—the well of water springing up into everlasting life. Jesus said unto the woman of Samaria, when she came to the well of Jacob to draw water, "Whoever drinketh of this water," that is, material water which is taken in externally, "shall thirst again. But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst: but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."

He said, also, upon another occasion, "I am the door; by me, if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out and find pasture."

So, by turning the attention to the "I," the inmost center of us all, the one thing that we are positively sure of, we may find the entrance into the depths of our being where all truth abides in its original purity, and draw upon the infinite supply at will.—Florence Willard Day in April Nautils.

Rio Grande River Shrinking. The Rio Grande is shrinking, and efforts are being made to preserve its waters.

EDUCATION AND GOVERNMENT.

President Dabney's Interesting Views Upon an Important Subject.

Speaking of the awakening of the cities and the part which educational institutions are taking in municipal advancement Charles William Dabney, president of the University of Cincinnati, declared in a recent address that education is the great means to the desired end. President Dabney is an active member of the National Municipal League and along educational lines, one of the foremost workers for good government. In his address he said:

"If equality of opportunity is the principle of our American institutions, as we assert, then opportunity must be provided for the poor as well as for the rich to get the higher as well as the lower education. The young American does not wish the means of education as a largess from some millionaire's estate, or from some endowed institution, but as his own right as a citizen of the state, qualified to serve it."

"Our American cities are still the most incomplete and unsatisfactory institutions in the democracy. This is largely because Americans did not seriously take up this problem until recently. Our pioneer fathers, in their struggle to conquer a new continent, developed individualism to a point that has made it very difficult for their children to co-operative in the methods which must be followed in a city if people are to live together intelligently, morally and happily. The citizenship of our towns, made up chiefly of country people trained to these intense individualistic ways, is naturally opposed to all collectivistic plans of working and living, with the result that it has taken them several generations to find out that the methods of the pioneer, who had all by himself to establish a home for his family in the forest or on the prairie, would not apply in the town."

All our political principles and laws were made to fit these pioneer or rural conditions. In the middle or western states the majority of our city voters are still country-bred people. We have very few experienced city residents, and no trained leaders in municipal affairs. In fact, to a great extent our cities are, through the legislatures, directly governed today by the rural districts in accordance with the individualistic ideals and principles of country people. The people of the cities are only beginning to assert themselves and to contend for home government. The only way they will ever succeed in solving their own problems is through the education of their whole citizenship in accordance with the necessities of city, as opposed to country life.

Express Company a Parasite

Only during the past two or three years have the weekly newspapers of Florida given a fair amount of space to the express abuse. And already the agitation is bearing fruit, by "voluntary" reductions and reductions by order of the State Railroad Commission. An express company is like moss on a tree—a needless appendage; it is the appendix of business. There is nothing done by an express company that couldn't be better and more cheaply done by the railway itself. It is simply a scheme to extort money from the public. If the railroads ran the fast freight business—which is all that the express business amounts to—

the railroads could afford cheaper freight and passenger fares. Subsidary companies over a railroad ought to be prohibited by law.—DeLand Negs.

NEWS NUGGETS FROM ILLINOIS

Chicago.—Two little girls, clinging to each other in a swaying buggy, behind a fear-crazed horse and shrieking with fright, were saved from being plunged to death in the Chicago river at Ashland avenue by the prompt action of two men. The two children were saved, but the rescuers and rescuers were thrown into a ditch at the side of the street, and all were severely bruised. Edna Walsh, fifteen years old, and her sister May, twelve years old, were driving their father's horse and buggy along Ashland avenue when the animal took fright and started to run in the direction of the river. Edna, who was driving, tugged bravely at the lines, but could not check the frightened beast.

Bloomington.—An unusual case was that filed in the Woodford county court by Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Bell, presenting a claim for \$6,000 against the estate of John Jayden, a wealthy resident of Eureka. Jayden had made his home at intervals for a number of years with Mr. and Mrs. Bell and frequently remarked that he wished to repay them for many acts of kindness. Finally he offered them a home and when they found one which suited them, he requested them to call on him at his residence in Eureka and he would sign the necessary papers. An engagement was arranged and the papers prepared. On their arrival in Eureka, Mr. and Mrs. Bell were dumbfounded to learn that their benefactor had dropped dead a few hours before, and without leaving any will. On the advice of friends they have decided to collect the amount of the donation from the estate, and have submitted all the evidence in their possession showing the illness of the old man.

Elgin.—Earl Smith, chauffeur in the automobile in which Joseph Connor, alleged embezzler of funds from the Waukegan office of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern railroad, was spirited from the Elgin state hospital three weeks ago, was arrested in Chicago for complicity in the escape and was arraigned for hearing before Justice A. J. Velstorff today.

Mt. Carmel.—The Bernet, Craft & Kauffman company of St. Louis is building an addition to its President mills here which will increase the daily output to 1,600 barrels, the largest of any mills in the state. The machinery will be operated by electricity.

Waukegan.—A deal is under way for a traffic agreement which will make possible the operation of the longest electric railway running out of Chicago. In Milwaukee the Chicago & Milwaukee Northern line, which extends to Sheboygan. The combined lines will be 150 miles long.

Leland.—The safe in the postoffice here was blown open. The robbers got \$75 in stamps and some cash, the amount of which has not been made public. The safe was wrecked about a year ago, at which time the robbers got about \$200 in money.

Mattoon.—After eating his supper, George Mansour, a clerk, bade his wife good-by and started up town. He has not been seen since. He had a considerable sum of money on his person when last seen, and foul play is feared.

Colchester.—A reward of \$500 has been offered by the underwriters for the arrest and conviction of the person who started the fire that destroyed the store of E. M. Farmer & Son last February.

Mattoon.—The body of C. E. Birch, a farm hand, was found lying near the Illinois Central tracks in this city. It is not known how he met his death, but his injuries indicate that he was struck by a train.

East St. Louis.—Charles Biehl, a painting contractor, fell 30 feet to the ground while at work on the fire escape of the Broadway theater, receiving injuries from which he died in a few hours.

Chillicothe.—Joseph Smith, twenty-four years old, of Hoboken, N. J., was run over and killed by a fast train on the Santa Fe railway. His body was frightfully mangled.

Jerseyville.—An effort is being made to raise \$20,000 to secure the new shoe factory of Roberts, Johnson & Rand of St. Louis. The company agrees to employ 400 men.

Peoria.—A gang of forgers is at work in this city. Complaints are received daily by the police from merchants who are victims of their operations.

Kankakee.—Unless citizens come to the rescue of the Y. M. C. A. of this city and contribute \$300 each month, the work of the local association must be abandoned.

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