

THE DAILY MISSOURIAN

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WHERE IS THE CLUB?

One month ago the agitation for a country club for Columbia was at its height, today it has apparently been forgotten in the rush of events.

All opinions were favorable. The search for a suitable site was instituted, and the clubhouse proposition was under discussion. It appeared as though a country club for Columbia was assured.

Evidently in the hurry of business the work of organizing the club and starting the machinery for its realization have been lost. They should not be, for one of the most beneficial assets any city can have is a well-located and well-appointed country club.

There are many arguments for the club and comparatively few against it.

It is only a question of starting something and, when once started, as it has been, of finishing it. All Columbia needs, to have the country club, is for one or two alert, wide-awake men to take hold of its formation and never stop until it has been completed.

It will be a service, not for gain but for the betterment of Columbia. It is as much a civic movement as the movement for wider streets or better sidewalks.

The country club will raise the value of property in the same district, and from an economic standpoint is more than worth while. The building of the club house and the laying out of the grounds mean the establishment of a new residence district for Columbia.

It is still a question of pushing things through. The movement has been started. It should be finished, and Columbia should have a country club.

THE IDEALS OF THE WEST

Is not the real Americanism, that expression of the national ideal, to be found in the West rather than in the East? This is the question that is being asked with increasing frequency since the political revolution of November 7, in which the West declared its independence of the money centers of the East.

New York, taken as representative of the East, exemplifies the ideal of wealth and, with this as a magnet, draws to it artists, authors, dramatists and others of ability. Deriving its standards largely from Europe, New York dictates the nation's judgment on literature, art, music, manners and social customs. But the question again arises as to whether these tastes, opinions and standards are truly national.

Of the three writers whom foreign opinion has pronounced most typically American, two—Mark Twain and Edgar Allan Poe—are of the West and South, and the third, Walt Whitman, is eastern only by the accident of birth. Of more modern writers, only Edith Wharton and Henry James are of the East, while the West is represented by William Dean Howells and a host of younger men, including George Ade, Jack London, Finley Peter Dunne and Booth Tarkington.

As in other lines of work, the tendency among writers, with but few exceptions, has been to go East—to New York—and there become enslaved and absorbed by a decadent people, who have lost their valor and sincerity and become superficial under the glare of the bright lights and money-mad New York. The East has come to look to the West for new ideas, fresh ideals, progressive opinions and creations of all kinds, and, unthinkingly, the westerners have given the East the best they have, they have sold their souls for a mess of pottage.

But now the West is awakening. The political declaration of independence is only one sign. Others, less notice-

able, have been gathering force for some time and await only a favorable opportunity to make themselves felt in American life—in the field of drama. Los Angeles and Chicago have set up producing centers independent of New York, and their success is already assured. In motion pictures California has from the first taken a leading part. Several western cities, including San Francisco, Portland, Minneapolis, Chicago, St. Louis and Denver, have fine displays of paintings and sculpturing in their art institutes, while nearly every large city has its own symphony orchestra.

In this way, the West has set out to free itself from the dominance of the East in the artistic expression of its ideals and customs. Probably the most gratifying part of the whole program is the democracy of this western art. Efforts are being made to interest not only the select few but the people as well, this coming through popular concerts, free exhibitions and provision in many other ways for quickening the life of the masses.

With these growing aids and means to expression and creation, it is highly probable that the West will not only become independent of the East but will soon actually be dictating the artistic standards, the political judgments, the social customs and the material tastes of the entire nation. The recent election only aroused the West to its power, and it may turn out that the most significant result of the affair was not the re-election of Wilson but a big step in the growth to self-realization of a great territory.

Play-Reading Club To Meet.

The Play-Reading Club will meet at 3 o'clock Friday afternoon at the Faculty Union.

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