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THURSDAY, JULY 21, 1927

EDITORIAL

YOUR DUTY AS A CITIZEN

Do you take any interest in local politics? Do you participate in the selection of your alderman, or supervisor, or members of your local council? Do you take an active part in the selection of your candidate for mayor? Are you keenly interested in the members of both the lower and upper house of your state legislature? Or are you only concerned with the selection and election of your Governor and President of the United States? It is just as important to vote for your local legislator and your Congressman as it is for your Governor or the President of the United States. After all, it is in local affairs that you have a first consideration because it is your schools, hospitals, streets, roads, sanitation, that so much is meant for your comfort, health, education of your children and the development of your locality. Furthermore, if you are interested in local politics you will of necessity be interested in national politics and you will take an interest in your Congressman and Senator and in what they are doing in a national way for the country. The great burden today on the nation is found in local taxes and this is primarily due to the indifference of the ordinary citizen to local affairs. There is, of course, another phase of the situation which must be considered. There are some men who are intensely interested in their home town, who pay no attention to state-wide matters or national matters. That is illogical and bad. Nevertheless it is a safe assertion that if you are not very definitely concerned with local political affairs you will extend your interests to the state and nation. Business men cannot hope to have the business affairs of their towns, villages, or cities run in a business way unless they and those associated with them take an active and direct and vital part. We do not preach partisanship to you because partisanship has nothing to do with the business of government, and particularly with local government. Every business man should not merely have a pride in his home town, but he should take an active part in its affairs. The exercise of the electoral franchise in so-called off years does not seem to appeal to most of our people. It is a great and grave mistake.—Fred D. Keister.

SMALL GAME HUNTING

Michigan was one of the most important breeding places for small game animals and birds on the face of the earth. The open spaces were the habitat of thousands of quail; partridges filled the woods and old settlers can remember when the wild ducks clouded the sun in parts of the state.

In a previous editorial we called attention to the fact that during the lumbering period great numbers of game birds and animals were killed off because of carelessness in the handling of fires and also by the damming of the streams while running logs to the sawmills. This carelessness was not entirely responsible, however, for the gradual decrease in the amount of small game animals and birds in the state as thousands of hunters invaded the hunting grounds every year and all took large amounts of game out with them. The man who lived in the game country paid little attention to game laws and killed whenever he needed meat. Some even commercialized it.

Today, the game hog, like the fish hog, is one of the most destructive individuals that conservationists have to contend with. This fellow is not content with enough birds to supply his own table, but shoots enough for his neighbors, or even worse, does not give the extra birds to his neighbors, but rather allows them

MARRIAGE DECREASED, DIVORCE INCREASED IN MICHIGAN IN 1926

The Department of Commerce at Washington announces that, according to the returns received, there were 39,7 marriages performed in Michigan during the year 1926, as compared with 46,276 in 1925, representing a decrease of 6,488 or 14 per cent. This decrease is, in all probability, due mainly to the enactment in 1925 of a law requiring application for a marriage license five days in advance of the date on which the license is to be issued. During the year 1926 there were 9,648 divorces granted in the state, as compared with 9,541 in 1925, representing an increase of 107, or 1.1 per cent. There were 101 marriages annulled in 1926. The estimated population of Michigan on July 1, 1926, was 4,396,000; and on July 1, 1925, 4,284,000. On the basis of these estimates, the number of marriages per 1,000 of the population was 9.1 in 1926, as against 10.8 in 1925; and the number of divorces per 1,000 of the population was 2.19 in 1926, as against 2.23 in 1925. The number of marriages performed and the number of divorces granted were furnished by the State Department of Health. The figures for 1926 are preliminary and subject to correction.

to spoil. The fellow who takes the full limit allowed by law when he does not need it is no sportsman. He is a criminal at heart because he is stealing from his wife and his children. You probably cannot get at him through the law, but you may be able to shame some of the greed out of him. If you can do this you will be doing your state a real service.

"THE BUILDER"

M. Marie Walling When the builder starts to build a house, He starts not at the top To lay the bricks together, Nor does this builder stop When he has laid a dozen bricks Which seem to lay untrue; He wouldn't then give up the job, But here is what he'll do. Just start right at the bottom And pile the bricks with care Sure that each one lays just right And no flaws anywhere. Steadily toward the top This builder's work will go And he's striving ever To lay the bricks just so. Soon the job is finished The bricks are piled right, The building is completed, What a glorious sight. We're the builders of our lives They are built just so, At the bottom we should start As all good builders do. As the bricks were laid together, Toward the top we go. Our lives should be so true Taking out unsteady parts

WEST POINT PARK

Mrs. William Zwahlen, Correspondent

There will be a school meeting next Monday evening, July 25, at 8 o'clock, at Pierson school. Every one in the district should be present. Dr. and Mrs. Thomas, their two nieces, Demetra and Margaret

Mills, left Sunday morning for Houghton Lake, for a few weeks' vacation.

Mrs. J. J. McCully and two daughters Geraldine and Dortha attended the German Lutheran excursion to Chatham, as guests of Miss Helen Westphal of Farmington. Mrs. Homer Coolman is home from the hospital, and is improving slowly.

Miss Georgia Boyef, of Detroit, is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. John Mercer for a few days. Mrs. Margaret J. Davis is visiting near Brighton for a few weeks. Mr. and Mrs. George Middlewood, of Detroit, were the Sunday guests of Mrs. Ethel Middlewood and family. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. H. Zwahlen and family were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. LaVerne Russell of Brighton last Sunday. Richard Vance, who has been down to Delta, Ohio visiting his parents, returned Monday bringing his mother with him, for a visit. The West Point Park ball team played the Red Feather team of Detroit, score 11-4 in favor of the home team. Next Sunday they play the Birmingham team on Franklin ground. There will be no game at West Point Park. Next Sunday morning 10:30 the Rev. Thompson of Novi will speak at the West Point Park Independent church. A large attendance is desired. Mrs. Clay who has been visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Mercer for a few weeks, returned to her home at Williamston, last Monday. Last Saturday was our Sunday School picnic. We had a perfect day and a large attendance, some very good prizes, and the ball game between the married men and single boys, score 11-4 in favor of the men. You may dream of success, but it takes wide-awake efforts to achieve it. Among those who seem to be missing is the old-fashioned gent who thought we'd never get another drama as exciting as East Lynne.

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