



ITALIAN TYPE

By William A. Du Puy

If a million south Europeans come to the United States every year for a century, what will the average American be like at the end of that time? What will be the effect of these millions of fertile people upon the ultimate product of the melting pot? If the American blood becomes largely that of the peasants of those down-trodden countries will the dominant traits of the present be lost?

These are questions that are raised by the figures just issued by the commissioner of immigration, for those figures show a striking accentuation of the immigration tendency that has developed within the last decade. So far has the tendency gone that for the fiscal year just closed it is shown that 83 per cent of all comers have been from the races of south Europe and eastern Asia. The men who are wont to look far ahead in the problems of national wellbeing are becoming more alarmed with the record of each succeeding season.

For the year ending June 30 last, 1,941,570 immigrants landed in this country. Of these 865,192 were from the Mediterranean sea countries. But 179,277 were from all the rest of the world—83 per cent as against 17 per cent. Even this 17 per cent can not be counted as having a tendency to continue the present American type, for in it is included such distinctly different races as Japanese, Chinese, Mexicans, Africans.

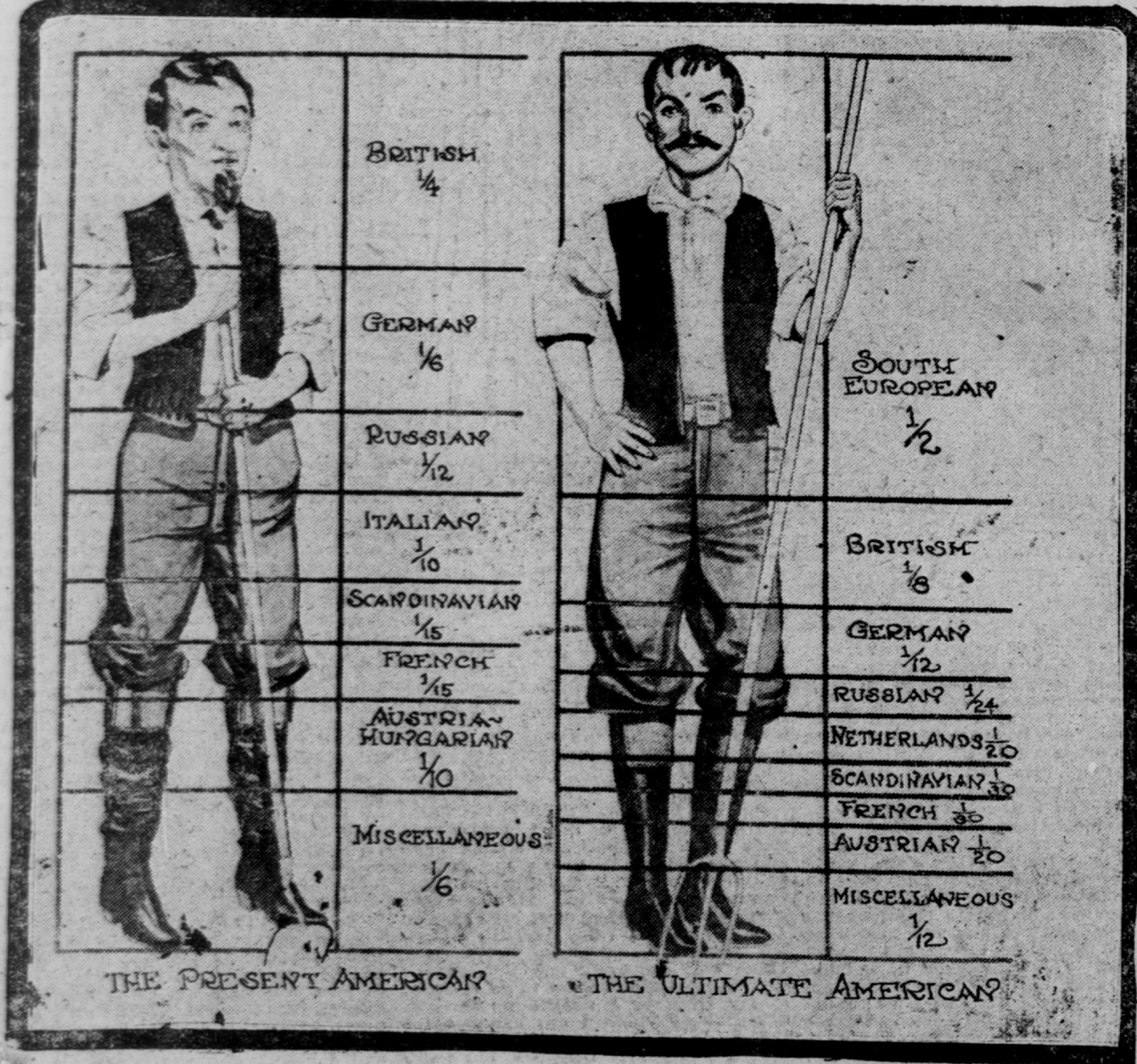
The point is therefore made that the whole influence of immigration is toward breaking down the American citizenship as it exists today by putting in its stead the blood of races that heretofore have had nothing to do with its making. These people have been coming to America for such a short time that the effect that they are destined to have in the course of amalgamation is an absolutely unknown quantity. If the stream of immigration continues in accordance with the present tendency, the American of the future is to be a new creature under the sun, but whether improved by the process or mongrel only time can tell.

It is possible to form a fairly exact estimate of just what are the sources of the blood of the average American today. The bureau of immigration has the exact figures upon the people who have come from the various countries during the last 50 years. These people were not greatly different from those who had previously come to the colonies. The people who lived in America 50 years ago were unquestionably English to a greater extent than those who have come since, and the percentage of British blood based upon immigration is probably an underestimate. Otherwise, the estimate should be fairly correct.

This 50 year immigration has amounted to a total of 20,000,000 people. Of these 8,000,000, or a little more than one-fourth, have been British. Of this British element more than 4,000,000 have come from Ireland. In this way

it is shown that the emerald isle has contributed one-eighth of the blood that has gone to make the American of today. Altogether, since the keeping of records was begun, 5,000,000 of the 20,000,000 have been shown to be German. This leaves the stamp of one-sixth German blood upon the average American. The 2,500,000 Russians who have landed on these shores have left a trace which amounts to one-twelfth of the blood percentage. The coming of the Russian has been so recent, however, that his blood is still distinct. Italy has contributed 3,000,000 people, or one-tenth of the recorded blood of the nation. Austria-Hungary has made a similar contribution. These are still largely distinct also, not showing in the individual average American but playing its part in composite. Scandinavia has contributed 2,000,000 sturdy, blonde giants and, therefore, lays claim to one-fifteenth of the blood of America. The contribution of France in immigrants has amounted to but half a million in the period recorded, but her settlements in the present bounds of the United States previous to that time have probably brought her blood percentage up to one-fifteenth. The remaining one-fourth of the American blood is made up of the peoples of all the world, including chiefly Netherlands, Switzerland and the recent influx from south Europe.

Rather a complicated individual is this composite American, but upon examination he will be shown to be almost wholly of the races that have inhabited northern and western Europe and are as distinctly different from those other races to the south as is the great Holstein cow of the dairy from the Mexican longhorn. Any change from the west European type has but begun to show in the last decade. The history of immigration is inter-



esting. The charts show that the people came to this country in but a trickling stream up to the middle of the last century. There were small numbers of German, British and French. Scandinavians barely showed. South Europe had not been heard from. Of a sudden, in 1852, Great Britain arose and poured 270,000 people into the United States. Gold had been found in the west and the rush was on. Two years later Germany sent over 215,000 people in a single year. Nothing like this had ever been heard of before. Great Britain never again reached this point, although intermittently great numbers came over. In 1883 153,000 came over, but since that time the numbers have steadily decreased. The Irish helped bolster up the decline, but the supply of immigrants from that island is practically exhausted and this year England went ahead of her. Germans came in great numbers, reaching the climax in 1883. Since that time their numbers have steadily declined. Scandinavia sent over 100,000 people in 1882, but her contribution has gradually declined also.

It was not until well into the nineties that Italy was heard of as a supply source for immigrants. Since that time she has made a steady growth in the output. For 10 years or more she offered 25,000 or 50,000 more with each recurring season. In 1907 she reached the stupendous figure of 285,000 in a single year, breaking the former big record of Great Britain. For the two years following the temporary hard times hindered the coming of the Italians, but now the flood is steadily rising and this one small country is furnishing one-fourth of the immigrants that Uncle Sam receives.

With the coming of the Italians the spirit seemed to get among other kindred people. Austria-Hungary paralleled the feat of Italy in the develop-

ment of the America enthusiasm. The movement started in the nineties also and developed in similar proportions. Austria's banner year was 1907, also, and there she surpassed Italy, but has since fallen behind. Russia has trailed along in the same company with her associates, scoring as many as 258,000 people landed in America in a single year. Bulgarians, Roumanians, Greeks and others of the same vicinity have been filled with the same enthusiasm and the stream is being steadily augmented. The figures for these people are now approaching the million a year mark. That of the western Europeans is decreasing toward the low figure of 100,000 for the same period. It seems logical to figure the future on the basis of a million a year from the Mediterranean in the light of the fact that that number has been so nearly approached from in a little over a decade ago.

The immigrant of the future is to be the Italian, the Pole, the Russian, the Roumanian, the Hungarian, the Syrian, the Turk, the Greek. In a hundred years there will be 100,000,000 of him in the United States. The ultimate American will find his blood made up of the blood of these races. The remaining portion will probably continue in something like the proportions in which it exists today—English, Irish, German, Scandinavian, French. But the people of the Mediterranean will predominate and the question that arises is the manner of man this ultimate American will be.

The manner in which this great change in the stream of immigration has been brought about is most interesting. In Germany, Ireland, England, Scandinavia, the flow has ceased for different reasons. In places the material from which immigrants are made has been exhausted. In others it has been diverted to other channels. Original exploitation in America has largely passed and the falling off of these west Europeans is probably more due to this fact than to anything else, for these people are by nature pioneers.

South Europe has a different kind of people. Here there is much crowd-

ing, much oppression, much poverty.

There are no soldiers of fortune or adventurers among these people. They are toilers. Sometimes they are outlaws—members of dire secret societies. Always they are men who have had no chance in life. Their station is that of the peasant. They are uncouth and unattractive. They fall far short of measuring up to the American standard. From among these people a score of years ago a few found their way to America. Fugitives from the laws were probably the first. In the new land they set to work, as had been their custom at home. They were willing to labor hard and uncomplainingly. They received the wages of the new land. At first they were unable to grasp the fact that they were actually entitled to such vast sums. For a day they were paid the equivalent of a month's salary at home. They hoarded the precious money. Soon they were able to send home for other members of their families. Perhaps they went home and told the tale of their fortune. They were not believed. But a few were induced to attempt to duplicate their accomplishment. These latter told the same story. So many told the story of wealth and sent home the riches that proved it that the peasants came to believe. Every man who came to America started an endless chain. He wrote home of his exploits. His letters were read to the neighbors. The whole village became familiar with them. Each successful immigrant of this year meant a score next year. The tendency has been for the movement to pyramid itself. They are pouring into the land of opportunity. The tide is still rising.

There is an unhealthy stimulus given to the movement by certain steamship companies and money loaning agencies, as these have great opportunity to exploit the immigrant. Commissioner Keefe in speaking of the findings of one of his agents in this connection says: "He shows quite clearly that all of the steamship lines engaged in bringing aliens from Europe to this country have perverted and systematically violated the law both in its letter and spirit by making use of every possible means to encourage the peasants of Europe to purchase tickets over their lines to this country. They have issued circulars and advertisements and made use of extensive correspondence, some of it spurious in character, to impress the peasants with the belief that employment with high wages could be promptly secured on landing in the United States. Some of them have joined hands with money lenders and sharks for the purpose of exploiting the prospective passengers, providing them with passage under a credit system which amounted almost to robbery and assuring themselves against loss by taking mortgages and joint notes. Some of them . . . have quite evidently operated regular employment agencies in this country in connection with their transportation business and have used these agencies not only as a means of placing the aliens in employment (in which, of course, they could have no direct interest), but to further the transportation business by making the fact of their securing prompt employment the basis for effective communications, written and oral, to other parties they desired to induce to emigrate."

Through the medium of these two agencies the whole of southern Europe is looking toward America. The spirit has permeated into western Asia, and the movement from that section is starting. The peasants are mortgaging every earthly possession that the price of passage for some of their number may be raised. Then this forerunner of a family makes American money and others are brought over.

From the standpoint of the immigrant and the uplifter great good is being done for the man who had never

known hope is being given the blessing of the prosperity and better living. But from the standpoint of America the problem is different. Whether or not the ultimate American whose blood is half south European and that of kindred races will be an inferior man to the same product if the blood of the typical American of today had been maintained, is the vital question.

Here the man of science comes forward to reassure the fearful. We are told that the matter of race and heredity in man is not subject to the same influences as in the lower animals, that man is more a creature of environment. It takes many generations, for instance, to affect the strain of the Jersey cow when crossed with other strains. The sole province of the cow, however, is to eat and furnish the family with milk. She takes no thought and makes no effort to improve her condition. But if a peasant boy from Roumania or an Irish lad from the old sod are each transplanted early to America, the man resulting is in each case vastly different from the parent.

The environment proves to have much more to do with the making of that man than had the element of birth. Two men may be twins and grow up under identical circumstances until they are 20 and will look so nearly alike that their friends may make the mistake of calling one by the name of the other.

Then one goes west and become a stage driver and the other enters the ministry. In 10 years the resemblance is entirely gone. The environment of each has made of him a different man. The people of southern Europe have within them the germ of fitness. The Greeks of today are descendants of the race that at one time acquired a greater degree of culture than any race before or since. The blood of the Italians coursed in the veins of the Romans when they were the conquerors of the world. The latent talent of the Poles develops now and again an artist, a writer, a musician that sets the world agog. As a matter of fact all these races have gone into the making of the Englishman of today. There is a strong strain of the Roman in the man of Ireland. The Jews have been great in all nations. The unfitness of the south European today is more due to circumstances than blood.

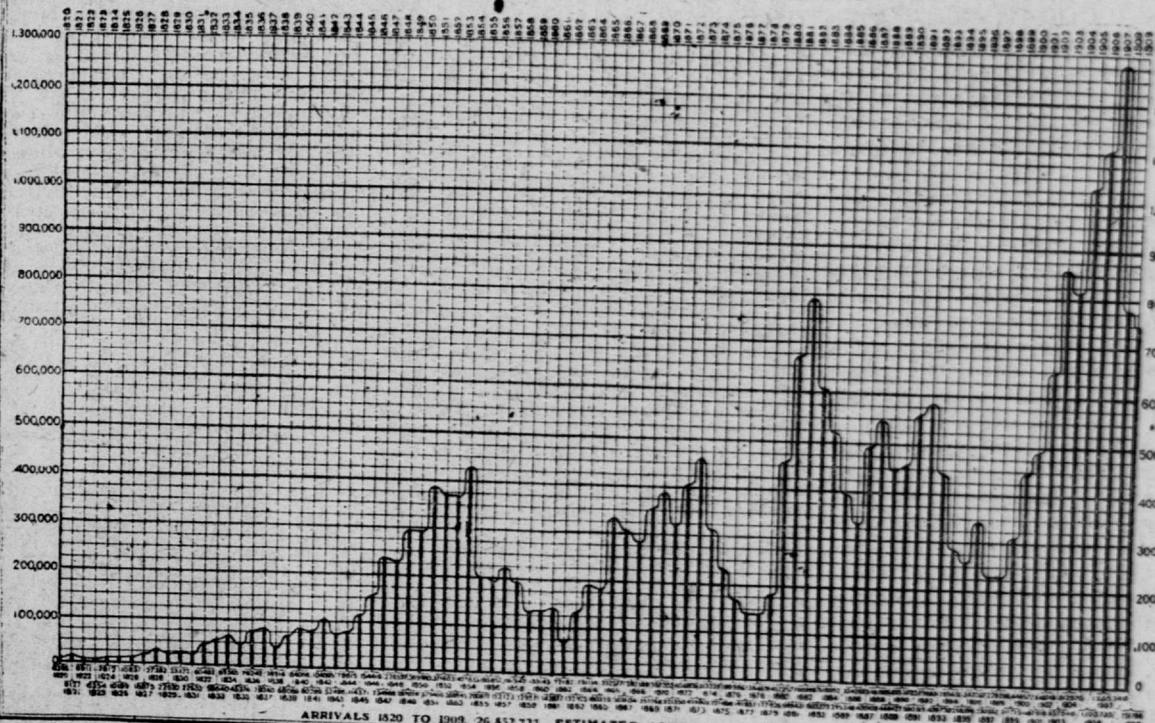
Again the historian comes forward to reassure the timorous. He states that the dominant races of all times have been those that have resulted from the mixture of people. Races have advanced just in proportion to the interchange of blood. The interchange develops vitality, versatility, capacity. It has made the American people of today the most effective people in the world. There is a law of heredity which stipulates that the traits of a stronger of intermixed races shall dominate and ultimately crowd the traits of weakness out of existence. This law will eliminate the inferior of the immigrants in the end. Yet these immigrants are not ordinarily inferior. They are men of strength and character, or they would not be able to throw off the handicap of their original environment and get to America. The obstacles that they surmount in doing this are stupendous. It is but the select strong individuals that do it. The people coming to America are the selected fittest of all the countries from which they come. They will be yet stronger in the generations that are to come. They may be half Slavic, but they will still be the best men that the world has produced. The men of the lofty brows say these things are true. They have looked in the book and juggled the "nth" power figures. In fact, they have the dope and we have but to take it from them, reassure ourselves and cease worrying for that unappreciated posterity which has never done anything for us.

WITH 85 PER CENT OF THE IMMIGRATION COMING FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES, AN ENTIRELY NEW TYPE SEEMS DESTINED TO DEVELOP

# WILL THE FUTURE AMERICAN be a SLAV?



WAVE OF IMMIGRATION into the United States, FROM ALL COUNTRIES, during the past 90 YEARS.



ROUMANIAN WOMAN