

## IMMIGRATION SELECTION ADVOCATED BY EUGENISTS

Numerical limitation and careful selection of immigrants, with a quota provision based upon the census of 1890, are advocated in the report of the Committee on Selective Immigration of the Eugenics Committee of the United States, made public by Prof. Irving Fisher, chairman of the Eugenics Committee.

"Immigration is a long-time investment in family stocks rather than a short-time investment in productive labor," is the key-note of the report. A system of consular certificates for intending immigrants, based upon inspection abroad, mental tests for all with a score more than equal to the average American intelligence as a requirement for admission, and severe restriction of the present system of bonding aliens admitted on appeal, are also advocated.

"A conviction that the census of 1890 should be used as the basis of any percentage law has been growing rapidly," the report states. "Since there were fewer southeastern Europeans here in 1890 than in 1910, this provision would decidedly cut down the number of such immigrants. Immigrants from northwestern Europe furnish us with the best material for American citizenship. They have higher living standards than other immigrants, average higher in intelligence, are better educated, more skilled, and better able to understand our form of government. A percentage limitation based on the 1890 census is sound American policy based on historical facts.

"It is not a question of racial superiority of northwestern Europeans or of racial inferiority of southeastern Europeans. It is simply a question as to which of these two groups of aliens as a whole is best fitted by tradition, political background, customs, social organization, education, and habits of thought to adjust itself to American institutions.

"Experts have told us that had mental tests been in operation, and had the 'inferior' and 'very inferior' immigrants been refused admission to the United States, over 6,000,000 aliens now living in the country, free to vote, and to become fathers and mothers of future Americans, would never have been admitted. It is high time for the American people to put a stop to such degradation of American citizenship."

The report relates the findings of Dr. H. H. Laughlin, assistant director of the Eugenics Record Office, who made a study of the "socially inadequate" groups in 445 institutions for defectives and criminals, and who reports that 44 per cent. of this institutional population was either foreign born or had one or both parents foreign born. He also states that the immigrants from northwestern Europe, on the whole, contribute far less in proportion to this defective population than do those from southeastern Europe.

"The original argument for the percentage law was economic. The fundamental reason for its continuance is biological," the report declares. Mental tests are demanded of all immigrants.

"No alien should be admitted who has not an intellectual capacity superior to the American average. Aliens should be required to attain a passing score of the median army Alpha test, or the corresponding score of other approved tests these tests to be given in the native tongue of the immigrant. Aliens whose

family history indicates that they come of unsound stock should be debarred."

Since, according to the report, a large percentage of bonded aliens admitted on appeal have violated their bonds and remain in this country, many of them as public charges, it is urged that aliens should be admitted on appeal over the heads of the medical examiners only in very rare and exceptional cases, and in such cases, cash bonds in substantial sums should be required.

Requirements on consular certificates to be made essential to admission should include a certificate from the local police that the intending immigrant had never been convicted of crime other than a political one. Certificates are advocated on the ground of both efficiency and humanity in that they would prevent the distressing scenes when immigrants are separated from their families and turned back at the port of entry.

Members of the Committee on Selective Immigration, presenting this report, include Madison Grant, chairman; Robert DeC. Ward; Charles W. Gould, Lucien Howe, Albert Johnson, and Francis H. Kinnicutt.

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#### ANTS LIKE HOMEBREW AND MAKE THEIR OWN

Ants consume more alcohol in proportion to their body weight than does the most accomplished "old soak", asserts Prof. Paul Lindner, chief of the fermenting industry institute in Berlin. The insects whose industry has become a proverb manufacture their own home-brew in their digestive canal by the action of yeasts on the milky juices which they extract from aphids or plant lice which they keep for that purpose,

Other insects have similar homemade home-brew outfits which they use to capacity, Dr. Lindner stated. Wasps are accomplished bootleggers. In the Balkans where a strong liquor is made from prunes which are fermented and distilled in open vessels in the orchards the vats are besieged by swarms of thirsty wasps. The queen of another species keeps her favorite yeast in storage during the winter between the tiny hairs of her tongue and deposits it in the spring on the blossoms from which the honey is taken.

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#### MODERN MARRIAGE IN ANCIENT ASSYRIA

The modern idea of married couples having merely a calling acquaintance with one another is not so new after all. A German expedition dug up tablets in Assyria during the war which indicate that a wife lived usually with her parents rather than with her husband. But her husband was not without his rights. If she continued in her modern methods and became a sector of the famous "eternal triangle", friend husband might lawfully kill her or at least cut off her ears.

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It is estimated that there are 30,000 bandits in the province of Yunnan in southwestern China.

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