

What are OUR IMMIGRANTS WORTH in DOLLARS and CENTS?



In many circles throughout the country there is in progress a serious discussion as to the advisability of curbing the immigration flood. This naturally has led up to the question of the immigrant, his value or his menace, and his position in the social machine. The New York Herald has invited opinions on the subject, and presents the views of three men who may reasonably be said to have studied the situation. We reproduce them below:

By Sidney A. Reev.
Former Professor of Steam and Hydraulic Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and Lecturer at Harvard.
Current conversation and the periodical press are full of condemnation of our lax restriction of immigration. All the evils to which our country is heir are explained by the "undesirable horde" of aliens which is pressing into the land with ever increasing volume. The steady increase in criminality which has now become unquestioned is attributed to this "overflow" of the undesirable from the older countries, and these countries are accused of collusion with the steamship companies toward a promotion of the volume of migration. That portion of our citizens which is interested in the labor market is in chronic rebellion against this influx of cheap labor, destined to compete upon an un-American basis with American labor. Those of us who are interested in purity of politics see in the following torrent a certain supply of corruptibles upon whose votes political machines may be reared and supported.
Upon every side arises this denunciation of immigration. Nor is it a recent phenomenon. Look up the literature of immigration, and you will find the decade of 1840-1850 supplying its fair quota of "kicks," in goodly proportion to what our increased population puts forth to-day. For 60 years we, as a nation, regardless of whether our continent yet contained undeveloped territory, as in 1847, or undeveloped possibilities, as in 1907, have been objecting strenuously to immigration.
Meanwhile the immigration has been steadily increasing, except during the period of the civil war, and at the end of the 60 years we enjoy phenomenal prosperity.
There is an inconsistency here

known. In their fatherlands drunkenness is a minor crime, whereas in Great Britain and America it is a major one. And as to patience under conditions inviting to revolt, America is proud of standing first among all the non-Latin peoples of the temperate zones in her promptness to resent publicly, by the passive rebellion of the strike, if not by actual violence, the presence of conditions unnecessarily hard. Our complaint against the immigrants must be that they are too patient and submissive for American standards, rather than that they are too violent and resentful.
As to illiteracy, it is true that the immigrants are below our standard. What of it? Education is a thing of itself, neither conducive to nor antagonistic to morality and happiness. It may be a powerful tool to both. But it is often used as an equally powerful tool against both. Our educated classes are not always the happiest ones. Our worst and biggest crooks are the educated ones.
In short, a man is of value to a country solely according to whether he produces more, of material or of morality, than he consumes. He may produce very little, yet if his wants are less than that little he is still a profitable investment for the nation. He may, on the other hand, apparently produce millions; yet if he consumes more than that, or if he undermines our standards of morality, or if he is found to produce actually much less than he apparently produces, he may be a great source of loss, in spite of his prominence and power.
The people understand this well. It is their habitual application of this new economic trysquare to men in the public eye which is now making millionaires so uncomfortable.

What is Immigration Worth?
To which class, then, belongs the average immigrant? Is he a producer or a dissipator of net wealth and morality? If the former, what is our immigrant worth, net, to the nation?
The law says that a dead male adult constitutes a loss of \$5,000 to his family. In this it strikes a rough average and draws no distinction of any sort between individuals. So it is hard to get at it in that way.
The average adult male immigrant (and half of our immigrants are of this sort) earns at least \$300 per annum soon after his arrival. Rather, that is what he is paid. My estimates have led me to state, elsewhere, that his actual productivity is from three to four times that amount, the balance going to pay the cost of doing "business" with what he produces and consumes. But the benefit of this doubt will be left, for the present, to the opposition.
The right will be reserved, however, to class all immigrants under this figure, for the majority of them have been here long enough to expand their income beyond \$300. That is to say, most of those who were classed as children at the time of entry are now adults. Of the women some are offset to their unproductivity by the men who earn more than \$300; the rest are producing more than that value in the form of children.

By Emerson McMillan.
Chairman Conciliatory Committee of the Civic Federation.
Decidedly I favor an intelligent restriction of immigration on both our eastern and western seaboard. Without being an alarmist, I venture to say that the problem grows more difficult each year and must ultimately demand a solution. America has accomplished wonders in assimilating great hordes of immigrants from many different countries, but it is a very serious question how long at the present rate of increase she can continue to do so. Now it seems to me that when foreigners come to us in such numbers that they form separate and distinct communities, preserving their language and traditions intact, they constitute a menace. When such a colony is formed it is difficult to break up. Assimilation goes on very slowly.
As a rule, the immigrant of recent years differs from us widely in his ideas of morality, his attitude toward the law and in his general point of view. When we read of the violent crimes committed, the names are usually foreign. The Black Hand outrages, for instance, have doubtless been greatly exaggerated, but such as they are they are a foreign importation, and of very recent years.
It is undeniable, of course, that the coming of these millions of laborers has contributed much to the wealth and prosperity of the country. But should this army of workers be increased indefinitely? We have a population to-day in excess of 80,000,000 very active and alert people. It would seem that the natural resources of the country could be developed and the great business of the land carried forward very well with our present population and its natural increase. And I am not among those who have any fear of race suicide. The increase in the number of immigrants from year to year is astonishing. Can we continue to receive this army indefinitely without some day reducing our scale of income to that of Europe? Does it seem probable that the Slavs, the Russian Hebrews, the Sicilians and others who are coming to us in such numbers to-day will in a few years have risen as have the Irish, and have become as good Americans? And if these foreigners with traditions and manners very different from our own are not assimilated, the problem becomes a very serious one.

By Robert Watchorn.
Commissioner of Immigration.
Public opinion is all wrong, or nearly so, upon many phases of the immigration question. With more than a million immigrants a year we cannot supply the urgent demands for labor. The army of workers adds enormously to the wealth and prosperity of the country.
It is not the scum of Europe we are getting, but the pick of the most energetic and hard-working of its population. As to the morality of the immigrants of to-day, it seems to me that it compares favorably with that of our native born population.
All this is not a matter of mere opinion or sentiment. It is borne out by the actual statistics. Mr. Reev's figures, it seems to me, in some respects, understate the facts. He mentions \$300 a year as the earning power of these immigrants. As a matter of fact, these men will earn more, on the average, than a dollar a day. I think the figure may safely be increased by at least 50 per cent. Within a few days Mr. Charles Lorin, the New York state commissioner of labor, came to me in search of men I could not supply. He estimated that New York state alone needed 100,000 men, to whom he would pay \$25 a month and board on the farms alone. Now that does not look much like overcrowding or the impossibility of assimilating we hear so much about.
Of the million, or, to be exact, the 1,001,756, immigrants last year more than ten per cent. were over the age limit and a great proportion brought their wives. About 50 per cent. may be classed as workers. But in another sense they were all workers. There were no idlers, scarcely one who would shirk his duty. And as to their morality, the average is certainly good. These immigrants are placed upon a probation for three years. Should they get into trouble in this time they are liable to be deported. Last year there were for all causes less than 1,200 deported. I question

if our native born population can show a better record.
The modern immigrant of to-day, it seems to me, is greatly misunderstood. We have a great deal of talk about the menace of the immigrant from the south of Europe. A few decades ago most of the immigrants came from Ireland, while Germany ranked second and Great Britain third. Italy and Russia sent comparatively few. To-day the situation is practically reversed. Last year we received 267,000 from Italy, 192,000 from Russia and but 24,000 from Ireland and 30,000 from Germany. From Austria and Hungary some 292,000 reached our shores. It is unfair to say that the north of Europe is no longer represented. But are the immigrants from the southern countries dangerous or undesirable? The statistics of crime do not prove it. The Italian is a hard worker. We should remember that the Latin people were highly civilized when the north of Europe was peopled with savages. The southern countries may not have progressed of late, but the impulse is still there, and with unlimited opportunities of America before them who can tell what they may not accomplish in the future?

As to Pauper Labor.
A great deal of the misunderstanding is due to the use of that term pauper labor. I have estimated that every immigrant in coming to America spends on an average from \$80 to \$100 for transportation. This includes his fare from his home to the point of departure, the crossing of the Atlantic and the railroad fare to his destination. In other words, they spend upward of \$100,000,000 a year in search of work. Let us suppose, for sake of argument, that Russia suddenly held out great opportunities for money making so that Americans by the million were attracted there. It seems to me that 1,000,000 native born citizens might have some difficulty in raising \$100,000,000 for transportation. And in addition this army of incomers carried with them more than \$20,000,000 in cash.
There is, of course, urgent need of the restriction of immigration, but such restriction is already in force. The laws governing the situation are very rigid; they have been devised by intelligent men, familiar with the situation, working in sympathy with the interests of the country. And the laws are being enforced. As the need for further restriction occurs it will receive due attention. Meanwhile the demand for laborers throughout the country is very urgent. The immigrants are adding hundreds of millions of dollars to the wealth of America, while they help themselves to a broader and more prosperous life.

MAKING A BLUFF
WELL-MEANING CITIZENS WHO WORK ALONG WRONG LINES.
KNOCKING THE HOME TOWN
Her Commercial Clubs Fail in Work Undertaken for the Improvement of Local Conditions.

In a western town not long since a General Call was issued to citizens to hold a Meeting for the purpose of organizing a Business Men's Association, or as the papers announced, a Commercial club. According to the Newspaper Reports of the event the meeting was a Grand Success, and some 40 or 50 prominent citizens enrolled their names as members. Thus the Commercial club was started on its Career.
Among the active citizens and those who were foremost in advocating the Club as an important thing for the welfare of the Town, were a Minister and a Lawyer. The good clergyman was made the Secretary, a banker of the town was elected President, and the Lawyer Treasurer. As is usual with such clubs, a Constitution and By-laws were adopted; an Executive Committee appointed, and also a Hustling Committee to add Push to the club. It was outlined that by harmony and co-operation the town could be boomed and made much better. One of the Things desired was a Public Library. Among the other Things were Manufacturing Enterprises, a Creamery and another Elevator for the town, to compete with the one Elevator already located there.
Six months of careful labor on the part of the Commercial Club developed the fact that the efforts toward securing any of these Things were without results. There was no Library, the Creamery Proposition was considered unfavorable, as the farmers could secure more by shipping their cream out of town than the Creamery could afford to pay, and as to the Elevator, only a part of the Stock necessary for its start was subscribed. An investigation revealed that out of this very same town each day an average of more than \$200 was being sent to Outside Cities for Goods that might as well have been purchased at the home stores. It was discovered that the Minister, who was the Secretary of the Club, all the while he was Advocating Town Improvement, was quietly Working among the Members of his Flock to secure Orders for Groceries and other goods to send to a Chicago alleged co-operative concern. He was receiving five per cent. commission on all Purchases made. The Lawyer of the town, who was made the Treasurer of the Club, was sending away the Clothes he wore, and even the Banker could not find Carpets sufficiently good in his home town, and sent away the money for a foreign place for rugs, and also a Piano that ornamented his home.
These misled Enterprising Citizens were working all along the wrong lines. While they were Anxious to Improve the Town, to start the Creamery—that, perhaps, would keep a few thousand dollars a year in the town—an Elevator that was almost unnecessary, as the one already located in the Town was capable of handling all the grain produced in the neighborhood, and would result in no saving or the bringing in of greater income, they overlooked the importance of devising means of retaining Business to the Town that was going away from it. The very ones intrusted with the Building Up of the Industries of the Place were foremost in turning over to other communities the Dollars that should be retained to improve the Home Trade, and make Wealthy the community.
Moral—it would be well for members of Commercial Clubs to take heed that the most important action for the Club to take is to Devise Means of Protecting Enterprises already established instead of gaining new Enterprises of Doubtful Utility.

FOR MAIL-ORDER TRADE.
Factories Where Adulterated and Misbranded Goods are Put Up.

A visit made a short time ago by the health officers of Chicago to a factory where canned goods were prepared for the mail-order trade, disclosed the fact that it was a rank artificial food factory. Tomato cans were made from pumpkin pulp; fine strawberry and raspberry jam was made from glucose, starch and the only evidence of fruits were a lot of dried apple peels and cores, which were used as a base. The seed sopped to the berry seeds, was grass seed; the natural coloring was coal tar dyes, and in the whole thing was a fraud factory from start to finish. Several thousand cans of fruit were found. These were old, several years perhaps, and the labels dirty showing their age. From these the labels were removed and new ones put on. These goods were dead stock on the manufacturers' hands, until bought for a mere song by the mail-order concern.
Musket of His Ancestors.
A resident of Wilton, Vt., has an old musket which is said to be a relic of the days when the settlers devoted a few hours to an Indian hunt as often as occasion required. The barrel is four feet, nine inches long, and the whole weapon stands over six feet.
Charter Two Centuries Old.
Andrew M. Camp, town clerk of Durham, Conn., is in possession of the original charter of the town, dated 1708, and signed by Gov. Saltonstall, which was recently found among some old papers in the garret of one of the ancient houses at Durham.
Hard on the Pig.
A western man has succeeded in breeding what he calls a fenceless pig. This pig has only one eye, which causes him to travel in a circular direction, and thus assures his owner that he will always come home, and does away entirely with the necessity of fences.

HEROIC SNAKE BITE CURE.
Operation Was Unpleasant, but Certainly Saved Life.
"I got a lesson in treating snake bites while ago that may stand me in good stead some day, although I can't say it was pleasant to learn," said Frank Hargis. "I was out with a prospecting party in Nevada and was crossing one of the arid wastes that was made a large part of that state a desert until the discovery of gold attracted people there.
"There were two other eastern men besides myself and we had a veteran guide with us. Rattlesnakes are numerous in that country and the guide told us to beware of them, as they are just about the color of the sand and it is very difficult to see them. I was walking along the sand during a short stop when a warning rattle told of a snake in my path. I jumped to one side and almost on top of another snake."
"I just heard it rattle and then felt a stinging sensation in my leg. I

made my way to camp as quickly as possible and told my story. The guide made me lie down, removed the thick stocking through which the snake's fangs had penetrated, and bathed the wound. He then broke open a cartridge and spread the powder on the open sore. I started to protest against his evident intention, but he told me that it was the one chance of saving my life, so I kept still.
"He touched off the powder, the flash cauterizing the wound effectively. He then mashed the leaf of a plant which grows wild in the desert and applied it like a poultice. I went to sleep and woke up in the morning suffering from nothing more severe than a very stiff leg. This lasted for about a week and then I was as well as ever."—Milwaukee Sentinel.

Contingent.
Soulful Girl—Oh, does it not make you happy, as Raskin says, to watch the corn grow?
Young Farmer—Well, that depends on whether you're watchin' it grow on your side or the other side of the line fence.

HOW SIGNAL TO MARS?
Problem Has Long Occupied the Minds of Scientists.

Mars is now much nearer the earth than he usually comes, which fact suggests an inquiry as to what use has been made of the 10,000 francs (\$3,000) which an old French lady bequeathed to the Institute of France for the discovery of some means of communicating with the planets in general and Mars in particular. This bequest was made about ten years ago and it was safeguarded by the provision that if the French scientists refused the responsibility—which they did not—it was to be offered to Milan and falling there, to New York. One man has suggested monstrous triangles in the Sahara to attract the attention of Martian astronomers and convince them of our knowledge of geometry. But a line on the earth's surface would have to be at least 30 miles broad to be visible from Mars. The suggestion that earth dwellers should signal by flags also overlooks

the fact that the flag would have to be as large as Ireland. Possibility, however, glimmers in the suggestion that all the gas and electric lights in some great city like London should be controlled by one turncock and alternately switched on and off to flash messages to Mars.
Some years ago Francis Galton, the English scientist, sketched out a solution of the problem, supposing the first move to be made by Mars. One night the earth astronomers are to notice a peculiar scintillation on the disk of that planet. These lights are to be recognized as regularly varying in duration, B being twice as long as A and C three times the length. Soon these flashes, distinctly divided by pauses, are realized to be sentences consisting of a series of numerals.
Then the messages are spelt out, as stating the distance of the planets from the sun and other arithmetical data. In short, Mr. Galton imagines that three or four years' careful observation would give a code of signals for full and complete intercommunication.

TEA INSTEAD OF WHISKY.
What is Being Done in England to Lessen Liquor Drinking.
Tea gardens are established wherever possible, prizes are offered for the prettiest, best-kept premises, and luncheons and teas are served to motorists and cyclists in bright, cozy rooms entirely separated from the bar. A decided difference is made as to the accommodations in the bar and those in the refreshment rooms; the former plain and clean but not attractive, the latter adorned with pictures, and flowers blooming in window boxes, and furnished with plenty of little tables and comfortable chairs, and in many cases daily papers on file. Sales of liquor have fallen off, while tea, coffee and food are sold in large quantities. It is found that even those who have been in the habit of tipping wherever possible, prizes are offered for the prettiest, best-kept premises, and luncheons and teas are served to motorists and cyclists in bright, cozy rooms entirely separated from the bar. 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