

THE OBSERVER

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THE IMMIGRANT PROBLEM IN THE COLLEGES

Social work among immigrants is assuming special importance as a college subject, according to the Bureau of Education of the Department of the Interior. Fourteen institutions are now offering special courses which treat the subject of immigration, though few of these have as yet given much attention to the practical problem of what to do with the immigrant as a man and a citizen. Sixty-nine institutions treat the subject incidentally in connection with courses in economics, history, and sociology.

In order to help in the present urgent demand for Americanization service for immigrants, the Bureau of Education has had prepared a syllabus entitled: "Professional Course for Service Among Immigrants." Some of the topics treated are as follows: The Incoming Tide and its Distribution; Legislation and Restriction; Employment; Standards of Living; Education; and Ideals and Methods in Americanization Work.

In view of the interest shown by colleges in the subject of immigrant education, the Commissioner of Education has offered to give assistance and advice with respect to courses of study and methods to any colleges or universities planning to introduce courses in training for leadership in Americanization service. The Division of Immigrant Education in the Bureau has centered its attention upon the problems connected with the education of immigrants and the inculcation of American civic ideals. Dr. F. E. Farrington of this division declares:

"American colleges and universities are more and more awakening to the necessity of touching modern life on its dynamic side; of inspiring and initiating social progress, and of training leaders in the work of civic uplift. Here is a field which opens up almost limitless possibilities in the way of social service. One needs, however, a peculiar sympathy for and a specific knowledge of the foreigner, appreciation of his limitations and his possibilities, as well as a realization of what he can contribute to our economic, ethical, and spiritual progress when properly assimilated, and what grave dangers he can also bring if we fail to imbue him with our national ideals. The fields are already ripe unto the harvest, but

trained and competent laborers are few. Letters have been received at the Bureau of Education lamenting the fact that evening-school classes for foreigners have been given up on account of the lack of trained principals and teachers to handle this problem.

"Upon our colleges and universities, therefore, devolves the responsibility of preparing these workers, of giving them breadth of vision, and catholicity of purpose, in short of training them for their tasks."

OLDEST TRAVELING SALESMAN IN AMERICA

In the March American Magazine is an account of the dean of traveling men in America, James Fenlon of Des Moines, Iowa. He has held down his job for seventy years and today the eighty-nine-year veteran continues to 'look after his trade' with all of the energy and all of the success that has characterized his work in his younger days.

"Mr. Fenlon gained his title several years ago in a contest conducted by an Eastern publication desirous of locating the country's oldest traveling man. For a time it seemed as though some of the seventy-year veterans would carry off the honor, but the aged Iowan finally was convinced that he ought to throw his hat into the ring.

"When he started on the road seventy-two years ago, there was no such individual as a 'traveling salesman'. 'People just rode on horseback and sold goods.'

"His trade is the envy of every traveling man who carries a similar line, and the mass of correspondence he takes care of would tax the resources of the ordinary business man. Half an hour after receiving a call he will be on his way to the station to travel half way across the state to get an order. 'He has been on the road since 1845, has served in three wars and sold 57,000 windmills.

WHEN THE HAND QUITS

Men prefer work that is dangerous to work that is perpetually disagreeable, asserts the Country Gentleman. They will crawl around on dizzy skeletons of skyscrapers or collect junk at the sea bottom, but they wouldn't go down into Kentucky and take a job hacking hemp even if there was money in it. There are no thrills in that job; therefore the farmer always has trouble when the crop is grown up.

Kentucky and Missouri formerly grow great fields of hemp. Back in slave days, negroes did the work and Mississippi steamboats carried big cargoes of hemp. Battles were won in the Civil War from behind the bullet-proof bales. Now a hemp field is rarely seen in the old territory. White labor won't break hemp ad the negro now does as he pleases about it. Besides for some years it has not been a particularly profitable crop.

The industry has moved to new fields where labor is cheaper and not so particular. War, the big price raiser, has had its effect upon hemp, but it is doubtful if even the convincing argument of money can bring it back. There is good money in a lot of other crops that do not offer such difficulties.

We need better methods of handling some of our crops. The farm hand thinks of his back as well as his bank account.

CHEESE MAKING

Washington, D. C., March 28.—The possibilities of cheese making in different sections of the Western States, particularly on the irrigated projects, received considerable attention from specialists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture during the summer of 1915. A representative of the Dairy Division spent a number of months among factories in Idaho and Montana studying the troubles experienced in making cheese of a satisfactory quality, and in seeking means of overcoming these difficulties.

In Idaho, very successful factories are now in operation near Boise and Buhl. At Boise a large co-operative company owns two cheese factories and one creamery. The cheese factories have proved so popular with the farmers that the company intends to build other factories of the same kind. The factory at Buhl at one time last summer paid for butter fat 11 cents a pound more than was paid in any other market in the same locality, and at no time was this difference less than 6 cents.

Owing to an inadequate milk supply and poor management, there have been failures of cheese factories in both Idaho and Montana. The climate and all other natural conditions, however, are good for a cheese industry throughout Montana and in the higher parts of Idaho. On the intensively farmed irrigation projects the dairy cow furnishes a good medium through which to market bulky crops of alfalfa and corn.

The prices which a cheese factory is able to pay for butter fat, in competition with other markets, can readily be estimated if the price of cheese is known. Milk makes 2.7 pounds of cheese for each pound of butter fat. The cost of manufacture is about 2 cents a pound in factories of ordinary size. Cheese at 13 cents a pound would allow the payment of 29.7 cents a pound of butter fat; at 14 cents for cheese, 32.4 cents for fat; at 15 cents for cheese, 35.1 for fat; and at 16 for cheese, 37.8 would be paid for butter fat. During the past summer great quantities of cheese were sold in the Rocky Mountain States at a price higher than 16 cents a pound, while probably none brought less than 13 cents.

In certain localities, some farmers not familiar with cheese factories are inclined at first to oppose the industry because it uses skimmed milk formerly available for calves and hogs. This opposition is not well founded, as nearly every farmer in the great cheese-factory district of Sheboygan County, Wis. is able to raise excellent dairy cows. The irrigated regions of the West, moreover, produce great quantities of alfalfa, which furnishes a cheap substitute for the protein of skimmed milk for pigs. Experiments by the New Mexico experiment station have demonstrated that where alfalfa pasture is available and corn is worth 80 cents a bushel, a hundredweight of skimmed milk is worth only 14 cents as compared to nearly 50 cents where there is no alfalfa. It is probable that, with pigs on alfalfa pasture, they would give almost as great a gain as would skimmed milk.

In the flush of the season a cheese factory can be operated economically on 3,500 pounds of milk, or the product of about 200 cows. This milk should be produced within 4 miles of the factory, as a longer haul is not economical and increases the danger of bad milk and poor cheese. A cheese factory to handle 5,000 pounds of milk can be built for about \$1,500 including equipment.

As so little of the country is naturally suited to the manufacture of cheese, and as the possibilities of increasing its consumption are so great, the Department believes that, as a rule, consideration should be given to establishing factories where ever conditions are favorable to the development of this industry.

UNCLE SAM REAL BANKER

Paul M. Warburg Warns Country To Keep Its Powder Dry

(By Paul M. Warburg)

Washington, March 4.—The United States is fast becoming a banker to the entire world. But the United States must keep its powder dry by keeping in reserve the essential strength of the Federal Banks to meet any possible drain or emergency and to offer a check to inflation as far as possible.

Impatience by the public or by the Federal Reserve banks themselves to show results quickly by large profits must not be permitted to lure us from a safe course. Strange as it may seem the old words of Milton, "They also serve who only stand and wait," may be aptly applied to so modern an organization as the Federal Reserve system. To stand and wait is often the hardest of all duties, requiring more courage than to follow ones impulse in "letting go."

This country must greatly increase the degree of control over its current gold supply assembling as far as possible even the gold carried in the pockets of the public. It must take care not to destroy at this time the basis or its future lending power, and all foreign loans during the war should be of



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That is why the real Seigel apparel is so smart.

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reasonably short duration, so that control of this country's gold might be kept in case there should be later need to use it.

That will give us a strategic position at the end of the war so strong that we shall be able effectively to face the duties that will confront us, not only toward our own country but toward the world at large. If a policy of general conservation such as I have outlined can be systematically maintained, thereby securing the strength of our banking positions, we shall, in due course, reap our rewards.

WHEN A RICH GIRL HAS TO WORK FOR HER LIVING

In the March installment of The American Magazine's serial, "The Fifth Wheel," by Olive Higgins Prouty, we are told of certain economical makeshifts that Ruth Vars, a society girl, was forced to adopt after a breach with her family and when compelled to earn her living in New York City.

"I learned a great deal during the first fortnight," she tells us. "I had never known, for instance, that one meal a day, eaten at about four o'clock in the afternoon, takes the place of three, very comfortably, if aided and abetted in the morning by crackers spread with peanut butter, and a glass of milk, a whole bottle of which one could buy for a few cents at the corner grocery store. The girl who roomed next door to me gave me lots of such tips. I had no idea that there were shops on shabby avenues where one could get an infinitesimal portion of what one paid for a last season's dinner gown; that furs are a wiser investment than satin and lace, and that my single emerald could be more easily turned into dollars and cents than all the enameled jewelry I owned, put together."

FINE FLOWER LIVES ON AIR

It's Not The Orchid's Board Bill That Makes It So Expensive

Philadelphia, March 5.—Aristocrats of the flower kingdom—and probably the least understood. You hear them called parasites, which is only one of the common mistakes made about the orchid. You see a hundred different shapes and a dozen different colors grouped together, each shape perhaps, a different family and each with a separate name.

In the first place orchids are not parasites. A parasitical plant is one which gets its nourishment from another plant. Certain orchids live on trees, but they get their food and drink from the air by means of aerial roots. We call them epiphytes. Other orchids get their nourishment directly from the ground. They are called terrestrial orchids.

People don't understand, either,

why orchids cost so much. They fail to see why a tiny plant is sold for—say \$1,000. If they realized that rare orchids may have cost a trip into a tropical jungle to obtain, and that it takes from eight to ten years to raise a plant from the seed, with patient care and treatment, they could see why these flowers remain in the aristocratic class.



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Daily food plays a big part, for unless it supplies proper rebuilding elements, and is promptly digested, one's mental and physical power is bound to suffer.

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