

## REFORM BODY REVIEWS YEAR'S ACHIEVEMENTS

### North Shore Leaders Assist in Bringing About Numerous Civic Improvements

A note of optimism pervades the fifty-first annual report of the Citizens' Association of Chicago, the oldest civic reform organization in America, with which several north shore men are affiliated in an official capacity and which was made public this week.

In addition to lending its influence to the prevention of legislative measures designed to place public pensions, involving the expenditure of millions of dollars of public funds, under control of groups of public employes, the association was also instrumental in securing important improvements in civic matters relating to the City of Chicago. In the matter of public pension, the association employed its influence in securing the establishment of a City Pension commission, appointed by Mayor William E. Dever of which one member is the president of the Citizens' Association of Chicago. The association also obtained the disbarment of John P. Reed, alleged unscrupulous pension attorney who, it was said, had defrauded widows of policemen in the matter of their just pension claims.

#### Win Sanitary Case

The association, according to the report, gained a favorable decision in the Appellate court in a taxpayers' suit, instituted three years ago, attacking the legality of the payment of more than a million dollars as "extras" by the Sanitary District trustees to the Illinois Improvement and Ballast company, in connection with the contract for the construction of the North Shore Intercepting sewer. The Appellate court declared the contract null and void and ordered an accounting.

Replacement of hundreds of electric lamp posts in Chicago, declared to have been faultily installed by contractors, were brought about through the instrumentality of the association, the report states.

#### Convict Ballot-Stuffers

Eleven persons, charged with ballot-box stuffing at the election April 7, 1925, were given jail sentences as the result of the prosecution of election fraud cases by the association, it is explained. The Chicago Bar association aided in the prosecution.

The association favored a bill in the state legislature authorizing a general registration for elections only once in four years, instead of two years; the annual intermediate registration in the precincts to be handled by only two election officials, instead of by five as at present; registration on any business day at the office of the election commissioners in the City hall. This bill, it is pointed out, would have meant a saving to the taxpayers of about \$250,000 annually, was passed by both branches of the legislature but vetoed by Governor Small.

#### Want Independent Voting

Arranging names of candidates by office, rather than by party, has been suggested by the association, a move designed to encourage independent voting in the instance of all candidates.

The association lauds Mayor Dever's administration, declaring that "the City government is gradually but steadily being reclaimed from the almost incredible state of demoralization to which it had been reduced during the eight years of misrule under Mayor Thompson."

Tribute is paid to the memory of Frederick W. Burlingham, of Winnetka, former vice-president of the association and a member of its board of directors for 25 years, who passed away during the fiscal year just closed. Similar tribute is paid to the late

Victor F. Lawson, a member of the association almost from its inception.

#### State Organization's Aims

The aims and purposes of the association supported by voluntary subscriptions, are given as follows:

"To insure a more perfect administration in our municipal affairs; to promote the general welfare and prosperity of the City; to protect citizens, so far as possible, against the evils of careless or corrupt legislation; to effect the prompt enforcement and execution of the law; to correct existing abuses, and to prevent their future recurrence."

North shore men who are active in

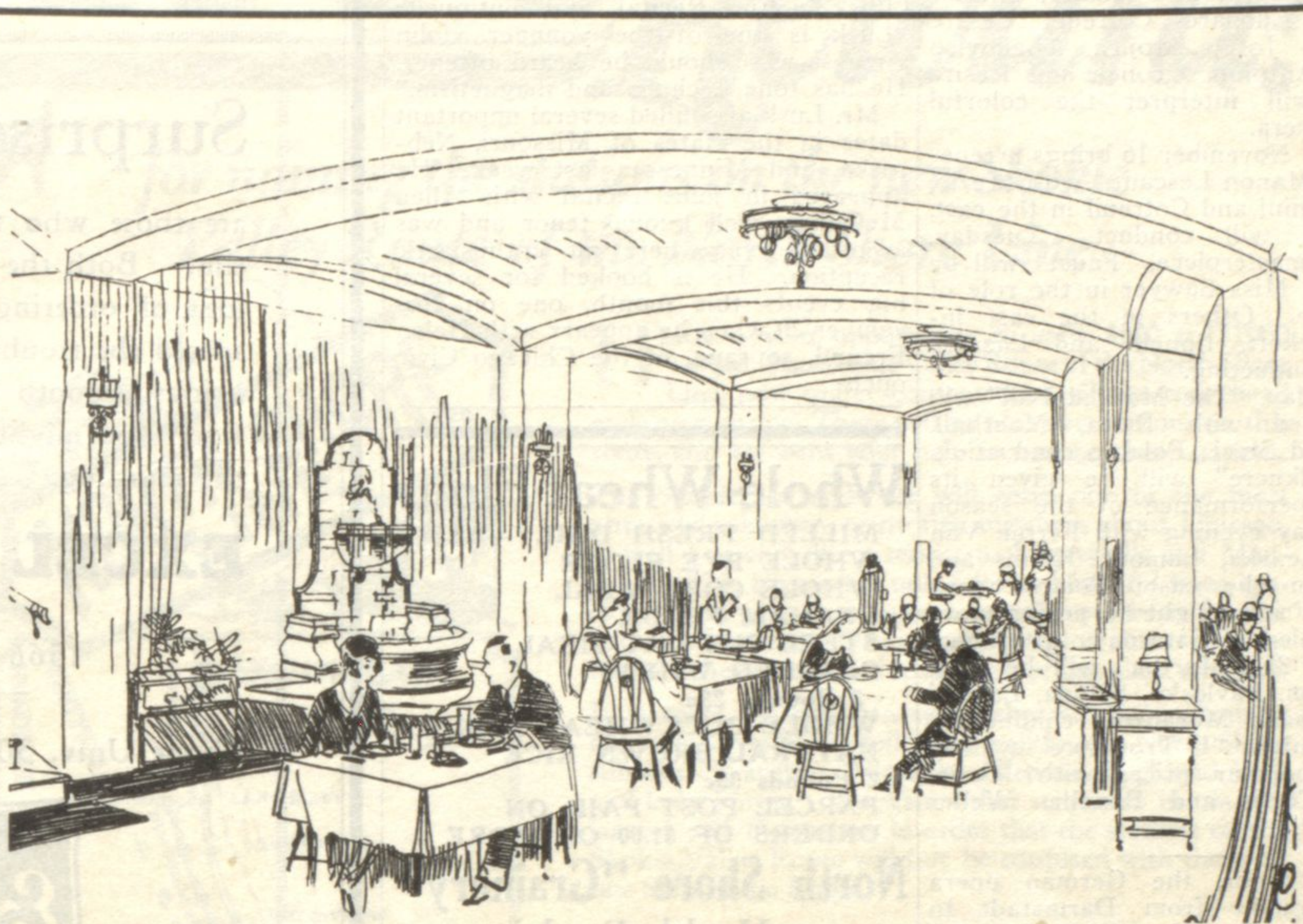
the association's work include George E. Cole, honorary president and director; Leslie F. Gates, first vice-president; Shelby M. Singleton, secretary and attorney; Wilford C. Shurtleff, director—all residents of Wilmette; and Roy C. Osgood, director, of Kenilworth. Augustus S. Peabody is president of the organization.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ketcham, 40 Devonshire lane, Kenilworth, motored to Champaign for the Illinois-Chicago game and then spent the week-end at Joliet with Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt Stillman.

### New Trier Faculty Men Are Guests at Dinner

The men of the New Trier High school faculty attended a dinner given for them by the men of the Deerfield-Shields High school faculty at Highland Park Tuesday evening of this week. Besides the dinner there was a special program of entertainment. Last year the New Trier men were hosts to those of Deerfield-Shields. About 30 men from New Trier attended the dinner.

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