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FREE

OUR PUBLIC FORUM

VI.—F. C. Howe
On The Advantages of Free Ports



Mr. F. C. Howe, Federal Commissioner of Immigration, who is one of the best American authorities on marine commerce, in discussing the relation of free ports to the development of sea trade said in part:

"Ships will go hundreds of miles out of their way to avoid ports surrounded by a tariff wall. The only way, therefore, for a country with a tariff to compete in the shipping world with a free trade country is to establish free ports at strategic points along its coast line. Germany has done so, and in a comparatively short period has built up a carrying trade which before the war was seriously threatening England's supremacy. Hamburg, one of the three German free ports, now ranks as the second greatest seaport in the world, its total foreign commerce in 1913 being only \$6,000,000 under that of New York.

The free port would offer great opportunity for financial operations, now made possible by the recent currency act. It would stimulate international banking, and would tend to shift the financial center of the world to this country. And America, by the logic of events, has become the natural center for the world's financing, just as London became that center several centuries ago, when it shifted from the cities of the Netherlands. But the financial center will only move to this country when it becomes a clearing house of goods as well as of money. For credit the world over is created by currently created wealth in transit or change so that even our financial expansion is dependent upon the opening up of American ports to the clearance of the wealth of the world. A port should not operate to yield a return on the investment, but to develop the prosperity of the country." In recapitulating the advantages, Mr. Howe brings out the importance of the free port in developing our shipping, and linking us with South America, Asia and Africa, and then concludes:

"The most important gain is the direct gain to America. It will cheapen commodities by bringing great quantities of goods to our doors for importation or export, as trade needs demand. It will stimulate the growth of exporting houses, which can hold goods for an indefinite period without the payment of tariff dues (often equal to the cost of the article itself) for disposal to meet the trade demands of the whole world. It will uphold international credit, and shift to America an increasing and ultimately a predominant share in international exchange.

Finally, America is the natural country to be the counter of the world. Its seacoasts face every other continent; it is the greatest of all reservoirs of raw materials and foodstuffs. In iron and steel and standardized production it is in a position to compete with the world. But international trade (and this is always overlooked) must be reciprocal. It cannot be one-sided and credit balances cannot for any prolonged period be paid in gold. They can only be paid by exchange of wealth."

ABOUT THE NEW YORK POLICE

The five boroughs of New York City boast 10,740 policemen of all ranks, which is one officer to every 500 population. In addition, the force includes a chief inspector, eighteen inspectors, twenty-four sergeants, a superintendent of telegraph, an assistant to him, a chief lineman, four linemen and two boiler inspectors. There are ninety-seven captains, 571 lieutenants, 648 sergeants and 69 matrons in the 10,740. On Manhattan Island and in the Bronx are forty-eight police stations, and thirty-five more in Brooklyn with others in Queens and Richmond.

For 1915 the policing of the five boroughs has cost the taxpayers just \$17,364,594, which is \$3.50 for every man, woman and child to pay for protection of life and property. The highest salary is \$7,500 to Commissioner Woods. Next come the telegraph inspector, who gets \$4,000, and then the inspectors and sergeants, who draw \$3,500 each. Captains receive \$2,750; lieutenants, \$2,250; sergeants, \$1,750. Patrolmen are paid from \$1,400 down to \$1,000, dependent upon length of service.

MISS FARRAR IN "CARMEN"

JESSE L LASKY VERSION, WITH MISS FARRAR.

At the Grand Monday and Tuesday. Geraldine Farrar scores a distinct triumph in her characterization of Carmen, a role to which she is most admirably suited. Her interpretation of the seductive Spanish girl, who lures men to kill and to their own death, who is free to love whom she chooses, is seen to admirable advantage, in this Lasky picturization of the famous opera. Endowed by nature with a personality true to the role, Miss Farrar, in the silent drama, gives equal satisfaction with Carmen as she does interpreting the singing role.

Wallace Reid, as Don Jose, the young officer, who forgets duty and self-respect in his mad infatuation for Carmen, enacts the principal male role in most creditable fashion. He is young and full of life, and, while his work may lack some of the forceful characteristics of others who have been cast in that role, he never fails to convince. The balance of the supporting cast more than up to expectations.

The story opens with smugglers at-

tempting to land their goods, with the alert soldiers on guard. Carmen is put to work in the cigarette factory, and that night lures Don Jose from his post, while her people carry the contraband goods across the border. Returning to the factory, Carmen fights with another girl, the fist combat, by the way, being one of the most realistic between two women that ever has been staged.

With Carmen as a prisoner in his custody, Jose fights a duel with Morales to avenge an insult, and kills him. Carmen flees after mockingly bidding Jose good-by. He follows her to the fastnesses of the mountains, where he joins the smugglers. Carmen's real love is for Escamillo, the Toreador, who takes her to Seville. Jose follows, and just as Escamillo is triumphant in the bull ring the former officer kills the girl and then himself.

The Lasky Carmen is weak in the matter of local atmosphere, especially in the scenes supposed to be enacted in Seville, where the characters are so unmistakably American as to detract from the interest. The photography, however, is of an unusually high order, and the prediction is made that the Farrar Carmen will go down in history as a masterpiece of the screen, a triumph that will be complete and lasting.

Greenwich, Conn.—Clifford Schuell, 20, loved Florence Jones, also 20. The other night he placed a ladder to her window, down which she came clad only in her nightie. Jones bore her to a nearby motor, and they rushed to the home of the town clerk, who, came forth in his pajamas and married them.

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HOW TO OBTAIN AN INSTITUTE

The Board of Directors of the North Dakota Farmers' Institutes have organized the season's work under the superintendency of Frank Sanford. In the plans for this year's work, two types of meetings have been provided for. First, the regular Farmers' Institute corps consisting of two men and a woman. This corps of Institute workers will be available for the various towns in the state. Second, plans have been completed to hold one day meetings at points in the country remote from towns, thus bringing the work of the Farmers' Institutes to those parts of the state where farmers cannot easily attend the Institutes held in town.

The first type of Institute, that of the towns, will be charged at the rate of \$15, for a one day session and \$25 for a two day session. The small state appropriation makes this charge necessary in order to meet the increasing demands for Institutes. The town in which the Institute is held is expected to furnish a hall, properly

heated and lighted, and to distribute and handle advertising which will be forwarded them thru the Farmers' Institute. No charge will be made for the meetings served by a single speaker in districts remote from a railroad. The community in which the meeting is held will, however, be expected to meet the livery expense of going to and from the railroad station.

Mr. Sanford has engaged well known farmers as speakers. Several have been with previous Farmers' Institutes, and include Byron Bobb of Haynes, J. E. Eastgate, Larimore, J. Christianson, New Salem, L. A. Larson, Tunbridge, W. R. Lanson and others. The women to be employed for the institutes have not yet been selected. In addition, members of the Experiment Station staff and of the Agricultural College faculty may be called upon for presentation of certain special subjects.

Towns desiring Institutes should make application at an early date to the Superintendent of Farmers' Institutes, Agricultural College, North Dakota.

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