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PATRIOTIC AND VALUABLE.

A new school house every year from the poll tax payment New Orleans! This is the slogan of the New Orleans Poll Tax Association, an organization, by the way, which is probably doing as much practical good for this city as any association in it.

The simple question for your consideration, fellow-citizens, is whether you belong to the higher class of citizenship and whether you believe it is worth while to pay a dollar a year for the privilege of taking part in the affairs of your city.

When we speak of a high class of electorate, we do not mean a wealthy electorate, or one that holds that property or leading positions professionally or in our observation of and experience with the latter class have found cases of woeful ignorance of public affairs, and lack of interest in them, selfish desire to advance the interests of class, lack of confidence in the intelligence of their fellow-citizens in the humbler walks of life.

Likewise, further down the scale, there are many people who take a bitter, selfish, an envious and a prejudiced attitude of others. Many put more malice than patriotism into their ballot box along with their vote.

When you have wished to register a protest against existing conditions which they have felt that their opposition was crushed out of the power of a machine with all its great advantage in organization.

Thomas Jefferson believed in the people, and Abraham Lincoln believed in the people. Nearly every great statesman has come to have confidence in the people's united judgment.

Individually those who make up the people are helpless, collectively they can do what they please, but unless your poll tax is paid, unless you are registered, so that you can vote, your public activity, your influence as a man in the community, is wasted.

Your birthright of American citizenship has been lost, because you would not spend a dollar to insure your right to vote. You have only yourself to blame for your poll tax is not paid and if you fail to vote.

THE ITEM wishes the gentlemen of the Poll Tax Association God-speed in their work. It is a patriotic work, a valuable work, an unselfish work. Fortunately the money which citizens pay for poll taxes goes directly to an educational fund. It will go to build school houses in which to educate the children of the voters, and the public school is the hope of a better American for the future, just as the independent, thoughtful, intelligent vote of the citizen is the hope of America today.

A VERY SOUND DECISION. The Supreme Court of Louisiana has refused to grant a writ of mandamus by means of which the attorney for Morris or Mehovich, sentenced to death by a jury, wished to compel another hearing of his client's case by the State Board of Pardons.

In its decision—an eminently proper one—the Supreme Court stated that as it belonged to the judiciary department of the State while the Board of Pardons was connected with an executive branch, it had no authority over the Board in any matter of this kind.

The point thus made is one which stands to reason in a position so clear, so unmistakable as to make us wonder that an attorney should have ignored or chosen to ignore it. Our opinion on the question of pardons—except in the case of newly discovered evidence of the greatest importance has been expressed in these columns before this and does not call for re-expression.

Still, the bombarding of Casa Blanca will only add spectacular effect to the play when old Raisuli makes up his mind to invade the American stage, as promised. Of course, the old rasal is not fooling around in the free zone just now.

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FROM THE PEOPLE. THE EDITOR OF THE ITEM—As a land-lord who has just sold your year's valuable paper, as I am a subscriber, I beg to advise you that your property or leading positions professionally or in our observation of and experience with the latter class have found cases of woeful ignorance of public affairs, and lack of interest in them, selfish desire to advance the interests of class, lack of confidence in the intelligence of their fellow-citizens in the humbler walks of life.

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SEALED PROPOSALS. City of New Orleans, August 2, 1907. Pursuant to Ordinance No. 352, passed at this office until the hour of 12 o'clock p. m. on Wednesday, August 1, 1907, for furnishing, in accordance with the specifications on file in the office of the City Engineer, and the estimated cost of the work based on the prices bid in the proposal.

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OFFICIAL NOTICE. Office of Public Belt R. R. Commission, Room 21-22, City Hall, New Orleans, La., August 1, 1907. The Public Belt Railroad, owned by the City of New Orleans, will begin operation on the front of the City of New Orleans in the section bounded by the streets of Birch, Iberville, and St. Louis, from Jefferson Parish line to Monday, August 20, 1907.

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THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS. That permission be and the same is hereby granted to the contractor of the Public Belt Railroad to construct, maintain and operate with steam, electric or other power, a switch track diagonally across the intersection of the front of the City of New Orleans in the section bounded by the streets of Birch, Iberville and St. Louis, from Jefferson Parish line to Monday, August 20, 1907.

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