

North Shore News-Letter

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY AT HIGHLAND PARK ILLINOIS.

H. P. DAVIDSON, Prop.

PHONE 92

Entered at the Post Office Highland Park 2nd Class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION, \$1.50 A YEAR, 5c PER COPY.

SATURDAY, OCT. 8, 1910

Checks received for subscription are at once credited, and the date changed on the printed label within a week or two.

EDITORIALS

SIDE LIGHTS ON CITY LIFE.

Here is the simple story of an American Home, established by law and destroyed by law, then restored without any help from the law, merely by the exercise of a little ordinary intelligence and common sense.

When Mary Wilson married John Overbrook in the year 1904, the ceremony was performed by a priest under the authority of a license duly issued, under the great seal of the County of Cook.

When the ceremony was concluded, the priest officially certified that John and Mary had promised to live together as husband and wife till death did them part; the license bearing this certificate was duly filed away in the office of the County Clerk—and another home had been established by law.

All went well until John began to drink more than was good for him—once when Mary protested he beat her and a neighbor called in a policeman who took John to the station and locked him up. It was a new experience for John trying to sleep on a pine board, drunk though he was, and when he was taken into Court next morning, he was in a repentant mood, and firmly resolved to turn over a new leaf. If the suggestion had then been made to him to forever stop drinking and take good care of his wife and children, he would have quickly agreed to it, but unfortunately the law, in the opinion of the Court required that John be punished for beating his wife, and he was accordingly fined \$10 and costs, amounting in all to \$16. Of course John didn't have any money and Mary was confronted with the alternative of allowing John to go to jail, thereby losing her only support, or raising the money to pay his fine. She chose the latter, and mortgaged the furniture to a loan shark at five per cent interest per month.

When John was released and returned home, he was thoroughly sober, but much inclined to blame his wife, for raising the foolish outcry which resulted in his arrest and the consequent mortgage on the furniture.

In a few days he was drinking worse than before and one night while intoxicated carried off an overcoat belonging to a fellow-workman, which he sold to get more liquor. He was arrested and being now deemed incorrigible, was sent to jail for nine months. Mary made a desperate struggle to support herself and her two babies, but was finally compelled to give up when the younger one became sick. Most of the furniture had been taken by the loan shark to satisfy the chattel mortgage and they now occupied one poor little room in a westside rooming-house.

One week before John's release the last cent was spent and there was one dollar due on the rent; the landlord then seized all of the extra clothing of Mary and the children as security for this amount. The work of destruction was com-

pleted. It was here that hope began to dawn for the Overbrook family.

The National Probation League learned of the situation through its rescue work for the families of Bridewell prisoners. Mr. Henry Neil, the League's Secretary, took personal charge, paid the landlord his dollar, called an express wagon, moved the family to other and better quarters, purchased clothing for the children and upon John's release from jail found for him employment, and then moved the family to one of the suburbs where they are now living in clean, light apartments, well-clothed, happy and contented. John is at work every day, sober and filled with ambition and hope for the future.

Here is about the way the account stands:

John Overbrook in account with the Law.

- DEBIT: One marriage license. CREDIT: One night's imprisonment in police station. Nine months' imprisonment in House of Correction. One lost job. One damaged reputation. One broken-up home. One wife discouraged. Two children disgraced. Nine months' instruction in crime in jail for John. Cash paid to City \$16.00. Cash paid for furniture taken by loan shark \$72.00. From all which it will appear that the balance is heavily in favor of the method adopted by the League.

CITY CO-OPERATION.

No City can live unto itself alone. It needs the help and sympathy of others; it owes others help and sympathy. It is one of the principal functions of the National Municipal League to supply the needed co-ordination and co-operations of sundry types and the various cities that are working for better municipal conditions. It is the Clearing House between all sorts of agencies, putting the experience of all at the disposal of each; it supplies an efficient and helpful relationship that has proved of great common benefit.

The National Municipal League has many lines of expert investigations and carefully planned constructive work. One of its original objects is: "To provide for such meetings and conferences, and for the preparation and circulation of such addresses and other literature as may seem likely to advance the cause of good city government."

This has been carried out by a series of annual conferences which have become notable alike for their personnel, the value of their discussions, and the good which has resulted from personal exchange of views and experiences. At one meeting, for instance, thirty-five representatives and executives of local municipal bodies gathered for such a discussion.

The League has been an important factor in bringing news about the latest municipal developments to those who need it most. In the words of an active worker in New York: "It is simply great to have an organization to which one can go for the latest facts and be sure of getting them at once, or learning just where they can be had in the shortest possible time." Such service, however, can be rendered only through that co-operation which the League has organized and represents.

The National Municipal League has gone a step further by bringing national as well as local organizations into mutually helpful relations. For three years now the League held its annual sessions in conjunction with the American Civic Association. As a leading western paper editorially said: "The very successful joint convention of the American Civic Association, the National Municipal League and the National Conference for Good City Government, at Providence, Rhode Island, is evidence that the get-together spirit is growing among the civic improvement workers. Mutual understanding and trust have got to take the place of the mutual misunderstanding and distrust that exist between the different classes of society before such organizations as this can consider their work completed. As one of the speakers expressed it, "The American Civic Association seeks to promote chiefly the outward beauty of cities and towns; the National Municipal League seeks to make better cities; both seek to make goodness concrete. They can therefore well afford to work in harmony. The meetings were more largely attended than at any preceding convention."

EDITORS NOTE—We have on several occasions called attention to the great work being done in this country by the National Municipal League to bring about a better condition of Municipal Administration. We feel sure that there are quite a number of citizens in Highland Park who would much enjoy and get much profit from attending the next annual meeting to be held November 14-18, in Buffalo, N. Y. Membership in the League is five dollars annually. This entitles the member to attend the conventions; take part in all the work; and also to a copy of the printed reports of papers, discussions, &c.

WOMEN A FACTOR IN NEW YORK

Municipal League Gets Things Accomplished as Result of Efforts

NEW YORK Oct. 7. In its thirteenth year, the Woman's Municipal League, an affiliated member of the National Municipal League, demonstrates what a factor a woman's organization can be in municipal affairs. Its membership is 1,500 and its work, carried on through district organizations, covers all of Greater New York.

As originally formed by Mrs. Charles Russel Lowell, in 1897, the Woman's Municipal League had for its object "the promoting among women of an intelligent interest in municipal affairs" and the giving of aid to the movement to obtain good government for the metropolis. It has accomplished much, but its record will be made by its future work.

In evidence of the things accomplished or in process of accomplishment these are quoted

from a recent report: Campaign for pure milk, including rigid inspection. The League was on the first civic organizations to appreciate the need of this.

Encouragement of men in the street-cleaning service by the offering of medals, and money prizes.

Revival of the Waring Juvenile Citizens' Leagues, formed in the public schools to promote interests in civic affairs.

Erection of twenty free ice-water fountains in congested portions of the city.

A campaign of education among housekeepers with a view to improving sanitary conditions.

An investigation of moving-picture shows and cheap amusement places, resulting in the establishment of a censorship.

Financial aid and committee service for the investigation of summer amusements of young girls not reached by the settlements and churches.

CHICAGO SEEKS BROADER CHARTER.

Legislature to be Asked to Amplify Principle of Home Rule.

One of the important pieces of legislation to be sought by Chicago in the next session of the Illinois Legislature will be an improvement of the charter and an extension of the home rule principle as advocated by the National Municipal League.

Secretary Hooker, of the City Club, returned recently from abroad, where he spent some time studying municipal government. Some of his ideas will be incorporated in the proposal to the Legislature. Referring to the subject the Record-Herald said:

"City planning is much more of an art and science in Europe than with us, though in an old civilization the problems of reconstruction and rehabilitation, with an eye to beauty, symmetry, convenience, inspiration, are more difficult than in a new country having abundant room for expansion. In Europe, even under illiberal and imperialistic systems of general government, the city is given plenty of power. It is treated as a unit with special requirements and special conditions. Efficiency and skill are demanded of municipal officers.

"Here we begin with the idea of checks and balances, or imitating state and federal governments. We multiplied offices, and divided responsibility. We made it easy for grafters to thrive, and hard for good citizens to procure honesty and economy in municipal administration. We enacted provisions against home rule and tied cities to the point of impotence. We are, however, beginning to undo the mistakes. Scores of cities have adopted commission rule. Home rule is being conceded more and more by recalcitrant legislators. We give officers more power and guard against abuse by new devices, like the recall and the referendum."

CHICAGO WOMEN WORKING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT.

Purpose to Force Observance of All Provisions for Public Good.

CHICAGO, Oct. 1. A campaign with a two-fold object has been begun by a special committee of the Chicago Woman's Club. Its aim is to educate public sentiment in favor of civic betterment and to enforce all laws bearing upon this subject. Some of the women have delved into the ordinance records in search for laws which have been disregarded.

Mrs. Herman Lanauer, chairman of the committee, thus explains the work in progress:

"This committee means business, and we shall not content ourselves with mere words. Regularly we shall make public some particular law or ordinance which is lying dormant; this we propose to have enforced or know the reason why it should not be. The co-operation of the newspapers has been sought, and as a result of the publicity we hope to get results."

One of the ordinances brought to light declares it unlawful to litter the streets with paper or rubbish. It provides a fine of \$2 to \$100 for each offense.

GOVERNMENT HAS NO HALL OF RECORDS.

As the country has been told about once a day for the last 20 years, the United States Government has no hall of records, no place where it can keep the valuable documents which from time to time it is necessary to clear out of the departments and put some place for safe keeping. This being the case when a fire broke out the other day under the offices of the geological survey there was wild excitement. In the basement of the store that got on fire are the records and archives of the geological survey. These are invaluable and if destroyed could never be replaced, but the U. S. Government is obliged to house its different departments in rented buildings all over Washington, and the constant danger threatens the destruction of valuable archives whenever a fire breaks out and there is not any reason why a fire should not break out in a non-fireproof building.

The loss of government property in this fire is thought to be less than \$1,000 but in the library over the fire was a unique collection of geological literature containing more than 65,000 volumes, 85,000 pamphlets and 36,000 maps, the most complete collection of geological works and maps in the world.

What the U. S. Government needs is a magnificent hall of records, where all the valuable archives of the government might be stored in absolutely fireproof vaults. Some day after a few hundred million dollars' worth of these valuable records have been destroyed congress will give us a hall of records.

COMPLAINTS IN NEW YORK.

Mayor Gaynor Encourages Citizens to Pay Attention to Affairs.

One of the important questions repeatedly put to officers of the National Municipal League is one which bears directly upon the problem of efficient government. It is, how can the public officers of any city be induced to consider seriously complaints and suggestions.

In one particular case, which is a good example to quote, the Mayor of the largest American city—Mayor Gaynor, of New York—has made great progress in handling complaints especially. In this connection, the Bureau of Municipal Research issued recently a summary of results accomplished under Mayor Gaynor. Its salient features follow:

"Mayor Gaynor has encouraged citizens to make complaints and suggestions. When letters are received, they are assigned to members of the Mayor's clerical staff. In police cases, investigation is made by that department. In case of a more serious character, the Mayor has personally considered suggestions and complaints.

"Complaints are kept of record, and the progress in every inquiry is carefully noted. Every complaint is treated as a symptom of conditions in a department. The subsequent report to the Mayor not only answers specific questions but recites the facts with respect to the department as a whole and often recommends a means of correcting any defect discovered.

"Reports, after being made to the Mayor, are given to the press, so that information derived from the investigation of a complaint received may be made public property."

State N

Pleasant M met death w with a load struck by light ed home witnessed by h

Sterling: to her pet unde death or serrou the front of a canine.

East Brook to be careful James Schroll, home intoxicated mistaking it fo

Elkhart—A years in order of his choice, spous- after t and is being t

Kankakee- ford suffered several perso a tornado wh Illinois Cent most.

Charleston- are nowadays animal owned came scared and deliberate injured.

Tuscola—A cedents when pushed it off t came frighten dashed towa lodged betwe rail a part of

Belvidere- frog and swim appeal for aid Rybka, sign Northwestern death benea bound passen

Waukegan- sane frog, t of promieent an automobit it, going only chine broke

Streeter— married a yo en after tw youthful wife jail awaiting

Beardstown- courage to sh masher as sh dence. The then knocked heavily for b

Pontiac—A chased a Georgia, and fruit a love l maiden, de

Moline—C old, pulled a ing, bringing timber, whic Shelbyville

been arreste the lock on t his son. T

Kankakee- Rheinholdt. stantly kille on the Big I in on a road

East St L off a bridge telephoned thought not praised that

Joliet—F tor of Sacre burglars wh house a good a rifle, and St. Josep might unde of the Univ erected at t organization hold.