

## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, newspapers

### Section 3, Pages 61 - 78

This file includes subject correspondence relating to newspapers. Topics in the correspondence cover but is not limited to special editions, article requests for print from Governor Reed and responses to articles relating to Governor Reed. This file is part of a bigger collection of Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence.

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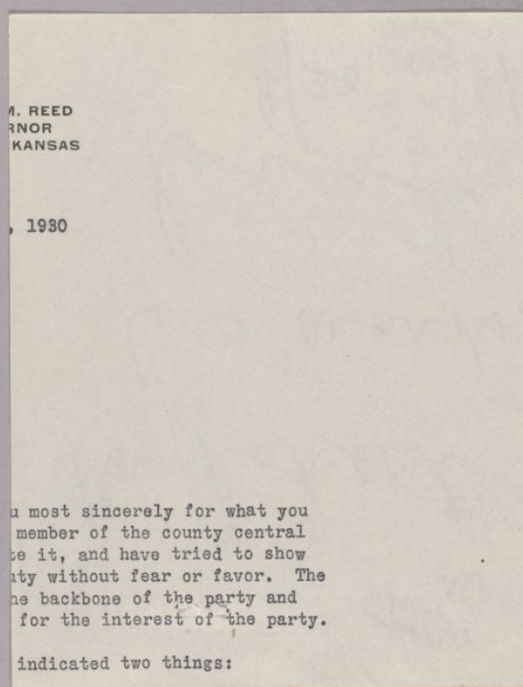
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## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, newspapers

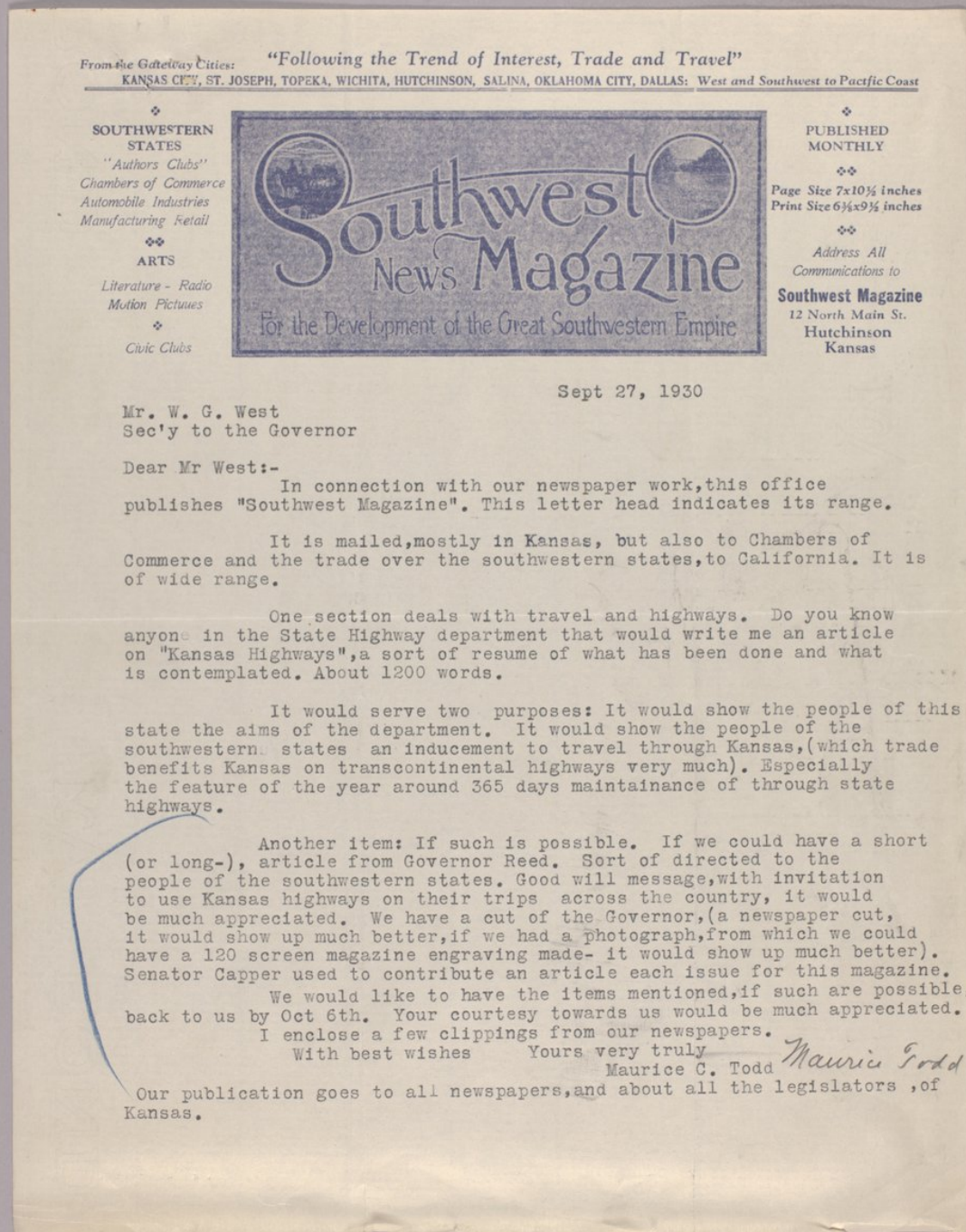
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## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, newspapers

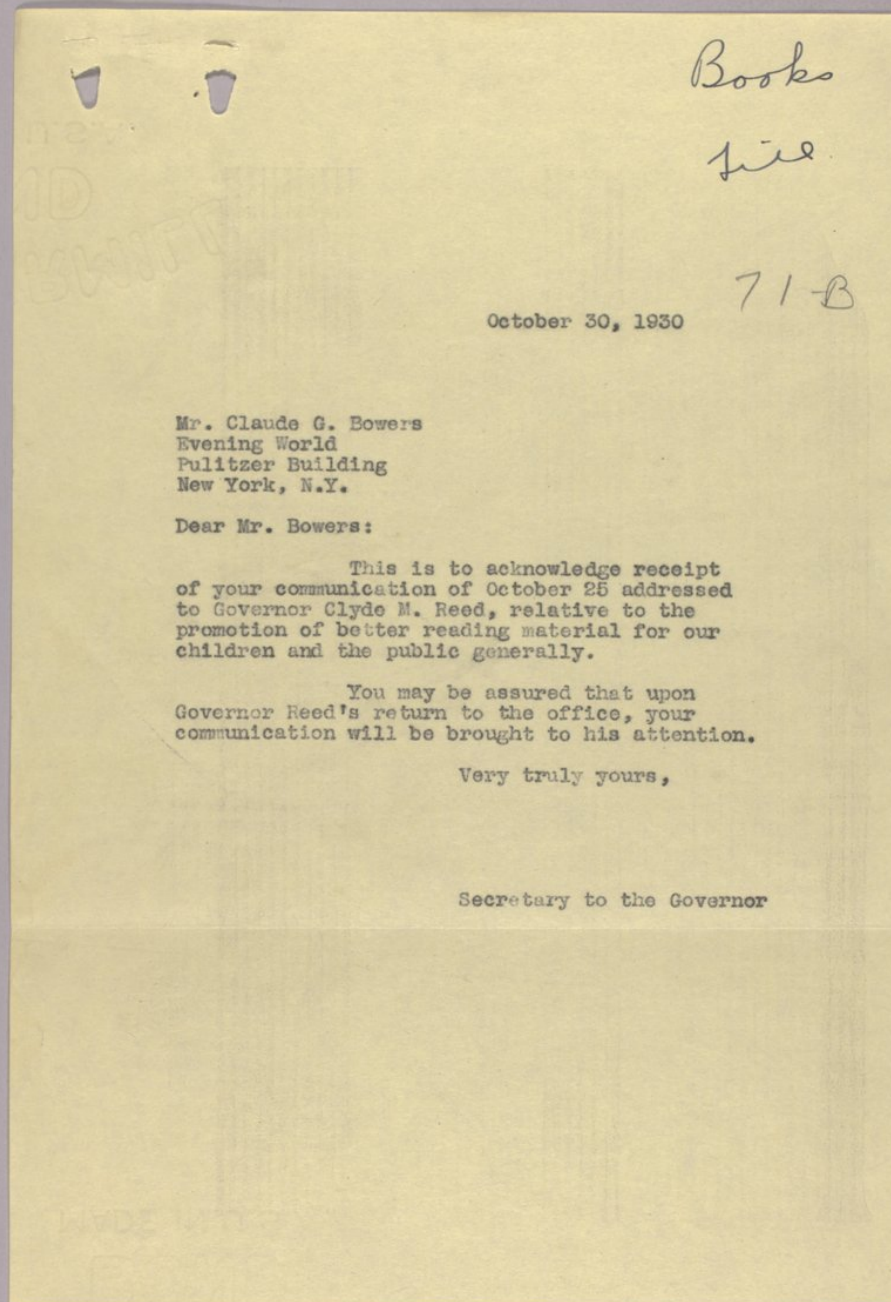




## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, newspapers



## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, newspapers





## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, newspapers

Claude G. Bowers

Editorial Rooms  
The Evening World

PULITZER BUILDING  
NEW YORK

October 25, 1930

Honorable Clyde M. Reed,  
Governor of Kansas,  
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Governor Reed:

Several of us are considering a very important step regarding which we are anxious to have your kind advice.

Our attention has been called to the astounding situation that exists in this country with regard to the unavailability of good books and the consequent failure of our people to develop a desire for reading. The reports of the American Library Association on this subject and the recent survey made by Mr. R. L. Duffus for the Carnegie Corporation, have brought to light this very serious situation. The findings have now been amply confirmed by the preliminary report issued the other day as a result of the White House Conference on Reading.

We have made a few extracts from these reports to give you a view of the situation.

We all realize that the education of the masses is the greatest security that we can have for American ideals. It is a grave indictment of our people when it is shown that we, as a nation, are not book conscious. The gravity of the situation is deeply impressed upon us when we learn from these reports that 82% of the rural population and 44% of the entire population of our country have no access to public libraries, that more than one-third of the counties throughout the country have no public libraries and that millions of our people have no access either to libraries or to book stores where they may obtain reading material.

How can we ever hope to combat the pernicious influence of the despotisms of the Old World, and how can we hope to develop and maintain a sound citizenship that will preserve American ideals, if we allow the very root of the American mind to become a barren waste through the lack of that vital education that comes, beyond the school and the university, through the power of literature.



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Honorable Clyde M. Reed

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It has been suggested that we organize a national association to cope with this problem. We feel that the first step is to make literature available to schools, libraries, hospitals, prisons, correctional institutions, veterans' reconstruction units and other centers of influence and education. Particularly is it desired that books be placed in those rural centers which now have absolutely no access to reading material. (The report of the American Library Association showed that 47,054,168 people in the rural districts had no access to local public libraries).

Of course where institutions have funds with which to purchase literature through the usual channels our assistance will not be needed. Our efforts will be directed to the problem of filling the gap wherever we find it.

Our plan is based on an appeal to leading American citizens throughout the country who will be asked to contribute funds and at the same time to choose the very institutions that they may wish to designate as the recipients of the books that will be purchased by our association with the funds contributed. The association will also make a survey to determine where books are most needed.

We hope to work out a plan by which we can purchase books economically and assure every donor that the regular publishers' prices of the books furnished will be substantially higher than the amount donated. Incidentally, we are working on a plan which, if successful, will assure at least \$150.00 worth of books to be delivered for every \$100.00 donation we receive.

We feel that we should endeavor to place in these centers of influence the best that we can obtain in current literature as well as the classics and standard works. The White House Conference report very clearly brought out the fact that it is not sufficient to place in the hands of adults or children books that they "ought to read" but that a desire for reading can best be cultivated by making available the books they would like to read. Of course our modern literature delivered to these centers in the very time when newspapers and magazines are writing about these very books is undoubtedly the best for that purpose.

By making the appeal for funds to individual citizens we hope to bring to them the realization that they must take a greater interest and a more active part in the educational institutions of our land, - whether it be the great university or the small rural school upon the hill.

We hope also that by the work of this association to ultimately arouse the communities themselves so that they may be more liberal with their funds in providing the necessary food for the minds of the masses.

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Honorable Clyde M. Reed

Page 3.

It has been suggested that this is the time for definite action. The entire nation will shortly celebrate the Bi-Centennial of the Father of our country. A great deal of money and effort will be used throughout the nation in pageants, parades and in the building of monuments of marble and steel. It is proper that this should be done. However, it is also the opportunity to build a living memorial in honor of George Washington that will be even more vital to the spirit of America than any material edifice. Hence it has been suggested that our association be called THE GEORGE WASHINGTON FOUNDATION FOR CITIZENSHIP AND EDUCATION. Some of us feel that this is the contribution we should make to the great patriotic celebration and that we should make it a lasting thing. A few of us are willing to carry the burden and to so shape the affairs of the society that there will be no call on you to take any additional responsibility beyond the many burdens which you already bear.

We feel, however, that we should have the benefit of your opinion and of your encouragement before we proceed.

We find our duty in the concluding words of the White House Conference Report:-

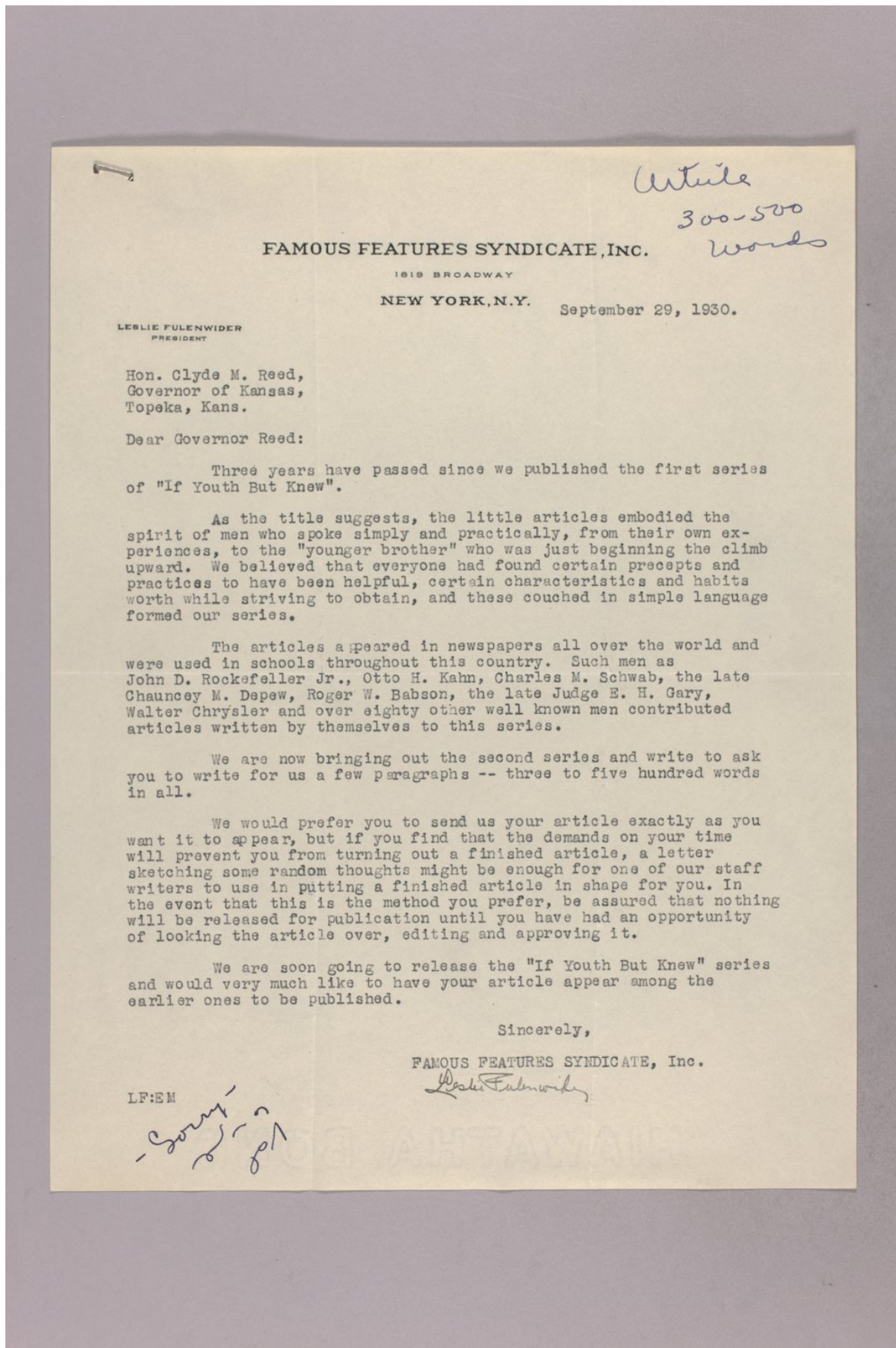
"In conclusion, the Committee repeats that the problem of promoting good reading among American children is, above everything else, a problem of making good reading matter accessible".

Awaiting your kind reply, I beg to remain

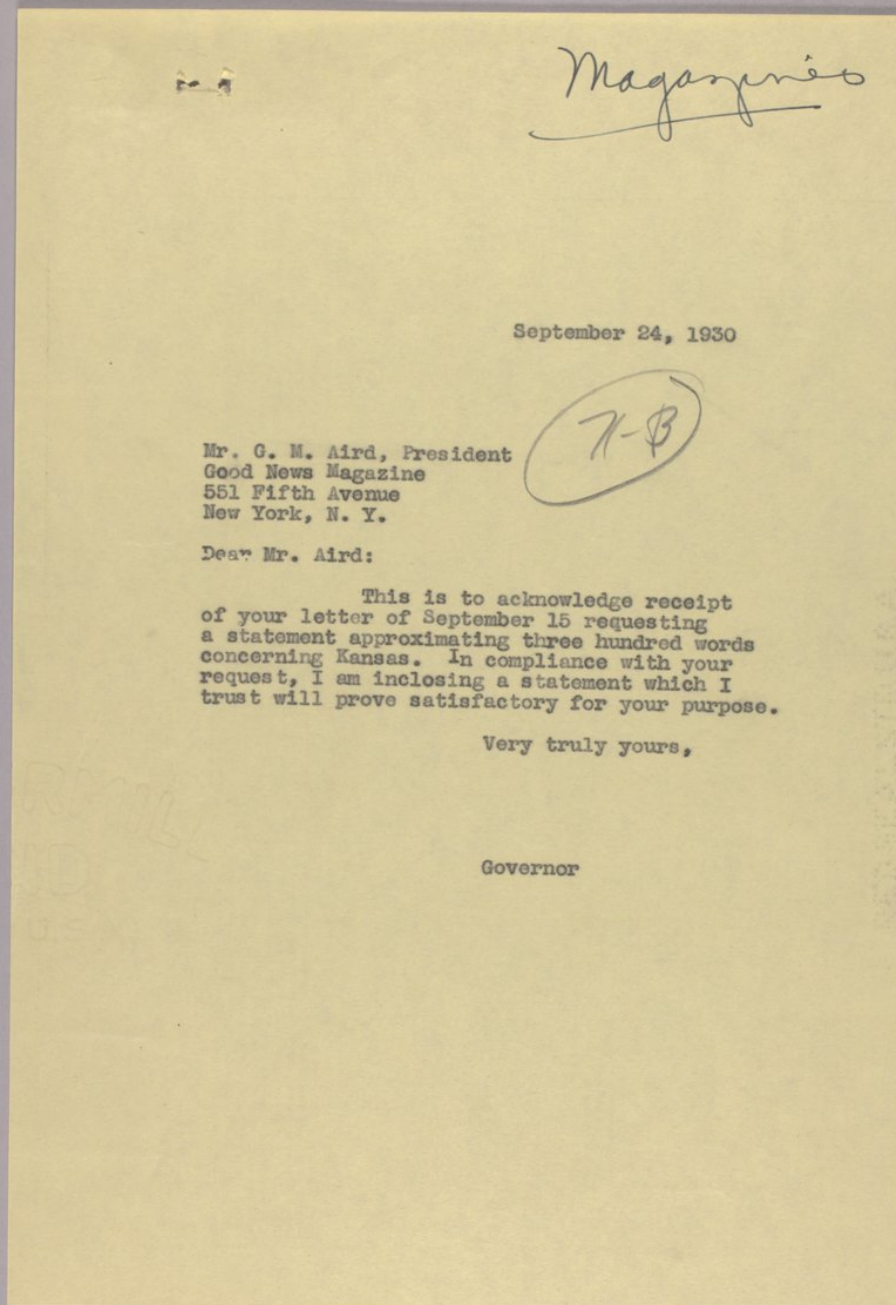
Yours very truly,  
*Claude G. Powers*



## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, newspapers



## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, newspapers





## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, newspapers

"Kansas' wealth?" So much of it to be developed, in so many forms -- where shall we turn? Vast mineral resources to be expanded, oceans of wheat, seas of corn, cattle upon a thousand hills, freedom on her wide rolling plains and wooded hills and valleys, health in her pure ozone, a sturdy, intelligent and homogeneous people. In that last, shall we not say lies our greatest wealth, source of all the rest? Kansas' people! Cream of the population of all states east of her, lured to citizenship by the magic of her name and romantic history. Following the close of the Civil War, attracted by her free Homestead law and her battle for freedom, many thousands of Union soldiers came to Kansas and builded homes, reared families, and gave of their patriotic fervor and virile manhood to the social and political life of the new commonwealth, always setting up school-house and church everywhere on the far-flung frontier.

From such brave and eager hearts and minds came the inspiration to climb to the stars through difficulties, as tersely expressed in her state motto. And always the difficulties have been courageously met and conquered, whether it was border ruffians on the east or bloody savages on the west, or drouth or flood, or tornadoes or devastating locust hordes, as of old, or the depressing farm marketing problems of today from which she is suffering in common with her sister states of the west.

From such stock came the challenge to human slavery and the liquor curse, ~~with the battle-cry, "They shall not pass."~~ Pioneers in Abolition, Prohibition and freedom to women, Kansas people are always on the firing line of human progress and social well-being. So, pointing to these strong-souled men and women and the grand army of starry-eyed boys and girls, shall we not say, "Here lies the wealth of Kansas?"

## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, newspapers

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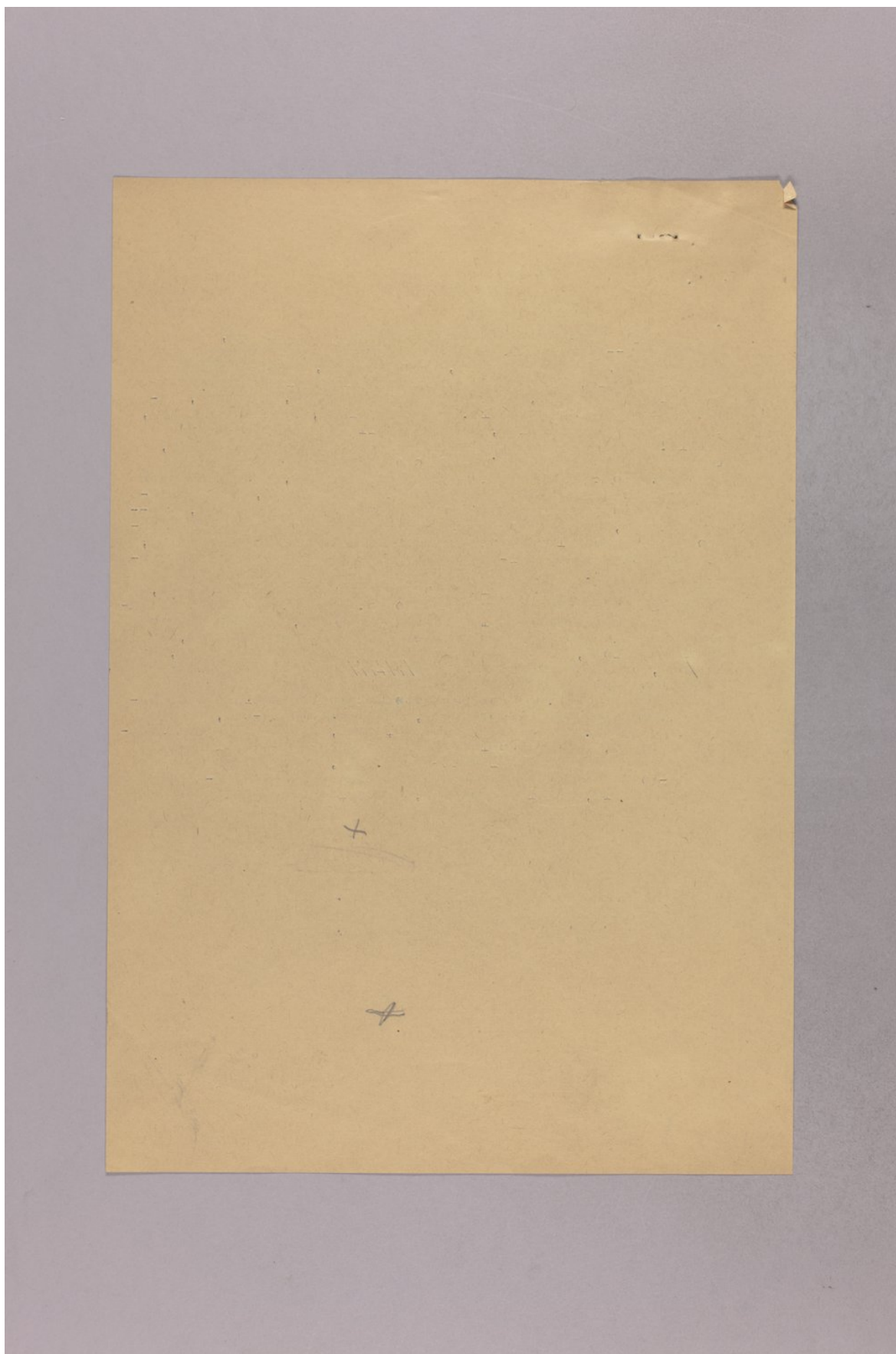
"Kansas' wealth?" So much of it to be developed, in so many forms--where shall we turn? Vast mineral resources to be expanded, oceans of wheat, seas of corn, cattle upon a thousand hills, freedom on her wide rolling plains and wooded hills and valleys, health in her pure ozone, a sturdy, intelligent and sturdy people. In that last, shall we not say, lies our greatest wealth, source of all the rest? Kansas' people! Cream of the population of all states east of her, lured to citizenship by the magic of her name and romantic history. Following the close of the Civil war, attracted by her free Homestead law and her battle for freedom, many thousands of Union soldiers came to Kansas and builded homes, reared families, and gave of their patriotic fervor and virile manhood to the social and political life of the new commonwealth, always setting up school-house and church everywhere on the far-flung frontier. From such brave and eager hearts and minds came the inspiration to climb to the stars thru difficulties, as tersely expressed in her state motto. And always the difficulties have been courageously met and conquered, whether it was border ruffianism on the east or bloody savages on the west, or drouth or flood, or tornadoes or devastating locust herds, as of yore, or the depressing farm ~~problems~~ marketing problems of today from which she is suffering in common with her sister states of the west. From such stock came the challenge to human slavery and the liquor curse, with the battle-cry, "They shall not pass." Pioneers in Abolition, Prohibition and freedom to women, Kansas people are always on the firing line of human progress and social well-being. So, pointing to these strong-shouldered men and women and the grand army of star-eyed boys and girls, shall we not say, "Here lies the wealth of Kansas?"

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## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, newspapers



## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, newspapers

### GOOD NEWS MAGAZINE, INC.

*A radio broadcasting service welcomed in more than 20,000,000 homes*

351 FIFTH AVENUE ~ TELEPHONE VANDERBILT 9344

NEW YORK CITY September 15, 1930

The Honorable Clyde M. Reed,  
Governor,  
Executive Mansion,  
Topeka, Kansas.

Honored Sir:-

Are you willing, Governor Reed, to give to Good News Magazine your own personal point of view, concerning Kansas' wealth? That wealth may be its scenic beauty, its agricultural or industrial opportunities, its history, its constructive program for safe-guarding human life, or some other subject of importance to you. Three or four paragraphs, or about 300 words, are all we can use in this magazine, which is a digest of the world's best news.

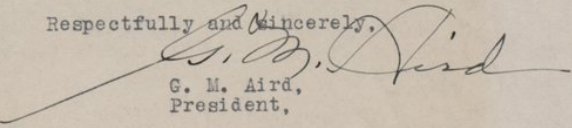
Good News Magazine is being broadcast over thirty-six stations, and digests, as I have said, the best of the world's news, in terms of human interest. (Controversial subjects, such as politics, religion, etc., are not used.) Sometimes the digest comes from original sources and sometimes from books, magazines, newspapers, or other periodicals. The whole intention is good will constructively expressed by notable authorities.

This magazine is not printed, neither is it a radio program broadcast from one central station. It is only a voice and depends on the announcers of each of its many stations for presentation to its listening public.

Your message will be heard, over thirty-six stations throughout the United States. These include such prominent stations as KDEA, Pittsburgh, WBZ, Boston and KGA, Spokane.

Thank you very much for the courtesy of your attention to this letter. At any time, the pages of Good News Magazine are open to you for broadcasting constructive information for the United States from the great Commonwealth of Kansas.

Respectfully and Sincerely,

  
G. M. Aird,  
President,

GMA-FMM



## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, newspapers

PARKE VAWTER  
AND HIS "MA"  
OF WICHITA  
IN KANSAS

*26* *Mitchie*  
*Vawter*  
*71-13*

Mr. Clyde M. Reed  
Governor  
Of the State of Kansas  
Topeka Kansas.  
September 10th-1930

Sir -

In answer to your query as to what I would suggest that a Governor go about it to ~~get-up~~ control newspaper headlines, allow me to say that, in my poor estimation, regardless of whether he could or would control news headlines, he, the Governor, should be bigger than the press and if he were, the humble editor and publisher would, ten to one, watch his head lines a bit closer, through a civilian respect for the Chief Executive of the state - and if he undertook such a thing it would simply be a matter of telling Mr. Max Levand of the possible implication, which might be derivative of such headlines, in a letter, and if the Governor of a state had not the power and authority of the law of common courtesy - then his time might as well be devoted to the useless task of not being a governor.

Mr. Levand of the Beacon is nobbdy's dumbell - if he were I would not have written you as I did. According to the story and the headline the variance of relationship was such that the average reader would naturally deduce there was no truth in one or the other. If the headline were true - then the story made the governor out as a purveyor of falsehood - other-wise, if the statement issued by you were true - then the Beacon (Mr Levand) would naturally be the purveyor of a falsehood. It seems to be the fashion for folks to call ~ their governor anything from something bad to something worse - but an editor or publisher can refute such things with a power the governor should be invested in - then the governor could put in most of his governorship attending to state business - and not have to play to or be harranged by newspapers - which usually boast, during election times, that they will either make or break the highest executive office in the state. This socalled power of the press is used to suit the personal taste of the folks behind the throne.

You candidly asked me a question and I have offered the suggestion - a letter to Mr. Levand could not do less than give him a chuckle up his sleeve - and if he is so allfired much Kansan as he would have folks believe he will not allow his paper to carry anything detrimental to his fellowman, even in an unconscious way.

I understand just how shall this question is - but I believe anyone will agree with me that it was the many small overlooked things during the last four years that rather bothered the progress of my chosen candidate for the governorship of Kansas for another term - however I beg your pardon for writing to you in the first place and assure you it will never happen again

Cordially

*Parke Vawter*

2508 East Douglas

## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, newspapers

*Miss  
Lillie  
Vawter*

September 8, 1930

Mr. Park Vawter,  
2508 East Douglas  
Wichita, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

I have your recent letter without date.  
How would you suggest that a Governor go about it  
to get up newspaper headlines, and if he undertook  
a thing of that kind, which is entirely beyond his  
power and authority under any law or custom, what  
time would he have for anything else?

Cordially yours,

Governor



## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, newspapers

PARKE VAWTER  
AND HIS "MA"  
OF WICHITA  
IN KANSAS

Governor Clyde M. Reed  
Topeka Kansas.

My dear Governor -

Having been a resident of Kansas only since February and having a certain sense of respect for Kansas as a state I am quite surprised at the attitude and overzealousness of the press. In particular I am speaking of the Wichita Beacon. I appreciate the fact that your position as Governor is a bit ticklish at this particular time, yet I also appreciate that the much talked of "deer peepul" depend, to an alarming extent, on the newspaper for information. Between the two appreciations there is a question in my mind as to the feasibility of the Beacon's action in heading Sept. 6th issue - "Reed Moves To Oust Ohrvall, Wertz."

Such a head-line is not true. You probably ordered an investigation of our sheriff's office to procure, if there be any, evidence which would call for an ouster - but I can not conceive of your ordering an ouster proceeding without evidence. The story tabulates with your investigation order - but the headline is a mile out of line - it condemns the sheriff's office before it has been tried.

It seems to me that a news head should be as true as the story. And it seems to me that if a sheriff must be investigated for laxity of duty that the state should take as much interest in keeping the press in line on its assertions, which do as much harm or good as the content of truth or lying is put forth. If the suppression of news is necessary to provide a decent respect for the state of Kansas - then suppress it. Without the press the people would know nothing of any sheriff's laxity - but his laxity should be exposed by truthful statements.

I am not in the least moved by any belief that you can or will do anything about it. I am simply giving you my opinion as a present constituent under your leadership of the state of Kansas.

Cordially Yours

Parke Vawter  
2508 East Douglas Ave

## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, newspapers

*U. S. Daily*

December 30, 1930

Mr. C. G. Marshall, News Manager  
The United States Daily  
Washington, D. C.

71-13

Dear Mr. Marshall:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of December 18 advising that in case it is the custom in Kansas for the outgoing Governor to deliver a message to the legislature, you would desire an advance copy of such message. It is not the custom in Kansas for the outgoing Governor to prepare a message for the legislature. Therefore, it will not be possible for me to favor you with such manuscript.

Very truly yours,

Governor



## Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, newspapers

