

Dwight Star and Herald.

DEVOTED TO LOCAL AND COUNTY INTERESTS AND GENERAL INFORMATION.

VOL. XXVI.

DWIGHT, LIVINGSTON COUNTY, ILL., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1891.

NO. 35

REAL ESTATE! Farm and City Property FOR SALE.

The Choicest Residence Property in the Village of Dwight. Franklin street is 100 FEET WIDE. All other streets 80 FEET.

RENFREW ADDITION.

J. P. McWILLIAMS,

BANK OF DWIGHT. DWIGHT, ILL.

Northwestern Mutual Life Ins. Co.

OF MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN,

Issued on the Life of
GEN. B. R. COWEN,

Cincinnati, Ohio.

A ten payment, nineteen year endowment,
November 7, 1867. Amount, \$5000. Ten Annual Premiums, each, \$374.15. Age, 36.

Amount paid to the insured during and at the end of 19 years
by the company \$6,655.08
Amount paid to company by the insured, (ten annual premiums
of \$374.15) 3,741.50

Profit to insured \$2,913.58

Besides nineteen years of Life Insurance
for nothing. Send your name, and address for
proposition on similar policy.

S. E. HOUSTON, Special Agent,

Drawer 12. DWIGHT, ILL.

AT

The Bargain Store, SATURDAY ONLY.

We will sell (one to each person) a regular 25 cent Hemstitched Handkerchief for 10 cents. We have on hand an entire new stock of Handkerchiefs, Table Linens white and colored, Towels, Men's Furnishing Goods, Ladies and Children's Underwear; Hosiery all sizes and grades, Stationery to suit the most fastidious taste, fifty different kinds of tablets, Toys, Albums, Pocket Books, Jewelry, Confectionary, Fruits, Glassware, Tinware, Games, Brooms, Fancy Vases.

School Supplies a Specialty.

We invite the public to examine our goods. We feel confident we can save you money. Come and let us convince you.

QUICK SALE AND SMALL PROFITS IS OUR MOTTO.

THE BARGAIN STORE-

Call on the Old Reliable Store

OF

M. F. REILLY & CO.,

REDDICK, ILL.,

HEADQUARTERS FOR

General Merchandise

...SUCH AS...

Hardware, Wagons, Buggies, Agricultural Implements, Hard and Soft Coal, Lumber, Grain, Dry Goods, Clothing, Boots and Shoes.

BUSINESS IS BUSINESS.

Our People Will Eventually Find Out the Truth of the Above.

Report and Resolutions Adopted Unanimously.

The Citizens' Committee will Co-operate With the Town Board.

The business men and the law makers of Dwight are once more very forcibly called upon to attend to public business, or the bottom of the healthy little boom which they have been nursing for some time with their eyes shut, will fall out with a "dull thud." When the people of Dwight, in convention assembled, made promises to The Leslie E. Keeley Company, which if carried out, would be satisfactory to them, they meant business. So did the company and it is clearly evident that they do yet. The company immediately showed their faith in the promises made by erecting an elegant office building at a cost of sixty or seventy thousand dollars and invested in many thousand dollars worth of property—probably \$150,000. The town board held meetings and held meetings and schemed three or four months to save \$2,000 on a water works system to a town in which the increase in real estate alone was at least \$50,000 a month. They think they have succeeded, but that remains to be seen. One thing is sure we have no protection yet, and will not have for some time. If the contract had been let at once we would have had a fine system in working order to-day.

Nothing to amount to anything has been done regarding drainage. Nothing has been done toward macadamizing the streets.

The electric light system has not been improved, but Mr. Seigert will add additional power as soon as possible.

These things have been related by the STAR and HERALD many times and probably the truth of our statements stares the people in the face harder than ever.

It did not take Dr. Keeley very long to see these things, and he naturally made up his mind that the people and the authorities were making no effort to fulfill their promises. If Dr. Keeley had seen that even a commencement had been made in the right direction he would have been satisfied. He is well aware that it takes time to do these things, and does not expect anything unreasonable. But, as we understand it, he wants the promises backed up by activity. We think he believes, with many others, that it is not necessary to take six months to find out whether a special assessment can be made or not for public improvements, or four months to find out whether bonds could be issued or not, and many other things that it has taken a ridiculously long time to do.

Tuesday afternoon Dr. Keeley expressed a wish to meet the business men of Dwight and they were notified and most all of them were present. The doctor gave them his views on the subject in his usual earnest manner, and when he finished everyone present was of the opinion that he meant business. Shortly after the meeting adjourned a public meeting was called for the evening of the same day, after the regular council meeting. The meeting was largely attended.

C. L. Romberger stated the object of the meeting, when J. C. Lewis was elected chairman and Wm. G. Dustin secretary.

Col. R. P. Morgan opened the speech making relating the story about the Democratic convention in Bloomington. "All was quiet in the convention for about fifteen minutes when a delegate arose and said, 'Let Us Pray.'" He said that the conditions in Dwight were new both to the people and the municipal officers, and they were consequently embarrassed by a pressure never known before. These conditions were what we are assembled to discuss. Agreements were made at the last public meeting between the Leslie E. Keeley company, the people, the railroad, which has only been partially fulfilled. Certain things were to have been done promptly, and if they were done the Keeley Company would stay. Also a park had been given the people under the same conditions. The people were not rapid enough. He was in favor of energy in this matter. If a city organization would benefit us, let us have it. It was a golden opportunity and he was in favor of improving it. Anything for the advancement of Dwight would always receive his hearty support.

Chas. L. Romberger thought Col. Morgan had struck the key note. He had not looked into the matter of special assessments, but if they could not be made, he was in favor of organization into a city immediately.

He also stated his position in regard to the proposed reception. He was in favor of making all the improvements, and if it could not be done under our present government, or under city government then go down in our pockets and do it. He also stated that if these were not attended to Dr. Keeley had informed him that he would remove his business from the town inside of three months. This must not be. He was in favor of any fair, honorable means of raising the money, and was sure it could be done under city organization.

Wm. Taylor thought money could be raised by special assessment; that it had been in other towns. He was in favor of it, did not expect any benefit but would willingly stand his share.

Mayor Thompson thought special assessment was all right, but that it was impossible to assess those that were benefited by that part of the water works system that was finished. He thought only those benefited hereafter could be assessed.

Wm. Ketcham, form "wild and woolly" Kansas, thought all that was asked for would be done. He fully realized the situation, and would willingly pay his share of the taxes, or go down in his pocket if necessary. We had the grandest institution on God's green earth, and if we expect to keep it we must get a hustle on ourselves. Make a city out of Dwight. We are as good as Pontiac or any other place. Did not blame Keeley. He brought representatives from all over the world here and the city should be so that we are not ashamed of it.

Mr. Morgan said that if the town plat was properly surveyed, plenty of fall would be found for good drainage.

Mayor McKay, of Pontiac, was called on and said that he saw that public improvements were far behind private improvements, and that if there were any kickers against improving the town they should be kicked out of town. He said he didn't blame the town board if they didn't have the money.

Col. Morgan made a motion "That this meeting appoint three of a committee of five, the Keeley Company to suggest the other two, to carry out the improvements suggested." He said he thought the town board would gladly co-operate with them. The motion was unanimously carried, and the following gentlemen were appointed: Col. R. P. Morgan, C. L. Romberger, Wm. H. Ketcham.

Shortly after this the meeting adjourned, and the committee immediately left for the Keeley Co.'s office. The Co. agrees on the names of Major C. J. Judd and J. C. Lewis as the two remaining members of the committee. The committee met Wednesday morning. The following is their full report to the citizens meeting held last night at the town house.

To the Citizens of Dwight:

Your committee appointed at the citizens' meeting on the evening of Nov. 10th, to confer with the Leslie E. Keeley Co., and the trustees, and if possible devise ways and means to secure the pledges of the citizens to The Leslie E. Keeley Co., the railroad company and Mr. McWilliams, and also consider and report to a call meeting of the citizens fully upon the just and proper way to secure the faithful performance of the obligations of all parties interested in the water works.

In the first question considered was "What pledges and mutual agreements were made in May last, between the citizens of Dwight, and The Leslie E. Keeley Co., the Railroad Co., and D. McWilliams, and what has been done in the way of fulfilling those pledges."

It is the sense of the committee of this meeting that we desire them to remain in Dwight.

Resolved, That we recommend that on our behalf as a village, we agree to construct waterworks and sewerage of a capacity suitable for the town, grade and macadamize the road from the I. & E. Railroad to the Chicago & Alton depot on East street, and improve the electric light plant.

Resolved, That we donate to The Leslie E. Keeley Company twenty acres of land which is to be used for hotel and business connected with The Leslie E. Keeley Co.

The Leslie E. Keeley Company, accepting these resolutions in good faith, proceeded at once with the construction of elegant and costly buildings for the general offices, laboratory and hotel and other buildings for purposes of its business, and is still engaged in constructing and planning new and larger buildings than those already erected. The Chicago & Alton R. R. company, as an additional inducement to The Leslie E. Keeley Co., agreed through its president, Mr. T. B. Blackstone, to erect a new passenger station suitable for the use of the citizens of Dwight.

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that company. Mr. David McWilliams agreed to give about thirty acres of land for a public park and in fulfillment of that pledge, has made and delivered a deed to the village of Dwight of a tract for that purpose on the north side of the original plot of Dwight, containing thirty-seven (37) acres, and the deed has been accepted by the village trustees.

In respect to what has been done by the village, we have to report:

1st. No improvement has been made in the electric light system, and it is still a most inadequate to the needs of the village.

2nd. While it is true that some improvements have been made on the streets and side walks, it is also true, that those improvements are insufficient and not by any means in full compliance with the pledges made in respect to them, and will be characterized as maintenance only.

In respect to the agreement to construct suitable waterworks, we find—On the 9th of June the trustees invited Geo. C. Morgan to come to Dwight and make an estimate of the cost of a system of waterworks.

On June 16th, the trustees met Mr. Morgan at the town house and received a rough estimate on the cost of a system of waterworks, and he was employed to make plans and specifications for the works he described to them.

On the 14th of July the plans and specifications and estimated cost was presented by Mr. Morgan and accepted by a unanimous vote of the trustees, and an order was drawn for two hundred and fifty-four and 50/100 (\$254.50) dollars in full payment for the same.

On July 26th, on the question of waterworks was again brought up by the village board, and on motion voted that, "we erect a system of waterworks," all voting yea.

And a committee of three were appointed to look after the interest of the village while the waterworks were being constructed, all voting yea.

On motion it was ordered that notice be published for four weeks in the weekly papers of Dwight for proposal on and after Aug. 1st, to construct a system of waterworks according to the plans and specifications on file with the village clerk, all voting yea.

At the meeting of the board, July 29, a committee of three was appointed, and that committee to employ a man and select one of their members to examine waterworks at other places and report to the board.

On Aug. 4th, this committee reported that they had taken the waterworks at Clinton, Petersburg and Mendota, and recommended the system at Clinton, Ill., which was put in by the city.

On motion a committee was appointed to locate the site for the building in East Park and have a six inch well sunk immediately.

On motion the said committee was instructed to arrange plans and specifications, or have it done.

Following this action several propositions of Mr. J. A. Spencer, to furnish water supply to the village were considered, and finally rejected by the Board.

August 11 it was resolved that the finance committee make arrangements to get money to erect waterworks, all voting yea.

On August 18 Mr. D. McWilliams appeared before the Board and made a proposition to take the waterworks bonds for seventy-five hundred (\$7500) dollars at six per cent, and mortgage on works for balance of money at seven per cent and one per cent commission for negotiating the loan, which was unanimously accepted.

On motion McMillan and Torrence were employed to draw up an ordinance for waterworks.

On Sept. 1, on motion it was ordered that Mr. Mollitt, of Clinton, Illinois, be employed to make arrangements to put in waterworks, and telegraph him immediately.

On motion the ordinance drawn by Mellduff and Torrence, providing for the issue of eight thousand five hundred (\$8500) dollars of bonds was adopted and ordered duly advertised. Bids to erect waterworks were presented by five different firms.

The foregoing is all the information contained in the records of the proceedings of the Trustees. If any bonds have been issued the records do not show it, nor on what terms they were sold. In regard to the pledge to construct a system of waterworks, probably the most important and vital to The Leslie E. Keeley Co., of any that were made and in which the citizens of Dwight were greatly interested—we have to report that nothing whatever has been done and the records do not show that the subject was ever considered by the trustees. The work on the waterworks that has been accomplished is as follows: A nine inch well has been bored; the walls of the pump house are up and the foundation of the stack laid, and an eight inch main pipe and hydrants laid around the business part of the village, but not yet completed. This has been done under the immediate supervision of the Trustees, and we understand that some of the work has not been let according to law.

If a system of waterworks has been adopted, and work is being done in accordance with it, there is no record to show what its character is, or what the ultimate result will be.

Resolved, That if special assessments or other reasonable or equitable means are employed by the Trustees to obtain the necessary funds, so that they can quickly fulfill the pledges of the citizens to The Leslie E. Keeley Co., and thereby also preserve the value of property, and maintain and increase the value of property, we pledge ourselves to support such action of the Trustees. And we also pledge ourselves that we will repudiate any citizen or public officer who, by technical objections, neglect of duty, or in any manner opposes or causes delay to such action of the Trustees, or to the completion of the work.

The citizens' committee consisted of Col. R. P. Morgan, chairman; Chas. L. Romberger, Wm. H. Ketcham, C. J. Judd and J. C. Lewis, were re-elected for six months to represent the citizens and co-operate with the Board of Trustees.

Speeches were listened to during the evening from Col. H. Fox, R. P. Morgan, Chas. L. Romberger, Wm. H. Ketcham, Dr. Payne, Trustees Stevens and Dieffenbaugh, B. A. Bess, J. C. Lewis and other prominent citizens.

The citizens' committee will meet at public meetings on the first Friday in each month. A special meeting of the committee and trustees will be held at the town house to-night at 9 o'clock.

very little has been done, and what has been done is vague and uncertain in character, and without the usual guarantees that accompany the construction of such works when properly contracted.

The foregoing facts your committee found to be known to The Leslie E. Keeley Co., and great disappointment was expressed. Dr. Keeley stated to your committee, that unless good and sufficient and complete waterworks, with a tower and reservoir, and an extended system of pipes and good electric light were properly completed, and a thorough system of sewerage constructed, it would be impossible for his Company to go on and prepare to receive here the thousands of patients that were coming; and that contracts for hotels and other buildings would have to be abrogated and the work stopped. Also, he said, that although he preferred to keep his headquarters of his Company in Dwight, a failure to promptly furnish these vital sanitary measures would compel him to move to some other locality against his inclination.

Your committee has considered the subject as fully as possible, and is satisfied that the cost of such complete waterworks and improvements, sewerage, streets, sidewalks, electric lights and the proper improvements of the public parks will amount to as much as forty or fifty thousand dollars. This being true, and the amount so considerably, much more than has been generally estimated, your committee deemed it just that The Leslie E. Keeley Co. should give a bond to refund to the village all money expended for the purposes proposed, exceeding fifteen thousand dollars, and that the amount so refunded not to exceed thirty thousand (\$30,000) dollars, payable to the village if the principal offices and business of the Leslie E. Keeley Co. should be at any time removed from Dwight. Conditioned, of course, upon the consideration that the improvements shall be commenced at once and promptly completed.

This request the Keeley Co. has cheerfully complied with, and a good and sufficient bond as stated is in the hands of this committee, with authority to deliver it to the Board of Trustees in Dwight, and their judgment it would be just and proper to do so.

The foregoing statement indicates clearly what has to be done by the citizens of Dwight, and we therefore recommend that immediate action be taken by the Board of Trustees:

1st. To complete the waterworks with a tower and reservoir, according to the plans and specifications for which the money of the people was paid, and which were unanimously accepted by the Board, and which we believe fully covers the requirements of The Leslie E. Keeley Co. in respect to waterworks.

2d. That a competent engineer be employed at once to make a complete survey of the site of the village and make plans and estimates for a system of sewerage, and that work be commenced on it without delay, and be pushed to completion by special assessments as provided by law or other means.

3d. That the streets and sidewalks be at once put in good condition by special assessment, as provided by law.

4th. That the contract for electric light be at once forfeited at the polls, unless the contractor will without delay make a system equal to the full requirements of the village.

In conclusion, your committee respectfully represents to you that in their opinion it will be wholly impracticable for The Leslie E. Keeley Co. to remain in Dwight unless the pledges of the citizens are carried out without further delay. Independently of this vital fact, the entire population of the village is already exposed to diphtheria, typhoid and other malignant diseases. For these reasons we most earnestly urge upon you that you give every possible support to the Trustees, and not stand on technicalities in regard to assessments or other means for obtaining the necessary funds.

RICHARD P. MORGAN,
CHARLES L. ROMBERGER,
WM. H. KETCHAM,
C. J. JUDD,
J. C. LEWIS,
Citizens' Committee.

Dwight, Ill., Nov. 13, '91.

At an enthusiastic meeting held at the town house last night the above report and following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That an emergency has arisen which threatens the lives and property values of the people of Dwight, and their good name, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Trustees be and are hereby instructed to take immediate action in accordance with the recommendations contained in the report of the Citizens' Committee. Also, they are instructed to let all work by contract; and if it is feasible to have it done in that way, to the lowest responsible bidder after due public notice. And be it further

Resolved, That special assessments or other reasonable or equitable means are employed by the Trustees to obtain the necessary funds, so that they can quickly fulfill the pledges of the citizens to The Leslie E. Keeley Co., and thereby also preserve the value of property, and maintain and increase the value of property, we pledge ourselves to support such action of the Trustees. And we also pledge ourselves that we will repudiate any citizen or public officer who, by technical objections, neglect of duty, or in any manner opposes or causes delay to such action of the Trustees, or to the completion of the work.

The citizens' committee consisted of Col. R. P. Morgan, chairman; Chas. L. Romberger, Wm. H. Ketcham, C. J. Judd and J. C. Lewis, were re-elected for six months to represent the citizens and co-operate with the Board of Trustees.

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