

EUGENICS

Suggests an Imaginative NMA —Mothers Administration

Deficit of Children in Responsible Households Termed Menace to Foundations of National Life

AN IMAGINATIVE NMA—National Mothers Administration—to lead America's working mothers toward better employment status, was suggested by Dr. Frank Lorimer, professor of population studies of American University.

Dr. Lorimer, speaking before the American Eugenics Society in New York, declared that there is a deficit of births in families which plan their affairs with a high sense of responsibility. He outlined ways by which the United States might ease the financial worries for young couples who fear to have children because they know that the added expense must mean a lower standard of living.

Declaring that the deficit of children in responsible households "menaces the foundations of our national life," Dr. Lorimer suggested remedies:

1. Increase opportunities for gainful employment compatible with motherhood.
2. Develop measures which will relax some of the pressures which now tend to force married women to seek gainful employment.

Women with children might be given preference in teaching appointments, he said, and school administrators might well consider psychological value for the children of this type of teacher. Dr. Lorimer also suggested that school administrators reduce hours of service for teachers, so as to divide the teaching load and strain on individual teachers.

"Similar developments would be possible," he added, "in many other fields—under the leadership of an imaginative NMA, or National Mothers Administration."

To encourage larger families, he also suggested increasing tax rates, especially in middle income brackets, to finance an adequate social program soundly. About one-fourth of this tax, he said, should be cancelled for each dependent child, up to income levels at which an additional child does not substantially reduce the level of family living.

Just as earlier Americans took the radical step of making public education available to all, now public provisions for mothers and children should, so far as possible, be for all families, Dr. Lorimer advised. All children should have the advantage of the school lunch program, he said, citing an example. This would raise the nutritional level of the nation, and increase food consumption.

To help in stabilizing economic conditions for families when war ends, and to avoid the unguided building boom after the first world war, which over-shot the market demand and helped bring about the 1929 depression, Dr. Lorimer warned that post-war housing should be developed on a logical basis. The United States, he foresees, will ultimately be called upon to provide materials for rebuilding Europe's wreckage, and the tremendous need will spur industry to high production. Home building will then be likely to increase.

In this post-war housing situation, Dr. Lorimer recommended reducing labor costs by paying workers on a fair yearly basis, and formation of new industrial unions, if the old craft unions will not cooperate.

He also recommended subsidies for groups justifying them, such as the Swedish system of reducing monthly rents in proportion to the number of children in the family.

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so that the wearer can put her hands into them without effort. That sounds lazy. But we want to leave workers free to use their energy for work."

To go with the factory work suit, a pink and white visored cap has been designed. Accidents have been known to occur when a girl's hair caught in revolving machines, and safety is one basic idea back of all the government's new clothes. Dusts of various sorts are another reason for wearing caps in some factory jobs.

As scientific features of the pink and white cap, Miss Scott pointed out stitching which stiffens the visor without need for starch, and ease with which the band around the back unbuttons, allowing the cap to flatten out for laundering.

Important fashion feature of the visored cap is height provided toward the front. That is to accommodate delicate curls and pompadours without crushing.

A second style for industry already completed is a jumper slack suit. As originally made by Miss Smith, this suit is an attractive blue, with blue and white striped underblouse. Jumper advantages are these: A worker can vary the blouse, using long or short sleeves for cold or warm weather. And a factory might like the idea of using different colored blouses as a badge of different types of workers.

Curiously enough, America's farm wives and daughters have never before had sets of work clothes designed for their especial needs for efficiency plus becomingness. Not until Miss Scott tackled the problem. Miss Scott did not have to visit farms to study farm women at work. She came from a midwestern farm herself.

First of all, she has designed what she calls a Coverette, a basic work suit likely to be useful for milking, feeding chickens, working the garden. The first Coverette to take a public bow is of green and white seersucker.

Miss Scott explained its important features: Easy to put on and take off, even in sticky weather. Pockets, of course—three roomy patch pockets. Trouser legs which can swing loose for coolness or be buttoned, if work requires, into a neat cuff. Plenty of fullness at the knee is provided, even when trousers are cuffed in.

A farm woman dons a Coverette by stepping into the trousers, putting her arms through the short and roomy sleeves and pulling back the ties attached to the surplice waist. She ties one bow—or fastens the strings with a button or snap—and, as Miss Scott puts it, "she is ready to go."

A low rolling collar, a feature of the Coverette, was particularly mentioned by Miss Scott. It is a becoming sort of collar, and if there is any one thing that Scott and Smith designers are emphatic about, it is that women's work clothes should be becoming. An outfit of soft green seersucker has been banished to the laboratory closet, because nice as it looks on the hanger the collar isn't becoming. The public will never see that one.