

STUDENTS TOLD INDIA NEEDS COWS, CABBAGES

Mission Worker Shows Kindergartners Need of Workers in That Land

More cows and cabbages, not more land and fewer people, is the great need of India today, according to statements made by Dr. Sam Higginbottom, principal of the Agricultural Institute at Allahabad, India, in an address before the students of the National Kindergarten and Elementary college recently.

In speaking of the work which has been done and which remains to be done in India, Dr. Higginbottom said that one of the most popular misconceptions regarding India is that it is over-populated and has not sufficient land. "This is not true," said Dr. Higginbottom. "One-third of the culturable land of India lies fallow and a great deal of the waste and desert lands which were formerly unculturable, can be brought under the plow by the use of modern methods. There is not a lack of land and the country is not over-populated. The trouble is, the people are satisfied with a very low standard of living. It is estimated that the average per capita income of India is five cents per day—and a man cannot spend more than his income."

Infant Mortality High

One of the results of this low standard of living is an extremely high infant mortality. In Allahabad two babies out of every three die within the first year. This is due largely to the fact that the mothers, often girls of thirteen or fourteen, under-fed and over-worked all day in the fields, are unable to nurse the babies and cannot afford to buy milk for them. Opium offers the only relief, and the baby lies all day in a drugged stupor, and if he survives this treatment, he is put on a coarse adult diet of raw millet and parched grain. "India needs more cows and more cabbages to give the children a proper diet, bring them up to weight, and overcome the physical inferiority of the Hindu people."

"India is not excelled in fertile land by any country on earth. It is possible to grow crops in India equal to any on earth, but every attempt at improvement in method is blocked by the fact that it conflicts with some custom or religious law."

The problem with which the worker in India is faced, according to Dr. Higginbottom, is that of getting into the homes and educating the women to a higher standard of living. "Nothing could be more difficult, but the very bigness of it makes it all the more worthwhile and I believe there are women with a double portion of resourcefulness and patience, who have the means of making a beginning at this tremendously difficult job."

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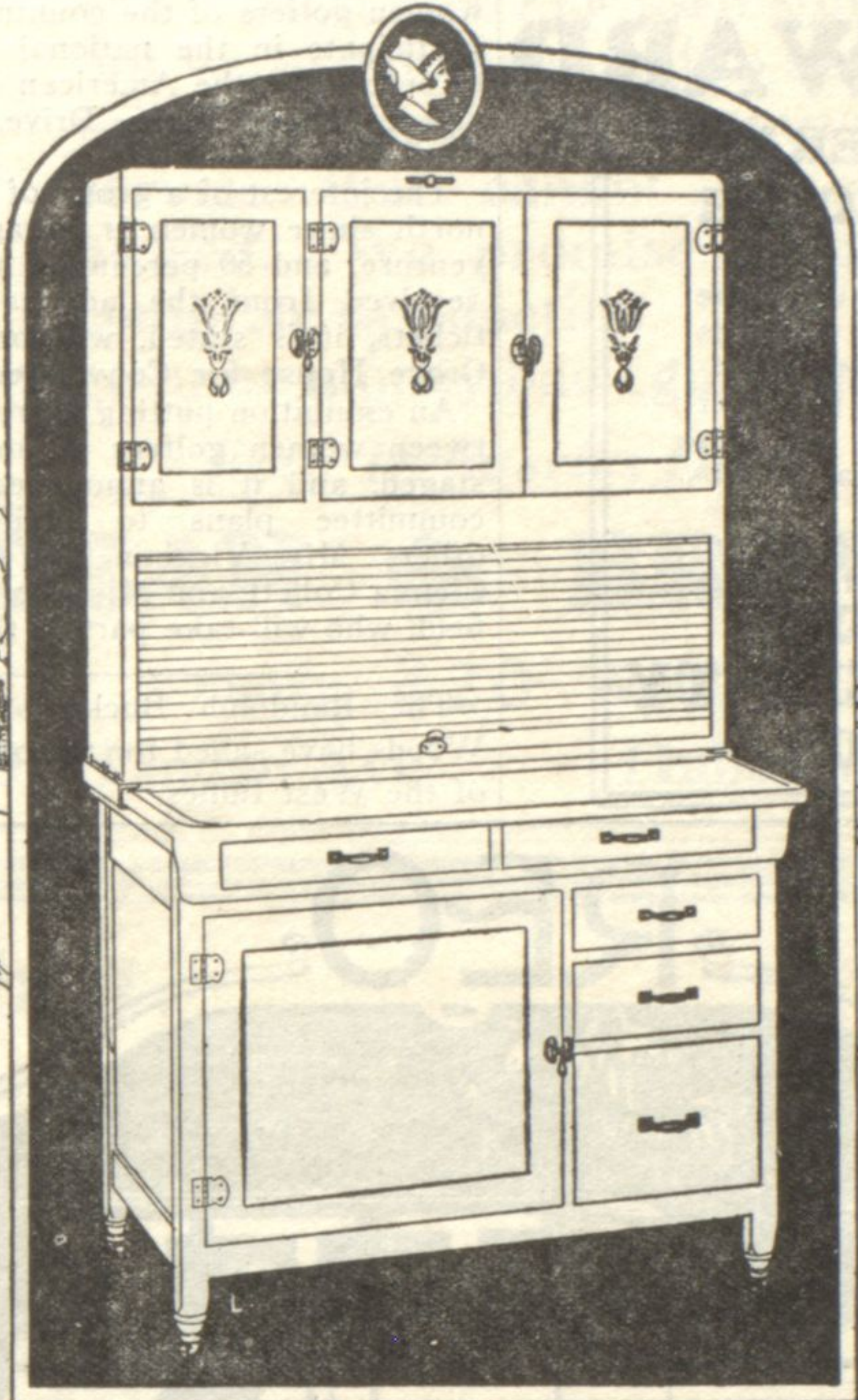
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