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PRACTICAL AMERICANIZATION

Much has been said and written about the desirability of a broad Americanization program. Now Congress proposes to do something about it. The United States Senate committee on education and labor has agreed unanimously on a bill establishing a definite Americanization policy for the various states, which are to duplicate the amount paid by the federal government. Wisely dispensed, it should cover a good deal of ground.

The bill provides for the familiarization of all aliens over 16 years of age with the language and institutions of the country. Every alien coming within its provisions is required to take instruction for at least 200 hours a year until he has completed the course. Aliens under 16 will naturally receive the necessary instruction in the public schools. Along with the aliens it is required that citizens of the United States who are 21 or over and who cannot read or write English shall be required to learn.

This is a fine start in the right direction. It is comparable in method with the good-roads plan whereby the federal government encourages the building of better highways by the states. The Americanization scheme obviously depends very largely on state co-operation, though the government takes the initiative and provides not only money but a force of agents and instructors to start and push the work.

There should be no question as to the states' willingness to do their part. It is primarily to the advantage of any state to improve its own citizenship, and the task is one which, in the long run, can be best managed by the state itself.

THE THIRD ROLL CALL

During the week from Nov. 2 to 11 the American Red Cross is to make its third annual roll call for members. There will be a great many people tempted to say: "I answered the roll-call during the war because I knew what the organization was doing for soldiers and war sufferers. That's all over now, so I'll not need to join again this year." That is a short-sighted view to take.

The American Red Cross is still busy relieving suffering wherever it is found, at home, and in some cases abroad. It is conducting a big fight against tuberculosis. It is usually the first organization to the rescue in case of fire, flood, storm or epidemic. If the disaster is comparatively small, local Red Cross organizations promptly mobilize food, hospital supplies, physicians, nurses and anything else that is needed. If the disaster is of great proportions, the Red Cross comes just as promptly with relief directed from national headquarters.

Peace-time disasters have injured 1,500,000 persons in the United States since 1900. They have caused tremendous property loss as well. In nearly every case the American Red Cross has taken charge of relief work and administered its kindly protective office faithfully and efficiently. In 1917 alone that organization was called upon for aid in 80 disasters.

Here indeed is opportunity for further giving on the part of everybody who learned during the war the joy and

satisfaction of sharing in the noble work of such an organization.

THE DAILY CLEAN-UP

In one large business house an assistant makes an inspection of all desks and offices shortly before closing time and makes a report to the manager of any untidiness. The result, reported in "System," is that all employees take a couple of minutes every night for special cleaning up. Every desk is left in order, and a monthly period of a couple of hours previously devoted to the "clean-up" has been eliminated.

Who does not know the discouraged feeling it gives to approach a disorderly desk on a busy day? The fact of leaving the desk upset may have been absolutely justified by emergency, but the effect upon the worker's mind is just as depressing as if actual laziness had been the cause.

The natural tendency is to push the offending papers aside to make room for the immediate need. Because the day has started with difficulty, it is all the more liable to end in over-fatigue, and the temptation to leave the disorder for another day stands at one's elbow. "It will be so much easier to clean the whole thing up and start fresh in the morning," whispers the insistent little voice.

But it is not true. Tomorrow morning will be just like this morning—it will bring its own problem requiring immediate solution. Ten minutes tonight will clean out the worst of the mess. Tomorrow it will take but five. After that two minutes put in determinedly every night will keep things spick and span, restful and inviting.

The mental effect of inanimate objects is a powerful thing. Straight lines, clean spaces, orderly arrangement are an invitation to a mind to do its best work with joy and enthusiasm. Messes and chaos and things lying crookedly all over where they do not belong cause discouragement, depression and mental dullness.

It isn't necessary to have an office inspector. Why not do the inspecting oneself? Will this desk and office space invite the occupant's best efforts in the morning? If not, why not invest a few minutes in making it answer yes?

FINDING NEW FOOD FISH

The Pacific Coast Research Conference is planning a comprehensive survey and exploration of the Pacific Ocean, with the primary purpose of development, greater utilization and adequate conservation of its fishery resources. Other countries bordering on the Pacific Ocean are expected to take part in the work.

A bulletin issued by the University of California discusses the proposed survey and explains that the waters of the earth "are now well known to be capable of yielding vastly greater quantities of food and other necessities of human well-being than have yet been developed."

There are undoubtedly a good many fish yet in the sea which are fit for human consumption and even nourishing and appetizing, but which are at present scorned by mankind. In conserving the supplies of fish already found palatable by civilized people, it may become necessary to introduce some of these new varieties to American culinary artists.

The total fresh fish production of the Pacific Coast is now about 1,000,000,000 pounds annually. It is believed that this amount could be doubled within ten years by such work as research conference is undertaking. A million tons of fish may not appeal at once to the casual reader, but the time may come when he'll be mighty glad to have become acquainted with the whale, the fur seal, the porpoise and many others, as articles of diet.

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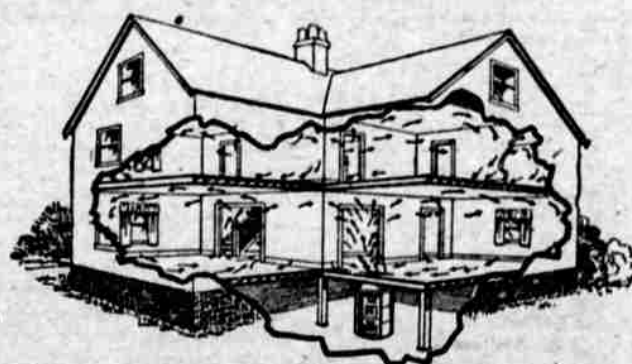
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