

## ASTOR WANTS UTOPIA OF COUNTRY ESTATE NEAR NEW YORK CITY

Increases Wages to the Tune of \$100,000 a Year; Retires Old Employees on Pension.

(By the International News Service.)  
New York, July 28.—Vincent Astor is planning to transform his magnificent estate at Rhinebeck into a modern Utopia as far as conditions of labor are concerned.

As the first step in what the young man terms "industrial democracy," just before sailing on his regular week end cruise on the Norma, he conferred with many of the 1000 men, women and children employed at Fern Cliff.

"I desire to get into the closest possible touch with every department on the place," had been his message to them. "If you have any complaint or suggestion to make, come to me personally each Saturday morning. I will see you and talk to you as man to man, and not as employer to employee."

Mr. Astor half expected that in response to his invitation dozens would flock to him with complaints. Instead, while a small army assembled, only three employees came forward to speak to him. These simply wanted to greet the young squire of Fern Cliff and thank him for what he has done for them since he has undertaken the management of the estate. In the last few months he has gradually raised wages until the pay roll at Fern Cliff shows an increase of approximately \$100,000 a year.

To carry out his scheme of "industrial democracy" at Fern Cliff, Mr. Astor has also decided to retire old employees on a pension. There are several families on the place who have been with the Astors for three generations and these are secure in their own little cottages as though they hold deeds to the property.

Mr. Astor has told his intimate friends that he realizes that most of his wealth comes through the increase of real estate values and he carries that hypothesis to its logical conclusion in these words:

"It is my duty to show my gratitude by taking an interest in great public movements and in every way to attempt to aid mankind."

He has determined in a measure to break down the barriers invariably raised between master and men. He has determined to avoid the weaker things of his life, and among these he includes "Too much society."

## CHICAGO WOMEN SHOW NO INTEREST IN VOTE

School Bond Election Draws Out Small Number of Women for First Time.

(United Press Leased Wire.)  
Chicago, July 28.—Lukewarm interest was shown Saturday by the women voters of Morgan Park, when a vote was taken on a proposed bond issue for a \$45,000 high school. The election was the first in Cook county, in which Chicago is situated, to be held since the passage by the last legislature of the woman suffrage bill.

Mrs. Gertrude B. Blackwelder, prominent in Chicago suffrage activities, had the distinction of being the first woman to vote in Cook county. She appeared at the polls early and after casting her ballot she spent the remainder of the day in a fruitless effort to arouse interest of other women in the election. At 6 o'clock but 22 women had visited the polling place, one of them carrying a baby.

Some of the women voters were accompanied by their husbands. The men's vote was 927.  
Women leaders of the suffrage movement attributed the indifference of the women in the election to the fact that it was unimportant and that the bond issue was not opposed, rather than to lack of appreciation of their enfranchisement.

**Asks Pay for Ruined Crops.**  
Paris, July 28.—The minister of agriculture has introduced a bill in the chamber asking that \$500,000 be set aside by the government to be portioned out among farmers whose crops have been ruined by droughts, floods, etc.

## AMERICAN COMMISSION WELCOMED BY FRANCE

Leaders in Agricultural Affairs Discuss Credit System, First Hand.

Paris, July 18.—With subcommittees arriving from Denmark, Holland, Belgium, Norway and Sweden and the main body from Germany, the entire strength of 100 members of the American Commission on Agricultural Cooperation gathered here for the last week of its visit in continental Europe. It was the first time that the entire party was together since they left the ship at Naples, May 10. At various stages of the trip subcommittees have been sent to Russia, Egypt, Switzerland, Spain and Sicily. In all, 14 countries of the continent were visited.

The welcome to France was extended first by M. Clementel, minister of agriculture. A luncheon was served at the American embassy to the members of the commission at which Ambassador Herriot, M. Clementel and David Lubin, American delegate to the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome, made addresses.

M. Polignac, president of the French republic, tendered a reception to the Americans. Officials of the Bank of France received the commission, following the president's reception in the Elysee palace. Thus the commission entered the continent with receptions from the chief magistrates of two countries. In Italy, the first country visited, the commission was received by King Victor Emanuel.

The French program opened with conferences at which leaders of agricultural affairs and of the agricultural credit movement addressed the commission. The principal points of study in France were the Credit Foncier, the great national land bank of France, and the Credit Agricole, or association of short time cooperative credit institutions.

In order to study at first hand operations of the credit institutions, the commission was taken as subcommittees through the French provinces, visiting the country about Lyons, Arles, Orleans, Pau, Bordeaux and Reims. The main body of the commission pursued its studies in Paris.

**Snag Kills Timber Feller.**  
(Special to The Journal.)  
Centralia, Wash., July 28.—Struck by a snag which rebounded when struck by a falling tree, Nels Delene, a timber feller employed at the Eastern & Western camp near Kelso, was killed. Although his skull was crushed, Delene lived for over two hours.

**To Change Morocco's Capital.**  
(United Press Leased Wire.)  
Paris, July 28.—An effort is being made here to transfer the capital of Morocco from Fes to Rabat for economic, climatic and military reasons.

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ENJOY DAY'S OUTING

Portland and Other Delegations Run Gamut of Fun at Bonneville.

Everything serious was barred at Bonneville yesterday when 500 Portland Knights of Columbus, joined by delegations from The Dalles, Hood River and other cities, joined the annual picnic. The Portlanders went on a special train with individual members from various towns up the Willamette, swelling the throng.

In the race events, Michael Glesher won the 50 yard race for boys and Mary Moore was winner in the girls' race. Chester Hughes won the 100 yard dash for men, and Martha Zeringer and Ada Herbring came in first and second, respectively, in the girls' potato race. Adrian Ward and Chester Hughes won the human wheelbarrow race. Leo J. Merrick was victor in the fat men's race, and Margie Eile and Ellen Hughes came in first and second in the race for fat women.

Frank Callahan and Jack Douglass won the three legged race. Mrs. Dugan took the 50 yard dash for married women, with Mrs. W. J. Smith second. A cracker and whistling contest provoked much rivalry. Miss Abbott swallowed her cracker and piped forth her whistle first, though several young women almost choked when they tried it.

The Dalles team won the tug of war. Rev. Father Murphy won the men's potato race, winning a lamp. Miss Dixon and Miss Madden were declared winners in the nail driving contest.

Proceedings wound up with a kangaroo court in which all the defendants were found guilty and thrown into jail. T. G. Ryan acted as judge. A riot occurred when someone assaulted a deputy sheriff and deprived him of his star. Peace was finally restored and all was calm when the party started back for Portland.

## CHOOSING ANNIVERSARY TO KILL TOO GAY SPOUSE

(United Press Leased Wire.)  
Los Angeles, July 28.—Mrs. Leah Delmont, a young Belgian, is held here today for the killing of her husband on the fifth anniversary of their wedding day. Constant abuse and the repeated declaration that her most intimate friend had supplanted her in his affections, she stoically told the police, caused her to shoot him five times through the body at their home here Sunday, killing him instantly.

According to the story the woman sobbed out, her husband repeatedly drove past their door in an automobile her money had bought, with the other woman at his side. Her body is covered with bruises which she alleges were caused by her husband's blows and kicks.

## WOMAN DECLARES SHE SHOT AT LOVER

He, in Turn, Prefers Not to Discuss Unpleasant Incident.

(United Press Leased Wire.)  
Pittsburg, Pa., July 28.—The police are investigating an unusual story told by Miss Alice Hopkins, aged 24, who claims that in the hallway of her fifth avenue home late Saturday she shot at Christopher Wisner, aged 50, a wealthy coal operator, to whom she says she has been engaged for more than 11 years when he told her he had married another. She says that Wisner supported her in the Fifth avenue home and she also charges that he is the father of her 2-year-old daughter whom she calls Ruth.

She asserts that after she shot at Wisner he ran from the house yelling that he was shot, jumped into his automobile and ordered his chauffeur to drive him to his home in Dravosburg, near here.

Detectives Kennedy and Hickey found him there after hearing Miss Hopkins' story and took him to the Oakland police station. They did not place him under arrest, but are said to have questioned him at length regarding the charges made by Miss Hopkins and the alleged shooting. Wisner admitted tonight that he is acquainted with Miss Hopkins, but said he "did not know it" if he was shot. He said he might make a statement on Monday.

## PREDICTION OF DRY WINDS TO BE SOUGHT

Association Wants Bureau to Secure Forecasts of Winds That Cause Forest Fires.

To predict the dread "chinook," north or "east wind," various names under which the dry winds that sweep the northwest states for days at a time and fan forest fires with relentless fury are known, the Western Forestry and Conservation association, the private timber association of the coast, is making arrangements with the United States weather bureau.

These winds are caused by a peculiar atmospheric condition. They form when an area of high pressure exists over northern British Columbia and Alberta, coinciding with a low pressure area over California. A violent southerly wind is produced, which may be deflected into various directions by the mountains, and which contain no moisture. The winds dry everything out so thoroughly that the smallest blaze in the forest soon gets beyond control. This wind is the chief fear of the timber fire fighter.

The association hopes to have the United States weather bureau cooperate with the Canadian weather bureau in sending out reports of conditions that make this wind. Then the forest guardians will be notified, along with the big mills and the logging camps that precautions may be redoubled. It is planned to have this system in vogue before the next fire season comes around.

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