

WINNETKA TALK

ISSUED SATURDAY OF EACH WEEK

by

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Indifference

In 1924 there were, according to published statistics, 1,700,000 men and women in Cook county who were eligible to vote in the primary elections. Of this number 204,510 voted for Len Small at the gubernatorial nomination, enough to make him the choice of his party for the highest office in the state.

The figures tell only part of the story, of course, but they do show that only a small proportion of eligible voters take the trouble to express their choice as to candidates in the primary elections. This comes partly from a misapprehension on the part of a considerable number of the importance of the primary. "Only a primary" is too often heard to leave one in doubt as to the general attitude of the voter towards this preliminary election. As a real matter of fact, however, it is of greater importance than the regular election, for it gives to the people of the party the opportunity to put the best available material on the ballots.

There is too little difference between the two major parties for the label to make any very great difference in state politics. It is the men themselves that should be weighed. Indifference on the part of the electorate to the party primary is responsible for the necessity of choice between two poor candidates, a situation that often confronts the conscientious voter. Such an occasion offers opportunity to the stay-at-home to justify his action. He forgets that it is because he, and his kind, have failed to vote on the primary election day that there is no better material available for the office to be filled.

During the incumbency of Governor Small we in Illinois have had ample opportunity to see what happens when the intelligent portion of the electorate absents itself from the polls. The ignorant and easily fooled, the "payrollers," and the patronage seekers are not among those who tarry with their own affairs on election day. They are busy, as the count of votes tells only too plainly. Until we can exhibit some such interest and concern in the cause of the honest and efficient candidate at the primaries we shall have just such conditions as are revealed by the figures in our opening paragraph.

Tuberculosis

It is always encouraging to see the results of effort. Particularly so in the case of effort that is directed to the public weal. And it is a good result that is seen from the work that has been put into the eradication of tuberculosis from among the ills that afflict us. The report of the year just closed shows that the mortality rate from

this disease has dropped two points, from 81 to 79 per hundred thousand. That it is still too high is stimulating to further effort, for it was not expected that such a terrible curse, so deeply rooted, could be cured in the short time that has measured the campaign against tuberculosis.

It is not only in the reduction of the death rate that the campaign against the white plague is important. It is in what it reveals of the lessons learned by those who are afflicted in how to live to effect a cure. Sane and careful living habits are taught with the cure, and with that teaching goes the protection of others from infection. There is security for the well foretold in the progress of the war upon tuberculosis, as well as hope for the sick.

Twelve years have been added to the span of life in America in the last half century, a blessing that has come not only from a fuller understanding of the nature and treatment of disease, but of how to prevent the spread of contagion. Epidemics are no longer looked upon as a dispensation of Providence, expected to take their toll of all but the fortunate few. We know their nature and how to stamp them out, how to limit their spread.

It is this knowledge concerning tuberculosis that is quite as important in its effect upon the future of America as the increase of skill in treatment. Eradication of the disease will be accomplished quite as much by the prevention of new cases as by the cure of those who have become its victims.

Progress

"**T**HINKING, talking, and acting progress is the quickest and surest way to bring prosperity." We agree heartily with this statement in the creed of the Glencoe Chamber of Commerce. If a man or a community wants to be prosperous, the man or the community must concentrate on progress. Keeping progress in the spotlight is, barring accidents, bound to result in prosperity.

All of these activities—thinking, talking, acting—are essential. Not one of them can be dispensed with. It's positively bad to think progress without talking or acting it. It's like continuously building castles in the air, not trying to realize them in actual stone and wood. Nor is it enough to think and talk; there must be action.

If the merchants in a town wish to increase their business they must first have the goods, and then they and the townspeople must think, talk, and act progress. The virtues of the town must be emphasized, and the defects must be gotten rid of. Facts must be adhered to in the thinking and talking.

One of the most important factors in the progressive movement on the north shore is without doubt the work of the chambers of commerce. They have rendered invaluable service in maintaining and increasing civic pride and also in strengthening co-operation between citizens and merchants.

Our co-editor had half a mind to compete in the North Shore Open skating contest and win the solid silver skates. In his day he was the Hans Brinker of northern Ohio and could cut the double dutch and make figure eights all around his fellow skaters. We advised him against entering this recent contest, knowing his reckless tendencies.

Shore Lines

HOME TIES

*Crackling wood in the fireplace,
Daddy in the hall;
Mother smiles her greetings,
Baby brings her ball.*

*Loving thoughts on the threshold,
Always make the home—
Golden threads to bind us
No matter where we roam.*

—MISS ANONYMOUS.

Glancing over the pages of a Chicago newspaper we are impressed with the magnificent three-ring circus now being staged in this land of the free. In one ring we have the Countess Cathcart farce, in which Secretary of Labor James J. Davis takes a prominent part, although we are unable to tell at this writing whether he is the clown or the ringmaster. Then, in the middle ring, there is the great Mississippi ape-legislation act, with a cast composed (apparently) entirely of clowns. In the third ring, ladies and gentlemen, we have the world's greatest domestic drama, featuring the Stillmans, billed as the knock-down, drag-out, no-holds-barred champions of the world, in their newest piece entitled "An Amazing Interlude."

BEATING R. H. L. TO 'EM

"What is a hug?"

"Energy gone to waist."

—NEW TRIER NEWS.

"After all, where would woman be with her finery?"

"Presumably in her bath."

—NEW TRIER NEWS.

—O—

"It must be three years since I saw you last. I hardly knew you—you have aged so."

"Really? Well, I wouldn't have known you except for that dress."

—NEW TRIER NEWS.

BACHELORS

*Bachelors! What a title!
It is only there to tempt,
And tempt it does,
For we all know it isn't really meant.*

*A laugh—a curl—a dimple,
A moon and music low
Makes it very simple.
For all we maidens know
That somewhere there's a weakness
In that wall around his heart;
It is up to us to find it—
Then from "bachelorhood" he'll part.*

A WOLVERINE.

With all the beautiful weather we have had during the past week we are expecting a rush of spring poetry for our next issue. We do hope our contribs will be seasonable and send in beautiful little things about violets, blue eyes, roses, blue skies or anything along the spring poetry line. At this time of year even an old bachelor like us may be pardoned for waxing slightly romantic.

We noticed a full page spread in the New Trier News last week, in a section known as "The Red Corpuscle," under the title "Glorifying the American Cow." Just wait until Dr. Herman N. Bundesen of Chicago hears of this. And then, on the other hand, just wait until it reaches the ears of Flo Ziegfeld. We feel that we must lodge a protest against this newest movement. Young cows are giddy enough these days, as it is, what with all the publicity attendant upon the Kane and McHenry county scandals, recently exposed in the Chicago press. We should hate to see any young cow of our acquaintance glorified—we fear she would become quite unfitted for the placid and domestic life which is her natural heritage.

THE SLAVE.