

The Voter's Column

By Hoyt King

If Charles Dickens were here today to write "American Notes," he would say:

"I am thrilled at the tremendous physical and cultural growth of the United States since my visit in 1842—this, in spite of bad political conditions. Crime and administration of law in the republic are about what existed in England in the time of the despicable Judge Jeffreys 300 years ago, maybe not so far back.

"The Chicago papers for the past week have to say:

'A junkman was seriously wounded by an unknown assailant, who fired a fusillade of shells from behind the curtain of a touring car and sped on.

'When a jealous suitor had finished blazing away with his gun, his sweetheart and his rival lay dead in the parlor.

'Two robbers today held up the Schulze Baking Company and escaped with \$2,-849.

'Nine bandits last night kidnapped John Wohl and three kept him prisoner until the six confederates early today finished looting his store of gems valued at \$75,000.

'Mrs. Margaret Miller was robbed while returning from a movie with her daughter.

'A middle-aged man bound Mrs. Smith to a tree on the pretext that she was to pose as an Indian captive about to be burned at the stake. Then he tortured her.'

"In each case the criminals escaped. While Chicago has 1,300 prisoners in jail awaiting trial, the judges are pretty busy trying each other. The papers report:

'Emanuel Eller, judge of the Criminal Court, was questioned for two hours on his conduct as a judge and his political activities in what has come to be known as the 'Bloody Twentieth' Ward.

'Another accused judge was put upon

the witness stand yesterday to tell the part he plays in the politics game and of election terrors, of felonies waived, and of gangsters freed by writs of habeas corpus.'

"Private citizens are making an investigation at their own expense of the alliance between crime and politics, the responsibility for which they place on the shoulders of the State's Attorney and some of the judges. An editorial says:

'The people of Chicago demand a show-down on the alliance between corrupt politics and organized law-breaking.'

"In view of above, what seems to

be beyond explanation by the republic is this item:

'Public interest manifested in the selection of eight of their judges yesterday was slight. The vote was less than one-fifth of what was available. In the entire county the total vote will probably not be found to have exceeded 300,000. In Chicago alone there are 1,228,000 registered voters, while in the country towns, where, with three exceptions, registration is not compulsory, there are easily 150,000 more voters.'

The greatest peril to the republic today is the indifference of the intelligent citizens toward matters of government.

FORM MOTHERS' CLUB

A meeting of the mothers of Mallinckrodt High school students is being held at the Ridge school this afternoon for the purpose of organizing the Mallinckrodt Mothers' club. Mrs. W. P. Seng is presiding as chairman. Officers are being elected. There will be an address by Homer Buckley of Chicago.

Douglas Davisson of Glenview is motoring home this week from Providence, R. I., with five other Brown university boys living on the north shore.

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