

# STAY-AT-HOME VOTER SCORED

**Rev. George P. Magill Cites Deplorable Election Statistics to Local Club**

**DELINQUENTS GAINING**

**Non-Voting Citizens Could Decide Election**

Less than 50 percent of the qualified voters in the United States went to the polls in the 1920 presidential election, Rev. George P. Magill told his fellow members in the Wilmette Optimist club in a talk before the club, Tuesday of this week, in which he stressed the importance of utilizing the privilege of suffrage.

Following through, largely, statistics made public recently by Simon Michelet in the interest of the National Get-Out-The-Vote club, with general offices in Washington, Mr. Magill explained the the percentage of voters going to the polls on election day was materially on the decrease and at a pace that was actually alarming.

The census of 1920, he pointed out, gave the United States a population of 88,652,000. The total of the presidential vote in that year was 26,713,832, or less than 30 percent of the total voting population.

**25,705,063 Fail to Vote**

Obviously, there was an increase in the total number of voting persons over the presidential elections of 1916 and 1912, yet, for every 100 votes cast for President in 1920 there were 96 stay-at-homes or absentees—the total stay-at-home vote reaching the vast aggregate of 25,705,063. This figure is arrived at after deducting 8,467,625 disqualified citizens of 21 years and over including about 6,200,000 alien or unnaturalized foreign borns and over 2,000,000 illiterate citizens, white and colored, disenfranchised under the election laws of 12 southern states.

The stay-at-home vote, Mr. Magill declared, was not characteristic of any particular section, but was more or less common to every section, North or South, East or West.

The astounding decrease in the percentage of those who make use of their privilege and responsibility as voters is made apparent in the following comparative figures quoted by Mr. Magill:

**Figures Show Decrease**

In 1896, the number of those who voted was 80 percent of the total voting population; in 1900, 73 percent; 1908, 66 percent; 1912, 62 percent; 1920, less than 50 percent.

Statistics further show that native born citizens are the worst offenders in the matter of vote delinquency.

"The fact stands," Mr. Magill continued, quoting from Simon Michelet's article, "that the enormous stay-at-home vote of today is sufficient to change the result of the presidential election in a vast majority of the states. The stay-at-home army of 25,000,000 can elect or defeat any candidate. If 10 percent of the stay-at-homes in 'rock-ribbed' states were colonized in 'doubtful' states, they would decide any close national contest. Upon the ability and efficiency of national and state committees in mobilizing the stay-at-homes and con-

verting them into active electors hangs many an election.

**Naturalization a Problem**

"Second in importance to waking up the stay-at-homes is the naturalization of 6,200,000 foreign-born citizens of voting age. Patriotic efforts are being made to this end, but the movement should become national and have a broader and more earnest support. If dangerous propaganda is fomented against American institutions, its principal cradle will be the alien and unnaturalized citizenship. But stay-at-homes would do well to ask themselves: 'How much more patriotic am I, who hold a ballot and do not use it, than the alien who does not vote because he is not yet qualified?'"

"The stay-at-home vote has become in its immensity a national problem. It is a puzzle to all political parties. It is a subject which is everybody's business in general, and most vital and national in its consequences, but nobody's business in particular. Political parties and candidates do more or less to get out the stay-at-home vote. But there is a limit to their activities namely, the enactment of increasingly stringent 'corrupt practices' acts limiting the expenditures involved in locating and transporting the 'stay-at-homes' to the polls. It would seem that Federal and State action of a more general character and a thorough-going national campaign is required to convert this dormant army into a live and patriotic citizenship."

**Bishop Kelley Next to Southland Next Tuesday**

Bishop Francis C. Kelley will leave for Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Tuesday, October 14.

Bishop Kelley, who was formerly pastor of St. Francis Xavier church, was guest of honor at a banquet given by the Ouilmette Council of the Knights of Columbus at the Orrington hotel Thursday night, of this week.

Members of the Ouilmette council expressed their appreciation of having Bishop Kelley in the local parish for seven years. The council was pleased with the appointment of their former pastor as Bishop of Oklahoma, but expressed regret upon his departure from the north shore.

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**Invite Residents to Hear L. K. Anspacher Lectures**

On four Monday afternoons, October 13, 20, 27, and November 3, Louis K. Anspacher will give a series of lectures on the subject, "The Hope of Immortality," at the Playhouse, Fine Arts building, Chicago. Mr. Anspacher is a philosopher and dramatist of more than local reputation and is reported to be an unusually eloquent and inspiring speaker.

The particular topics of the four lectures will be "In Literature and Art," "The Present Verdict of Science," "What the Great Philosophers Have Said," and "The Aspirations of Religion."

At the first lecture Mr. Anspacher will be introduced by Dr. Louis Mann of Sinai Temple; by the second by Dr. Horace Bridges; and at the third by Dr. George Craig Stewart.

Under the auspices of the Drama League, Mr. Anspacher will also deliver four of his six lectures on the Great Dramas of Revolt. The first of these will be given Thursday, October 9, at 3 o'clock at the home of Mrs. Rockefeller-McCormick, 1000 Lake Shore drive, Chicago, on "Prometheus Bound." The second, on "The Book of Job," will be delivered at the

home of Mrs. M. Dreyfus, 3033 Sheridan road, Chicago, at 3 o'clock, on Thursday, October 16. The third, on "Hamlet," will be given at the home of Mrs. Arthur Meeker, 3030 Lake Shore drive, Chicago, at 3 o'clock, on Thursday, October 23. The last, on "Prometheus Unbound," will be given

at the home of the Arts club, 410 North Michigan avenue, at 3 o'clock, on Thursday November 6. Tickets may be secured at the door, it is explained.

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