

VINCENT ASTOR, THE RICHEST YOUNG MAN IN UNITED STATES

At Twenty He Has Come Into One of the Greatest of American Fortunes.

Was His Father's Chum and Accompanied Him on Many Yachting Trips.

FOLLOWING the tragic death of his father in the wreck of the Titanic, William Vincent Astor is the richest young man in America, possibly the richest in the world. The fortune of Colonel John Jacob Astor has been estimated all the way from \$100,000,000 to \$150,000,000, and the bulk of it goes to his son. This boy of twenty now becomes the head of the Astor family in America, controlling a large number of hotels and other buildings and real estate in New York city and inheriting connections with important corporations and business interests throughout the country.

Thus far in his career young Astor has been chiefly distinguished for fast automobile driving and reported engagements to girls at Newport and elsewhere. At one time he attended the famous English school at Eton, but soon left, followed by reports that his elaborate wardrobe and display of wealth had arrayed the other students against him. At the time he was called to the management of one of America's greatest estates he was a student at Harvard.

When Colonel Astor went on a yachting cruise in the West Indies in the fall of 1910 Vincent Astor accompanied him. A great storm arising at sea, the Astor yacht was reported lost. For days a search was made by government vessels, and finally the yacht was discovered riding at anchor in the harbor at San Juan. After the loss of Colonel Astor's life on the Titanic the incident was recalled, and some imaginative people saw in it an omen of his fate.

Vincent Was a Delicate Child.

Vincent Astor is tall, with straight black hair, dark blue eyes and not particularly strong face. During boyhood his health was delicate, for which reason six months of each year were spent at the Astor country estate, Ferncliff, at Rhinebeck-on-the-Hudson, three months at Newport and three months in New York. About the first time the chief heir of the Astor millions came into the newspapers for a big story was when as a child he was sent to Switzerland for his health in charge of a small army of nurses and physicians. He is yet far from robust, and since the shock of his father's death those who have seen him describe him as more than usually pale, with the careworn face of a man of middle age. From boyhood he had been the chum of his father, and after the separation of his parents the court placed him in Colonel Astor's care, while his sister, eight years younger, went to her mother.

The stories told about Newport of young Astor and his automobile escapades indicate that notwithstanding ill health he has red blood in his veins. These tales recount how he drives about the streets at such breakneck speed that he has been fined more than once. On one occasion he collided with another machine, and, while no one was seriously injured, the occupants of both cars received a shaking up that sobered the youth for a time. On another occasion Astor and a young friend raced their machines on the beach. They were driving at a pace of 110 miles per hour when the friend's machine caught fire and the Astor car skidded on the wet sand and ran into the sea. Emerging from the wave that overwhelmed young Astor for the first time, he saw his friend's plight, hastily struggled out of the water and helped to put out the blaze.

Colonel Astor Was an Able Man.

Colonel John Jacob Astor was more than a man of wealth. He was the inventor of an improved turbine engine, a pneumatic road improver and a bicycle brake, was author of two books, a soldier in the Spanish-American war, a yachtsman of no mean ability, a good roads enthusiast, builder of many hotels and other edifices and a successful business man. At the outbreak of the war with Spain he organized a mountain battery that did good service. Both at Chickamauga and in Cuba he served as inspector general of volunteers with the rank of lieutenant colonel, being on the staff of General Shafter and taking part in the fighting that ended with the surrender of Santiago. At the close of the war he was commended by General Shafter for "faithful and meritorious service" and was advanced to the brevet rank of colonel. Unlike his cousin, William Waldorf Astor, who became a British subject, Colonel Astor said that he was proud to be an American.

There is a story of an engineer who was once called into consultation by Astor. This engineer had heard of the multimillionaire as a leader of the smart set and went into Astor's presence with some trepidation and arrayed in his best bib and tucker. He found the man of millions in a rather dingy office bending over blueprints of the turbine engine he was then inventing. Colonel Astor at once plunged into the subject of marine engineering and showed a grasp of the subject that surprised the

visitor. That night the engineer's wife, intent on social pointers, asked him about his visit to the society leader and was rather taken aback at the enthusiastic reply: "I found a man. If Colonel Astor were stripped of his millions he would make his mark as a marine engineer and inventor." The estimate was borne out by later events. The manner of his life, his Americanism, military service, kindly treatment of others and, more than all, his death, all proclaimed John Jacob Astor a man.

His Many Activities.

He was born at Ferncliff in 1864, graduated from Harvard in 1888 and succeeded to the management of the vast Astor estates at the death of his father in 1891. He built some of the greatest hotels in New York, the Knickerbocker, St. Regis, Netherland, Astor and, with his cousin, William Waldorf Astor, the Waldorf-Astoria. He erected more office and other buildings than perhaps any other one man in the city. His real estate holdings this year were assessed at nearly \$42,000,000.

sufficiently so that the story can be pieced together. Some say that he placed his wife in the boat, got in after her and on seeing another woman standing near gallantly gave up his place and returned to the doomed vessel. Others assert that he asked an officer if he might go along to protect his wife, who was in delicate health, and on being informed of the rule of women and children first calmly acquiesced, whispered a word of encouragement to Mrs. Astor, lit a cigarette and helped with launching the other boats. The last seen of him he was waving a farewell to his child wife across the waves. His body was afterward picked up and given burial in New York.

The Legacy He Left.

John Jacob Astor was not an Ismay. With wealth enough to buy the White Star line, or at least a control of it, he went to his death like an American gentleman. He was still a young man with everything to live for—a new wife, millions to do with as he would, homes that he had fashioned to his ideal, an interest in science, literature and affairs, in all of which he took delight. One hour this pleasant prospect stretched peacefully before him. The next the world had changed, and all these cherished things were slipping away forever. Who can tell the emotions of such a moment? Yet this man at least faced fate without a murmur and went to his end with his fellows in the perfect democracy of death and of the sea. Heroism levels all ranks. The world is proud of such an example, whether offered by rich or poor. It is a legacy richer than that of all the Astor dollars.

As to the estate left to the heirs, it will be impossible even to approxi-



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TREATMENT FOR ROUPY TURKEYS.

Wild turkeys are tough as iron; tame turkeys are soft. Inbreeding, ill feeding and breeding for size have reduced their stamina, and they can't stand exposure like their ancestral king of the woods. If not often blown by a blizzard off the sour apple tree, the wind ruffles their feathers, hits them in the chest, and then come colds, catarrh, roup.

The turk in the picture caught its roup from chickens, that caught their



Photo by C. M. Barnitz. TURKEY HEN WITH ROUP.

roup in a henhouse with a damp, rank earth floor.

Drafts, damp, foul air for roup among the feathered tribe. Roup runs about the same course with turks as with hens.

There's that shaking of head, sniffling, clear bubble on nose, watery discharge from nostrils (cold). Then discharge turns whitish, begins to thicken, face begins to swell, bird starts to breathe through mouth (catarrh). At last the discharge turns yellow, smells, plugs nostrils, head swells, eyes close, breath rattles, bird stands with open mouth (roup).

Place a turkey with such symptoms in a comfortable place, have an as-

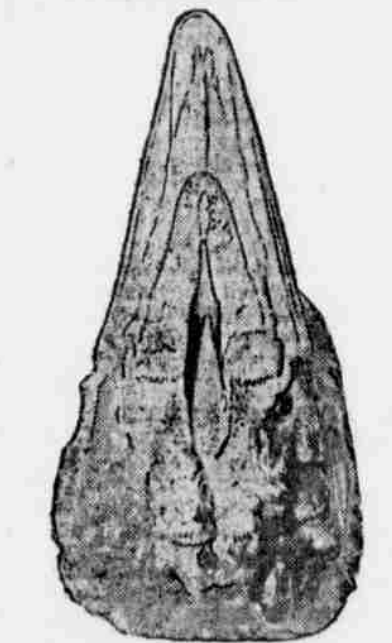


Photo by C. M. Barnitz. SECTION SHOWING TRUE MOUTH CLEFT.

stant to hold the bird and treat as follows:

Dip feather in kerosene and swab cleft of mouth; open nostrils, cleanse with feather and gently press swellings on side of face, and pus will run from nostrils.

Then spray nostrils, eyes, cleft, sores, with the following:

- Boric acid..... 1/4 ounce
- Zinc sulphate..... 1 dram
- Warm water..... 1 pint

Spray twice a day, give a grain quinine pill from three to five nights in succession, according to severity of attack, and season the moist mash with ginger.

We have found no better remedy for colds, catarrh, roup among the feathered tribe than the above.

DON'TS.

Don't catch the broiler fever. You may have a broiler explosion.

Don't forget that private trade is best and in most communities easy to secure and hold if you sell quality.

Don't forget that cabbage must be fed moderately at first, and no new item to the ration should be fed strong at first.

Don't buy cut bone when a cutter can be bought reasonably. Bone is cheap, and you may cut your own and sell to your neighbors at a profit.

Don't use a hatchet on men or hen. A hatchet lick just now and then might knock sense into bullhead men, but it is rather best to keep that old spite hatchet buried deep.



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NEW HEAD OF THE AMERICAN BRANCH OF THE ASTOR FAMILY, HIS MOTHER AND HIS STEPMOTHER.

000 in New York alone. He improved his Fifth avenue residence until it became one of the show places of the metropolis and his estate at Ferncliff until it is one of the finest in America. He spent large sums of money in improving the roads not only on his own lands, but in the vicinity, established a dairy that is famous and stables that are among the best stocked in America.

Colonel Astor was a director in railroads and other corporations and managed his business in a way to add to the great wealth left by his father. Many stories are told of his kindness to tenants and to those in his employ. His inventions have proved practical and are still in use. His pneumatic device for renovating macadam roads was awarded first prize at the Chicago exposition. His two books were both imaginative, as suggested by their titles, "A Journey in Other Worlds," recounting a trip to Saturn and Jupiter, and "A Romance of the Future."

Colonel Astor was first married in 1891, his bride being Miss Ava Willing of Philadelphia. Of this union were born William Vincent Astor and Alice Muriel Astor, the last named a girl of twelve, now in America with her mother. A few years ago Colonel and Mrs. Astor separated, and later the wife was granted a divorce without contest. The papers in the case were sealed.

Most readers yet remember the storm raised over Colonel Astor's second marriage. Several Episcopal bishops and clergymen seized the occasion to denounce the remarriage of divorced persons, one or two ministers even going to the length of refusing to officiate at the ceremony. Notwithstanding this, the marriage was duly and quietly solemnized, and it was while returning from an extended honeymoon that Astor met his death. The bride was Miss Madeleine Talmage Force, eighteen years old.

How John Jacob Astor Died.

The reports of Titanic survivors vary slightly as to the details of Colonel Astor's part in the tragedy, but agree

mate it until the appraiser makes his returns a year hence. The general estimate is \$150,000,000. It has long been a tradition in the Astor family that this wealth must pass down in bulk. The original John Jacob Astor came to America with hardly a dollar. He tramped from his home to the sailing port to save money. He began working for \$3 a week and was probably glad to get that. He was one of those men who can scent an opportunity a mile away, however. The fur trade with the Indians beckoned, and he went to it. Nothing that looked like money ever got by the original John Jacob. Withal he had imagination and was willing to take a chance. Witness his venture in founding Astoria, Ore.; also he had an appreciation of the finer things of life, as is proved by his starting of the Astor library.

From his day to the present the Astor family has been in the leadership socially and financially.

The Later Astors.

After John Jacob the first came William Backhouse, who was something of a bookworm and who enlarged the Astor library; a second John Jacob, another William or two and then one more John Jacob. In fact, Williams and John Jacobs have alternated throughout the Astor history. Nor must we forget the women—God bless 'em! Mrs. William Astor, mother of Colonel John Jacob, was for many years the undisputed leader of the most exclusive set of New York society.

Yet with all their millions and social prominence there is no envy of the child wife and the pale faced boy in this hour, but rather a worldwide sympathy. Sorrow is democratic, as well as death, and gold is a cold comforter. In the last analysis human beings are merely human beings, and the primal passions and hurts know nothing of wealth or artificial caste. These two are as much the victims of the system as those in the steerage. Their loss is as overwhelming as that of any whose sun of love went down in the sinking of the Titanic.

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