

The Highland Park Press

Number 45

HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS, THURSDAY, JANUARY 9 1913

Volume 2

NEWS OF TANGLE IN ASSESSMENTS

Press uses Letter from City Attorney Gail as Means of Explaining Muddle. Council Begins Chase for Funds

SUPPLEMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

Council Orders two and Public Hearing is Called on Third. Numbers are 72, 73 and 74

The following letter, relative to the deficiency in the Special Assessment accounts, has just been received from City Attorney Gail and it will serve as an interesting opening to an article containing some interesting facts further relating to the deficiency mentioned.

January 6, 1913.
Editor of THE HIGHLAND PARK PRESS,
Highland Park, Ill.

Dear Sir:
In your article relative to the special assessment funds of this city, in your issue of January 2nd, you state that the Special Auditor's report does not say how we are to raise the shortage, and that THE PRESS has been unable to find any one who does. I wish to call your attention to an article published in your issue of November 14, 1912, under the heading "The Council Disagrees on Bond Payment Method." You will find appearing in the letter of disapproval of the Mayor, the following:

"If when the audit is completed it should develop that the city has used special assessment funds for corporate purposes, the city is legally and morally liable to repay such accounts, if any, which amounts could be used to pay the improvement bonds in the respective assessments or rebates to property owners, if any be due them, as the case may be. If on the contrary, an insufficient assessment has been levied to pay the cost of a given improvement, a supplemental assessment on the property benefited is recommended."

Also the following portion of my report which you published in the same issue:

"I am of the opinion that when such audit is completed, that the rights of the bond holders, the city officials and of the tax payers can easily be ascertained, and a legal remedy found and applied to protect all of the parties in interest.

The personal credit of the city is not extended when special assessment or special tax bonds and vouchers are issued, unless it is provided by the ordinance authorizing the improvement that some specific portion of the special assessment or tax shall be paid from the general fund. It is the duty of a city in event that the amount of an assessment is insufficient to pay vouchers or bonds or interest thereon, drawn against such assessment, to cause, so far as it can legally do so, a supplemental assessment or special tax as the case may be, to be levied and collected to pay such deficiency, until all bonds and vouchers shall be fully paid. If the city collects the amount of an assessment levied against the property benefited under a special assessment proceeding, and does not hold the amount collected as a special trust fund for the payment of bonds and vouchers and interest thereon, drawn against such assessment and such installment thereof, but transfers amounts from such fund to other funds or causes such fund to be diverted and used for corporate purposes then the city would be liable to the holder of the bond in assumption for the amount diverted."

I beg to report that the method is not only known, but is being used. Resolutions providing for three supplemental assessments were adopted by the Board of Local Improvements on January 3, 1913.

Another remedy has been found by the bond holders, as suggested in the above reports, and suit is now pending against the city for money wrongfully diverted.

Perhaps the Editor does not read THE PRESS, as carefully, as do some of its subscribers.

Respectfully submitted,
E. S. GAIL.

We are duly grateful to the City Attorney for his letter calling our attention to a seeming oversight on our part and we publish it because it calls attention, in a better manner than we can, to what Mayor Oliver, City Attorney Gail, City Clerk Warren and the members of the council are "up against" in trying to straighten out the special assessment muddle and what the taxpayers will be "up against" before it is settled, but the fact of the matter is that we remembered the article mentioned and the fact that supplemental assessments had been recommended and referred to them

in our article last week but we did not believe then, and we know now, that supplemental assessments are not going to make up the deficiency. When we received the letter we had ready to print, a statement of Special Assessment No. 72, one of the three mentioned in the letter, and the amount of the supplementary assessment recommended by the Board of Local Improvements. Since then we have heard the mayor's statement, made to the city council Tuesday, and because it covers so much more of the tangle and therefore gives a greater insight into it we print it herewith instead of ours.

Special Assessment Docket No. 72

Original Assessment	\$6,282.15
Bonds and vouchers paid	\$5,474.12
Bonds unpaid	608.03
Transferred to Special General Expense account	339.65
Total cost	\$6,404.77
City's loss	\$ 124.62
Interest paid on bonds	\$1,547.66
Interest collected on Assessments	561.68
Excess of liabilities over resources	\$1,107.60
City's balance unpaid	87.94
City's interest unpaid	608.25
Amount due by the city	696.19
Amount due by property owners	\$ 413.41
Interest due on bonds 7-1-12	30.00
Interest due on bonds 7-1-13	30.00
Costs	33.29
	\$8.28
Amount of supplementary	\$ 301.79

The letter further states that another remedy has been found by the bond holders and that a suit is now pending against the city for money wrongfully diverted. We mentioned this in a previous issue but we fail to see where it is going to help the city in raising the money which will be needed whether or no the bond holders win their suit.

Supplemental assessments in assessments, numbers 72 to 199, will furnish, at the ratio shown in the first two authorized by the council at its meeting Tuesday, about \$12,000, leaving the balance of the \$34,000 deficiency to be raised otherwise. This is the amount which THE PRESS meant when it stated that it did not know how the shortage would be met. Since then Mayor Oliver has stated, to a representative of this paper, that it will probably be raised by bond issue. In that event it is extremely important that the tax payers should understand how this deficiency was piled up. They should know that the books plainly show that nothing has been taken dishonestly. The books balance, figure for figure, the fault was in the method in which they were kept. In this connection it is well to state that this method was the same that was in vogue in many other cities and is now in many. The Waukegan Sun Saturday called attention to the fact that the books in that city are being kept in the same way. The deficiency is caused, principally, because the assessments were not large enough to cover the cost of the improvement and supplemental assessments were not levied to raise the amount to cover the difference and because the city failed to pay its portion of the assessments. Tax payers who may be inclined to kick about the assessments and the bond issue, if it does come, should remember that the money which is being raised now is money which should have been raised in the past and that, with the exception of additional interest on the bonds which have not been paid, the sum is no greater now than it was then.

A public hearing on a supplemental assessment for No. 73 has been called for Tuesday, January 14.

SECOND FIRE ON GOLDBERG PROPERTY

Small Cottage West of Skokie Burned Wednesday Morning

A small cottage belonging to I. Goldberg and located just west of the Skokie bridge was burned to the ground early Wednesday morning. The fire was discovered by Aug. Scheskie but too late for him to call assistance and extinguish it. The cottage was unoccupied at the time, the men who rent it being in Chicago. Two weeks ago a fire was discovered in the rear of a building just west of the one burned Saturday and residents in the neighborhood experienced difficulty in extinguishing it and saving a nearby barn which housed valuable cattle and horses. Following close upon the fire which destroyed his barn in the rear of the Palace market Mr. Goldberg is inclined to believe, that some one with a grudge against him is setting the fires. Mr. Goldberg insured his property after the first fire so in these later ones his loss is partly covered.

CHANGE IN ELECTRIC SCHEDULE

Milwaukee Officials put Winter Schedule in Effect

Considerably later than usual the winter schedule of the Milwaukee Electric arrived last week, delayed no doubt by the non-arrival of cold weather. In effect the schedule is about the same as those of previous winters and cuts the service straight out the special assessment middle and what the taxpayers will be "up against" before it is settled, but the fact of the matter is that we remembered the article mentioned and the fact that supplemental assessments had been recommended and referred to them

MAY EXTEND FREE DELIVERY SERVICE

To get Additional Carrier Service may be Extended South as well as North where Residents have Petitioned

When the people in the north end of town who recently petitioned the Post Office department for an extension of the free delivery service to their residences have their wishes granted the same service will be given those living in the south end, whether they want it or not. The inspector who recently made a survey of the local districts and service found that the district mentioned in the petition was too small to justify an additional carrier and too large to be added to the present service, which is already overtaxed, but, after investigating the south end of town, which is at present without service, he stated that it would be possible to re-district the town, taking in both north and south ends and thus add one carrier to the present force. No one knows what his report to headquarters contained but it is believed that the above plan was suggested. The south district would have a mounted carrier and the inspector is known to have told the Wilmeth office that Highland Park might make an offer for an outfit it has for sale. A few years ago the residents of Ravinia petitioned for carrier service but the question was dropped because of differences of opinion. If the new service is granted it will extend the local free delivery to the north limits and to the south end of the town on the east and Ravinia Park on the west.

SHOULD HAVE RURAL ROUTES

Parcel Post Would be Greater Benefit to Local Merchants if Rural Routes Started here

The local office has not as yet been called upon to handle a great amount of Parcel Post business but the amount is increasing daily. The number of incoming packages is about six times as great as that of outgoing, a fact probably true of all suburban towns and other cities without all suburban towns and other cities without manufacturing concerns and large mercantile houses. This will continue until the local retailer realizes the benefits of the new delivery and takes advantage of them.

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NEARBY NEWS NOTES OF LOCAL INTEREST

LAKE FOREST WANTS TRAINED NURSE

Lower Gas Rates in Elgin and Vicinity. Waukegan Poultry Show Opens Monday

Elgin Gas Rates Lowered

New Year's greetings of the Western United Gas and Electric company to its Elgin patrons, also all of its other consumers, is a reduction of the price of gas to 90 cents per thousand cubic feet. Reduction of the price of gas 5 cents per thousand cubic feet will make a difference of about \$600 monthly in Elgin's gas bills. In reality the price of gas is now 95 cents per thousand cubic feet, but a discount of 5 cents is allowed if bills are paid within a certain time.

Lake Forest Wants Trained Nurse

The Lake Forest Woman's club is raising a fund to guarantee the salary and expenses of a trained nurse to be located in that city. It is understood that the salary of the nurse will be \$70.00 per month, night work, Sundays and holidays extra charge, and that the nurse's supplies and carriage hire, etc., will amount to about \$360.00 a year, thus making a total of about \$1200.00 a year to be provided. All money received from patients, at the rate of 25 cents per hour for those who can afford to pay, will be credited to this fund.

Poultry Show Next Week

The annual poultry show given by the Northern Illinois Poultry Fanciers association will open next Monday in the Hope building on North Genesee Street, Waukegan.

HOUSEHOLD SHOW AT COLISEUM

Only Three Days Remain in Which to View Comprehensive Exhibit. Closes Sunday

Probably the most comprehensive feature of the Household Show, which is being held at the Chicago Coliseum, outside of the individual exhibits are the \$100,000 Model Home and the Electric Bungalow. The "model home" which is furnished completely from basement to attic, was planned by America's foremost decorator and is a symphony in decorative art. The various rooms have been furnished by the exhibitors and represent the top notch in furnishing, sanitation and home comfort.

In the electric bungalow of the Commonwealth-Edison Co. is shown the possibilities of electricity in home comforts and conveniences and how simple endless household tasks are made when heating, cooking, cleaning, washing and ironing are done through the medium of the electric current.

Chicago's club women recognize that the Household show is primarily a woman's show and are taking advantage of the opportunity to have their membership attend in bodies. Special days have been set apart for various clubs. Seven of the leading organizations have associated as the Household Benevolent Workers and will have charge of the English Tea Room and French Salon, the social feature of the show. The proceeds of the tea room will be devoted to their charities.

PULMOTOR DEMONSTRATION TUESDAY

Physicians and City Officials Invited to see Gas Company's Purchase

Dr. Daniels of Waukegan has been engaged by the North Shore Gas Co. to teach Highland Park physicians, members of the life saving crew, policemen, firemen and other city officials who may be called upon to operate it how to work the pulmotor which the company recently purchased. The demonstration will take place in Prior's Undertaking rooms next Tuesday evening and afterward the pulmotor will be located in some place not yet decided upon from which it can be conveniently taken to the scene of an accident where it will be of use.

HIGH SCHOOL PLAY FEBRUARY 1

Senior Class will present "A Rose of Plymouth Town"

Saturday evening, February first, the senior class of Deerfield-Shields will present the comedy, "A Rose of Plymouth Town," by Buelah Mae Dix and Harriet Greenleaf Sutherland, at Ravinia Theatre. In preparation for the event the members of the cast have been diligently rehearsing for the past two months under the direction of Miss Alice Heathcote McElrath, teacher of dramatics and public speaking at the school. Advance tickets will be offered for sale this week, the prices being 25, 50 and 75 cents.

BUSINESS MEN ELECT OFFICERS

Choose Men to Serve for 1913 and give Farewell Reception to Retiring President

The Business Men's Association held a meeting in the Young Men's club rooms on Tuesday evening at which the following officers were elected: S. A. St. Peter, president; Alfred Moses, vice president; William Anderson, treasurer; Albert Larson, secretary. Directors elected were William Birsch, James Shuffy and William E. Becker. Following the business meeting a farewell reception was tendered the retiring president, Charles Schneider, who leaves shortly for his new home at Santa Fe, Isle of Pines, where he will devote his time to his fruit plantation which he has owned for some time.

AUTO FIRE TRUCK BOUGHT BY THE COMMITTEE MONDAY

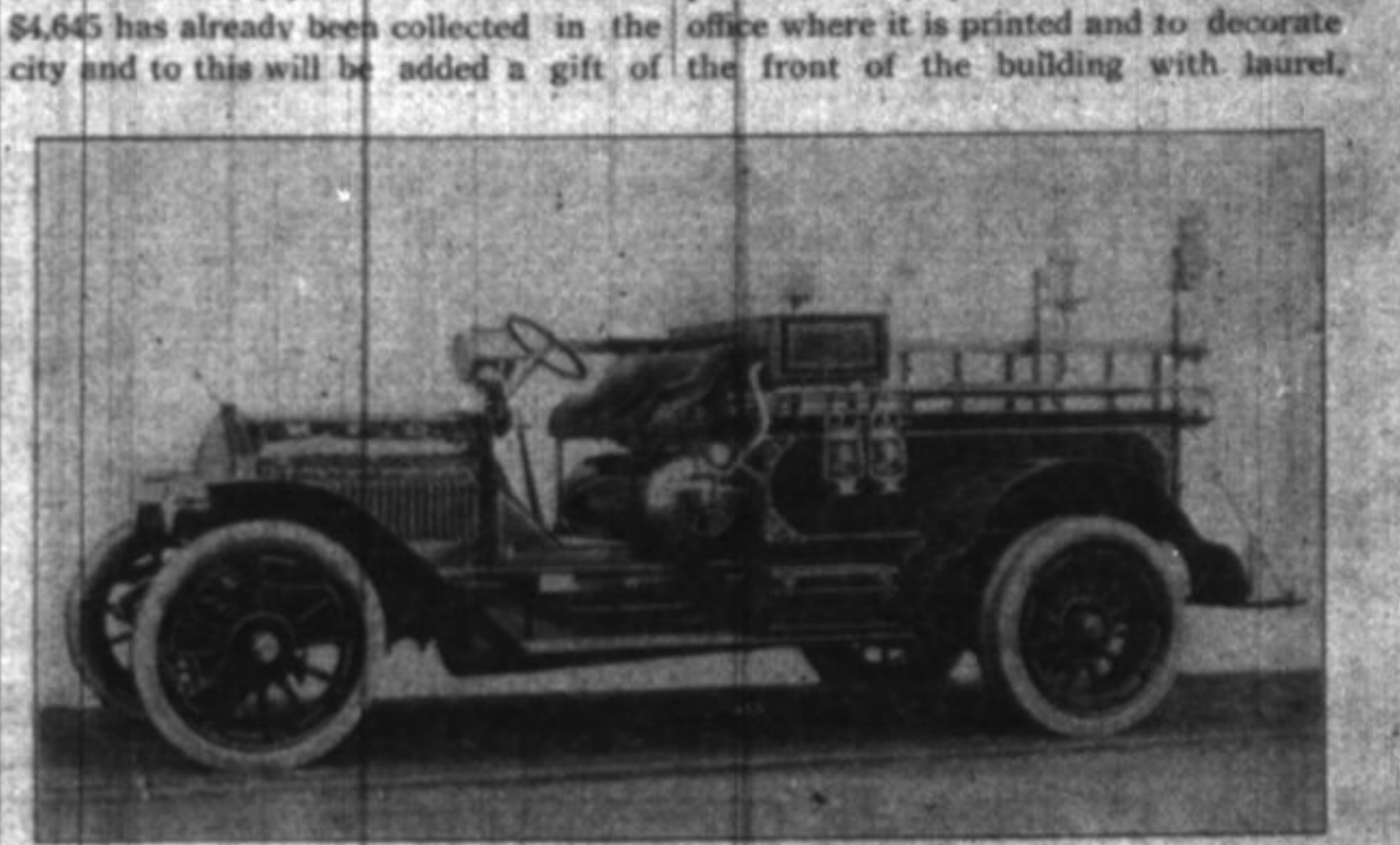
PICK AMERICAN LA FRANCE AFTER WEEKS INSPECTION

Will be Delivered in Ninety Days. City Council Orders Fire Alarm System and Votes Money to Rebuild Station for Accommodation of Truck

After three weeks spent in inspection the committee, Emil Rudolph, O. G. St. Peter, Mayor Oliver and Fire Marshal Geiser, appointed to buy the city an auto fire truck, Monday decided that the best car, for the needs of Highland Park, which they inspected was the American La France and a deal was closed with this concerns Chicago representative, Mr. Johnstone, whereby the city, in about ninety days, will be able to "point with pride" to an auto fire truck of which the accompanying cut is a picture. The cost of this truck is \$5,500. Of this amount \$4,645 has already been collected in the city and to this will be added a gift of

that the fireman may get to place quickly if he happens to be on the second floor when an alarm comes. THE PRESS suggests that while these changes are being made the doors be rebuilt so that they can be opened by a lever operated from the seat of the truck.

History of Campaign for Truck
Now that the fire truck has been purchased and the council has made provision for its housing and ordered a suitable alarm THE PRESS feels inclined to place several bouquets on the desks in the office where it is printed and to decorate the front of the building with laurel.



AMERICAN LA FRANCE TYPE "10" AUTO FIRE TRUCK 48 H. P., A. L. A. M. HORSE POWER RATING

\$500 from Mr. Johnstone, who sold the city the car, and the money that will be collected from the subscribers who have not yet paid up, amounting to about \$855. Whatever amount there is over that needed will be used to buy additional equipment.

In the course of its inspection the committee saw the car in action at Rochelle, Ill., and Racine, Wis. In both cities the reports were of the best, in Rochelle the chief stated that the car had made 38 trips and in 35 cases had arrived at the scene in time for the firemen to extinguish the fire with chemicals, decreasing the loss by fire and averting any of the damage which is always done when water is used. At Marshalltown, Iowa, the committee saw the Kasselkar, which was then second choice at Rogers Park, the Webb, at Evanston the Robertson; the Maek was demonstrated here and in Chicago the members inspected the following, Packard, Pope-Hartford, Alco, Peerless, Pierce-Arrow and Gram. The point in favor of the La France which just about decided the committee in its favor was the fact that every part of it and all its equipment is manufactured by the American La France Co. and guaranteed by them. New York City has 53 of these cars, Savannah, Ga., 12 and Boston, Mass., 7.

Fire Alarm Also Ordered

Before Mayor Oliver read the committee's report to the city council Tuesday night that body acted favorably on the recommendation of the fire and water committee to accept the proposition of the Chicago Telephone Company to install a fire alarm system as follows: The company will install six gongs in the homes of the firemen, one at the corner of St. Johns and Central and one at the fire station. For the operation of these gongs switches will be placed in the telephone office, at the fire station and on the corner of St. Johns and Central. The cost of the system will be about \$225. The system will be operated over the telephone wires at an annual rental of about \$9. Aldermen Fearing, Vetter and Kimble, comprising the fire and water committee, and the council as a body are to be congratulated on the successful conclusion of their efforts. They are also to be congratulated on the celerity with which they voted to expend a trifle over \$1000 for remodeling the fire station and the building in the rear so that the present fire apparatus and the new truck may be properly housed. By making a few changes in the building in the rear it can be made to accommodate one or both trucks now owned by the city, leaving the present station for the new truck and for a hose room, which is badly needed. By removing the stairs in this room a space wide enough for the new truck can be made on the north side of the building without removing the pillars. The stairway will be placed on the outside and a pole provided on the inside so

This we feel we cannot do without providing similar decorations to Mayor Oliver, the members of the committee, the men who circulated the subscription petitions and the men who subscribed, an impossibility under the present state of our finances but we can give proper recognition to these men through our columns and incidentally call the attention of the public to the fact that we had something to do with it.

Since the first edition of this paper, March first, 1911, we have urged the purchase of better means of getting our firemen to the scene of a fire and of better alarms to tell them when there is a fire. Because of these articles we have been accused many times of "roasting" the firemen themselves, something which was far from our intention because we believed then as we do now that our firemen are hard working, conscientious, men capable of doing good work. It was our fault that it took from fifteen to thirty minutes to find a team to pull their apparatus to a fire. We believe we can claim the credit of bringing the attention of Mr. Oliver to this need of the city because he took it up and made the purchase that if elected he would do everything in his power to obtain an auto truck for the city and to otherwise improve conditions. THE PRESS keep up the battle and so did Mayor Oliver. About one year after his election, in June, 1912, the Mayor came to this office with his subscription list which then contained offers of about \$3,000. THE PRESS published the list of subscribers and it kept on publishing them and asking for additions. In August the amount subscribed was \$4,000, in October it was \$5,000 and the work of collecting was started by the Highland Park State Bank. In November the subscriptions reached \$5,500 and the collections amounted to \$3,667, on December 19 the collections amounted to \$4,378 and a count of the votes of the subscribers showed Mr. Orville St. Peter and Mr. Emil Rudolph to be so far in the lead for members of the committee that there was no possibility of anyone else being elected so the committee was appointed and the work of selection began with the result noted above. Among those who circulated petitions were Aldermen Stevens and Buckley, Emil Rudolph, A. A. Putnam, Fire Marshal Geiser, THE PRESS and Mayor Oliver.

MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

Complete Report Omitted. Important Transactions Noted in Two Articles

Owing to the fact that the most important business transacted by the city council Tuesday night is published in the article on the fire truck purchase and special assessment article a complete report is omitted this week but will be published in next week's issue.