

AUSTRALIA WORRIED OVER IMMIGRATION FROM ITALY

By A. W. V. KING
(United Press Staff Correspondent)

SYDNEY, March 11.—(U.P.)—To increase her population rapidly, yet at the same time preserve rigidly her White Australia policy, and, if possible, keep the present high proportion of British stock, is a mixed ambition of Australia fraught with many tangled racial problems.

Australians boast of having 98 per cent of British stock, and despite the comparative slowness with which her empty spaces are filling, the parliament and people of this country steadfastly refuse to encourage any immigrants except those of British blood. In its way, the White Australia edict, banning colored races from these shores, is as great a social and political experiment as prohibition is in America, but whereas prohibition splits the citizens of America, White Australia would find barely one opponent in Australia to 99 supporters.

With the dote providing an easy way of living to those classes in England upon whom Australia chiefly relies for her immigrants, the authorities of this country have found suitable migrants increasingly scarce, but other races of Europe bend covetous eyes upon the rich, fair land of the south. Prominent among them are the Italians, hardest hit by America's immigration law. Since that came into force, there has been an influx of Italians to Australia. Italian colonies have been formed on the sugar cane fields of Northern Queensland, and one district is already known as Little Italy.

The Italian influx threatens to become a national problem. The Queensland State Government appointed a commission of investigation which reported adversely on the unrestricted entrance of Italians. Possessing no legal right to block white people entering the country, providing they measure up to certain standards, the Federal Government did the next best thing—it raised the mental, physical, and financial standards of foreign immigrants to such an extent that there was a perceptible diminution of the flow.

The labor unions are the greatest opponents of unrestricted foreign immigration, since they fear wholesale settling of men from the Mediterranean countries will undermine standards of living, and lower wages. Veterans of the World War, too, have entered protests. Civic officials responsible for the health of communities also view with disapproval the wholesale coming of Southern Europeans.

The outcry against the Italian influx has excited interest in Italy, where Mussolini is credited with a desire of seeing a large proportion of that country's 300,000 annual population surplus go to Australia. Every batch of Italians arriving here is accompanied by an official of the Rome Government. The latest to arrive is Dr. Rostagno, Inspector-General of Italian Migration, who is here to make a survey of the situation, as he has done in the United States, Paraguay, the Argentine, France and Belgium. He says Italian emigrants are no longer birds of passage as before the war. No

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PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE considers the Interior Department proposition of importance to the West. Left to right are: F. W. Marshall, secretary, National Wool Growers' Association; Senator Ralph Cameron, of Arizona; Senator Tasker L. Oddie, of Nevada; George E. Bowden, attorney for the committee; Vernon Metcalf, of Nevada, representing stock interests of West; Senator Robert N. Stanford, of Oregon, chairman of public lands committee; Senator Key Pittman, of Nevada; Senator John B. Kendrick, of Wyoming; George Hair, chief of inspection division, General Land Office; William Spry, Commissioner General Land Office; Frank W. Mondell, former Republican floor leader of the House.

longer the unemployed but skilled workmen and agriculturists, want to emigrate.

Meantime, dozens of Northern Queensland townships have Italian communities. Italian is heard in every street of these towns. Italian shops and clubs have opened, and Italians are establishing themselves on the land as cane farmers. Australia, is sure to face very shortly the problem of assimilating, non-British settlers.

THIS FELLOW HAD NICE RISKY JOB

SHANGHAI, (U.P.)—One of man's most ingenious occupations has been invented in Shanghai.

A coolie arraigned recently in the International Mixed Court confessed to being a "near-victim" by profession. Police explained that for weeks past he had made it his business to loiter along one of the municipal roads most frequented by motorists. When an automobile came along at a moderate pace, the near-victim waked until it had almost drawn up to where he was standing and then jumped directly in the path of the car.

With drivers still congratulating themselves and their brakes on having avoided a fatal accident, the near-victim found it a fairly easy matter to get a dollar or so as compensation for his shattered nerves. When the money wasn't forthcoming, he planted himself straight in front of the car and refused to budge, no matter what the threats of flogging him down.

The court ordered the man expelled from the International Settlement.

SAMOA ISLANDERS OBJECT TO TAXES

BERKELEY, Cal., March 10.—Natives of American Samoa are today rising the same cry of "no taxation without representation" against their American overlords that revolutionists of the Thirteen Colonies used against the English in 1776, according to a talk here by Mrs. S. F. Ripley. Samoans claim the following grievances:

They are taxed arbitrarily as to height—all males over 5 feet 2 inches pay a poll tax of



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\$19.34. They must pay customs duty on all goods imported, while navy officers are exempt. They are tried for murder without juries. They have paid school taxes for years but have no school.

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(Continued from page 1.)

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