

"A Paper Everybody Should Read"

Under the headline, "A Paper Everybody Should Read," the Athens (Tex.) Review prints the following editorial:

There is one political paper that every man and woman in the United States should read, whether he or she be a democrat, republican, socialist, or nothing, in a political sense. It makes no difference whether one agrees with the editor not. One can not honestly, and with a desire to know the truth, read this paper without being benefited. One can but be made to think, and though one may not be convinced, he can be induced to examine his own position more closely and thus be benefited. The editor and owner is the most influential man, whether in office or out, in the United States today. That he is a patriot and has only the interests of his country at heart is proven by his unselfish devotion to the public welfare during his whole public life. He is perhaps the only man that has been as much in the limelight as he has who has never contradicted himself and whose every principle advocated by him has been proven true and in harmony with the objects of this

been here two months ago if he had not been attached to democratic national headquarters during the Wilson campaign.

500,000 ARE AFFECTED

"My case is not at all unusual," Gordon said to a reporter for the World. "I suppose there is not one among the 500,000 travelling men in this country who has not at some time or other lost his vote because the law bars all but the stay-at-homes. My case isn't even unusual so far as it concerns the fact that I, in my thirties as I am, voted for the first time last November.

"I have been deeply interested in politics all my life. I like to talk politics, and I like to do electioneering. Disfranchised as I have been, I have still been able to do a lot of work in behalf of men and issues to which I felt impelled to give my support. I think I am a good citizen in every sense of the word, and I certainly do think the law ought to take cognizance of my situation.

"Particularly in New York state registration days preceding the more important elections come just at the season of the year when travelling men must be away from home. Last fall, for instance, they came when the men were out with their spring goods, their busiest season of all. A man who wants to vote, and is qualified to vote intelligently, ought to have a chance to do so.

"This is no legislative adventure that we have embarked on. Kansas has exactly such a law as we are anxious to have in New York. Minnesota has such a law, and there is now pending in the legislature of Wisconsin a third measure toward the same end. You can see, then, that this thing has already been put to the test.

"A man who is not in the position I am in just now can have no appreciation of the demand that exists for such legislation. It is not travelling salesmen alone that are concerned in this. Railway and steamship men, actors and men of a dozen other pursuits must bear the same hardship. They have been talking this thing over for years, and now they are doing something more than talk alone. Look here."

Gordon threw open the drawers of the desk at which he was sitting and began taking out petitions. Last October he began sending blanks to the hotels of the country, asking that they be put where they would be seen, and that they be returned when they bore all the signatures possible.

The petitions that have been returned in the intervening time bear 175,000 signatures.

These signatures are being classified by states, and, as far as possible, by cities. When they have been segregated those of each state will be made the basis of a petition for action in the state and for a local organization of the Good Government association. In this way it is hoped to carry into each state systematic work for legislation.

Many of the signers added expressions of their opinion of the movement. One man, who signed in Denver, penned beneath his name: "It cost me \$18 to get back to Chicago and

government as intended by its founders. He is the peer of Washington in patriotism and of Jefferson in statesmanship. His most recent public acts in the Baltimore convention demonstrated uncontrovertibly his absolute fearlessness politically and his undying opposition to "big business" and predatory corporations that have, under republican misrule, robbed and plundered the government and impoverished the masses of the people. If the nomination of Governor Wilson was a blessing to the people (and we believe it is) the boldness and wisdom of this man contributed more to his nomination than any other man.

This paper is "The Commoner," edited and owned by William Jennings Bryan. The Commoner is published at Lincoln, Neb., at \$1.00 a year. If we were as rich as Rockefeller, we would agree to give every man back \$2.00 who honestly read it a year and then would say that his dollar had not been profitably invested.

The Commoner is twelve years old and grows better, if possible, all the time. Yes, every citizen should read it. If not a subscriber now don't wait longer but send your dollar.

vote in November." Another man wrote: "I haven't been able to cast a ballot since Cleveland ran the first time." A third man said: "My great-grandfather fought in the revolution for the rights that are denied me."

Assemblyman Lewis's bill looks to an amendment of the constitution which will provide that "No elector residing in a city or village who is temporarily absent from his residence on the last day of registration shall be deprived of his vote, and that the legislature shall be empowered to make suitable provision for the registration of such absent electors."

The ultimate purpose is that the absentee, wherever he may be, may go before a notary, answer the regular questions, affix his signature, swear to his answers, and have the form then forwarded to the board of electors, by which it shall be investigated. In this way, it is believed, no door to fraud will be opened.

"HOW TO BE A USEFUL MAN"

An interesting dispatch, carried by the Associated Press, is as follows: "Albany, N. Y., Feb. 13.—Vincent Astor has selected the field of agriculture for aiding humanity. Governor Sulzer announced today that he had appointed Astor to head the delegation which will represent New York state at the meeting of the general assembly at the international institute of agriculture to be held in Rome next May. Governor Sulzer said Astor recently asked him for his advice on how to be a useful man. Various plans were discussed, including the naval militia, but the young man selected agriculture. He told the governor he would use the Astor farm at Rhinecliff for scientific and experimental purposes with a view to benefiting the farmers of the country. Besides attending the convention at Rome, the delegation will also investigate European systems of agriculture and will be received by the king and queen of Italy."

It is indeed gratifying to know that the young man who is perhaps the richest young man in all the world, intends to devote his money and his talents to the service of society. He will be able to accomplish great good in the field. But he has already accomplished good by the good example he has set in displaying an anxiety to do something for his fellow men. In the field of agriculture he will have an excellent opportunity for the advancement of scientific effort. He will find that work is the thing that makes life worth living; work for the awakening in one's own consciousness of the ideals that reveal the world beautiful; work for the expression of those ideals in individual conduct and in the life of government. Helen Gould, now Mrs. Sheppard, was endeared to the American people, not by reason of her millions, but because of the efforts she has made to render service to society. In an address delivered in London, July 4, 1906, Mr. Bryan said: "The odium which rests upon the work of the hand has exerted a baneful influence the world around. The theory that idleness is more honorable than toil—that it is more respectable to consume what others have pro-

duced than to be a producer of wealth—has not only robbed society of an enormous sum but it has created an almost impassable gulf between the leisure classes and those who support them. Tolstoy is right in asserting that most of the perplexing problems of society grow out of the lack of sympathy between man and man. Because some imagine themselves above work while others see before them nothing but a life of drudgery there is constant warring and much bitterness. When men and women become ashamed of doing nothing and strive to give to society full compensation for all they receive from society there will be harmony between the classes. While Europe and America have advanced far beyond the Orient in placing a proper estimate upon those who work, even our nations have not yet fully learned the lesson that employment at some useful avocation is essential to the physical health, intellectual development and moral growth. If America and England are to meet the requirements of their high positions they must be prepared to present in the lives of their citizens examples, increasing in number, of men and women who find delight in contributing to the welfare of their fellows, and this ought not to be difficult, for every department of human activity has a fascination of its own. The agricultural colleges and industrial schools which have sprung up in so many localities are evidence that a higher ideal is spreading among the people."

"LOOK OUT NINE WINDOWS"

Vincent Astor, the young multi-millionaire, recently passed a night at the governor's house at Albany. He wanted to talk to the governor about the subject uppermost in his mind—the question that ought to be uppermost in the mind of every young man—"how to be a useful man." Governor Sulzer tells of his conversation with young Astor in this way:

"I told him he was living in a house with only one window, that he was looking out of that window every day and his views were consequently limited and contracted. I said, 'I am going to put nine windows in your house. You can look out of each of these windows with me and you will get a greater perspective. After you have looked out of all the windows, select the view you like best, and the field wherein you think you can be the most useful, and then go to work and do something for your fellow man. He spent some time looking out of these windows, and he didn't seem to take much interest in any of them until I went to the agricultural window, and the moment he looked out of that he said: 'That is my field, that is what I would like to do. I have one of the finest farms in the state of New York down along the Hudson river. My father never did anything with it. I am going to make that farm an experimental farm along scientific farm lines, and everything I do there will be told to the people of the country.'"

How many young men are "living in a house with only one window?" None of them have money as Vincent Astor has, but every one has opportunity equal with young Astor's opportunity. One popular writer gave the world a sentence that ought to be posted in every nursery as well as in every counting room and every work shop in the land, when he wrote: "Even in the life that is ordinary, the part that is done for God is enormous." So many men with money are wasting their opportunities and going through a career of idleness that Vincent Astor's determination to become a useful man is worthy of more than ordinary comment. With millions of dollars at his command he will be able to render great service but with all of his millions he can not render any more service than that which may be rendered by the humblest and poorest lad in the world who catches the vision of good and follows the ideals that have been awakened within him, making those ideals models for all his efforts.

A GOOD MAN

Marcus McClain, Blythe, Cal: Our community is bowed in sorrow at the death, January 29, 1913, at Blythe, Cal., of Judge George Moore, and our hearts in deep sympathy go out to his family. The end came suddenly at his home, and with a smile on his face he passed away. Judge Moore was in the prime of life and a man of splendid virtues. Tender as a woman, generous and humble, loved by his associates and respected by all who knew him. Peace to his ashes in the lonely spot where they lie. Judge Moore was a logical supporter of The Commoner. Kindly publish the above in your paper that his many friends may read it.