

### Winnetka's Early Problems Told

Editor's Note: The following is the inaugural address of Hon. Artemus Carter on entering upon his fourth term as president of Winnetka. It was published in the Chicago Evening Journal on April 13, 1872. This address was furnished to WINNETKA TALK by William A. Hadley, in connection with recent dedication of the new Village hall. It throws an interesting light upon the problems of the early village administrations of Winnetka.

#### TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF WINNETKA:

Gentlemen:

I congratulate you that the votes of the people have, with such unanimity, placed you in offices of so much responsibility and power. Such an expression by the people is a high compliment; and in the case of those who were in the same offices before, and have been re-elected, it carries with it the additional significance of an indorsement of your past conduct in the administration of the affairs of the village. But the real honor or dishonor to each of you, personally, will, after all, depend on how you shall see fit to exercise the trusts conferred.

"To you, in your collective capacity as the council of the village, is intrusted the entire law-making power of the municipality. The President has only to preside in your meetings, vote in cases of tie, and carry into effect the ordinances you may lawfully pass. The powers conferred on your body by the charter of this village extend to as wide a range of subjects and are as far reaching in themselves as those conferred on Boards of Aldermen in the more populous cities of the State. "To use them or not to use them is left to your discretion under your sense of what is right and proper. By virtue of your honorable offices you become the guardians of the interests and the honor of the corporation. Your oaths of office bind you alike to exercise every power that you constitutionally may to promote the highest prosperity of the village, and to abstain from all action that is injurious and unjust.

#### Favors Active Policy

"My wishes in regard to the policy to be pursued in the administration of the affairs of the Village have been

so often expressed, and are so well understood by our people, that I need not at any great length repeat them. You will find me, gentlemen, always in favor of an active and not a torpid policy of progress, and not retrogression. I may say less, but I hope to do more than in any year of our municipal corporate life to open and improve roads; to fill up and improve the schools and to promote the growth of our beautiful village. I understand very well that it is not what I may say, but what you may do, that is the vital and all-important thing to the Village and the people.

"When a large number of the older citizens met at the residence of Mr. Wright, in the winter of 1868-9, to consult together and agree upon a charter, the interests of education became very prominent in their consideration. There was a feeling, shared in by all, that the legitimate and proper growth of the place had been hindered, more than by all things else, by the absence of any school advantages here over and above one very respectable district school. Out of this feeling sprang Section 1 of Article 4 of our charter, which was presented by Mr. Atwood and adopted with entire unanimity.

#### Work for School

"Under the clear and explicit grant of power in that clause of the charter, and for the attainment of an object commending itself to every good citizen, and especially to every parent, land has been purchased, and first a college building, and then a dormitory, have been built. Bonds have been issued to pay for this land and these buildings, and the full cost up to this time has been the net proceeds of the sale of twenty-five bonds, each of one thousand dollars. The bonds were sold at ninety-five cents on the dollar and no commissions, and no advertising expenses were paid for negotiating. These services, like all the services of the president and the successive trustees for three years have been gratuitously rendered.

"There has been some difference of opinion as to the best method of using our college buildings, and the whole subject has more than once been discussed and examined with care by the council and in meetings of citizens. But the conclusion reached one year ago after extensive inquiries was that the best course for the village was to lease the premises to the University of Chicago and to have them assume the charge of the institution, binding themselves to the maintenance of a

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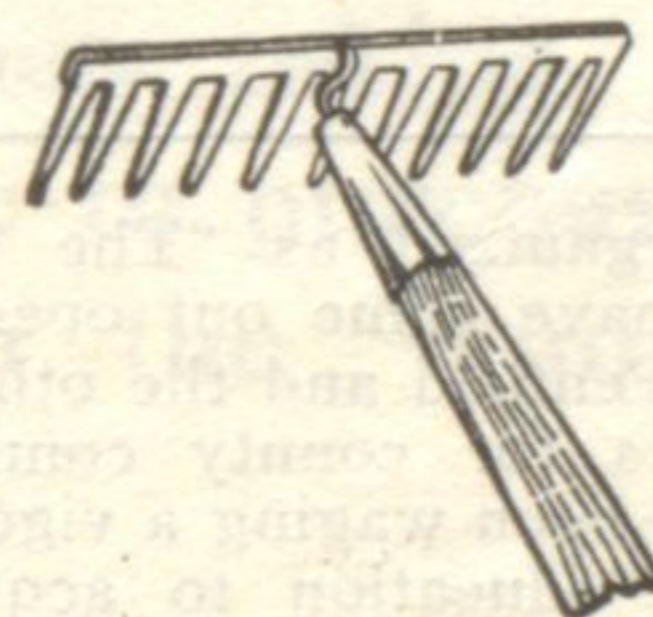
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