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NOT TO VOTE IS COSTLY

You have seen the man who prides himself on the fact that he never takes any interest in politics. He never casts his vote. He is too busy to bother about a little thing like that. But if the facts compiled by the bureau of municipal research of Toronto, Canada, are true, the person who is always too busy to vote is a poor business man.

The Toronto bureau found that the average citizen with an average family must work forty-one days to earn the money to pay his taxes, and yet only 20 per cent of the taxpayers had sufficient interest in the 1915 election of the city council to go out and cast their ballots for the men who spend their money, approximately \$30,000,000.

Many long and costly wars have been fought over the right of the people to elect their own representatives, yet the majority of men now do not seem to appreciate the privilege. The fact remains, however, that the cost of running a city gets higher as the citizens let the administration go unchecked. In other words, it is costly not to vote.

With everything covered by snow and ice and the mercury trying to squeeze through the bottom of the thermometers in Columbia, Paderewski must have felt quite at home. Missouri can put on a pretty close imitation of a Polish winter when she tries.

GREAT WORLD EVENTS OF 1915

- With a world war in Europe, it is not surprising that the last year was full of events of great international significance. Nearly all the nations of the world have been affected by the European conflict. Nevertheless, all the important events of 1915 were not connected with that war. And in a list compiled after peace has been declared, fewer war events would be included than even the following list contains. While there may be some doubt attached to its significance, the Ford Peace Expedition has been included because of its uniqueness. The list follows:
1. Japan's demands on China, correspondence beginning January 26.
2. Formal opening of the Panama Canal and the Panama-Pacific Exposition.
3. Sinking of the Lusitania, May 7.
4. Italy enters the war, May 23.
5. A. B. C. Conference at Niagara, August 5-6.
6. Bulgaria enters the war, October 11.
7. United States recognizes the Carranza government in Mexico, October 18.
8. First trans-Atlantic wireless telephone communication and the first transcontinental telephone communication.
9. China votes to become a monarchy again, November 2.
10. President Wilson announces his preparedness program, November 4.
11. Sailing of the Ford Peace Ship, December 4.
12. Failure of the Dardanelles campaign, first withdrawal of troops, December 20.

There is usually some good in everything. Physicians tell us the cold wave has checked the grip epidemic.

WHERE THE PARLOR WENT

"Into the junk heap it goes," said the editor of a national magazine to himself some years ago when poring over that great extravagance of American domestic life, the parlor. But the editor's readers were mostly women, and about ninety-nine hundredths of them had sleek little pet parlors at home which they cherished dearly, but seldom used. The editor was a thrifty soul who hated to see all those parlors being wasted and

sought a diplomatic means of eliminating them. He hit upon a happy campaign idea and forthwith began publishing plans of cozy homes with the parlors left out. Architects and contractors joined in the campaign, and the builders of houses unsuspectingly stepped into the trap. They forgot to insist on a parlor in their new house plans.

Eliminating the parlor was the first move in the campaign of conservation of space in house-building, which is now becoming a mania. The money which used to be spent on the parlor is now devoted to building a big sleeping porch and perhaps an open air breakfast room.

That band of Mexicans at Kilometer did no watchful waiting.

The Open Column

The Open Column is intended as a forum for the discussion of timely questions of public interest. Though long contributions may occasionally be printed, the Missouriian suggests a limit of 200 words. As a rule, the briefer the letter, it is understood, of course, that the views expressed are those of the writers, not necessarily of the paper. Though a fictitious name may be signed, the real name of the writer must accompany each letter, as a guaranty of good faith.

More About Music With Movies.

Editor the Missouriian: I am pained to note that the gimlet of my idea failed to penetrate the professional obtuseness of "R. S." I therefore beg some more space in which to justify myself.

I am quite aware that Griffith's "Birth of a Nation" was symphonized; that "Cabiria" carried its own orchestra. My idealism has not carried me so far as to expect the same intensive treatment for "one-reelers." The point I was trying to make, and which I believed I had made clear, was that these pictures should have no music at all. They are quite able to stand on their own feet.

It seems to me that "R. S." is accepting "music with the movies" just as simpler souls accept politicians with government, or smoke with factories.

My especial recommendation would be to have the music played in the space between the reels, and between shows, and perhaps outside the show to attract patrons. The sound inside the theater should be only the sound of conversation; people should feel free to discuss the pictures.

On the other hand I fully realize that many people believe that music actually heightens the effect of the pictures. Hugo Munsterberg has written skillfully on this very subject. I grant the great psychologist's point, and accede to his argument, provided the music and the pictures so blend as to make an artistic unit. This is not done. But the pictures, if left to themselves, do obey the canons of artistic unity.

I have no objections to a Mozart program in a picture show—provided it is not given at the same time that Poor Pauline is perishing.

Eligibility for School Boards.

Editor the Missouriian: Because your school board is a good one this year there is no certainty that it will be next year or the year after that. Men may be chosen who are not qualified for the place, who know nothing about school affairs, simply because they have friends and sufficient political ability to secure the election. They may make good. They may not. In another town about Columbia's size the president of the school board refused to consider the application of any teacher who did not have red hair.

"Preposterous," said some of the board members. "The red-haired candidates may not be nearly so good teachers as the others."

"I should worry," said the originator of the idea. "Think of the advertising the town would get."

In another town large enough to deserve a splendid school system the board became afflicted with an unusually severe case of retrenchment fever. It dismissed the old experienced teachers and hired a force of new ones, fresh from the countryside of country schools or from non-accredited normal schools. Why? The board could employ them at microscopic salaries. The board was saving money for the people, and the members bragged about it.

Educational eligibility requirements for school board members would be no assurance against foolishness. It might not protect against many of the evils which often infect school boards. But at least it would insure the public against gross ignorance in the management of school affairs. It would eliminate much of the danger of misfits and incompetent men on the board, since men of at least a high school education, as a rule, adapt themselves more readily to new situations, new needs and new requirements.

Have you tried the Columbia Cafe 12 N. 9. Phone 708-Green?

"955-Taxi-955." M. 76 tf.

PRICES OF HARDWARE CONTINUE TO CLIMB

War Causes an Advance on Articles That Belligerents Are Buying.

Probably in no line of business has the war affected prices to the extent that it has those in the hardware lines. France and England are not only willing to pay high prices for the hardware manufactured in this country, but also for all of the raw material that the United States will sell. As a result the American consumers in competition with the foreign nations must either pay the high prices or see the goods depart for other lands.

Here is a partial list of the advances made in hardware within the last few months: Builder's hardware, 10 per cent; nails, 20 per cent; galvanized ware, 25 to 50 per cent; tinware, 25 per cent; cutlery, 10 per cent; small firearms ammunition, 10 per cent; strap hinges, 25 per cent, and so on through the whole stock of the hardware store.

No Advance on Incubators.

About the only things that cannot be said to partake in this advance are earthenware and incubators. Prices on stoves and aluminum are not quoted at all by jobbers now. This foreshadows a great advance in the prices of both of these articles before many moons. The previous advance in stoves was from 5 to 20 per cent; the price of aluminum rose from 8 to 56 cents a pound (raw material) within a year.

It is said that the Pittsburgh Steel and Wire Company has at present enough foreign orders ahead to keep its factories running full force during 1916. This makes it very hard for American dealers to get their orders filled. Besides, nearly every small concern that was able to scrape enough capital together to make a beginning has gone into the business of making shrapnel and barb wire, which are very much in demand in the foreign markets at this time. Consequently, American consumers cannot depend on these small concerns for a supply of hardware in the event of a refusal on the part of the large companies to sell their products at home.

Up Goes Gasoline.

Gasoline has taken a great leap in price within the last two months. France and England are again at fault, having offered the Standard Oil

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Company 25 cents a gallon for all the gasoline it would sell delivered at New Orleans. This meant that Americans must pay a 50 per cent advance for their gasoline or do without. Dealers see a decrease in these prices only when the nations of Europe cease to need the aid of America in supplying the necessities of war.

ANYWAY, IT LOOKED IMPERATIVE

"Shut Up," Read a Notice on Assistant M. U. Publisher's Door. Academic Hall was cold Friday.

"Shut up. Inquire at Room 128," read the notice on the assistant University publisher's office door.

"How in the name of goodness, I'd like to know, is a person going to shut up and inquire at the same time?" asked the inquiring student.

Russell Monroe, assistant publisher, explained that he had meant no discourtesy in posting the notice. It was merely a misinterpretation on the student's part.

"Certainly he meant no discour-

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The Missouri Store

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the paper quoted the Kaiser. "That's nothing; we have mittens, too," said the English soldier.

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Advertisement for White Goods and Domestic Sale. Includes text: 'Come to Our White Goods and Domestic Sale NEXT WEEK' and an illustration of a woman sitting in a chair. Also includes the logo for Strawn Neate.