

Winnetka Weekly Talk

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by

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SATURDAY, JULY 8, 1922

OUR JOB

Mexico politely has declined the offer extended from the United States, not as a nation but through individuals, to send there some millions of colored people to supply labor for the lands. It is right that the offer should be refused, right to everybody concerned.

The great problem of the United States is the development of the colored race, development through education and training in social, political and economic conditions. It is our problem, created by ourselves, one which cannot be shifted to any other country without rank injustice to the colored race and a wanton refusal on the part of this country to perform an obvious duty.

We have deliberately made the conditions that exist here. We have developed our own problem by the way in which we have thrust upon the negro the privileges of citizenship, for the responsibilities of which he had had no preparation. We have winked at abuses and injustice. We have allowed prejudice to take the place of judgment and often persecution to overcome justice. We must reap the whirlwind where we have ourselves sown

the wind. Mexico cannot do it for us, nor Liberia, nor anybody but ourselves.

Heavens, this is disquieting news! Bourbon county, Kansas, is being overrun with rattlesnakes this year. And no bourbon for snakebite! But bourbon always did produce a rare crop of snakes.

If Russian rubles continue to drop in value and the coal strike does not end soon, some enterprising American might make his fortune selling baled rubles for fuel.

Prohibition is bringing lots of moonshine into American homes, say the wets. Sunshine, say the dries.

Book Reviews*By John Philip Morris***THE UNMAKING OF AN AMERICAN**

If, as Peter Whiffle suggested, a book should be printed in ink whose color was in harmony with the text, UPSTREAM by Ludwig Lewisohn should be printed in brightest scarlet on gray paper, for it was written not with ink but with the heart's blood and tears of the author.

We may not always find ourselves in agreement with him as in his passionate protests against prohibition, but we must always feel his sincerity and his own deep belief in his statements.

UPSTREAM is also a fearful indictment against the wrongs that modern America has committed against the spirit and the letter of the Declaration of Independence and bursts those oratorical bubbles that froth of the equality of opportunity and the chances given the energies of the emigrant for anything in the way of true spiritual

development or in fact for anything except the making of money.

UPSTREAM is Mr. Lewisohn's autobiography and describes in joyous detail his boyhood in Germany, his adolescence in the South, his struggles to fit himself for a career that never materialized and his trials and sorrows as an alien in thought, re-

ligion and purpose in New York and elsewhere.

Although he became a convert to Christianity and was a member successively of several different Christian creeds he shows that Jewish birth and ancestry clings as closely and as inseparably as the fragrance of a rose jar.

While Mr. Lewisohn strays for pages down philosophical byways the book reads easily as fiction and as delightfully. It is both a plea and a challenge. As a plea it is worth considering and as a challenge it lies waiting for a champion to do battle.
John Philip Morris.

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