

EDUCATION ONE GOOD SUFFRAGE QUALIFICATION

(Continued From Page One.)

them intelligently. As a matter of fact he usually votes his party ticket, or does not vote at all.

This amendment also removes the word "male" from the constitutional qualifications. Some men of mean dispositions are chuckling because the women have concentrated their efforts on this as the one important thing in the election, but they are misguided. Of course, from a practical standpoint, the change is quite immaterial, because woman's suffrage is here to stay, whether the amendment is adopted or not. The effect of the change is much the same as correcting a misspelled word in the constitution. But a literary State like Indiana should not have a palpable anachronism in its constitution; and the feminine mind naturally revolts against unbecoming appearance there, just as it objects to men wearing suspenders with negligee shirts. No doubt most of the women will take an intelligent interest in other and more serious questions presented.

WHAT CONSTITUTION SHOULD PROVIDE.

And, incidentally, this is a good time to consider what the constitution should provide, as well as what is offered to the public; and this section is striking in what it fails to provide. Should people who refuse to pay poll taxes be allowed to vote? Clubs and social organizations of all kinds usually do not permit their members to vote unless they have paid their dues. Why should not the political society do the same, and for the same reason, i. e., that one who will not pay his dues is not really interested in the welfare of the society, and should not have a voice in the expenditure of the dues paid by others. An examination of the tax duplicate of Marion County, a few years ago, showed that, in round numbers, out of 48,000 persons listed for poll taxes, 8,000 had not paid, and could not be made to pay, because they had no property. In other words, one-sixth of the voting population refused to pay their dues—refused to contribute anything to the common burden, because they could not be compelled to do so. In this class are most of your purchasable voters, whose presence makes corrupt elections. How can you expect good government under such conditions?

Still more, there should be an educational qualification for suffrage. Our free schools are not for the private advantage of the pupils. You can not levy taxes for private advantage. They are based on the declaration of our constitution of 1816 and 1851: "Knowledge and learning, generally diffused throughout a community, being essential to the preservation of a free government." In other words, they are intended to make intelligent voters. We pay over \$3,000,000 a year for the support of free schools; and half that much more for our three State colleges. We have a compulsory education law, and trust officers to enforce attendance. If a child lacks proper books or clothing the public furnishes them. And yet, if a boy or girl grows up under this system without learning how to read and write, and without the highest privilege of citizenship, by making them voters; although we know there must be something about them that unfits them for citizenship. How can it be so unfair to disqualify for people who do such things as that to put part of their number into insane hospitals and schools for the feeble-minded? Why not be decent about it, and open the doors of these institutions, and say: "Come out and help us govern ourselves intelligently?"

POLITICS SEEN IN OMISSION.

Why were not these qualifications for voters prescribed in this amendment? They were provided in the Marshall constitution in 1911, and not an objection to them was made publicly. They were, however, the chief causes of Republican opposition to that constitution, and they are omitted now for the same reason—the Republican leaders fear that they would lessen their precious negro vote. So doubt they would, though in all probability, these qualifications would hit the Democratic party quite as hard. But the negro as a citizen is one thing, and the negro as a mere asset of the Republican party is quite another. No more grievous wrong could be done to the negro as a citizen than to make him an obstacle to public welfare to enhance his value as a political asset. But that is exactly what the Republican leaders are doing in this case, and, unhappily, it is a public injury in time of war as well as in time of peace. A few days ago, addressing the National Guard officers at Camp Edwards, General Pershing said:

"We have wondered at the large number of slackers, but men who could neither read nor write, and who have never read the Constitution, could not comprehend their vast obligations. The problem of the better education and physical development of the American youth is a community problem, but it is one that should have national supervision. It should be made the obligation of each and every citizen, and particularly those who saw service in the Army and Navy, and know the requirements of those services, to see that the accomplishment of the education provided for in the laws of almost every State is enforced."

The necessity of primary education of voters, to maintain free government, is a fundamental principle of Indiana government. There can be no stronger incentive to that education than to make it a qualification for suffrage. Certainly, every thoughtful citizen must wish for the speedy triumph of that stalwart American which would deny the ballot to every one—native or foreign-born—who cannot read and write the English language.



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Cool, comfortable Tub Skirts, made of materials that will stand frequent trips to the laundry and come back looking like new. Made With Fancy Belts, Pockets and Button Trimmings. **\$1**

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Silk Poplin Skirts, also navy blue, brown, black and white pleated plaids.

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WOMEN'S UNION SUITS—White or pink cotton union suits, loose and tight knee. Regular and extra sizes **39c**



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Gingham and Voiles—Plaids, Plain Colors and Smart Checks. **\$1**

In attractive summer, 1921, fashions; pocketed and sashed models. In sizes 2 to 14 years.

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Charming organdie dresses ruffle trimmed, many with sashes; every wanted color—pink, blue, orchid, maize, etc.

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