

AMAZING.

It is amazing to read that in the recent Winnipeg civic elections, only 28,144 persons voted out of a total of about 60,000 qualified electors on the voters' list. The election was one of the most important and most interesting ever held in Canada. The issue was a vital one locally and nationally. Bug union extremists were pitted against a citizens' league, renewing in a constitutional way a most bitter and distressful conflict which had been lawless in its origin, and which terminated only after bloodshed. In the election, victory for the citizens' league meant decent civic government in Winnipeg, and a warning to all extremists and aliens in Canada that decent people here propose to rule the roost. Victory for the bugs meant a Soviet in Winnipeg, and an out-flame throughout the west for the Bolshevik idea, and possibly throughout all Canada. So one would imagine that nearly every qualified voter in Winnipeg would want to vote, no matter which side his or her sympathies were on. But now one hears that less than half the voters in the city cast ballots! How is one to account for a thing like that? Despite the fact that the decent people won the election, the smallness of the vote under such circumstances is almost enough itself to make one despair of democracy. Certainly it ought to be enough to carry home to every patriotic citizen a conviction of the duty which rests upon him to register his vote whenever a voting day comes, and to urge others to do the same.