

SAYS FOREIGNERS CAN TEACH AMERICANS MUCH

Most of Them Have a Better Ground Training Than Americans, Says Evanston Expert

"What I Have Learned in Evening School" was the subject of a lecture given by Miss Emma G. White before the students of the National Kindergarten and Elementary college last Thursday afternoon. Miss White is the founder of the evening school for aliens which has been conducted in the Washington school, Evanston, during the past fifteen years. She spoke again this Thursday on the subject of the night school and Americanization, her lectures being part of the series on Americanization given in the college this semester by men and women of note in various fields. The lectures are given at 2 o'clock on Thursday afternoons, and anyone who is interested in the subject will be cordially welcomed, it is said.

In summing up what she has learned from night school, Miss White said that one of her first lessons was the discovery of how little she knew. "If I am to teach 300 aliens I should know something about their home, their country, family life, customs, manners, etc. And what do I know about them? Next to nothing, and most of the little I do know I have learned from them."

In contrast to her own lack of knowledge Miss White said that she has been astonished to find how much her pupils know, not only of the practical or mechanical things of their work, but of scholastic studies of which many Americans are ignorant. She cited the instance of a Ukrainian boy who, without effort, translated a Christmas greeting in Greek into English, and said that many of the foreigners know Greek, a great many of them know Latin, and most of them are thoroughly familiar with the beginnings of education. "Their grounding is so good in many cases that all we have to do is to translate what they know into English."

Miss White commented also on the

general understanding and love of music and art to be found among the foreigners, pointing out that where the average American thinks that one trip to the art institute will do for a lifetime, the foreigner may be found in the galleries any Saturday or Sunday, with his entire family, enjoying the pictures.

Another phase of foreign training which appeals very decidedly to Miss White is their training in good manners. "I have learned that the foreigner has good manners," said she. "Of course I know that morals are more important than manners, but manners are very important nevertheless. I think they are the key to success. Almost always the man who is successful in life has good manners. He doesn't need to have the 'frills' but he must have good, plain, kindly, thoughtful manners. Foreign manners are more punctillious than ours, more ceremonious—possibly too ceremonious—but they are a relief from those we meet here."

In her association with these people through many years Miss White has found that they have a great deal of practical ability and many of them are successful in their business or their work, not only making money but doing the work well and adding to the wealth of the nation by doing it.

Learns Americanization

Miss White scored the American homes for its laxity in teaching obedience to law and order, but admitted that when the foreigner comes to America he is apt to fall into the same error, so that it takes a second generation to bring them back to normal.

"One of the greatest things I have learned from night school, however," said Miss White, "is the Americanization which I see among the people and which I think grows from contact with us. Many times when I hear them tell of the contrast between this country and their former home I feel that Americanization is one of the biggest things I learn from my contact with evening classes."

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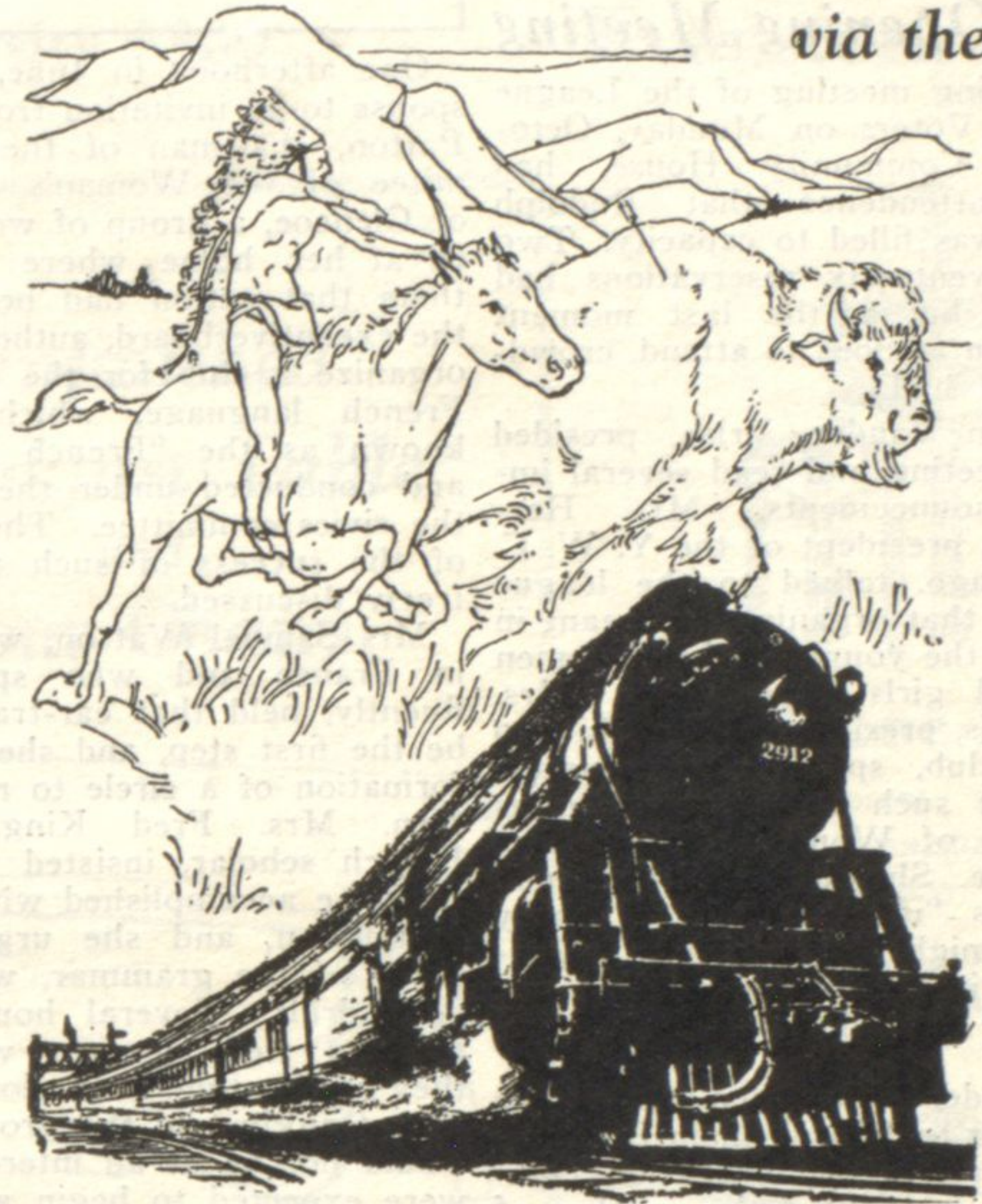
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