

# EUGENISTS' DREAD TAINTED ALIENS

**Believe Immigration Restriction,  
Essential to Prevent Deterioration of Race Here.**

## MELTING POT FALSE THEORY

**Racial Mixture Liable to Lower  
the Quality of the Stock—  
Prof. Osborn's Views.**

## THE LESSON OF EVOLUTION

**Minute Scrutiny of Family History  
of Prospective Immigrants  
Is Advocated.**

Severe restriction of immigration is essential to prevent the deterioration of American civilization, according to students of race and biology now taking part in the Second International Eugenics Congress at the American Museum of Natural History.

The "melting pot" theory is a complete fallacy, according to eugenists, because it suggests that impurities and baser qualities are eliminated by the intermingling of races, whereas they are as likely to be increased, if not more likely to be increased. Speakers who touched on the subject were all on one side, holding that the mixture of poor stock with a good one does as much harm to the good stock as it does benefit to the poor.

The theory held by some eminent anthropologists that all races have an equal capacity for development and that all race questions, even the negro question, is to be solved in the long run by race mixture, was vigorously combated. Denying that certain race stocks are poor entirely because of poor environment in the old world, eugenists asserted that education and better economic conditions in this country could only imperfectly overcome ingrained racial and family defects.

### Stricter Immigration Guard.

Dr. Charles B. Davenport, Director of the Eugenics Record Office, urged stricter immigration laws than those now in force and suggested that amendments should eventually be made enabling researches to be made into the family history of candidates for admission into the United States in order to bar tainted lines.

One of the most outspoken addresses on the subject was by Professor Henry Fairfield Osborn, President of the congress, author of "Men of the Stone Age" and an authority on evolution.

"In the United States," he said, "we are slowly awaking to the consciousness that education and environment do not fundamentally alter racial values. We are engaged in a serious struggle to maintain our historic republican institutions through barring the entrance of those who are unfit to share the duties and responsibilities of our well-founded Government.

"The true spirit of American democracy, that all men are born with equal rights and duties, has been confused with the political sophistry that all men are born with equal character and ability to govern themselves and others, and with the educational sophistry that education and environment will offset the handicap of ancestry.

"South America is examining into the relative value of the pure Spanish and Portuguese and of various degrees of racial mixture of Indian and Negroid bloods in relation to the preservation of republican institutions."

### The Lesson of Evolution.

Professor Osborn said that 500,000 years of evolution had impressed certain characteristics on the three great racial branches, the Caucasian, the Mongolian and the Negroid, and their variations. He said there was no for-matter so stable as the germ-plasm which heredity depends, and that this accounted for the stubborn permanence to types and of the survival of their original qualities in admixtures.

"In the matter of racial virtues," he said, "my opinion is that from biological principles there is little promise in the melting-pot theory. Put three races together, and you are as likely to unite the vices of all three as the virtues."

He said that scientific proof or disproof of the "melting-pot" theory would be forthcoming as the result of researches such as those of Dr. Sullivan in the Hawaiian Islands.

"For the world's work, however," he said, "give me a pure-blooded negro, a pure-blooded Mongol, a pure-blooded Slav, a pure-blooded Nordic and ascertain through observation and experiment what each race is best fitted to accomplish in the world's economy."

Dr. Osborn argued that the State's right to prevent disease implied a similar right to prevent the multiplication of feeble-minded, idiosyncrasy and moral and intellectual diseases.

"The wisdom of British biologists," he continued, expressed by Tennyson in his memorable lines:

How careless of the individual,  
How careful of the race?

has been translated into the fatal reverse,

How careful of the individual,  
How careless of the race.

### Sees Peril in Individualism.

"The closing decades of the nineteenth century and the opening decades of the twentieth have witnessed what may be called a rampant individualism—not only in art and literature, but in all our social institutions — an individualism which threatens the very existence of the family; this is the motto of individualism, let each individual enjoy his own rights and privileges—for tomorrow, the race dies.

"In New England a century has witnessed the passage of a many-child family to a one-child family. The purest New England stock is not holding its own. The next stage is the no-child marriage and the extinction of the stock which laid the foundations of the Republican institutions of this country.

"It is questions of this kind which are

Continued on Page 3, This Section.

The New York Times

Published: September 25, 1921

Copyright © The New York Times

# EUGENISTS DREAD TAINTED ALIENS

Continued from Page 1, This Section.

being set forth before this Congress so that they may be disseminated among our people. Let us endeavor to discard all prejudices and to courageously face the facts. Recent works by Bury and Inge on human progress are regarded in some quarters as pessimistic. I do not regard them as pessimistic, because to my mind the pessimist is one who will not face the facts, and these writers, especially Inge, look at the worst as well as at the best. I regard an optimist as one who faces the facts but is never discouraged by them. The optimist in science is one who delves afresh into nature to restore disordered and shattered society. This was the constructive spirit of Francis Galton, founder of the science of eugenics. I trust it will be the keynote of this Congress. To know the worst as well as the best in heredity; to preserve and to select the best—these are the most essential forces in the future evolution of human society."

Professor Osborn, who was recently in Europe bringing together leaders in eugenics and biology from many European countries to attend the Congress, said that he had made a special study of parts of Belgium and France. Here he had been impressed, he said, with the manner in which the three main races of France, the Mediterranean, the Alpine and the Nordic, preserved their racial traits. He said that 12,000

years of similar environment and 1,000 years of similar education had caused only a slight divergence from the characteristics which were found in those races many thousands of years ago, as shown by evidences in the remains surviving from that period.

## Effects of the War.

"To each of the countries of the world," he said, "racial betterment presents a different aspect. To the five countries most closely engaged in the recent fratricidal conflict, the financial and economic losses of which we hear so much are as nothing compared with the spiritual, intellectual and moral losses which each has sustained. In the Scandinavian countries, while kept out of the conflict, and to a large extent in the United States, the case is different. In Scandinavia, which I have recently visited, it is largely through the active efforts of leaders like Mjoen and Lundborg that there is a new appreciation of the spiritual, intellectual, moral and physical value of the Nordic race, and that a warning is being given that it must not be too severely depleted by emigration. Nearly half that race is now in the United States."

The difficulty in obtaining legislation to better the races, because of various prejudices and because of the fear on the part of politicians to give offense to any of their constituents, was emphasized by several speakers. Major Leonard Darwin said that it was very difficult to induce law-makers to pass laws for the benefit of the unborn who have no votes. Dr. Davenport said that the study of eugenics must progress until proofs of its contentions are piled high and have impressed the general community, before political action becomes a possibility.

The New York Times

Published: September 25, 1921

Copyright © The New York Times