

spective of party inclinations. The worthy voter will cherish the privilege of voting after due consideration. And with the voter, the central thought is: can I vote in such a way that my approval or disapproval will be of the greatest good to the country irrespective of my personal likes or dislikes or my benefits or losses. I ask, can a citizen take any other view as a voter while discharging his whole duty? If this be true—and I am sure it is—can a government employee be expected to cast a vote that will always be the greatest possible benefit to the country? My conclusion is that government employees should be disfranchised. Because every voter will allow selfish inclinations to influence him while marking his ballot. Also a government employee when disfranchised will take no part in elections, which surely would be beneficial and a credit to Canada.

VOTER.

St. Catharines.

COST OF LIVING.

Items on the Time-worn but Ever Timely Subject.

Not high charges by the farmers but excessive profits for the middlemen—such was the explanation of high prices for vegetables made by Mr. Thomas Dilworth, president of the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association at the annual meeting in Toronto on the 15th November, Mr. Dilworth said:

"The solution of this difficulty is in the coming together of the consumer and the producer; and the new candidates for Mayor of Toronto might well note the action taken by some mayors in the United States in breaking up potato combines, by buying for the consumer at cost and retailing again at only a reasonable charge for transportation and delivery."

Dr. C. C. James, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, advised the beekeepers at their convention in Toronto, to organize for the purpose of increasing production and also of getting into direct touch with the consumers cutting out the middleman.

Comments of the European newspapers indicate that the rise of prices of commodities is at the bottom of the social unrest, especially in Austria and Germany.

A special correspondent in Britain of the Toronto Star describes the situation in that country in relation to wages as very grave. The railway men feel that they were "jockeyed" in the recent settlement and are preparing to declare another strike when the railways are busiest, just before Christmas. Even the post office employees have got into such a condition of exasperation at delays in dealing with their petitions for improvement of conditions that they are seriously considering the advisability of calling a strike.

Not only are many cities in the United States taking up the question of supplying citizens with farm products and so supplanting the dealers in these products but even state governments are taking a hand in the work. In Wisconsin—Senator La Follette's state—there is a board of Public Affairs which is empowered, not merely to investigate the cost of living but also to "provide for more economic distribution of products and commodities." The board is having the whole subject investigated by a specialist with a view to taking speedy and practical action.

The co-operative housemaid plan, that has been worked out successfully in Europe, is to be tried in Kansas City in an apartment house of sixteen suites of rooms that is being built at Eleventh street and the Paseo. All the unpleasant work of housekeeping, the dishwashing, sweeping, scrubbing, and house-