

SOCIOLOGY

Alien Crime Wave High, But Low for German Immigrants

Law Tries to Bar at Border Criminals Like Hauptmann, Yet Alien Crime Rate is Higher Than for Native Born

By DR. HARRY H. LAUGHLIN,
Carnegie Institution of Washington

IN VIEW of the fact that Bruno Richard Hauptmann, an alien German deportable from the United States and now in custody, is accused of one of the most infamous crimes in recent American history, the questions again arise: Why are alien criminals admitted to the United States? What nations or races contribute relatively the greatest number of alien criminals? How does the law try to keep them out? Why does the law fail? Although our law sets an allowable crime quota for each alien population-group at zero, and strives to debar potential criminals at our ports and borders, and to deport actual criminals after due punishment, our alien crime-rate still practically equals that for our population as a whole.

In computing the crime rate for any section of the population—say that of a given alien race—it is necessary to have two figures: first, the total population of the particular population-group; and second, the number of persons within such population section who fall within the definition of a "criminal." For the present let us define a criminal as an inmate of a State or Federal institution for the criminalistic classes.

An Index of Assimilation

Roughly, if we say that a crime rate less than that for the population as a whole is an index of more ready assimilation, and that a crime rate greater than the average is evidence of non-assimilation, the following series is of interest. It contains comparative figures indicating the crime rates for different nativity groups within the United States.

The figure for Switzerland is only 27, Ireland 31, Germany 35, Scandinavia 35, Northwestern Europe 37, Great Britain 43, Netherlands 58, Canada 65, Austria-Hungary 68, native white both parents native born 81, native white

both parents foreign born 91. The figure for the whole group of foreign born residing in the United States is 98.

The following groups are those whose figures are above the one hundred mark. Their crime rate is higher than for any of those preceding. The figure for native whites having one parent native and one parent foreign born is 115, France 123, Old Russia 126, Southern and Eastern Europe 141, Rumania 141, Japan 153, Portugal 185, American Negro 207, Italy 218, Turkey 240, all Asia 251, all Balkan States 275, Greece 293, West Indies 318, China 337, Bulgaria 366, Mexico 549.

Based on Survey

These rates are based upon a study of the inmates of 155 State and Federal custodial institutions, made for the Committee on Immigration and Naturalization of the House of Representatives in 1923. Another survey made a decade later, 1931-34, computed absolute numbers only, but indicated no radical departure from the earlier findings.

One piece of evidence of the assimilation of an immigrant population-group with the United States is the amount of crime committed by—or rather the number of criminals found within—the particular immigrant group. The more consistent obedience to law, that is, the fewer crimes committed, obviously the more complete the Americanization.

The United States has received desirable citizens from every white race in the world. It has also received degenerate and very undesirable citizens from every white race in the world.

The crime index is only one evidence by which the receiving nation can judge its would-be immigrants—the parents of future Americans. Not only freedom from all kinds of social inadequacy besides crime, but (*Turn to Page 220*)

PALEONTOLOGY

Gold Mining Operations Produce Fossils Also

GOLD is being washed out of California hills again, since the jump in its price made hydraulic mining profitable once more. But there is more than gold in "them thar hills." Along with the auriferous gravels brought down by the great streams of water from the high-pressure nozzles, great quantities of plant fossils, valuable to science, are being produced.

At You Bet, one of the camps famous in the roaring days of '49, Harry D. MacGinitie, paleobotanist of the



MINING BY WATER

These streams, under enormous pressure, eat into the banks at You Bet, where gold and fossils are being recovered.



DEVIL'S CLUB

*That is the awesome name of the tree from which this fossil leaf came. The tree, whose scientific name is *Aralia*, is one of the most common of California's fossil forests. The leaf is one of more than forty kinds found at You Bet.*

University of California, is picking over the placer washings for nuggets of knowledge. Thus far he has found more than forty kinds of fossil leaves, including figs, magnolias, palms, sycamores and avocados. This makes up a

complex of plant growth quite alien to the You Bet region of the present day, and indicates that California of the far past had an even warmer climate than the California of today enjoys.

Science News Letter, October 6, 1934

CHEMISTRY

Electrochemical Method Used To Concentrate Rare Earths

A NEW method for concentrating many of the so-called rare earth elements, whose purification has baffled chemistry for years, was presented to the meeting of the Electrochemical Society.

Prof. B. S. Hopkins of the University of Illinois' chemistry department told of his new experiments with salts of the rare earths in collaboration with Dr. L. F. Audrieth. Prof. Hopkins is famous for his discovery, in 1926, of the element illinium, a metal with valuable properties.

The rare earths have atomic numbers from 57 to 71 in the periodic table of

the chemical elements. They are seldom shown on the familiar classroom charts because they unduly complicate the classification of the elements in a systematic arrangement.

Minerals containing the rare earths occur chiefly in Scandinavia, the Urals, America, Brazil, India and Australia. Owing to the extraordinary chemical similarity of the members of the rare earths and to the further fact that they are associated in nature, it is very difficult to separate them and to prepare them in the pure state. Prof. Hopkins' report to the society describes a new

method for solving this problem, at least in part.

The first stage in the concentration of rare earths, reports Prof. Hopkins, is to mix them with mercury, for which they have a great affinity. Mercury amalgams of the rare elements are thus obtained.

The preparation of mercury amalgams is not the easy process used by dentists in making silver amalgams for dental fillings. It is necessary to use electrochemical processes where the conducting solution is mercury chloride.

Rare earth amalgams prepared electrochemically, Prof. Hopkins indicates, are liquid or pasty masses containing from one-half to three per cent. of the rare earth metal by weight. The amalgams are easily decomposed by exposure to air and moisture. They must be preserved in a vacuum or in an inert atmosphere like neon, argon or helium.

"The amalgams may serve as the starting point for the preparation of the corresponding rare earth metals," Prof. Hopkins cautiously concludes.

Science News Letter, October 6, 1934

PHYSICS

New Instrument Measures Heat of Various Sounds

WHILE the music of some of the popular orchestras of the radio is often referred to colloquially as "hot," scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have devised new and more accurate methods of determining the heat of sound.

Instead of measuring sound variations in terms of air pressure as does a microphone, the new sound thermometer records the alternating temperatures produced by sound waves travelling in air.

The device was developed at the Round Hill estate of Col. Edward H. R. Green, M. I. T. research station near South Dartmouth, Mass., by Ellis A. Johnson of the Institute under the direction of Prof. Richard D. Fay and Prof. Louis Harris.

The sound thermometer is essentially an exceptionally delicate thermocouple comprising thin metal strips of dissimilar metals, bismuth and antimony for example. Each strip is but .00001 centimeter in thickness and is mounted on cellulose acetate films of the same thickness. Together the film and strip are mounted on a thin mica frame.

The thinness of the metal strips may be appreciated when it is realized that a million of them together would make a pile not much more than an inch