

WINNETKA WEEKLY TALK

Nearly Everybody In Winnetka Reads The Talk

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COMMERCIAL ASS'N OPPOSES PLAN TO ABOLISH JUSTICES

Resolution Denouncing Plan Introduced at Constitutional Convention by Amos Miller of Kenilworth, Delegate From This District, Will Be Sent to All Commercial and Business Clubs in the State

The New Trier Commercial association has gone on record as being opposed to the proposed action of the Constitutional Convention to abolish justice courts. At a meeting in the Library hall at Wilmette Wednesday night a resolution was passed expressing the disapproval of the association and a copy of the resolution will be sent to all of the commercial clubs in the state and to Amos Miller of Kenilworth, who is the delegate from this district to the Constitutional Convention.

The Resolution

Whereas, Amos Miller, one of the delegates to the Constitutional Convention of the Seventh district in which we live, has introduced a proposal in said convention providing for the unification of all the courts of this state under the head, "Control and management of Supreme Courts judges, sheriffs and clerks of the Circuit Court should be appointed by or on the recommendation of the Supreme Court and the District judges, constables and clerks, to be appointed by the circuit court and doing away with all justices and police courts; and

Whereas, this proposal is supported and indorsed by Hiram T. Gilbert, the American Judicature Society, the Chicago Daily Tribune, the Chicago Daily News, the Chicago Motor club and other propogandists; therefore Be it resolved that The New Trier Commercial association representing practically all the merchants, business and professional men of Wilmette, Kenilworth, Gross Point, Winnetka and Glencoe, is unalterably opposed to doing away with the justice courts and to any plan of appointing judges. We indignantly refuse to give up the rights to elect our own judges, justices and other officers and to govern ourselves.

We resolve further that we unalterably oppose the proposition to consolidate all of the local government of Cook county and refuse to consider coming into Chicago or to come into the jurisdiction of the proposed Metropolitan courts of Chicago and Cook county. We reaffirm our adherence to the principle of local self-government for all municipal communities desiring it.

Resolved further, that we favor building up and improving the justice court system, the poor man's court, because of their efficiency, availability and substantial justice, without the necessity of hiring lawyers (except in important cases) and without any expense to the taxpayers. We believe that justice courts, hear and dispose of seventy percent of all the cases of the people without any expense to the taxpayer. While the higher courts of Cook county alone cost \$3,200,000 a year taking in \$1,200,000, leaving a deficit of direct cost to the taxpayers of \$2,000,000 a year to hear and dispose of the other thirty per cent of the cases.

Resolved finally, that we request the secretary to send a copy of this resolution to all commercial and business men's associations of the state and request them to take similar action. Also to send a copy to each of the delegates of the Constitutional Convention.

Boyer Takes Stand

Judge John F. Boyer of Evanston, president of the Cook county Justice of Peace and Police Magistrate association, made a strong appeal to the members to voice their disapproval of the abolishing of the justice courts. "The office of Justice of the Peace," said Judge Boyer, "has been in existence since 1682. It was brought over here from the English people. It seems rather funny that after all these years it should suddenly be discovered that Justices of the Peace, Police Magistrates and Constables are damned raskels."

"I can't see why Amos Miller wants to abolish the system unless there is some motive back of his action. Franklin Childs, another ardent opposer, recently represented the Chicago Motor club. I have tried lots of speeders whom Childs defended, but I have never fined one but what I could look him in the eye and tell him that I thought that I

was right. When we stop to think that there were over 400 deaths in Cook county last year caused by speeders we must realize that it is a very serious matter and must be dealt with in a serious way.

Would Avoid Politics

"If we were to abolish the justice system and have instead district judges, these judges would owe their soul and body to the power which had appointed them. Would that be putting justice into politics or not? The justice of the peace is the only remedy that a poor man has. The municipal courts are not a poor man's court. He is not even allowed to plead his case but must be represented by an attorney. Where would the business man be who had to hire an attorney to collect a \$10 bill?"

J. P. Not a Grafter

"Last year the justices were allowed to advance their fees one dollar and the constables were allowed a fifty cent increase for their services. This is the first increase in years. During the last five years the cost of living has increased by leaps and bounds yet because we are granted one dollar for handling a case we are grafters. Is it fair?"

Not Talking For Himself

"I am not talking for myself, for my time is limited, but I am talking for those who are to follow me. I believe that the justice courts are the only place where a poor man can right the wrongs which he suffers. I am interested in the welfare of the people of the future as well as today. "I know there are many men who are justices who are not fit to hold the job. But is it right to condemn the whole for the faults of the few. A bad justice of the peace can easily be eliminated by the proper use of the ballot. A justice cannot have friends everywhere. Jesus Christ had enemies who hung him to the cross."

Judge Falk and Leo Dean also spoke favoring the justices and the resolution was passed without a dissenting vote.

N. T. C. A. DOES NOT FAVOR NEW FEDERAL COMMISSION

Report of Dr. L. C. Ayres Shows Work of Illinois Highway Commission Preferable

At the meeting of the New Trier Commercial association Wednesday night at the Library hall, Wilmette, Dr. L. C. Ayres of Glenview made a report on request of the Federal Highway commission to have a committee from the association co-operate with it in its work.

Dr. Ayres cited the action of the Chicago association of commerce in refusing to back the Federal commission. "There is nothing to be gained," he said, "as a Federal commission would only complicate matters and interfere with the work of our own Illinois association. The Federal association would only make a lot of political jobs. Last year the Illinois commission let contracts for eighteen million dollars worth of hard roads but only four million dollars worth was completed because of the lack of labor."

A resolution was passed that the request of the Federal commission be refused. Dr. Ayres was extended a vote of thanks for his report.

Herbert Sherer, township highway commissioner, told of the work accomplished during the past year. By following the plan of personal supervision a great deal more work has been accomplished than ever before. With the help of an advisory board Mr. Sherer has made a definite plan to be followed. All roads will be the uniform width of sixty-six feet and ditches have been dug accordingly. A complete report of Mr. Sherer's work will be published next week.

IMPROVES FROM OPERATION

William Eckhart, son of J. F. Eckhart of Winnetka, underwent an operation at the Evanston hospital last Friday. His condition is reported to be improving.

\$60,000 Memorial Hall For Winnetka School

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Kuppenheimer Offer Splendid Hall in Memory of Their Daughter Jane

A gift of \$60,000 by Mr. and Mrs. Louis B. Kuppenheimer for the erection of an assembly hall in the new upper grade school on West Elm street, as a memorial to their little daughter, Jane, was announced by the Winnetka Board of Education this week.

The conditions of the gift were that the proposed upper grade school should be erected as planned, on the West Elm street site owned by the Board of Education, and that at least \$300,000 would be spent in the erection of the complete building.

The assembly hall will be known as the Jane Kuppenheimer Memorial. It will seat from one thousand to twelve hundred people, and will be an integral part of the modern intermediate school which the Board of Education plans to erect on its twelve acre site, four and one-half blocks west of the present Horace Mann school. Not only will it serve as a place of assembly for the pupils of this school, but it will also give the village an adequate hall for general meetings at a place situated as near the present center of population as community house, and in such a position that within a few years it will probably be in the exact center. While this assembly hall will be six blocks from the station, it has been pointed out that this distance is not prohibitive even for those who are going to come on the cars, and that in bad weather busses could easily be run from the station to the assembly hall when big public meetings were being held.

Jane Kuppenheimer, in whose memory the assembly hall is being erected, was a pupil in the fourth grade of the Skokie school last year. Her death last summer was felt as a real loss by the teachers and pupils of her school. Friends of the Kuppenheimers and members of the Board of Education have expressed their profound appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Kuppenheimer for memorializing the little girl in a way which would benefit all the children of the village.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IS APPOINTED FOR LEGION

Commander Hardenberg Names the Members of Committee which Will Promote Welfare of Post

At a meeting of the local post of the American Legion Tuesday night Commander Hardenberg named the members of the Executive committee. It is planned to have this committee act in the capacity of a board of directors and dispose of all matters which do not affect the entire post.

The committee will also be called upon to promote the general welfare of the post. It is made up of the following members: Lee Adams, Ayres Boal, Dr. Frank Blatchford, Harve Badgerow, Henry Barroll, James Harris, Jr., Paul Kreger, Frederick Mason, Hoyt McClain, Samuel Otis, John Reilly, Fred Richardson, Harold Snell, Henry Tenney, John Wood, William Wildman, Carl Zeiss and the Rev. E. Ashley Gerhard.

Several sub-committees were also appointed, Entertainment, Harve Badgerow; Legislation and Resolutions, Frederick Mason; Rehabilitation, Rev. E. Ashley Gerhard; War Risk Insurance, Noble Hale; Routine Publicity, Harold Clark; Special Publicity, John Reilly; Finance, Hoyt McClain; Historian, Henry Tenney; House, Ayres Boal. Harve Badgerow, chairman of the Entertainment committee, has named the following sub-committees: Indoor Baseball and Boxing, Paul Kreger; Cards, Herbert Zipf; Music, Instrumental, Arthur Kassner, Vocal, John Wood; Fencing, Fred Mason; Bowling, Clarence Happ.

Captain Redington, who was scheduled to speak at the meeting was unable to attend, but Miss Eleanor West and Miss Elizabeth Hinde, the two fair-sex members of the post, were present. They were not called on during the meeting but they were strong rivals to the card tables when the social hour started. Both of these young ladies served in the French army during the war, Miss West as a chauffeur and Miss Hinde as a nurse. Miss West was wounded.

The next meeting will be held on February 24. This promises to be an exceedingly interesting meeting as Lieut. Beeze, a Winnetka man who was on the N. C. 4, will tell of that memorable flight.

LAUNCH CAMPAIGN TO RAISE \$350,000 FOR NEW SCHOOL

Laird Bell, President of the Board of Education, Announces Opening of House-to-House Campaign to Raise Funds for Building on West Elm Street Site at Greeley School Meeting Thursday Evening.

A village-wide campaign for the collection of \$350,000 to erect a new school building was launched by the Board of Education at an open meeting held in the Greeley school Thursday evening. The Board presented in full its plans for Winnetka's new school building, illustrating the needs of the schools and the financial situation.

Run Into Hotbed

The residents of the southeast section of the village are opposed in a body to the proposed west Elm street site. The sentiment of the meeting clearly showed that the majority of those in attendance were firm in their conviction that the new site would not answer their needs. Roland Whitman, who came to the meeting as he said with an open mind, said, "I believe that the school board is convinced in its own mind that it is doing the right thing, but I can see by the sentiment which is expressed here that the people have not been convinced. Allan Wolf, S. C. Hancock and W. A. Thrall were also strong speakers for the opposition."

A petition asking for three eight-grade schools in Winnetka has been circulated in the southeast section. It already carries more than two hundred and fifty names and it is said that only two or three people in that district have refused to sign. The petition is as follows:

The Petition

"To the School Board of the Village of Winnetka:

"The undersigned residents and taxpayers of the Village of Winnetka respectfully request that the necessary arrangements be made by you to have full eight grade schools at the Skokie, Horace Mann and Samuel Sewell Greeley schools beginning with the next school year, the fall of 1920."

Superintendent C. W. Washburne

PRESERVE SKOKIE AS PARK FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

"Skokie Day" at Community House Shows Necessity of Immediate Action to Preserve Skokie

"Skokie Day" at the Community House Wednesday, while it did not result in any definite action being taken by those who attended, forcibly brought the people the necessity of taking some immediate action to preserve the Skokie for the future.

"We must provide a breathing space for the people of Chicago," said Jens Jensen, the noted landscape architect, who spoke at the afternoon meeting. Mr. Jensen told of the historical value of the Skokie and of its future value provided the proper steps are taken now to preserve it. Mr. von Hofsten's exhibit of Skokie paintings drew wonderful praise and appreciation from all.

Professor Jesse L. Smith of Highland Park spoke at the evening meeting of the possibilities of future development in the Skokie. William S. Elliott, president of the Winnetka Park district, told of the early work of that body toward the ultimate end of preserving the Skokie as a park. Mr. Elliott is strongly in favor of the Skokie being made a part of the Cook county forest preserve. Rev. J. W. F. Davies said that the entire north shore would eventually become a great city and that it was necessary to provide parks now for the future generations.

CHICAGOAN TO PREACH

Rev. John P. Sanderson of Chicago, D. D., will preach at the Winnetka Congregational church Sunday. Mr. Richards has gone east to fill several engagements at Wellesley college, Walnut Hill school and his former church in Boston.

TO LEAVE WINNETKA

Mrs. Florence Preston, temporarily employed in the offices of the village, expects to leave Winnetka about April 1.

first spoke of the crowded conditions of the schools, and showed the educational value of a centralized upper grade school with ample playground space. President Laird Bell of the Board of Education then told of the various financial alternatives which had confronted the Board in its effort to solve the problem of housing Winnetka's rapidly increasing school population. He pointed out the general popular subscription for the erection of the new building.

Object to Distance

Following Mr. Washburne's talk there was a vigorous discussion. A number of people present objected to the distance of the new school building from the south-east end of the village. They proposed as an alternative that the Board of Education erect three departmental schools, one each on the Greeley, Skokie and West Elm street site, or that it dispense with departmental work altogether and revert to the old-fashioned eight grade school.

In reply to these objections Mr. Washburne said the board proposed to run school busses for such children as could not walk to the new building. He then pointed out the fact that the expense of building, equipping and running three departmental schools instead of one was prohibitive; that such additional building would encroach so seriously upon the playground space at Skokie and Greeley as to interfere with the highly necessary work in physical education; and that a reversion to the undepartmentalized eight grade school was educationally a backward step. He showed that a careful scientific study had been made by leading educators in all parts of the country, and that the undepartmentalized upper grades had been shown so conclusively to be inefficient that progressive educational systems everywhere had adopted the departmental plan.

Schools Inadequate Now

"The present housing facilities of the Winnetka Public Schools said Mr. Washburne," are totally inadequate to the present school population. At the same time the school population is rapidly increasing, and it is imperative that relief be found at once.

"The proper capacity of the present school buildings--that is the number of pupils who can be housed without crowding--is about 760. Our total enrollment at the end of this school year will be close to 1020. The difference between these two figures represents the extent of the congestion from which we are present suffering.

"It will not take much stretch of your imagination to see that our teaching necessarily suffers from such make-shifts as are necessary in view of such crowded conditions. If the school population were not growing, relief would be necessary in order to bring our schools up to anything like the standard which they should attain. But the school population is growing rapidly. The average increase during the past five years has been 12½ per cent a year.

On the basis of these statistics, and in order to obviate the present congested condition, we will need next year at least 15 more rooms, a year after 19 rooms, and within three years a minimum of 24 rooms.

Require Centralization

The question arises whether these rooms should be added to the three present buildings, or whether most of them should be concentrated in one new building. From both the educational and financial standpoint there is only one answer. In education, as in business, it has been found that efficient administration and organization require centralization.

A careful study of educational conditions throughout the country by the ablest American educators has revealed the fact that the weak spot in elementary education is the upper grades. It is in the 6th, 7th and 8th grades that pupils begin to lose interest in their work, that discipline problems become acute, that truancy and the tendency to leave school become marked, and that the training