

# The Highland Park Press

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Volume 3

## FURTHER STATEMENT OF SCHOOL NEEDS

### PAROCHIAL SCHOOL AND ATTENDANCE

Prof. Smith gives Clear Statement of Effect of new School on Registration at Elm Place in Second of Articles

In last week's issue of the Press it was stated that all the pupils of the first three grades at Elm Place school, to the number of 180 or more, spend more than half of each school day in temporary class rooms improvised out of the school auditorium, all of this necessitated by the present lack of three regular class rooms. It was also stated that this is the fourth consecutive year in which the work of the primary grades at Elm Place has been carried on under the handicap of an insufficient number of well equipped class rooms. Further reference to conditions in past years seems appropriate here for its bearing upon conditions at the present time.

In March, 1905, eight years ago this week, an addition to the Elm Place school was opened for occupancy. It contributed five classrooms to the school equipment besides one work room and an auditorium. Three of these five rooms were at once occupied by the upper grades which had been occupying rented rooms in the high school building. Of the two remaining rooms one was opened as a regular classroom in the September following and one year from that date the last vacant room which had been set apart for a possible kindergarten, was opened as a third grade room and there was no longer an unoccupied room. That was in September, 1906.

By September, 1909, the overcrowding in the primary grades made it imperative to build or to secure additional classrooms in some other way. There was much opposition to the proposition to build for it was argued that a parochial school would soon be established in Highland Park and this would reduce the attendance at Elm Place so that additional school facilities would not be needed. Out of deference to this feeling the Board of Education rented the Rounceville house on Central Avenue in September, 1909, and two primary groups were installed there. To secure this residence property for school purposes it was necessary to pay a very high rental and to incur a heavy expense in increasing the sanitary conveniences. After two years experience in trying to make the pupils comfortable in the Rounceville house, the Board removed the school to the Baker property on Park Avenue which was occupied during the school year ending June, 1912. Here conditions were, in some respects, decidedly better but even that is not saying much. There is nothing favorable that can be said of a private house when its use for a school room is considered. Only as an emergency measure can such use be justified.

The parochial school was at length erected and in September last opened for school work. At that time 112 pupils that had formerly gone to the Elm Place school withdrew and were enrolled in the parochial school. There is no data at hand to show how many beginning pupils should be added to the total of pupils from District 107 that went to the new school, but the enrollment at Elm Place at the end of the first month was 135 less than at the similar period one year before, and this would seem to indicate the number of pupils taken from Elm Place school by the opening of the parochial school. In anticipation of the reduced attendance the Board had left two vacant positions in the primary grades unfilled. While in the preceding September there were five teachers at work in temporary classrooms, now the number was reduced to three, and these, as explained before, were assigned to temporary class-rooms in the Elm Place auditorium.

The question is asked why with the withdrawal of 135 pupils a greater reduction in the teaching staff was not possible? Why, for example, allowing thirty pupils or so to a room, the services of four teachers could not be dispensed with? The answer is that if the 135 pupils had come from, let us say, four grade groups, it would have been very easy to close up that number of class-rooms. As a matter of fact, these 135 pupils came from sixteen grade groups, some of which were scarcely affected by the withdrawal of pupils for the parochial school. It is not a simple matter of mathematics, this distribution of pupils among the various classes so that each—the slow moving as well as the most proficient will get equality of attention and instruction. How difficult it was in this particular instance is shown in the following figures giving the number of pupils withdrawn from each grade group by the opening of the new school: 1A's, 4; 2B's, 3; 2A's, 12; 3B's, 15; 3A's, 2; 4B's, 15; 4A's, 6; 5B's, 8; 5A's, 13; 5B's, 7; 6A's, 9.

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## MEETING OF LOCAL IMPROVEMENT BOARD

### BUSY SESSION HELD MONDAY NIGHT

Originate five Ordinances, Recommend Seven Supplemental Assessments and Repeal of three held up by Court

At a meeting of the Board of Local Improvements Monday night the members voted not to accept the resignation of City Clerk Warren as clerk of the board and passed a resolution authorizing him to employ additional help until the supplemental assessments, which are causing a large amount of extra work, are disposed of.

In the matter of special assessments the board recommended the repeal of 72, 73, and 74 in which it had been found that a slight error had been made. In the matter of 72, paving Central Ave. from Green Bay Road to the limits, the board recommended the adoption of a new supplemental which is practically the same as that ordered repealed. A supplemental in 78, paving Hazel and Park Aves. was also recommended.

Resolutions originating the following improvements were adopted and the date for public hearing set for March 17: Paving Deerfield Ave. from Green Bay Rd. to Oakwood; paving Cary Ave. from Sheridan Rd. west 390 feet; paving Cedar Ave. from Cedar to Beech from Lincoln to Sheridan; paving Rice St. from Roger Williams Ave. to Ravine and Cary Ave. east 900 feet; sewer in DeTamble Ave. and Green Bay Rd.

Adopted resolution recommending repeal of ordinance for paving Sheridan Rd. to Roger Williams Ave.

Recommended supplemental assessments as follows and set March 26 as date of public hearing: 73, paving Park Ave., \$2,982.14; 75, paving Elm and Linden Park Place, \$632.19; 76, paving Hazel Ave., St. Johns to Forest, \$667.15; 80 water main in Rice St., \$339.22; 81, water main in Lincoln Ave., Forest to Beech, \$468.76; 83, paving First St. and Oakwood Ave., \$1,680.20; 90, paving Broadway and Oak Sts., \$753.53.

## SE'S DRESS REHEARSAL OF "CYRANO"

A. M. Lowrie on Talent Seeking Trip sees Mr. Damrosch at work on new Opera

Mr. A. M. Lowrie returned Friday from a talent seeking trip through the south and east and it is probable that, as a result, the list of artists engaged for the Ravinia Park summer season will be announced at an early date. While in Philadelphia and New York Mr. Lowrie heard performances of "Les Raz des Vaches," given by the Chicago-Philadelphia company and in New York he attended a dress rehearsal of the new Damrosch opera, "Cyrano." Mr. Damrosch supervised the rehearsal and Mr. Lowrie states that he addressed each artist in his native tongue and during waits pleasantly conversed with the few spectators in English. Among the latter were several familiar to Highland Park people, including Louis Kreidler, who is a member of the Metropolitan company, Ben Greet, who is at present stage director of the Children's Theatre, Geo. Vivian and Wm. Hinshaw.

"Cyrano" was produced Thursday night and that New York critics did not go in raptures over Mr. Damrosch's music is evidenced by the following clippings from their reviews: Herald: "Mr. Damrosch's music is facile and tuneful, its sentiment neatly turned and brilliant. It can hardly be called an inspired score, and moments of tedious creep in during the performance." Times: "Mr. Damrosch's music is undoubtedly composed with skill and verve and in many parts, with spontaneity. It cannot be called music of inspiration, of originality, or in the highest sense of power." Sun: "Mr. Damrosch is too partial to long and slow melodic curves. His score is rich in slow movements. Indeed, the comedy of the play loses much of its sparkle by reason of the deliberate tempo in which the musician has conceived the dialogue."

Obituary

Mr. Charles Underwood. Word was received Wednesday telling of the death of Mr. Charles Underwood of Lafayette, Ind., on the morning of Tuesday, March 4. Mr. Underwood, who was well known here, was the only brother of Mr. W. T. Underwood of this city whose death occurred one year and two months ago. Mr. Charles Underwood resided in the old homestead and was the last of his family. The funeral will take place at Lafayette on Saturday afternoon, March 8. Mrs. W. T. Underwood has left the Interlocken School, Ind., to attend the funeral services of her brother-in-law.

To the Public

I am a candidate for the office of City Treasurer. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

F. B. GREEN.

## SEEK SOLUTION OF CHILDREN PROBLEM

### MASS MEETING CALLED FOR MARCH 16

Juvenile Protective Association has had Investigation in City for two Weeks. Meeting at Trinity Parish House

Following the receipt of a report on conditions here, from an investigator who has been at work for the past two weeks, the Highland Park committee of the North Shore Juvenile Protective Association has called a mass meeting, to be held in the Parish House of Trinity church, Sunday, March 16, at 3:30 p. m. At this meeting Prof. Allan Hoben of the University of Chicago, will give an address on "Work Among the Children," and there will be a general discussion of the conditions here and what should be done to remedy them.

A member of the committee stated Monday that, while conditions here are not so bad as they were found to be in Wilmette, where the work of the association started, they are such as to warrant immediate action and the employment of a special officer, which the committee plans doing.

As a result of the conditions in the North Shore towns, as proved in several court cases last year, the people of Wilmette, Winnetka, Kenilworth, Glencoe and Highland Park have formed a permanent organization to fight vice in the several towns. This problem has proved to be a proposition for either individuals or local committees to handle and only through a regular organization can any good be accomplished. The organization is incorporated as "The Juvenile Protective Association of the North Shore," and the officers are:

President—Ralph R. Lounsbury.  
Vice-President—Mrs. James A. Britton.  
Secretary—Mrs. Morris L. Greeley.  
Treasurer—George J. Pope.  
Directors—Winnetka, Wm. W. Case; Mrs. Morris L. Greeley, Mrs. Ira Couch Wood; Wilmette, Mrs. James A. Britton, George E. Cole, Ralph R. Lounsbury, Kenilworth, Chas. Herswell, Mrs. Edward J. Phelps, William F. Zimmerman; Glencoe, George J. Pope, Mrs. George J. Pope, Arthur B. Rowell; Highland Park, Mrs. George R. Dean, Richard L. Sandwick, Mrs. Maud H. Shannon.

The objects as stated in the charter are "To promote and conserve the welfare of children; to suppress and prevent all conditions detrimental to their mental, moral and physical well being; to take any action, authorized by law, against all persons in any way contributing to the dependency, truancy or delinquency of children; to co-operate with all child-helping agencies, and, in general, to encourage the study of child problems, and to create a wholesome public sentiment in favor of the establishment and maintenance of recreational and social agencies for the benefit of children and young people."

The conditions that now exist in our villages are far worse than the average parent believes and they constitute a serious menace to our children. No censorship over private morality is proposed, but the association does intend:

To enlist in an organized effort to protect the children from the corrupting influences of public vice.

To enforce the laws rigorously against those who contribute to the delinquency of the young.

To encourage, within our communities, proper recreational facilities for those who without such will seek undesirable amusements in undesirable ways and places, and to advocate a better form of recreation for every evil one suppressed.

To bind the North Shore villages together and to insist that the North Shore shall be in fact a place where our boys and girls can grow up in the most wholesome atmosphere.

## LECTURE ON NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN

D. A. R. Bringing two Noted Workers to City on March 17

Tickets have been placed on sale this week by members of the North Shore Chapter, D. A. R., for an afternoon entertainment, entitled "The Songs and Basketry of the North American Indian." Rev. and Mrs. Wm. Brewster Humphreys of the American League, will tell the history of these tribes in songs and story, and there will be an exhibit of basketry. The affair will be held in the Elm Place school auditorium Monday, March 17, at 3:00 o'clock p. m., and the admission will be twenty-five cents.

To the Public

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F. B. GREEN.

## DOMESTIC SCIENCE DAY NEXT THURSDAY

### BENEFIT FOR BATHING BEACH FUND

Members of Osooli Club back big Affair at Highland Park Club for Project which has Proved a great Public Benefit

With all the plans perfected the women of the Osooli Club are eagerly looking forward to the result of their efforts and those of their friends on behalf of the bathing beach.

Thursday, March thirteenth, Domestic Arts and Science Day at the Highland Park Club, promises to be of interest to all who have the welfare and pleasure of the children of this town at heart. New developments add daily to the already attractive features of the show and if predictions are fulfilled the judges of exhibits have no easy tasks ahead of them. These judges, from out of town, are well known women themselves, expert in culinary and other arts.

The electrical devices on show in working order will in themselves be worth coming to see, and it is expected that many orders will be taken for washing machines and electric irons of all kinds, by the attractive saleswomen who will give you all information concerning these articles.

One of the most attractive exhibits will be that of the children's bands and we invite all our young friends to compete for the blue ribbon.

The wonderful poster was contributed by Mr. Briggs, the famous cartoonist, and the original as well as copies of it will be auctioned off after the play is over.

It is useless to attempt to enumerate the many good things to be offered, just come and see for yourselves. The prizes will be awarded between the hours of three and six o'clock.

With perfect assurance of the continued interest in the exhibits and in the patronage of our friends and well wishers we do not hesitate to say that a goodly sum will be realized for the maintenance of the splendid work of the Osooli Club. Contributed.

## ADD C. O. D. FEATURE TO PARCEL POST

Washington Dispatch States that Order has been Signed taking Effect July First

Although no order has been received at the local postoffice a dispatch from Washington states that Postmaster General Hitchcock has signed an order which adds the C. O. D. feature to the parcel post service. The service will begin about July first and will be operated much the same as the same service is given by the express companies. With the parcel post, however, it will be necessary for the sender to pay the cost of shipment and the cost of returning the amount collected which will be ten cents on all amounts up to \$100. This must be paid in parcel post stamps, affixed to the package, and may be added to the bill to be collected.

There has also been printed a dispatch to the effect that beginning March first, parcel post matter may be sent special delivery but this order is also among the missing at the local office where it is expected, however, to turn up at an early date.

## FIRE ALARM CAUSES EXCITEMENT

In Conjunction with Laundry Whistle it Starts Something Tuesday

A new and larger gong has been placed at the Central Avenue end of the fire alarm system which is now believed to be the best that it is possible to get with the limited means at hand. From now on trial of the system will be made at noon each day in order to reduce to a minimum the chances for its being out of order when needed. Considerable excitement was caused Tuesday when the alarm was rung as a test of the new gong at about the same time the Reliable Laundry whistle was blown to announce the fact that Wilson and Marshall had been inaugurated. Several fir-men reported and business on Central Avenue was at a standstill for a few minutes. Work has been commenced on the changes in the fire station in the report of which last week this paper stated erroneously that the Board of Local Improvements had let the contract to Jos. Evans. This should have read that the Fire and Water Committee let the contract to Mr. W. F. Edwards.

## IN BUSY SESSION COUNCIL TRANSACTS MUCH BUSINESS

### BUSINESS MEN WANT PLATFORM AT CAR STATIONS

Agree on Salary of City Attorney as Attorney for Board of Local Improvements. Council Cannot Regulate Gas and Electric Rates. Report on Judgement Against City

Business transacted by city council at meeting Tuesday night.

### Agree on Attorney's Salary

Mayor Oliver reported that, pursuant to the request of the council he had refrained from signing warrants for full pay of city attorney and clerk of Board of Local Improvements for February.

This was the outcome of a question raised by Alderman Stevens and others in which it was stated that the board did not have a legal right to pay the city attorney an additional salary for work as attorney for the board. The records show and it is stated in Mr. Gail's opinion which was requested by the council, that the attorney has been paid \$7,400 per year for acting as attorney for the board and the city clerk \$240 for acting as clerk of the board. Resolutions to this effect were passed and appear upon the records of the board meeting of May 9, 1912, fixing these salaries and appointing Mr. Gail and Mr. Warren to the positions. The members of the board were then and are now Mayor Oliver, Ald Stevens, Bell, Kimble, and Fearing.

The report of the attorney was to the effect that the annual appropriation or allowance shall be passed in such sum as is deemed necessary to defray expenses and that no further appropriation shall be made during year without it has been submitted to voters either by petition or at an election. The state provides (quoting the attorney) that it shall be and is lawful for the council to establish the amount of salary to be paid city officers, except members of the legislative body, in the annual appropriation bill and that such amount shall not be increased nor diminished during the fiscal year. The attorney further states: "That the council in good faith fixed the salary of the city attorney and the clerk of the board and that services have been rendered in good faith in this regard, not only relative to current special assessments but going back a period of 10 years entailing additional work not contemplated by any of the city officers at the time they took office." The appropriation bill for 1911 showed items of \$1500 for city attorney and \$600 for assistant to clerk; for 1912 there were items of \$1500 for city attorney including work as attorney for board, \$240 for clerk of board and \$600 for a stenographer.

Ald. Fearing submitted a conflicting report which does not appear on the records from which this article was taken.

Ald. Hell, moved, seconded by Ald. Vetter, that the report of the attorney be concurred in. Carried, ayes, Kline, Bell, Doty and Vetter; nays, Kimble, Fearing, and Stevens.

### Want Platforms at Car Stops

The Business Men's Association submitted a letter stating that its committee had conferred with Supr. Beck of the C. & M. E. and received assurance if the council gives consent that the road would erect platforms on the north side of the Central Ave. crossing for both north and south bound cars and at Elm Place on the south side for north bound cars and on the north side, provided permission can be obtained from the Public Service Co. for south bound cars. The Press desires to state editorially that while it wishes to commend the Association for its work, this matter should receive grave consideration as it is extremely doubtful whether platforms on the north side of Central Ave. would be of benefit. In the first place those waiting for cars usually enter one of the stores on St. Johns Ave. which are always open, and if the stopping place was changed it would mean an almost constant passage of people at angles across the intersection of Central and St. Johns, the busiest place in town. There is room for these platforms on the south side of the street and, instead of being a detriment to traffic they would, at least the one east of the tracks, serve as a guide for automobilists who now recklessly drive at angles across the track. If there could be erected a station sufficiently large to accommodate all prospective passengers and at the same time a credit to the city and the road architecturally then the north side would be the place to put it. The erection on either side of one of the small, unsightly covered platforms seem undesirable.

### Judgement Against City

Wm. Capthorne wrote the council requesting immediate payment of judgement and costs obtained against city and city attorney submitted a report stating that this judgement, \$2974.26 principal and \$11.35 costs, was rendered on special assessment bonds and interest coupons due July 1, 1912, the money having been collected for the various installments and used for the payment of other obligations. The attorney was requested to make a written report relative to collections and disbursements in these assessments.

### City Cannot Fix Light Charges

In a reply from the council the city attorney submitted the opinion that the council is without power to regulate prices charged for gas and electricity to consumers, other than the prices that may be limited in the franchises granted the companies.

### Can Enforce Street Numbering

In another report the attorney stated that in his opinion the ordinance governing street numbering are efficient if enforced. Further proceedings will be reported next week.

## NEARBY NEWS ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST

### MRS. SPRAGUE GETS LOST JEWELS

Recent Storms Cause big Damage to County Telephone Lines. Winnetka to buy Auto Fire Truck

Lost Jewels Returned to Mrs. Sprague

Mrs. A. A. Sprague of Lake Forest and Chicago, who last fall lost a \$15,000 pearl necklace when riding in a Pullman from New York to Chicago, had the necklace returned to her Wednesday. For many months she had given it up as lost for ever but, this week it was discovered that Edward Mesko, a porter employed sweeping Pullman cars had found the necklace and his children had been wearing it ever since. A relative took the necklace to the jewelry store and the valuation of \$15,000 caused the insertion of an ad in a Chicago daily with the result that Mrs. Sprague learned of it and recovered the pearls. The Mesko family will receive \$1,000 reward.

### Big Damage to Telephone Lines

The damage to the telephone lines in Lake County as a result of the recent sleet storm is estimated at \$100,000. The American Telephone Company has had 300 men during this whole week working on its lines in this county and the work

Nearby Locals

W. J. Stebbins, formerly principal of Waukegan High school, has been appointed principal of the high school at Palisade, Col., in which district he purchased a ranch a few years ago with the intention of devoting his time to fruit growing.

At the age of eighty-eight years, Mrs. John Dugan, a pioneer resident of Waukegan, died at the home of her son, James Dugan, West Street, Friday night.

County supervisors of Kane county will be asked at their next meeting to make an appropriation for the setting of about 400 sign posts throughout that county.

Robert Bridge, 99 years old, one of the few near-centenarians of this section of the state, father of George S. Bridge, a commission broker with offices in the Board of Trade building, Chicago, died in the latter's home, 578 Milburn Street, Evanston, Sunday night.