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COUNTY AUDIT BILL AROUSES OPPOSITION

COUNTY OFFICIALS ARE AGAINST IT

Bill now before Legislature Provides for Uniform System of County Book-keeping and State Examiners

A bill now before the state legislature which is arousing considerable opposition is known as Senate Bill No. 38 which provides for a "state examiner of accounts who shall formulate and prescribe uniform systems of bookkeeping and accounting, which shall be installed in the offices of all county clerks, clerks of courts, recorders of deeds, sheriffs, treasurers, state's attorneys, county superintendents of schools, coroners, county auditors, and all other county officers."

County officials throughout the state appear to be of the unanimous opinion that the bill should be defeated because it makes compulsory the use of the system to be devised and the services of the examiner, and is a step, as many state, to remove the personal responsibility and individuality of county officials. The Lake County board of supervisors has adopted a resolution opposing the bill.

In view of the fact that the county is at present paying a large sum to have the books of its officials audited and that, from reports being circulated and past experience, there is a belief current that a considerable sum would have been saved had the audit been made a yearly occurrence some time ago it is difficult to understand the opposition when the two following paragraphs of the bill are read:

Examination and Audit

Sec. 5. The state examiner of accounts shall have power and it shall be his duty, personally or by his assistants, to examine, at least once each year, the accounts and financial affairs of every county officer; and at the end of each fiscal year to audit the books, records and accounts of each county officer. On every such examination, inquiry shall be made whether the laws of the state, the requirements of the state examiner and the rules and regulations of the county board have been complied with; and into the methods and accuracy of the accounts and reports and the financial condition and resources of the county. The state examiner and authorized assistant examiners shall have authority to enter any county office, to inspect any books, papers or documents contained therein and to compel the production of any books, papers or documents necessary for making such examination or audit. They shall have authority to issue subpoenas and compel the attendance of any officer, deputy, employe or other person whose testimony may be required; and may administer oaths and require the testimony of witnesses under oath.

Reports and Statistics

Sec. 6. A full report of each examination and audit of county accounts shall be submitted to the board of supervisors or board of county commissioners of the county, and to the state examiner of accounts. Such reports shall show the condition of the books, records and accounts of each office and shall include a financial statement of all collections, receipts and payments, classified by sources of income and purposes of expenditure, and of all moneys due to or by the county or any county officer and of all other county assets and liabilities. Such reports shall be published with the proceedings of the county board. The substance of the financial statements shall also be published by the state examiner of accounts in an annual report on comparative county statistics to be issued by the state as a public document, and submitted to the governor for transmittal to the general assembly.

TROOPS ORDERED TO FLOODED DISTRICT

Life-boats sent from Naval Station this morning. Local Organization Raising Relief Fund.

Three of the troops at Ft. Sheridan received orders from headquarters at Washington to be in preparation to leave for Ohio. They are waiting final orders. Major McNamee will be in command. This will leave Ft. Sheridan with only one troop.

Several large life-saving boats manned by sailors of the Great Lakes Naval Training School at North Chicago were sent by rail to Ohio this morning.

The members of a number of local organizations and societies are trying to raise a relief fund for the sufferers of this dreadful flood. The Y. W. C. A. rooms on E. Central Ave. will be headquarters for any one wishing to give clothing or donations of any kind.

NEARBY NEWS ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST

CONCRETE VIADUCT FOR WAUKEGAN

Farmers in Lake County and Surrounding Milk Territory are Refusing to Sign Contracts with Bottling Companies

Will Build Waukegan Viaduct

The John Wheeler Construction Co., of Geneva, Ill., has been awarded the contract to construct the reinforced viaduct over the South Genesee street ravine at Waukegan. Four bids were submitted, the lowest, \$72,616, being that of the above named company.

Ask County Aid in Farm Demonstration

The Lake County Board of Supervisors has been asked to take part in a state-wide movement to influence the state legislature to enact a law, empowering boards of supervisors and county commissioners to acquire land in their respective counties, to be used for farm demonstration purposes and to employ a demonstrator and other necessary aids for the operation and maintenance of agricultural work, to be supported by a county tax, such law to make it possible for the plan to be put into operation without unnecessary delay.

Brewing Company Must pay Widow

After a deliberation lasting near ten hours, the jury in the case of Mrs. Patricia Jopp vs Robert Fairburn and the Fortune Brothers Brewing company, returned a verdict of \$1,300 in favor of the plaintiff. Several years ago the case was tried and Mrs. Jopp received a verdict of \$2500 damages. At that time the case was appealed and the appellate court reversed the decision. The case is one in which Mrs. Jopp charged that her husband's death was attributed to the fact that he became intoxicated with liquor purchased at the Fairburn saloon in North Chicago.

Farmers Refuse Milk Contracts

Farmers in Lake County and the surrounding milk shipping territory, have refused to sign the contracts offered by the big bottling companies and the Chicago wholesale milk dealers. Last week Saturday was the day set for the signing of the contracts and from only one of the bottling plants in the whole district in which there are more than sixteen hundred milk producers comes a report which brings comfort to the big dealers. This is from the village of Salem in this county where it is declared that a large majority of the milk producers have signed contracts for the new season. Of the fifteen hundred other producers in the district but thirty six have signed contracts. The problem of what is to be done with the milk is not an acute one as the old contract remains in force until the first of April.

Nearby Locals

Twenty-nine men of foreign birth swore allegiance to the United States before Chas. Whitney, judge of the circuit court, last week.

Mr. Frank R. McMullin has rented Mr. Arthur Algis' place, corner of Deerpath Avenue and Green Bay Road, Lake Forest. Mr. McMullin and family will move out from the city the 15th of next month.

The wind storm of Sunday resulted in raising the level of the lake off Waukegan about three feet above normal. The storm was one of the most violent of its kind seen here in some time, for the waves rolled over the piers as if they were not there. Many persons went to the lake to watch the scene, which was indeed most entrancing if one likes that kind of effect.

FREE LECTURES ON SOCIAL PROBLEMS

No Admission to Series Being Given Sunday Evenings at Trinity Parish House

The third lecture on Social Problems will be given in Trinity Parish House on Sunday evening, March 30, at 8 o'clock. The subject will be "Women and Children in Toil, or the New Slavery."

The lecture on Housing, or "Where the Other Half Lives," given last week Sunday night was intensely interesting and suggestive, but it was attended by only about half as many as heard the first lecture. This was no doubt, partly due to the bad weather, but all who are interested in the dissemination of accurate information regarding social conditions are urged to come to these lectures and to help advertise them.

Nothing more important in the way of lectures has ever been given in Highland Park and the movement ought to have wide and generous support. The lectures are free and no collection is asked or taken.

ELM PLACE SCHOOL CENTRALLY LOCATED

PRINCIPAL SMITH MAKES COMPARISONS

District 107 has an Area of One and One Half Square Miles, while District 108 has Nearly Six Square Miles

In the article in last week's issue of THE PRESS relating to the distribution of school population within District 107 it was shown that the present enrollment at Elm Place is about equally made up of pupils living east of the tracks and those living west, the figures being 242 west to 223 east. Among those east of the tracks are included 24 from Ft. Sheridan and 2 from Ravinia. The northern portion of the district which lies entirely east of the tracks and extends from Bloom St. or thereabouts to the north line of the district was referred to as the Port Clinton division. Centrally located for this division, it was noted, is a school site with an unoccupied one-room school building thereon on Marie St. known as the Port Clinton school. The boundaries of the entire district were defined and those of the Exmoor addition in particular, and the population of Exmoor was shown to include one third of the total for the west side and a little more than one sixth of that of the whole district.

It seems necessary here to make some reference to the neighboring school districts, District 108 and District 111, that hem in District 107. It would seem that many people in District 107 still think that the Lincoln Avenue school is a part of the school system of their own district. This explains the more or less frequent suggestion that pupils living in the south and southwest portions of the district should be sent to Lincoln Avenue school. The writer was told that this was in the minds of some who favored locating a west side school farther north than the vicinity of Elm Street. The fact is that Lincoln Avenue school is the chief feature of the educational system of District 108 and it bears no more relation to District 107 than if it were at the other end of the state.

District 108 includes all of Highland Park not included in District 107 and a larger area besides lying between Deerfield road and the county line and extending a mile or more beyond the Skokie. While District 107 has an area of one and one half square miles, District 108 has an area of nearly six square miles. Making due allowance for the low-lying Skokie area, it appears that there is three times as much available territory in District 108 as in District 107. The greater portion of Highland Park is in District 108. Its shore line is nearly three fourths of a mile longer than that of District 107. With all its rich territory the possibilities of development along educational lines in District 108 are indeed great.

At present the school property in District 108 consists of a district one-room school west of the Skokie, of a small school near Ravinia station soon to be transformed into a truly modern school, and the Lincoln Avenue school. The last named school on Lincoln Avenue and Green Bay Road lies well within the northern portion of District 108, and about three eighths of a mile from the nearest point in District 107. For about all of the west side territory of District 107 on and north of Laurel Avenue, the Lincoln Avenue school is farther removed than is Elm Place school. However, as intimated before, it is no solution of the present problem in District 107 to cite school conditions in District 108.

The government reservation blocks District 107 on the north, District 108 fronts its southern boundary, and District 111 hem in it completely on its entire western boundary. District 111 includes all of Highland and much other territory besides. Its south line is a westward continuation of the south line of District 107 and thus it happens that a number of houses in the triangle included between West Central and Deerfield Avenues is in District 108. Exmoor Country Club is in the same district. The district has one school building, known as the Highwood school. This is on Prairie Avenue, three blocks from the western boundary of District 107. If this building were the property of District 107 there could be little question of its convenience of location for pupils living in North Exmoor and most of those in Port Clinton division. This is not the case, of course, and again we are reminded of the uselessness of looking towards outside help for conditions within District 108.

The writer has dwelt at some length upon the boundaries of District 107 to emphasize the fact that it is a fairly compact area completely hemmed in by other areas with definitely fixed boundaries. And now the point can be taken that with reference to the greater portion of

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HUNDRED AND FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS NOW PAID BY THE PEOPLE IN TAXES

Of this, Writes Alderman Fearing, the City only gets Small Portion—Lake Forest and Highland Park Compared

We print below, a letter from Alderman Fearing of the third ward, giving some facts and figures which we think will interest the taxpayers of Highland Park:

To the Editor THE HIGHLAND PARK PRESS DEAR SIR:

During the past year the City of Highland Park received from general taxation for city purposes, the sum of \$24,095.91. Added to this the city took in from miscellaneous sources the following:

Credit of street and alley fund from excavating, permits, etc.	\$269.60
Credit of sewer fund (from permits)	197.13
Credit of Maintaining Improved Roads Fund (from auto fines, etc.)	510.25
Credit of Miscellaneous Fund (from various licenses, fees, dog tax, etc.)	1,791.95
Total from miscellaneous sources	\$2,768.93
Receipts for general city purposes as above	24,095.91
Total for city purposes	\$26,864.84

This grand total of \$26,864.84, represents the amount of money available to run the city for one year. There were also received, for retiring general bonds, and interest on bonds outstanding, the sum of \$6,963.65; and for library purposes, the sum of \$1,832.48; making a grand total of \$35,660.98. Out of this however, only \$26,864.84 was available for general city purposes, as stated. Let us see how much will be spent in the fiscal year 1912-1913:

Salaries of city officers	\$3,388.00
Street and Alley expenses (last two months estimated)	4,482.72
Street lighting	6,500.00
Sewer expenses (last two months estimated)	958.29
Bridge expenses	3,177.23
Miscellaneous expenses (last two months estimated)	3,179.72
Maintaining Improved Roads (last two months estimated)	1,188.43
Park expenses (for cleaning parks)	75.00
Total	\$30,949.39

It will thus be seen that the City of Highland Park's annual expenses now exceed its annual income by about four thousand (\$4,000.00) dollars.

There seems to be a general impression that our taxes are so high that the city ought to have ample funds for all its needs. The public generally, does not seem to understand that only a small portion of what they pay is available for the use of the city. The assessed valuation of all property in the City of Highland Park is \$1,815,645.00. The people of Highland Park now pay in taxes for all purposes except schools and the East Park District, the sum of \$72,081.09. This is distributed as follows:

To the State of Illinois	\$6,896.45
To the County of Lake	10,167.61
To the Town of Deerfield	1,089.59
To the Township Highway Commissioners	11,075.43
To the Public Library	2,178.77
To the City of Highland Park, bond tax, for retiring bonds and interest	18,882.70
To the City of Highland Park, for general corporate purposes	21,787.74
Total	\$72,081.09

*NOTE: The city will receive their pro-rata share of this amount. In the past this has been between \$3,000.00 and \$4,000.00.

The people of Highland Park are also taxed for the maintenance of their schools, as follows:

District 107	\$32,500.87
District 108	17,457.17
High School	18,862.98
Total	\$68,820.72

They are also taxed for the Highland Park East Park District, the sum of \$3,828.67.

It will thus be seen that the people of Highland Park pay annually in general taxes, the sum of \$140,911.81, but that the city itself for its general corporate purposes, receives only the amount of \$27,787.74, plus three or four thousand dollars to come from the Township Highway Commissioners, as set forth above and an amount necessary to retire bonds and interest on bonds outstanding.

In the face of these figures, it will be interesting to note the fact that our neighbor, the City of Lake Forest, operating under a special charter, is now able to raise for general corporate purposes, approximately forty-five thousand (\$45,000.00) dollars per year. This has enabled Lake Forest to finance itself without recourse to a bonded debt. The bonded debt of High-

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JACOB VETTER

Born June 30, 1847, Died Mar. 24, 1913



Mr. Jacob Vetter, one of the oldest and best known residents in Highland Park died after a prolonged illness, at eight fifteen o'clock on Monday morning at his home at 414 McDaniel Avenue. He had lived here continuously for the past forty-two years, and had always, with the exception of the past few years when prevented by illness, identified himself with affairs tending to the welfare of this city and was proud of its growth from a small village of a few hundred to a model city. Mr. Vetter was born at Merkingen in the kingdom of Wurtemberg, Germany, where he spent the early years of his life. At the age of twenty, in the year 1867 he migrated to America coming to Chicago where he remained for a short time, thence to Deerfield where he lived several years, he then went to Ohio where he remained one year, returning in the year 1870, in the year 1871 he was married to Elizabeth Schmeleber of North Northfield locating at Highland Park, engaging in farming and gardening.

Mr. Vetter was active in church work, affiliating himself with the Evangelical Association in the year 1868. He was the first member of that church in Highland Park. Long before that denomination had a place of worship here, he, for many years attended with his family, and was a member of the Evangelical church at Deerfield, until that denomination built a church here about the year 1880, when he transferred his membership and remained until the end.

For the past seven years he had been ailing from chronic rheumatism, at times so severe as to confine him to his bed for months at a time. The disease broke a complication which gradually broke his otherwise strong constitution and he was taken seriously sick in March, 1913, and suffered intensely until the end.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. J. Vetter, 3 sons, G. L., W. F., and A. E. Vetter of this city; 2 daughters, Mrs. A. H. Frank of Evanston, Ill., and Mrs. A. S. Loomis of Belvidere, Ill.; 2 brothers of Merkingen, Germany; 12 grandchildren, and many other relatives.

The funeral was held at 12:30 o'clock on Wednesday from the family residence, interment at North Northfield.

SHEAHEN SITE SELECTED

School Board Votes Unanimously to Purchase Site Receiving the Plurality Vote

At an adjourned meeting of the Board of Education for District 107 a resolution to authorize negotiations for the purchase of the property on Green Bay Road known as the Sheahan site was passed by a unanimous vote. This site received a plurality vote in the last school election but not a majority of all the votes cast. According to the law the selection of a site then devolved upon the Board of Education. The action taken last Thursday evening is a confirmation of the wishes of the majority of voters who expressed a preference for either of the two sites submitted.

LOCAL STORES IN FINE CONDITION

Food Inspectors Report Food Stuffs Carefully Protected

That Highland Park merchants take excellent precautions is a statement which will give relief and satisfaction to the people of this city. This statement was made by two food inspectors, Mr. H. G. Rodenberg and Mr. Charles Wandrack who were sent out from Chicago to visit the groceries, meat markets, restaurants and all places where food is sold.

SECOND CITY TICKET CIRCULATING PETITION

NO ELECTION FOR ASST SUPERVISOR

Four Candidates are out for Alderman in the First Ward, Making one of the Warmest Contests in its History

Second City Ticket

As a result of the meeting at Library Hall Saturday night petitions will shortly be filed, placing in nomination a second city ticket. The ticket will be complete with the exception of city treasurer, it being decided by those present at the meeting that they would support Frank Green, the nominee on the first ticket announced, for that office. The second party's candidate for mayor will be F. P. Hawkins, for city attorney, E. S. Gall and for city clerk, G. L. Vetter.

First Ward Getting Warm

Since our last issue petitions have been filed by Thomas Sleeman, for alderman from the first ward on the Non-Partisan ticket; Alvin B. Hill for alderman from the first ward on the People's ticket; A. A. Moses for alderman from the first ward on the Constructive Party ticket, and Frank Sheahan is also circulating a petition for first ward alderman.

No Election for Assistant Supervisor

Following advice of attorneys, Town Clerk E. E. Farmer, has refused to place the names of the various candidates for the office of assistant supervisor, to fill the vacancies caused by the resignation of H. M. Prior, on the ballots for the town election. Mr. Farmer states that his advice is to the effect that such a vacancy can only be filled at a special election, called for that purpose, or by appointment by the town board.

OPENING OF SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOM

Young Men of United Evangelical Church to be Congratulated upon Good Work

The United Evangelical Church will formally open their new basement Friday evening. The history of the development of this work presents some interesting features. The work was undertaken by the young men of the church and carried to completion with the co-operation of the pastor, Rev. Van Evers and the men of the church. All work was done by the men of the church including excavating, masonry, plastering, carpentry, painting and plumbing. The work of the young men deserves the highest commendation although they modestly concede all the honors to their energetic "boss on the job", the pastor.

The basement as completed consists of a main room 27x34 feet with an "L" 14x22 with 8 1/2 ft. ceilings, 2 toilet rooms, 2 cloak rooms, cupboards, etc. The room is primarily to be used for the lower grades of the Sunday school, but is also fitted for social purposes. The young men have prepared an unique program for the opening Friday night to which they extend a cordial invitation to friends and patrons of the church. A luncheon will be served free. It will benefit you to see the splendid room prepared by these young men and enjoy with them a pleasant and profitable evening. Not only was the work given voluntarily but the money contributed was without solicitation. Nearly the entire amount has been paid in and it is hoped that their opening will easily meet the small deficit.

SEVEN SUPPLEMENTALS RECOMMENDED

Board of Local Improvements Meet in Interesting Session Last Night

At a meeting Wednesday night the Board of Local Improvements recommended and adopted resolutions that a supplemental assessment be made against property benefited by the following improvements: Paving Park Avenue; Paving Elm Place and Linden Park Place; Paving Hazel Ave. from St. Johns Ave. to Forest Ave.; Water main on Rice St. from Cary Ave. to Roger Williams Ave.; Water Main on Lincoln Ave. from Forest Ave. to Beach St.; Paving First St. and Oakwood Ave. from Elm Place to Green Bay Road; Paving Oak St. and Broadway.

CHILDREN HAVE BETTER PROTECTION

C. & N. W. Crossing at Elm Place to be Better Guarded

A flagman had been put some time ago on the street level at the Elm Place crossing between the hours of 7:30 and 9:30 a. m. The flagman will from now on be at the crossing between 11:00 a. m. and 1:30 p. m. and between 3:00 p. m. and 5:00 p. m. in addition to the morning hours. This protection to school children is the satisfactory result of an effort made by the Parents and Teachers Association.