

TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL FOR DWIGHT

The Advantages to the Surrounding Country and to the Village.

As Americans we are all justly proud of our system of free public schools. This is true alike of those who live in the rural communities and those whose children are educated in town. The close relations between a successful Democracy and the intelligence of the people who compose it, is now generally recognized. No one longer questions, therefore, the right of taxing all for the support of the schools.

No longer is it considered enough that a free citizen be able to read and write. The increasing complexity of the problems confronting the farmer and the city residents, and calling for clear, intelligent thought on the part of each individual voter demands a broader training than this. Equally emphatic is the demand for knowledge of science and history which is called for in successfully carrying forward our agricultural commerce and other industries in such a way as to provide for the competitions of the future and the strain upon our productive resources, which our rapidly increasing population is sure to bring.

Putting these two together we can see that the schooling which we should seek to provide for our children, ought to include at least, that of high school grade. This will mean schools better adapted to the two purposes of training for citizenship and successful conduct of our industries. A training which stops short of this can scarcely be sufficient for the coming generation.

Dwight lies in one of the most prosperous farming communities of Illinois, or in fact of any part of the United States. Nothing is considered too good for the progressive American today. The farmers around Dwight have good houses and barns; are well equipped with up-to-date farm machinery and many of them own automobiles. What a contrast this is from a generation ago. But, in comparing the chances for an education for the farmer boy and girl a generation ago and now, the advance has been very slight. This is not as it should be. The education of our people should advance with the other related factors for a happy, prosperous life. A Township High School in Dwight is the thing that would do more than any thing else to give the people of this

Economical Production is Essential in Successful Manufacturing, but its Realization Demands the Conditions for it

If any plant large or small is fitted with steam driven machinery, its operating expense figures out one of the largest items in the general cost sheet. It throws away power at many places between the engine and the tool. Follows then that a form of energy that delivers its maximum at the point wanted, writes this item in lower figures. You have that in

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PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY
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community all the advantages, that should be theirs.

A Township High School in Dwight would do many things for the boys and girls of Dwight and the surrounding territory. The course of study would fit all. It would include a good course in Agriculture; a two year and a four year Commercial course (an excellent combination could be made of the Commercial and the Agricultural courses for the country boy); Scientific and Classical courses for the boy or girl who wishes to go to college, and a Normal course to prepare teachers for the surrounding country schools.

In all cases where Township High Schools have been established the facilities for doing good, modern high school work have been greatly increased. In most cases also, the attendance has increased largely. The greater the enrollment the better the service rendered to the community.

A Township High School, such as the above, has a peculiar advantage over other plans of distributing the cost of high schools. This advantage is in the fact that it permits the direct participation in its organization and its government of all the people contributing to its support. This would guarantee courses to fit the boys and girls of both town and country.

I have already referred to the high school as a means of training teachers. None of our high schools are so well fitted for this work as are the Township High Schools, especially the training of teachers for the rural schools. The Township High School stands in direct relationship to these schools of the farmer and are thus able to turn out graduates as teachers, who are more in sympathy with the needs of the rural communities than are those whose sole contact is with town life.

No one can emphasize too strongly the obligation resting upon us to make the high school available to all classes. The high schools of the town are too far removed for the interests of the farm boys and girls to appeal to them very strongly; or if they do it is usually to lead them away from the farm.

A strong Township High School, as planned, always stimulates the work of all the rural schools that are tributary to it, thus making these schools much more effective. Also it has the general effect of raising the standard of educational ideals which prevail in the entire community to which such a high school ministers.

The money that is invested in these schools is more than returned in the increased values of real estate, if we say nothing of the greater return which comes from the increase of skill and of intelligence which is sure to be returned to every community which supports good schools. It is the superior intelligence of the American farmer which gives him whatever advantage he has over the European peasant. In order to maintain this advantage, and to make it possible for the farmer's interests to be intelligently represented in all public concerns, the boys and girls of the farm must be given educational opportunities in every way equal to those of the town. We can do this in this community with a good Township High School at Dwight.

The high school, as a part of the public school system, is maintained at public cost and for the general good. A good high school in a community renders an invaluable service to that community. It is but part of the debt each individual owes for prosperity (and this is an exceptionally prosperous community) and good government, which he pays in school tax.

A notable thing in the establishment of Township High Schools, is that from the Township High Schools that reported, twenty-seven reported little or no opposition to the establishment of the Township High School (Fairbury just voted for one with practically no opposition). Twenty-two reported strong opposition at first. In some cases a second or third vote was necessary in order to carry the proposition; but the more the people learned of the nature and advantages of the Township High Schools, the more these schools have grown in favor. Reports from all fully established schools show that as soon as the people realize the many advantages of such a school the opposition has died out.

One of the chief sources of this opposition has been from owners of farm lands, either residing on and operating their own farms, or living in the towns and belonging to the class known as retired farmers. In a number of cases it has been claimed that villages and towns were trying to throw the cost of their schools on the farmers. It does not seem that any one acquainted with all the facts would take such an attitude against the establishment, so beneficial to all concerned, whether his home be in the country or town. In the first place the people of the towns, if we

except the retired farmers, are there to serve the farmers of the community. Otherwise the town would not exist. It is through this service that the farmer is able to have his wants supplied, that he has not the time or the facilities of supplying himself. It is through this division of labor that he gets his produce to market; he secures clothing, groceries, farm implements and building material; gets his mail; telephone service; medical and legal aid; and secures teachers for his children. In other words the town is an essential part of the larger community embracing with it the surrounding farms.

In the second place, no public school is maintained solely by those who patronize it. It is maintained at the expense of all and for the common good. The high school is, strictly speaking, more in the nature of a common good than even the elementary schools, for the high school contributes most directly to the common weal, through the supply of that intelligence and skill demanded in the conduct of the farm and in fulfilling the duties of citizenship.

Does it look fair then that the towns alone bear the burden of the high schools of the state? We all know that values in real property and rural communities increase with the growth and prosperity of the towns which are their business and educational centers. Why is this? Should the farms reap all the benefit without bearing a small portion of the cost? I think you will agree that the farmers need and should have the HIGH SCHOOL advantages that the General Assembly made it possible for them to have in 1911. Will you not think it over? The more thought you will give it, the more certain you will be (no matter whether you live in Dwight or in the nearby territory) that DWIGHT should have a school of this type, and what is more have it right away.

The advantages to all concerned are many and great, while the seeming disadvantages disappear with further knowledge of the subject. Dwight and community are a thousand times better equipped to handle such a thing than some of the districts in southern Illinois, and they are making a big success of the Township High School. Once again think of the advantages to young and old; rich and poor; town and country, and make this your motto: A TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL FOR DWIGHT AND SURROUNDING TERRITORY.—(Contributed).

Open Letter to All Fair-Minded People.

It is persistently rumored, and I have not been able to trace it down, that I have advised some unknown man not to buy property in Dwight until after election on the ground that if the town goes dry property can be bought much cheaper. There is about as much truth in this as in the definition given by a child to "What is a lobster?" The child replied "It is a red fish that crawls backward." The teacher replied "There are only three errors in your answer; first, a lobster is not red; second, it is not a fish; third, it does not crawl backward." When you hear "THEY say" ask "And WHO is the THEY?" And when you hear "I heard so and so" ask "WHERE did you hear it" and there will not be so much misunderstanding. A study of such cities as Rockford and Jacksonville and Kansas City will show that other conditions remaining the same property goes up and not down when cities go dry.—Adv. Geo. H. McClung.

From Washington.

The Leader is in receipt of a letter from Clay D. Parker, formerly superintendent of the Livingston county farm, who, with his wife, is now residing on an apple farm near Carlton, Wash. He states that they have had about five feet of snow this year and that at the present time the snow is on a three foot level. They have had steady winter weather, very little wind, and they are now filling their ice house with ice from twelve to thirteen inches thick. Plenty of snow, he states, always assures a good apple crop, so "he should worry."—Pontiac Leader.

Clay's many friends in this vicinity will be glad to hear from him again. Clay always did let the other fellow do the worrying, which is a pretty good habit after all.

Miscellaneous Shower.

On last week Friday night a miscellaneous shower was given in honor of Miss Bernice Lower, who was married Wednesday of this week to Mr. Harry Lakin, of Plano. The shower was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mahannah, about fifty guests being present. The evening was spent playing all sorts of games; the peanut race was won by Elsworth Scott and Tim O'Brien and the bean race by Miss Alice Tambling. There was also a mock marriage ceremony, the bride being Miss Ruth Prickett, the groom, Arthur Lower, the bride's maid, Miss Catherine O'Brien, the best man, Jacob Dornbierer. The clergyman, "Rev." John Dornbierer, officiated in German. Charles Mahannah, Jr., was ring bearer. A very appetizing oyster supper concluded the evening's festivities. Miss Lower received many beautiful gifts from her many friends.

Temperance Meeting.

An enthusiastic gathering greeted Mayor Merritt and Mr. W. L. Ewing, of Hoopeston, last Monday evening at Odd Fellows Hall. The Mayor related a large number of facts concerning the city and in a very modest but very effective way told of the thriftiness of that city. Hoopeston has fifteen miles of pavement; thirty miles of cement walk; a city hall valued at \$10,000; a water system costing \$100,000; three parks worth \$20,000; three school buildings worth \$100,000 besides the Grier College building, which has been given to the city for a high school; a public library costing \$15,000; a sewer system costing \$60,000. It has four large factories employing under full capacity a total of 1350 men, who receive over half a million dollars a year in wages. All these factories came to Hoopeston because it was a dry town, as did also Grier College, saving the citizens a cool \$100,000 in cash. These factories alone pay \$10,000 in taxes, equal to ten saloon licenses at \$1000 each. The corporation tax (which is the only part of the tax that can be lessened by license money) was four cents per hundred dollars (equalized one-third value) more than the Dwight tax rate. But it must be remembered that Hoopeston is twice as large as Dwight, and would naturally have a higher corporation tax. This means that if a man turned in \$10,000 property the corporation tax in Hoopeston would be \$1.33 more in Hoopeston than Dwight. Hoopeston has \$48,200 in securities paying interest. It owes \$21,000 on water works bonds (which cannot be paid because not yet due) leaving a treasury balance at interest of \$27,200. There is not a blind pig in Hoopeston, nor a single business man who talks for saloons. Mr. Ewing gave an inspirational address which brought rounds of applause. After the speaking the Civic Federation adopted its Constitution. After the campaign is over it will devote its attention to law enforcement.

Obituary of Mrs. Dransfeldt.

Mrs. Mabel Maggie Dransfeldt, beloved daughter of Henry and Minnie Meier, and faithful wife of Fred Dransfeldt, was born in Goodfarm, Grundy county, February 22, 1886. She departed this life in her home February 11, 1914. Mrs. Dransfeldt spent most of her life in this community. Here, Mabel spent her youth and all her young womanhood. She was a pupil in our public schools. She was one of the happy girls of the Evangelical Sunday School, and there must be many here who have known her nearly if not all her life. In that life there are many things which her parents and husband, brothers and sisters and friends might be proud. She was a woman of a happy disposition, cheerful under most conditions.

In 1905 she was united in holy wedlock to Fred Dransfeldt. The wedded life was one of peace and happiness. Our sister was fond of her home. But God ordained it otherwise. He called her to rest when we thought she was most needed.

Her illness was bravely endured and beautifully adorned with cheerfulness. She knew that everything that medical skill and good nursing and tender love of husband could imagine was done. She died at the age of 28, and is survived by her sorrow-bowed husband, four children, Garland, Roy, Erland and Irene, of a few weeks old; by her dear parents; her brothers, Arthur and Jesse and two sisters, Laura and Pearl.

The funeral services were conducted at the house Saturday forenoon at 11 o'clock and at the Goodfarm Evangelical Church at 12 p. m., Rev. Henry Ebert officiating. The pall bearers were the cousins of the departed: Elmer, Milton, Curtis Schroterberger and Geo. Pfeifer. Interment was at the Goodfarm cemetery.

Card of Thanks.

I wish to thank all friends and neighbors for their many kindnesses and sympathy during the sickness and death of my wife. Also for the many floral tributes. FRED DRANSFELDT.

Edgar Allen Poe

Tells us in one of his Tales about a certain mystical William Wilson. The real William Wilson, an attorney from Pontiac, will give an address in Odd Fellows Hall next Wednesday evening, Feb. 25th, on the vital question now before the people of Dwight. The meeting will begin at 8:00 o'clock and all are invited whether they agree with the speaker or not.—Adv.

C. F. Christiansen, who has lived near Dwight for some years, passed away Thursday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Miller gave a stag dinner party in honor of their son Harry's birthday Thursday evening. Those present were Max Miller, Gene Hamilton, Lloyd Bartholic, Richard Baker, John Joost, Walter Baker, Harry Haynes and Carl Miller. Harry was presented with a gold knife from the boys present. Harry Haynes made the presentation speech. The party adjourned at a late hour, everyone having enjoyed themselves immensely.

William Wilson—that's all!—Adv.

K. of C. Basket Social.

The Knights of Columbus gave the final of their series of dances and lectures Thursday evening at their club rooms in the Mazon building in the form of a basket social and dance. A large number were present and all spent a very pleasant and enjoyable evening. The baskets were all very pretty and many of them when auctioned reached as high as five dollars. The purchasers were not at all disappointed with the price they had paid after getting a glimpse of the contents. The proceeds from the baskets netted the organization a goodly sum and was declared a financial success. Dancing was in order until a late hour after the baskets were relieved of their contents.

Booze and Business.

"I met the finished product of the saloon. He was lying in the gutter. He had no hat and the hat trade was suffering; his coat was full of holes, the clothing trade was suffering; he had holes in his shoes and the shoe trade was suffering; he had but the remnant of a shirt, the woolen industry was suffering; he had on no socks, the hosiery trade was suffering; he was dirty, the soap industry was suffering; I can hardly mention a useful industry in the country that was not suffering from that man's inebriety."

Follow him home and you would find that the millinery trade, the underwear trade, the dress goods trade, the meat business, the bakery business, the life insurance business, the ice cream business, the moving picture business, the banking business, the book business, the carpet business, the furniture business, the jewelry business, the grocery business and tailoring business were all "suffering" from that one man's "insobriety." If the liquor business promotes prosperity, let's all get drunk and have prosperity!—Adv.

Christman Pianos.

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Dwight Gun Club Shoot.

A shooting match will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 25, at 10 o'clock a. m., under the auspices of the Dwight Gun Club. The program will be as follows: Five main events of 20 birds each and exhibition shooting by Edward S. Graham. A number of noted shots from out of town will attend the



match. The public is cordially invited to attend. No admission will be charged.

Among Mr. Graham's achievements in many competitions within the past two years are such scores as 191x200, 97x100, 146x150, the winning of high professional average at the Illinois State Shoot (1911) a number of long runs of 100 straight and one of 142 straight.

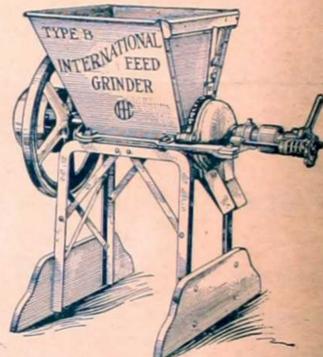
Hear Wilson, Feb. 25th. That's all!—Adv.

SHOE REPAIRING

MEN'S SHOES—Soles and heels 80c; heels, 25c; soles, 60c; rubber heels, 35c, 40c; soles sewed by hand, \$1.15.
LADIES' SHOES—Soles and heels, 55c; heels, 20c; soles, 40c; rubber heels, 30c, 35c; soles sewed by hand, 80c.
BOYS' SHOES—Soles and heels, 60c; heels, 20c; soles, 45c.
GIRLS' SHOES—Soles and heels, 50c; heels, 15c; soles, 35c.

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