

# Mexico's Race Problems Foreseen

*Ethnology*

The problems of race and color which have arisen in parts of the United States from the presence of Mexican immigrants are of greater importance than the economic aspects of the situation, in the opinion of Dr. Manuel Gamio, Mexican anthropologist, because they may profoundly influence the destinies of the peoples bordering on the Pacific.

As Dr. Gamio explains, these Pacific peoples fall into three main groups, the White, the Yellow and the Yellow-Brown. To the White group belong the racial majorities of Canada, the United States, Australia, New Zealand and Chile, in addition to the racial minorities of the countries from Lower California to southern Peru and Chile. The Yellow people inhabit China, Japan, Manchuria, Indo-China, and the adjacent islands, while the Yellow-Brown make up the racial majorities in Mexico, Central America, Columbia, Ecuador and Peru.

Because the Asiatic and the native American Indian races are anthropologically very close, spontaneous crossing takes place wherever these groups are in contact, as on the Latin-American coasts where unions of Indians with Chinese and Japanese are frequent. The White race on

the other hand, especially the Anglo-Saxon White, is less prone to cross with the Yellow or Yellow-Brown.

Because the White and Yellow groups of the Pacific countries are increasing very rapidly in numbers and strength, while at the same time means of communication are improving, Dr. Gamio believes that sooner or later boundaries must fade and aggressive or peaceful contacts result.

The Indo-Iberic countries which occupy the now sparsely settled regions of Latin America must either become White under intense European immigration, or else form a new Yellow-Brown complex in case of sufficient Asiatic influx.

In case of great future immigration into Mexico of southern Europeans, Mexico would become progressively more White and racial prejudices would become relatively insignificant.

On the other hand, if such European immigration does not invade Mexico wholesale and the native element prevails, racial prejudices will continue and the Americanization of the country will proceed more slowly, that very racial prejudice serving as a barrier in the future as it has in the past.

European immigration never has turned serious eyes to Mexico as it has to the United States and Argentina, primarily because, Dr. Gamio says, Mexico is not a country of great agricultural possibilities, as is indicated by the fact that only from seven to eight per cent. of the land may be readily cultivated. The dry mesetas and deserts of the north have little or no rainfall, and another large portion of the country is mountainous and hard to till, while the fertile tropical coasts are unhealthy and infested with insect pests.

Though rich in raw materials, Mexico is insignificant industrially, offering few opportunities to European artisans and laborers, while these furthermore find it hard to compete with the low standards of living of the native. Nevertheless existing immigration restrictions of the United States and Argentina must eventually divert part of the European immigration streams to Mexico and similar countries, Dr. Gamio believes, although this has not yet made itself felt. The incoming balance of Mexico now amounts to only a few thousand individuals a year.

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## Canadian Indians—Continued

talk and good-natured banter, and an accident to some one in the party who slips in the water up to his waist will furnish amusement for an hour and a day. Home life is admirable. Between husband and wife there is a very equitable division of labor and a very democratic relationship of equality. Both parents are extremely fond of and affectionate towards their children, and as among most other American Indians, children are rarely or never struck or whipped.

The northern Indians are neither mental prodigies nor moral paragons, but taking them all in all, these gentle, kindly, low-voiced hunters of the Canadian forests are men whom one can be proud to have as friends. To live among them is to both like and respect them. They go to show that simple living can go hand in hand with high thinking, that a very low level of material culture may go hand in hand with a relatively high level of mental capacity and of social and spiritual attainment.

We have no means of knowing di-

rectly much about the higher social and spiritual life of our own ancestors of the caves and river drifts. But if we can judge at all from the primitive nomad hunters that still live the material life they lived, the chances are our forebears of the caves and river drifts were fairly decent and intelligent members of the human family.

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It has been found that in Iowa 200 boys and girls in each county are leaving the country for the city every year.

Two-thirds of the young doctors graduated from medical schools in the United States this year held college degrees as well as medical.

The first attempted flight across the Atlantic was undertaken in 1873, in a balloon named the Graphic, which started from Brooklyn and landed in a storm at New Canaan, Connecticut.

## Blind Good Listeners

*Psychology*

Blind persons do not hear better, they simply seem to because they listen harder, Mrs. Winifred Hathaway of the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness told members of the Michigan Educational Institute. The popular belief that blind people have more acuity of other senses, such as hearing and touch, is not exactly correct. The special senses of blind people, aside from sight, are no better in the beginning than those of other people, sometimes not as good. But experience and specialization on the part of the blind persons enable them to make their other senses take the place of sight, so that their senses are better developed than those of normal people. The same thing applies to deaf persons who appear to have much keener vision than normal.

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Although American farmers are milking 4,000,000 fewer cows than they did ten years ago, the volume of milk production is maintained by use of better cows.