

"We Must Go Man-Hunting"

A Mine of Undiscovered Wealth in the
Immigrant, Jane Addams Declares



May Be the Founders of a Famous Family.

"A mine of gold, an undiscovered Eldorado of intellect, lies unworked in this great United States. An unused Aladdin's lamp remains on the cobwebbed shelves of the nation, and strangely, no one seems to have discovered the wonders to be evoked by the magic rub."

"A new art, new literature, a broader deeper spiritual outlook are latent in this country, and if we go to Europe for our art, our literature, our mind and our philosophy, why? Because we neglect our foreign population."

These words were spoken in a singularly soft yet vibrantly earnest voice—the voice of a woman dressed in gray, with a face softened by the beauty of tenderness and hair becoming silvered by time. From the face glowed eyes magnetic and prophetic. Miss Jane Addams, of Hull House, Chicago, never spoke more intensely.

An arraignment of America for neglecting its alien population and its failure to make the best of them in the crudest fields of labor; an affirmation of the wonders of intellect and spiritual possibilities of the men put to digging ditches and working in stockyards, which, by culture, might brighten the national horizon—this was her subject.

"We must go man-hunting," she said. "Inspired with a spirit of adventure, we must get among the foreigners, learn their customs, ideas and ways. We must give to them—and they will give to us."

"Americans go to Europe to study art, to study language, to study music," Miss Addams declared. "Why not do the same? Why not get among the foreigners, mix with them personally, get in contact with them socially?"

"Yet Americans hold them at a distance; they look down upon them from their lofty position; make them feel the sense of aloofness. How many, indeed, of our intelligent, educated Americans go into the foreign quarters of our big cities? How much do you know of them? They are as distant and little known to most persons as the Hebrides."

We should get in touch with them, on a large scale. Here we are turning many of our immigrants, without discrimination, into laborers instead of utilizing their genuine talents in digging out their intellectual gold, in discovering the genius and developing the latent talent—whether it be for music, painting or any other—we are turning these foreigners into diggers of ditches, street sweepers, stockyard employees and putting them to manual labor of a low grade."

"Americans are only just waking up to the value and importance of the men and women who make up the foreign population of our cities."

"What is to be done with the foreigner?" ask the sociologists. Send them to farming, answer some; put them in the mines, say others. Already, it is charged, they have caused a reduction in wages; already the wheels are becoming clogged. Armies toil to-day in the fields, in the mines, the streets, constructing railroads, digging tunnels. Still all armies remain unemployed."

"And of the children—what shall be done with them? Educate them? Cultivate their talents? Encourage them in art? Put them at music? Expect of them contributions to the great world and thought of the intellectual world?"

"A perfect solution! Yet, same logic can be ultimate and most satisfactory," believes Miss Addams.

"America is without a native art, a native music, a native spiritual outlook," she declares. "It is precisely these which the foreign colonies, hemmed in and isolated in our midst, could give to us, if we would but assimilate them, make them of ourselves. We must go man-hunting."

"This country is content with a foreign muse, with an imported dramatic art, a sculpture and an architecture that were the creations of antiquity. Here is a great nation, here are great possibilities. Here we should rear a distinct, new, original, wonderful music, drama, art, architecture of our own. We must go among the foreign col-



Miss Jane Addams, the Noted Social Worker.



From such as these Miss Addams expects much.

ones and make of every man a genuine American citizen. We must go among them and instill patriotism in the hearts of their children."

How is this to be done? What method should be adopted? Miss Addams suggests:

Through the settlements. Through the churches. Through the schools. By individual contact. And the method must be individual effort.

Such an assimilation of the foreigners would give a great depth and quality to our life. This reciprocal relation would help them; it would open to us a vast storehouse of unused material."

From contact with the foreigners during the first years of settlement work Miss Addams has had opportunity to observe their capabilities. Much native art is not used, but buried in the grosser tasks which are taken up through necessity.

"American art is fostered from the outside. With the Italian it is a natural expression. An Italian workman will carve the woodwork about his door something that would not occur to an American. His impulse is artistic. Surely it would be well if Americans absorbed this spirit."

"Among the Slavs and Russians there is a Russian talent for music. Among the Russians there is an impulse to sing. They have a natural love of music. Russians have made notable contributions to the drama. The Jews possess great intellect, an ability for abstract and industrial application. The story of how Miss Addams started the shop work and crafts is interesting."

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"The landlord—heard of this and became inflamed at what he declared was a wanton defacement of good lumber. He ordered the men to pull down the door and vacate the house, and sent word to what was a really artistic and beautiful effort. His prosaic mind saw in it only vandalism."

"Miss Addams, who heard of the incident, saw differently. She visited the landlord and succeeded in pacifying him. 'Why,' she said to a helper at Hull House, 'should Americans go abroad and admire the quaint native crafts, filled with flowers; the farmers raise silkworms; their lives are beautiful. In their schools they produce the

beautiful pots, characterized by the originality and warm fancy of their native lands.'

These people were hired—and the crafts of Hull House were begun. Instead of going to the factories, the foreign children studied the arts of their parents. Already Miss Addams found that they had become tainted with the cold, practical American spirit, and were losing their native love of the simple and beautiful. But she persevered, and to-day the shops of Hull House are an institution.

This is a weavers' room, with all kinds of looms, hand shuttles and modern jacquards, spindles from Italy and looms from Japan. And there the young learn the arts of weaving from many lands.

There are shops where quaint pottery is made, where metal working is taught, where young girls design and make artistic brass and copper, copper wood, Noah's ark has been done in metal by the Russians; they make charming glass work in copper, brass and silver.

While lectures are given every Saturday evening with demonstrations of hand labs in textiles, every fortnight the members of the Chicago Arts and Crafts Society meet and help the pupils at their work. Children employed as office and errand boys go there during their spare hours and help in wood or work in metals.

Within a few years they are expert workmen. Instead of driving wagons or running rooms or sweeping streets they will show native talent, trained at Hull House, by creating beautiful work for America.

This is Miss Addams' work. She wants the people of America to take it up on a large scale. Will America rub this magic lamp, she asks? Will the people go man-hunting?

A unique movement has been started by the Young Men's Christian Association in Philadelphia, with the purpose



A Case in Point—Natalie Klatov as She Arrived and as She Appeared a Year Later.

of familiarizing aliens with the laws and conditions of the United States, finding them employment when necessary, and teaching them their responsibilities as non-citizens and the responsibility of this government toward them.

This is a "Newcomers' Club" to which all aliens are invited. Pamphlets in various languages are sent to the immigrants embarking in Europe, which tell immigrants facts about the land to which they are sailing and the proper procedure to become American citizens. Representatives of the club meet the immigrants at the pier as they arrive.

Every two weeks there is a social evening, when refreshments are served. Twice a month lectures are given such as explain to the newcomer the system of government of the country, powers of the officials and the system of education.

The National Society of the Sons of the Revolution recently issued a million pamphlets for distribution among arriving immigrants. These are printed in English, German, French, Yiddish and Hungarian and instruct the foreigner about the government, means of naturalization and other facts of importance.

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