

UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION.

COMMISSION'S VAST WORK.

(DAILY RECORD CORRESPONDENT.)

New York, March.

Facts showing the far-reaching character of the work of the joint commission on immigration, which was appointed by Congress on Feb. 20, 1907, were recently presented to Congress through the publication of a preliminary report by the commission. This report deals with practically every phase of the immigration question, including Oriental aliens and other excluded classes, peonage, charity among immigrants, white-slave traffic, conditions of steerage, congestion in large cities, alien criminality, competition of immigrants, schools, administration of the immigration laws and distribution of immigrants.

No conclusions have been reported by the commission, but the scope of the work is shown in a manner which presages extensive legislation in the future. The report was printed to show the necessity for an appropriation of \$250,000 to carry on and complete the work. Thus far the expenses of the commission from April 1, 1907, to Feb. 27, 1909, have been \$344,796. There are 198 persons employed under the commission.

The commission says it is generally admitted that, notwithstanding that the present law proposes to provide for the exclusion of every undesirable immigrant, thousands of undeniably undesirable persons are admitted each year. A feature of the work is connected with evasions of the law resulting in the importation of excluded classes. Notwithstanding the expenditure of about \$500,000 annually to enforce this law, the commission finds that it does not prevent the coming of Chinese labourers in considerable numbers.

An extensive investigation is being made into the importation of women. The results show that many women are being constantly imported under conditions which amount to absolute slavery. The commission's inquiries have resulted in a marked decrease in this importation.

Importance is attached to the inquiry into alien criminality. The higher criminal courts of New York City are, at the request of the commission, keeping records of each person convicted of crime, and it is intended that a study of foreign-born criminals and criminals of the second generation will be made in that city. The investigation is not confined to the larger cities.

The most extensive work undertaken by the commission is the general field investigation into the economic and social status of immigrants. The most important topics covered are the race of employes in each occupation, years each race has been employed, hours of work and discrimination for or against immigrants in employment, wages and housing. In taking up the congestion of immigrants in large cities the commission is observing communities inhabited principally by members of one race, as to whether the clinging together of members of the same race handicaps them in their struggle for advancement and prevents their rapid assimilation and Americanisation. A careful inquiry among wage earners who are forced to compete with immigrant labour is being made.

A special field investigation is being conducted in selected localities in the south, and it will cover the sentiment of legislation bodies affecting immigration. Inducements and obstacles to immigration, such as climate, character of soil, free or cheap land, amount, variety and regularity of work throughout the year, the wages paid and hours of employment will be shown. Information is being gathered also concerning the employment of women and children, the prejudice against races, the presence or scarcity of fellow countrymen and church and school facilities. The investigation of oriental immigration has been confined thus far to the Rocky mountain and Pacific coast sections and special emphasis has been placed upon the inquiry concerning the Japanese.

The school is declared by the commission to be the most potent influence in promoting the assimilation and Americanisation of the immigrant. Treatment accorded to steerage passengers at sea has been given especial consideration and the agents of the commission in many instances have come from foreign ports in the guise of immigrants. It was found that there is still room for improvement.

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Saturday, April 17th. *Saturday in the Octave.* 10.0 a.m. Matins.
Sunday, April 18th. *1st Sunday after Easter: Low Sunday.* 8.0 a.m. and 12.0 m.d. (Choral) Holy Eucharist. 11.0 a.m. Matins and Sermon. 6.0 p.m. Evensong, Sermon and Carols.
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Sunday, April 19th. *1st Sunday after Easter.* Holy Communion 8.0 a.m. Morning Service and Sermon 11.0 a.m. Afternoon Service and address 5.30 p.m.
The Rev. J. F. BUTTERWORTH, M.A., Rector.

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"LE REPOS DE DIMANCHE."

The French have come to look upon the King as a sort of unofficial Sovereign, who owes them Royal patronage just as they give him loyal admiration (says the *Bystander*). I have seen even an enthusiastic French peasant give a shake of his head and speak familiarly of His Majesty as "Oncle Edouard," as if he knew all the King's little weaknesses and loved him for them. And in the same familiar way the King was reckoned upon to adorn with his Royal presence the Sunday races. They have never quite understood the King's refusal of their kind invitation on the ground of "le repos de Dimanche," which in France is purely an Act of Parliament observance. After I had explained the King's reason for declining, an old French lady only observed, "I fail to understand"; nor have I ever been able to explain in France our Sabbatarian views.

BRITISH PROGRESS IN AVIATION.

(DAILY RECORD CORRESPONDENT.)

London, April 14.

According to statements in the London newspapers, the Aero Club of Great Britain has received a concession from the War Office for the use of land for experimental purposes on Salisbury Plain. The Aerial League of the British Empire has induced Mr. Haldane to appoint a special committee to consider the subject of defence of seaport towns against attack by airship. The War Office has decided to set aside a tract of land in Wilts not far from Amesbury and Stonehenge, for the purpose of experiments. Sheds are to be erected for the shelter of aeroplanes, and building operations will be begun at once. The buildings will be protected by unclimbable fences, and will be placed in charge of the county police. The War Office aeroplane is to be brought to Salisbury Plain for further experiments, and a piece of the training ground has been set apart for Mr. S. F. Cody's use.

The Aerial League of the British Empire has been in correspondence with Mr. Haldane for some weeks past on the subject of strengthening the Territorial Army by the creation of companies specially trained in the defence of seaport towns against attack by airships. The league undertakes to assist if the War Office will give certain specified facilities towards the establishment of a technical college for the training of aeronauts. This assistance will mainly take the form of a substantial grant-in-aid and the use of public lands as trial grounds. They have also asked that officers of the naval and military forces in active employment may be permitted to associate themselves as members of the league, which is strictly non-political. Mr. Haldane has appointed a special committee, presided over by the Master of the Ordnance, Colonel Sir C. F. Hadden, to report on the extent to which the War Office can assent to the above proposals.

THE MILLIONAIRE'S PARADE.

(DAILY RECORD CORRESPONDENT.)

London, April 14.

A correspondent, signing himself "An American," sends the following letter to the London press:—
I am very tired of the so-called American "news" published by certain London newspapers, which are apparently determined to educate untravelled Britons in the belief that America is a land of mad millionaires, extravagant chorus girls, "freak" society women, murders, divorcees, and two-headed calves. Any lie is apparently worth cabling from New York so long as it shows that Americans are either making fools of themselves or robbing some one.

I read in a newspaper today that there was a "millionaires' parade" in New York on Easter Sunday. Every American knows that Fifth-avenue, the Park-lane of New York, is crowded on Easter Sunday with clerks and typists, who compete with the wealthier classes in the variety and splendour of their Easter raiment. It is no more a parade of millionaires than the Sunday night procession of East End folk from the Bank to Charing Cross and back is a parade of undertakers.

The "down-trodden" working people of America live under the blessings of a tariff which enables them to wear good clothes. Their prosperity, however, does not mean that they are millionaires.

DISPUTED TITLE TO FAME.

Fame achieved in past ages—every now and again has to meet some attack, the result of research. Perhaps the latest victim is Villebrord Snel, or Snellius, as he is more generally known, the Dutch mathematician, professor at Leyden, the discoverer of the law of refraction. Up to the present he has been considered as the inventor of triangulation. But Dr. Van der Plaats of Utrecht disputes the claim of Snellius, who expounded his theory in 1617 in his "Eratosthenes Batavus." The Utrecht professor says that the discoverer of the method of triangulation was Reinier Gemma, who died thirty-six years before Snellius was born. Gemma was a man of great distinction, a friend of Mercator, the geographer, and Charles Quint. In 1553, according to Dr. Van der Plaats, Gemma enunciated the principle of triangulation in a little work bearing his name and written in Flemish.

A NOVEL LODGE.

Some time ago we heard of a Masonic Lodge which had been acquired by the Church in France, and the lodge room turned into a chapel. Now a contemporary cites a very different case. At Aix, the convent formerly in the occupation of Carmelite nuns, has been acquired by the masonic body, and the choir of the chapel has been turned into a temple.

WEATHER FORECAST FOR TODAY

of the Royal Saxon Meteorological Institute.

Moderate south-westerly winds, less cloudy, no more heavy showers, somewhat warmer.

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