

FAMILY RESEARCH INSTITUTE, PLAN

NOTE INDUSTRIAL FACTOR

Interesting Survey of American Family Life Planned at Big University; Professor Explains Idea

A family-research institute for the careful collection, tabulation and interpretation of data relating to the American family, with especial reference to the effect upon the family of the participation in industry of both father and mother, or of one or the other actively at work for a living, a study of the reactions upon family life of the mother working and being away from home, and of related domestic-industrial problems, is now being considered at Northwestern university.

Dr. A. J. Todd, head of the department of sociology at Northwestern is drafting a plan for such an institute and will present it to President Walter Dill Scott some time this week.

Industry Linked With Home
"We need a family research institute just as it has been found necessary to organize research institutes for land economics, for eugenics and engineering," commented Dr. Todd. "Industry has begun to realize that it can not function in a vacuum and that it is linked with the American home, even though it may not be engaged in large scale research work, or with health or recreational problems."

The growing importance of the American woman in business is well recognized by sociologists, Dr. Todd says, and he has found that about 40 per cent of all employed women today are now, or have been, married. He has learned that from 1890 to 1920 the percentage of married women employed, nearly doubled, while the percentage of single, widowed or divorced workers remained almost stationary in the same era.

Married Women Employed

"The largest proportion of employed married women are from fifteen to twenty-four years of age," said Dr. Todd, "but we now require more fully analyzed statistics as to the widowed and divorced, their ages, with related material respecting children, their number and their fate. Regarding working women, we know that most married women who work do so to improve the standard of living of their families, and also because they are needed in industry. We are much interested in the economic effect on the home when the mother works, in how much time the mother takes away from home to be gainfully employed, and just how the offspring of the family are affected when the mother is employed and taken away from home."

Dr. Todd already has collected considerable data on these interesting problems in domestic and industrial economics and his conclusion that the question is now assuming tremendous importance not only in America but in all civilized countries, has impelled him, he states, to form a plan for a special research institute with the American home and family as the center of special inquiry. Dr. Scott is expected to approve of this plan, which, although now in embryo, may develop into something of national scope and importance.

SOME PARADOXES IN NEWS OF THE MONTH

Editor of Nation's Business Calls Attention to a Few Contradictions

Merle Thorpe in Nation's Business Magazine says:
"Paradoxes in a month's news: Charlie Chaplin's receivers find \$913,372 in the comedian's banks—and Harvard establishes a movie course in its business school. Senator Wadsworth says Senators flout dry law violations—and the Grain Exchange reports that strength in rye influences the price of wheat. Gov. 'Ma' Ferguson pardons 3,124 Texas convicts—and Rosita Forbes, traveler and writer, says America is law-ridden. Sir Oliver Lodge thinks Bible marvels are getting more support from science—and a Tennessee court upholds the constitutionality of the anti-evolution law. Citizens of the United States pay \$2,172,127,321 on their 1925 incomes—and New York City has a hard time to keep in nickels. 2,842 stranded Americans seek aid in Paris—and Col. Theodore Roosevelt charges that Americans are 'prosperity mad.'"

Matthias Nicoll, Jr., New York health commissioner, deprecates stress on long life—and a Wharton school survey shows that men of about sixty captain business. The shipping board declares it will continue operation of the United States Lines—and 105 more towns abandon or sell lighting plants to private operators. Paris makes skirts shorter than ever—and an arbiter for the shoe trade is suggested by shoe dealers. The Soviet government bans American jazz—and trans-Atlantic radio-telephone service is hailed as a new international tie. The new immigration law would cut German's quota from 61,227 to 23,408—and Germany begins her campaign for colonies. Queen Marie is reported to have complained of American exaggerations—and headlines say thirty billion toothpicks are produced annually in this country.

The boy who wants a pretty automobile to drive now, is often the son of them an who was proud when he was allowed to ride the horse to plow.

Some of these people who have replaced the vegetable garden with the garage, will perhaps take out the kitchen stove and put the bridge table in its place.

Wild bees are reported active in some sections, and anyway the presidential bees are stinging a lot of statesmen.

APPLE LEAF MAKES FOOD FOR THE FRUIT

Products Poor or Good According to Plentiful Supply of Foliage

The leaf area of an apple tree is capable of manufacturing sufficient food material for a given number of apples of good size and quality. On heavily loaded branches and trees there is often less than 20 or 30 leaves per apple, and under these conditions the fruit is small and of poor quality. Although some orchardists have practiced removing a few apples to increase the leaf area per fruit, until recently there were no experimental data available to indicate the exact number of leaves required per apple. Thinning has been more or less of a guessing operation.

M. H. Haller and J. R. Magness, horticulturists of the United States Department of Agriculture, in a series of tests made at the Arlington Farm, near Washington, found that different varieties vary in the relationship between the leaf area and the size and quality of the fruit. For the Grimes and Ben Davis under the conditions of the tests at least 30 to 40 medium-sized leaves per fruit were necessary to obtain apples of good size and quality, and as many as 50 for the Delicious. When a smaller number of leaves was present, the fruit was not only smaller in size, but was low in dry weight, low in sugar content, and of poor dessert quality. It was found also that apples grown with a large leaf area ripen slightly earlier than the same variety having fewer leaves per fruit.

These determinations were made by ringing or "girdling" the bark of a twig to isolate the fruit and leaves from the rest of the tree. Other investigations had shown that ringing largely prevented the passing of nitrogen and carbohydrates in either direction past the ring, thus making the fruit beyond the ring depend only upon the leaves with which it was isolated. By ringing and thinning the leaves to a definite number at varying distances from the fruit it was found also that apples can draw food material from adjacent leaves and leaves at a distance of 2 to 4 feet with almost equal facility.

The women's clubs tell us the home fires must be kept burning, but it seems to take about all the time now to burn the gasoline.

Not necessary for the states to bond themselves for costly roads merely so that the sheiks can show the girls how fast they can drive.


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