

# The Commoner.

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## EVERY VOTE COUNTS

Every democratic reader in every state should remember that every vote counts and it might be that his particular vote would have a determining influence upon the election.

One frequently hears during a campaign the statement: "My ballot won't have any bearing on the result, and there is no use in my going to the polls." Men who habitually make this statement forget that they do not stand alone. Public interests have suffered greatly in the past by the stay-at-home vote. One ballot by itself does not greatly count, and yet in the aggregate these stay-at-home ballots would in many cases have changed results. And there have been many instances where even a single ballot might have turned the scale.

Not long ago the St. Louis Republic said that at a municipal election in St. Louis one of the nominees for the city council was elected by a plurality of three votes, out of a total of about 98,000, and these three votes definitely decided the majority of the superior branch of the municipal assembly. These three votes caused a majority of one in the city council; by such a small majority putting the council in sympathy with the mayor and his administration. These three votes practically determined the general working policy of the council.

Commenting upon this fact the Republic said: "At some time in the nation's history one vote might determine the government's policy or the country's destiny. The small plurality of three votes out of 98,000, impresses the value of one ballot and accentuates the duty of patriotism upon every occasion. Every ballot is equal. Every ballot is a unit, which, whether applied or not applied, has some bearing on results."

At this moment these observations are important to the American voters and particularly to voters in those states where repeated republican victories have caused them to lose hope. But there are good reasons for believing that if every opponent of monopoly will do his duty at the polls, victories for the public interests will be won in many districts and states heretofore regarded as republican territory.



## Patriotism of the Standpatter

## Homes and Shrines of Britainy

Mr. Bryan's Fortieth Letter

He who sees only the cities and villages of Great Britain misses one of the most interesting features of English life. Land tenure is so different here from tenure in the United States that the reader will pardon a sketch of the old-fashioned manor. In England, the right of primogeniture still remains and the family home descends to the oldest son. It not only descends to him, but it continues its descent through him to his son and his son's son and is not subject to alienation. It was our good fortune to be invited to several of these homes, some of them rich in family heirlooms and of historic interest.

Our ambassador, Mr. Reid, is occupying one of the most famous estates in England; it is known as Wrest Park and is about forty miles from London. During the London season, many spend the "week's end" at their country home and after a fortnight's experience in London we could appreciate the necessity for it, for the dinner hour is eight or eight fifteen, while receptions and balls begin at any hour from ten to twelve. The House of Commons does not convene until three o'clock in the afternoon and generally sits until mid-

night. Little wonder that there is an exodus on Saturday morning.

We spent our first week's end at Wrest Park and were shown through its spacious grounds. The house itself is only about seventy years old, but the land has been in the hands of the family for several centuries. The estate consists of about seven thousand acres, most of it in cultivation, but enough is left adjoining the house for woods, parks, lawns and gardens, and these have been laid out and ornamented by landscape gardeners. There are walks lined with statuary, green stretches of velvet turf, miles of well kept hedges of holly and box and cedar, stately oaks, summer houses, tea houses, green houses and everything in the way of ornament that taste could dictate and money supply. The gardens are especially attractive. They were shut in by high walls and against these walls fruit trees, vines and flowers are trained with artistic effect. In the hot houses peaches are ripening before their season, and huge bunches of grapes are growing purple. Cucumbers, tomatoes and many other vegetables as well as fruits which we grow out of