

SAYS U. S. MAY LOSE WORLD LEADERSHIP

OPINION OF EASTERN MAN

New Director of Agriculture for Near East Says Youth Losing Initiative Which Marked the Pioneers

That world leadership is likely to slip from the grasp of Americans and be taken over by more energetic and less lakadalsical European peoples is the belief of Frederick Midgley of Worcester, Mass., a prominent New England farmer who has just sailed for Greece, where he will become director of agricultural education for the Near East Relief.

How Views Attained
Mr. Midgley's views on the impending decline of America leadership are derived from his study of American boys as compared with the foreign-born youth. The Worcester farmer was selected for his new overseas post not only because of his ability as a farmer, but also because of his success in teaching boys the rudiments of truck farming. Much of his experience has been with boys of the very type which he will deal with in the Near East orphan schools. Foreign-born lads from crowded city tenements have been employed on his farms each summer for many years, and he has found them more capable of developing self-supporting qualities than native-born Americans.

European Youth Adaptable
"I find Greek and Italian boys especially adaptable," he said, "as well as energetic and enthusiastic. American boys, sheltered and supported in their homes, are no longer either adaptable nor quick to learn. It is not that they are less intelligent, but that they seldom feel the spur of necessity." Greek and Italian boys who work for me invariably turn their wages over to their mothers for household expenses, and are proud to do it. American boys just as invariably spend their wages for their own pleasure.

Not Like Pioneer Days
"The American nation owes its remarkable rise in world leadership largely to the hard school of pioneering. The lessons which we learned in that tough school seem likely to be lost almost as quickly as they were acquired. As a nation, we have become soft; we are losing our old-time energy; the pioneering spirit is departing, and nothing has replaced it save the somewhat flabby love of adventure."

Is "Dirt Farmer"
Mr. Midgley is the first "dirt farmer" to be sent to teach practical farming in the American orphanages in Greece. He is known throughout New England for his experimentation in soils and seeds, and especially as the developer of the Midgley blight-proof celery. He will go direct to the island of Syria in the Aegean Sea south of Athens, where the Near East Relief maintains an agricultural school in connection with its large orphanages. Mr. Midgley has undertaken the work as a volunteer, without salary. He is taking with him a trunkful of special seeds, including enough of his own blight-proof celery seed to sow sixty acres. His wife, who is known as "Mother Midgley" to thousands of New England children whom she has helped, accompanies him to Greece, and will undertake special educational work for the orphanage girls.

Before leaving Worcester, Mr. and Mrs. Midgley were the guests of honor at a civic farewell, when he was the first citizen of Worcester to receive the golden key of the city, an honor hitherto conferred only on visiting royalty. During his two-year absence in Greece, his Worcester farm will be in charge of his sons.

DISCUSS PROBLEMS OF RURAL SCHOOLS

AT STATE BOARD MEETING

Prominent Educators to Speak at Belleville Oct. 28-29; City Superintendents' Convention

DISCUSS PROBLEMS
For the first time in the history of the Illinois State School Board Association, the problems of the small country school will receive major attention when the association holds its annual convention at Belleville on Oct. 28 and 29. This is the greatest opportunity that school directors of rural districts have had to join in a serious attempt to help the country schools of the state.

The country school, with its higher than average per capita costs and generally low efficiency, is a vitally important problem. With the view of finding a solution for these conditions, the program of the convention will include addresses and discussion on "The Rural School Problem," by four outstanding leaders, all thoroughly conversant with the questions confronting the country school.

Prominent Men Participate
Samuel R. Guard, director of the Sears, Roebuck Agricultural Foundation, whose friendly attitude and interest in the rural population of Illinois is well known, will be in charge of this subject. Associated with him will be Dr. W. P. Dearing, president of Oakland City College, Oakland City, Ind., of the Indiana State Teachers' association; E. P. Imboden, president of a rural school board near Decatur, Ill., and a well known stock breeder, and Clifford V. Gregory, editor of "Prairie Farmer."

McAndrews to Speak
William McAndrews, superintendent of schools of Chicago, one of the best known educators in the United States will address the convention on "The Primary Aim of School Education." This is a most important subject to every citizen of Illinois, and especially to all members of school boards and other public school executives who are responsible for the expenditure of the vast sums of money collected in school taxes and for the results attained. There are nearly 12,000 school districts in the state and upwards of \$150,000,000 is collected and expended every year in the maintenance of the public school system of Illinois.

School Legislation
"School legislation," will be discussed, led by a group well fitted for the task, including Mrs. Lottie Holman O'Neill of Downers Grove, and G. J. Johnson of Paxton, both members of the State General Assembly; Charles M. Thomson, dean of the College of Commerce, University of Illinois, and Richard F. Locke of Glen Ellyn, attorney and chairman of the legislative committee of the State School Board association.

City Superintendents Meet
Meeting at the same time and place will be the City Superintendents' association. Frank L. Wright, head of the department of education of Washington University, St. Louis, will be the chief speaker, his subject being "Tendencies of Educational Administration."

Officers of the Illinois State School Board association are L. J. Thiele of Glen Ellyn, president; W. C. Urban of Granite City, vice-president, and Mrs. G. A. Stover of Oak Park, secretary-treasurer.

"Very few citizens realize the extent and scope of the work for which the school boards of the state are responsible," says President Thiele. "There are 11,916 of these boards and they annually expend \$15,000,000 of the taxpayer's money for the education of approximately 1,500,000 children."

Stupendous Task
"That this stupendous task cannot be efficiently and economically performed by 11,916 separate boards without counselling one another on the best methods must be at once apparent, and yet that is exactly what is being attempted at the expense of both children and taxpayers."

"The report of the Illinois Educational Commission has disclosed an appalling inequality of taxation and educational opportunity, penalizing tens of thousands of taxpayers and children because of their geographical location and the inefficiency of the present system."

"Approximately 45,000 earnest, sincere men and women are serving in the interest of the children of the state as school board members, all of them handicapped in the efficient performance of the duty they have assumed by their inability to work jointly with each other."

ADVERTISING AIDS RAILROADS, OPINION

"The company that fails to advertise will find plenty of capacity in its old equipment and the company that advertises will get the business," declared Britton I. Budd, president of the Chicago Rapid Transit company, before the convention of the American Electric Railway association, at Cleveland, O., recently.

The president of the Chicago company, which last year carried more than 216 millions of people, addressed the meeting on "Selling the Service." "I believe the electric railway executives of the past have overlooked the potential power of the employe as a sales force," Mr. Budd said. "I do not mean simply in giving courteous efficient service creating good will and indirectly increasing business, but as actual sales agents."

"The best method of selling transportation service is to give your customers all and just a little more than they expect."

COAL PREDOMINATES AS POWER SOURCE

A recent announcement by the United States Geological survey shows the predominance of coal as a source of electric power in Illinois. The government states that there are in Illinois 31 hydro-electric developments, having an aggregate of 94,302 horsepower. The Commonwealth Edison company, Chicago, recently placed in operation a steam-driven turbo-generator having a capacity of 103,200 horsepower, this one generator having 9,000 horsepower greater capacity than all of the water-power developments combined.

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