

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. 15 1910

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

EDITORIALS

WHY BURGLARS VISIT CHICAGO

BY HENRY NEIL

SECRETARY NATIONAL PROBATION LEAGUE

A few nights after I moved to Oak Park I was awakened in the middle of the night by a scuffle between Mrs. Neil and a big burly burglar who had climbed up over the back porch and tried to hide behind the bath-room.

When the burglar saw me coming he flew down the back stairs, burst open the back door and ran away.

Since then I have visited many burglars in prison and many of their families at their homes.

I believe one of the greatest reasons why Oak Park, and other Chicago suburbs are visited by so many burglars and hold-up men is the way minor offenders against the law are treated in the Courts of Chicago.

A large part of the crimes committed in the City of Chicago are caused by the desire of the law breaker to get even with the law for something that he considers was not just to him although legal.

For instance a man is arrested for being drunk, he is found guilty and fined for a "Breach of the Peace." Having just spent all his money for drink, he is unable to pay the fine, so he is put in the "Black Maria" and hauled across our city to the Bridewell, stripped of citizens clothing, put in prison garb, and for sixty days he is well taken care of physically, he bathes regularly, eats wholesome food, sleeps on a clean bed, and is physically well treated at the tax-payers expense.

But how do we treat him morally, we put him in company with confirmed and vicious criminals who teach him the ways of burglars and holdup men. We put him in the same cell with men who years ago were introduced into this same school of crime by this method. Here for sixty days he is given lessons in the art of getting even with the law.

The official report of our Bridewell states that 7,555 men and women were convicted and sent to this institution in that year 1909 for a "Breach of the Peace."

When he has served his time and is released, then comes the battle to get even with the law for the injustice the law has inflicted on him and on his wife and children.

The City of Chicago spends seven million dollars a year for police protection and the citizens spend seven million more each year for burglar alarms, bolts for doors burglar proof vaults and private watchmen. One tenth of this money spent to help these men would do more good.

The world is now witnessing a new and startling proof of the vastness of Chicago. It has grown to such an extent that we now have "Border ruffianism" and vigilance committees armed with repeating rifles, patrolling our sub-

urbs after the fashion of the early forties and fifties in the far West. In a short time, if crime continues to increase, we may expect impromptu Courts by moonlight and informal trials ending in motionless figures suspended from lamp posts. A few years ago we only had enough criminals to furnish excitement for the business districts but now the competition in crime has become such that after enjoying the pleasures of the evening in the down town resorts, many crooks must take the late trains for the outlying districts in order to avoid congesting the business and residence neighborhoods.

It appears to be practically impossible to furnish police protection sufficient to prevent marauders from breaking into our homes. There are now in Chicago 4000 regular and 12000 special police officers and unless the constant increase in the criminals can be stopped, there will be necessary soon an army of thirty to forty thousand policemen.

It is now about time for the Association of Commerce and every business interest to join with Judge McKenzie Cleland and the National Probation League in a serious movement to stop our absurd methods of manufacturing criminals.

SIDE LIGHTS ON CITY LIFE.

BY JUDGE MCKENZIE CLELAND OF THE MUNICIPAL COURT CHICAGO.

Until within the last few years the State of Delaware required all ex-convicts to wear a large letter "C" in such a position as to be plainly visible. The purpose of this was to acquaint the public with the fact that the wearer had been "reformed" but that the State was not prepared to vouch for either the thoroughness or permanency of his reformation.

In Illinois we have somewhat different but none the less certain method of identifying ex-convicts, namely; by waking up in the night and finding them in our homes or by meeting them "face to face" under a viaduct at a late hour of the night.

If anyone will take the trouble to investigate the facts he can easily ascertain for himself that the great majority of serious crimes are committed by those who have been through our penal institutions and been "reformed" at public expense.

It makes little difference whether they serve out their full term or are released on parole, the effect seems to be the same. About forty per cent of all men who pass through our Bureau of Identification have "records" and this does not mean that sixty per cent are first offenders.

Criminals are nomads and it would be of course an impossibility to identify them all, but in the large majority of the cases, the men, who by the use of a little intelligence and common sense might have been saved, have been

driven into the ranks of the professional criminal to make endless war on Society.

"The vilest deeds like poison weeds Bloom best in prison air 'tis only what is good in man That waste and withers there."

and a man who goes to jail loses something which can never be replaced, something which seems to be essential and to good citizenship and success in life. Even a dog which is "arrested" and thrown into the pound is never the same dog afterwards. He may go in a thoroughbred but he comes out a cur. It is quite fitting that our dog pound and House of Correction are located in the same yard, but the dogs which are released have much the advantage of many of the men who come out in that the dogs always have friends, to take an interest in them and endeavor to prevent their return, while the men go out homeless, friendless and jobless, to attempt the almost impossible, fear of earning an honest living. Much is said these days about prison reform and a great world's conference on this subject has just closed at Washington, but the worst thing about a prison never can be reformed; namely; the prison itself. If jails were palaces, they would be prisons still, and men would come out of them disgraced and destroyed.

The Creator never intended a normal man to live in a jail and as Fish in the Mammoth Cave have lost their eyesight, so a normal man in jail will become abnormal.

When we treat this subject with the same intelligence that we do others, we will make the jail not the first resort in the treatment of a delinquent as we now do but the last resort and then when all other means for his reformation have failed, we will confine him for life just as we do an insane person who cannot be safely trusted with his liberty.

THE SCHOOL DIRECTOR.

The school director is a big man—or at least he should be for he has a big job to look after. He holds a position that for responsibility in relation to the future of agriculture and the nation is second to none. Too strong? Not a bit. Let's see.

The prosperity of the country depends upon the prosperity of the farmers. That is recognized by everybody so we need not prove it. The moral standing of the nation depends largely upon the rural communities.

The farmers then must be well cultured in the higher things of life and must know their business thoroughly. This throws the subject back to the rural schools where the intellectual and moral tone is given. If these schools do not teach a sturdy moral character they fail. If these schools do not teach the boys and girls the things that farmers must know in their business they fail to keep pace with city development and the boys and girls leave the country for the city.

The men responsible for the country schools are the directors. The country superintendent can't build up better schools against the stubborn opposition of local school directors. The teacher can't improve the school if the directors are not in sympathy with her efforts. So there you are, right back to the original statement that the director holds the most responsible position in the whole country.

Does the weight of responsibility seem to bear very heavily on the school directors in your dis-

trict? Do they ever visit the school, encourage the teacher, talk of improving the school grounds or schoolhouse? Have they made any effort to get acquainted with the upto-date methods that are doing such wonders in certain localities?

Maybe they regard it only as a political job that carries a little honor and power. Maybe they don't take this responsibility very seriously. What about it?

In the first place every school patron should read up on the school question and get a broader view of the real situation. When the patrons see the need of better schools then they will be a little more careful whom they vote in as directors.

This ought not to be a political job. What do you care whether a director is a republican, democrat, socialist or what not? He has a job that goes way beyond party lines. A man ought to be ashamed to solicit votes in the name of any party. He ought to ask support upon live questions that pertain to country schools and the voters should support or defeat him on those questions alone.

Petty politics has eaten the life out of the rural schools. That's what ails them. Instead of choosing county superintendents for their ability as school men, or directors for their fitness for the position these places have been made the political pie counter by shrewd politicians higher up. Can't you see that it is a part of the political game that our country folks are playing—for the good of the big politician every time and to your eternal harm?

More attention is paid to the election of a school treasurer than to the election of school director. Why? Because the treasurer has funds at his disposal. He is backed by some bank that controls a certain ring that wags a certain political party. Purely selfish interest in an insignificant official, overshadows the interest taken in the choice of a really important official—that of school director.

MODERN USES OF MIND.

The average brain is purely ornamental.

We call it ornamental because it isn't useful and it must be something. Though how a detriment can be an ornament, none but a blind man can see.

The human brain is a detriment, a nuisance and a hindrance until it becomes self-regulating. For it makes us worse than the animal we have been, less than the angel we might be, poorer and sicker and weaker than the ordinary human we now are. A blessing unused changes to a curse. Brains unused impede their owners; brains misused lead him astray.

Who runs your brain?

Does Heredity, or Environment, or Public Opinion, or Family Custom, or Bigotry, or Laziness, or Anxiety, or Folly, or the Pay Envelope? Then you are more or less of a mental paralytic. For every influence on your brain, outside of you, cripples that brain.

Run your own brain and you are bound to be great. Genius is only a mind in command of itself.

The average man's brain is warped, clogged, and begrimed with selfishness, clogged with other people's ideas, begrimed with coarse and ugly thoughts. The average woman's brain is feeble, rusty and spasmodic; feeble with diffidence, rus-

ty with disuse, spasmodic with emotional stress. Between the two, there is more hope for the woman's brain; you can polish up an unused machine sooner than you can make over one that is battered out of shape.

We quote the above from "The Center" a monthly published by Harmony Club of America at 700 West End Avenue, New York City. We have been perusing this little magazine for some months with much pleasure and with no little profit. It contains much that is suggestive, interesting and inspiring. It does not follow that everyone will accept all that it says; but sometimes we can profit as much by reading what we do not accept, especially if it is new thought to us, as by reading what we do accept. At all events the magazine is worth all its cost which is but one dollar a year.—Editor.

BEFORE CO-OPERATION

We have been urging the formation of co-operative societies and we are prepared to give a series of articles from the pens of those who have had marked success in this direction. These articles will tell the difficulties to overcome, how to organize and how to succeed after organization, and we can give to those who desire it a proof copy of constitution and by-laws of one of the successful societies.

Before real co-operation is successful there must be a better feeling of fellowship between the people of the community intending to co-operate. The fruit growers and truck gardeners have been moderately successful in their cooperation because this class of producers live on small tracts, form a thickly populated district, and hence are more willing to unite with each other because they are better acquainted.

Farmers living on large farms become very independent of each other. They live unto themselves so much that they can't or won't pull together. To co-operate some one must be manager—boss if you please, and all the rest must be submissive to the manager. This goes against the grain of these independent farmers who have been their own boss so many years.

It doesn't take long to create a jealousy that ruptures the society. Hence we say that there is something necessary before co-operation is an assured success—and that something is a better social understanding and friendship. Every business man and his family must learn to trust the motives of his neighbors. Every one must have confidence in his fellowman and must overlook the insignificant faults and try to bring out the best in man. A community of interests must exist before co-operation can succeed. This community of interests is the secret groundwork of the big trusts. Isn't the farmer shrewd enough to see that he must do as they do if he would have the success that the trusts have?

How can we create this fellowship—this community of interests? By the social organizations such as the Grange, or the farmers' club. The farmers club can become a veritable "big stick" in securing justice at the hands of legislators, railroads, commission houses and even in their buying of supplies.

The pioneer was too busy and too isolated to give any thought to the social side of his nature. He was so taken with the idea of making a living that he wasn't very sociable with his distant neighbors. And this spirit has grown up with him in almost every community. Get out of your shell, break away