

AMERICA IN THE PACIFIC.

AMERICA's present position in the Pacific, which to-day commands the attention of all nations and stands sponsor for the first great political issues of the twentieth century, would seem, in the light of history, to be the logical conclusion of a long line of succeeding events and the legitimate consummation of imperious world movements.

The spirit of unrest and the desire to explore and master new fields, even if advance meant the subjugation of the aborigines, which characterized our forefathers and urged them westward across the Atlantic, gave the impulse to their successors, who, in turn, climbed the Alleghanies, conquered the Mississippi Valley and the higher plateaux beyond, then mounted the summit of the Rockies, and descended to the Pacific's shores. Here they refused to be balked by the expanse of sea, and sought first in their unchecked course a resting station in mid-Pacific Hawaii; and now, by way of Guam as an intermediate post, they have reached the trans-Pacific Philippines. These islands may serve as the ultimate goal in this onward western movement, since at last we have passed the distant and mystic point where the West fades away into the East and the East into the West.

History confirms in its recorded events this racial and territorial expansion when it tells the simple story of our nation's growth. The colonies of Massachusetts and Virginia grew into the original thirteen States; these were extended or divided into others to the West and South; they were augmented by the great Louisiana purchase, which connected the United States with the first outlet to the Pacific through what are now Oregon and Washington. Then came Texas and neighboring States, followed by California, which was ceded to the United States as the conclusion of a war where might was right. This gave the country an unbroken coast line of 1,500 miles on the Pacific, and made it at once and for all time a Pacific as well as an Atlantic power. Not satisfied with this extent of Pacific territory, the United States purchased Alaska; thereby adding another 1,500 miles and more to the western coast line, and carrying us almost to Asia.

Thus, from the beginning the United States were set toward the Pacific. As soon as its waters were reached in the path of republican progress, an effort was made to bridge them on the north by the way of Alaska and the Aleutian Islands. Commercial development and political influence, however, did not thrive along that frozen route, or find a favorable approach to the vast markets and millions of Asia. A southern pathway was marked across the seas, which in the surveys included Hawaii. There was some difficulty at first about the title, but the war with Spain conveniently and peremptorily settled that issue. Guam was made a flag station. The Philippines were occupied as a legitimate moral result of war; and now we are discussing the feasibility and cost of erecting there, as it were, permanent terminal facilities. Here we find another dispute about title, but a decision should be rendered soon after the next presidential election. Russia, Germany, France, and England are well provided with rendezvous and possessions along Asia's Pacific shores. We are now to determine whether we shall have our own, or forever depend on other nations. We own the ground in right and theory, if not in practice; and we hope soon to be able to build thereon the fabric of good government, which will bring with it peace, order, and prosperity.

There are great moral as well as material problems to be solved in our occupation of the Philippines. Whether, on the one hand, we believe that our Government is meeting its responsibilities and not shirking the mighty task before it in endeavoring to put down the present warfare, or, on the other hand, that we are violating the sacred principles of the Constitution and trespassing on the rights of others, we must all agree that the one desideratum of the present hour is the conclusion of the conflict, the establishment of quiet, and the beginning of contentment and happiness among the people. When once fighting is at an end, Congress, supported by public sentiment, can determine what shall be the future of the Philippines. It is not the purpose of this article to enter upon a discussion of the principles involved in the occupation of the Philippines; but, in tracing the rise of American influence in the Pacific and the Far East, it is necessary to touch upon the present situation, which has such a direct bearing on our future standing as a power in Pacific lands and seas.

It is not merely in material conquest that the United States has asserted its influence among Pacific peoples. The qualities which took the American people across the United States and made them gaze out wistfully upon the Pacific, with a desire to benefit their own

interests, were mingled with a sense of neighborly help, which showed itself in dealing with Japan, China, Korea, and Siam. It was one of the notable and epoch-framing events of history when Japan, the lusty giant of the Pacific, was opened to a new life and to the world by the work of American naval men and diplomatists. When Commodore Perry sailed into Yeddo Bay, and when Anson Burlingame negotiated the first treaties with Japan, that little country was started upon a career of importance and prosperity almost unrivalled in history. When Commodore Shufeldt taught Korea that it was time for her to heed the suggestions of America for closer intercourse with other nations, she took the advice which is now gradually bringing her into prominence as a land of considerable material promise and worth. When the Tientsin treaties with China were signed by William H. Seward, Anson Burlingame, and William B. Reed, the United States made liberal proposals and admitted rights to the Chinese Government which would have enabled China to become as great a power as Japan, had she possessed in her Government the men and force to take advantage of her splendid material and political possibilities.

These efforts in the north of eastern Asia were supplemented by similar work in Siam, far to the south. It was American diplomatic influence that first brought this tropical country into marked prominence among the lesser nations of the world. When Edmund Roberts journeyed to that interesting kingdom, in 1833, he paved the way for Burlingame, who came again in 1856 to negotiate treaties of commerce and amity with the Siamese which at once gave them a confidence and an interest in America which have never been lost. Standing to-day as the most progressive and prosperous independent country of Asia, after Japan, Siam is not forgetful of America's assistance in the early days of her awakening, and now seeks a closer commercial and political friendship than ever before.

In narrating the gradual development and expansion of American influence in Pacific lands, due credit must be attributed to the missionaries, who have done their work faithfully through long years — even back in the times when there were no treaties to give them protection — from Japan to Java. Whether or not we believe that they have been successful in making a multitude of converts, we must admit that they have exercised a helpful influence in opening the interior of the principal Asiatic countries to foreign material invasion. They have been the forerunners of the merchants, even in the most

hazardous portions of the Far East. Long and careful study of their work has led me to believe that they have accomplished sufficient good to warrant the support they have received from home. There are many weaknesses and shortcomings in their policies and methods, but the general average is surely in their favor.

As we study, therefore, the extent and rise of American influence throughout the Pacific, we see that our present position is not an accident or a sudden appreciation of a great opportunity followed by an extraordinary effort to improve it. True, we are making an endeavor to master and control the situation in commerce and politics as we have never done before. But we have the quiet, steady, continued work of the last fifty years as a preparation and foundation for the responsibilities which we are now assuming. It has required the war with Spain and the crisis in China to bring the American people to a definite appreciation of the extent and value of the Pacific and the Far Eastern fields of commerce and politics, of material and moral influence.

Prior to this conflict there were those who struggled to bring American manufacturers, exporters, and others concerned to a realization of the possibilities of trade among the half a billion people who reside in lands that border upon the Asiatic waters of the Pacific, whose imports and exports make a grand total of foreign trade that nearly approaches the billion-dollar mark, and where—in visiting the great principal ports of Yokohama, Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Singapore—one sees more shipping in motion than in any ocean port of the United States except New York. But our reports and exhortations were heeded by the passing few only who accidentally had their attention turned to the Far East, being generally considered merely as ill-timed prophecies of dreamers. The present universal study of the Pacific and the Far East not only confirms all that was described and prophesied in the days when there was little or no interest, but discovers new opportunities and possibilities beyond even the most hopeful expectations of former days.

We are now face to face with a problem of successfully meeting our responsibilities, not only in the Philippines and China, but in Japan, Korea, Siam, Hawaii, and other lands where there is commercial and moral opportunity before us. It is far from my purpose to advocate territorial aggrandizement for the purpose of extending commerce and influence. Our position in the Philippines is not the result of mere conquest. The war with Spain was not begun with any

intention of holding the islands; but the combinations of conditions and circumstances were such as to draw us into a conflict which has given us, possibly, the outward appearance of going to war for material advancement rather than to meet courageously the duties that devolved upon us. It is now possible for us to occupy the controlling position in diplomacy and commerce throughout the Far East without further disputes or wars.

Our position, as illustrated in our dealings with China, is one of singular prominence and power. We are now recognized and respected in every capital of the Orient. The future is bright with the peaceful undertakings that await our guidance. There is that fortunate mingling of respect and fear with friendship among the Asiatics in their attitude toward us that augurs well for the successful consummation of wisely directed policies. Where before we were continually met with exasperating opposition to legitimate enterprises, we now find objection only luke-warm and a matter of mere form. There was a time in the very recent past, before Dewey sailed out of Mirs Bay, when the foreign representatives of European powers could successfully combat the influence of their American colleagues in the foreign offices of Asiatic powers; but that day has passed, and the requests of United States ministers and consuls are as carefully heeded now as those of the representatives of European nations. I would not imply that American influence was nil in former days, or that we suffered indignities to any considerable degree; but there was simply lacking that tangible something which would make the Asiatics realize the importance and power of the American Government. We are not now in a position where we should bully or brow-beat; we are merely on the same level with our European competitors, but we are in a position to combat the policies of the latter which might lead to unhappy results for various Asiatic lands.

The most important event in the Far East during the past two years, after the Philippine and Chinese difficulties, has been Japan's entry upon her duties as a world power. On July 16, 1899, she threw away, as it were, her swaddling clothes of foreign extra-territorial jurisdiction, and assumed the full responsibilities of administering law and order with the same privileges and rights exercised by European and American countries over foreigners within their borders. Only those familiar with the history of Japan and other non-Christian countries know the meaning of this remarkable stride forward. Here-tofore, ever since the inception of the first treaties in Japan, Korea,

China, Siam, Persia, Turkey, and Morocco, the United States and European countries have had complete judicial control of their respective citizens and subjects. Japan is the first one of these to prove her right and capacity to assume the prerogatives of Christian and progressive countries.

The most interesting feature of this radical change in Japan's methods of government is the position which the United States Government has taken. Our policy has always been favorable to Japan's expansion and her development of the fullest degree of control in all matters. The United States has never stood in the way of her ambition, but, on the other hand, was the first country to propose the abolition of extra-territoriality. It is true that Great Britain executed and signed her treaty with Japan first; but the United States began negotiations earlier than Great Britain, and practically paved the way for the new policy. Japan does not forget this; she remembers it as she does the fortunate effect of Commodore Perry's coming and the negotiation of the first treaties. Little difficulties now and then rise, like labor and immigration troubles in Hawaii, or an assault on a rampant American sailor in her ports; but there is throughout Japan, both among officials and among the better informed of her people generally, a deep feeling of respect for America which not only has given us a great influence in the past, but which augurs well for the future.

The history of our diplomatic relations with Japan is of such a nature as to foster mutual confidence and respect, and to provide a way for the friendly settlement of all difficulties and for a possible concert for the maintenance of our mutual rights throughout the Pacific. Now and then we see the effervescent jingo spirit of a Japanese paper berating something that America has done; but it seldom touches a popular chord of sentiment, and it eventually quiets down with the conclusion that Japan can have no stronger or better ally than the United States.

The attitude of Japan toward the United States in the Philippine matter has been such as to warrant more than a passing word of commendation. In the praise that we have bestowed upon Great Britain for her neutrality, we have possibly lost sight of Japan's position. During the long period that has elapsed since the declaration of war with Spain, and the consequent beginning of trouble in the Philippines, there has been every opportunity for Japan quietly to trespass beyond the limits of international courtesy; but she has steadfastly refrained from such steps, and has exercised a vigilance which is

commendable. It may be possible that some filibustering expeditions have sailed from Japan or Formosa with arms and ammunition for the Filipinos, but it has not been with the connivance of the Japanese Government. Japan has displayed no jealousy or irritation over our occupation of the Philippines, although, with the excusable desire on her part to expand and to find wider fields and markets for her people and her products, it might have been natural for her to do so. With greater interests at stake she has had far less to say than Germany or France. Nor will it be forgotten by those who were at Manila at the taking of the city that the Japanese man-of-war, along with the English squadron, steamed over to Cavite alongside the American ships, as if to give them friendly encouragement, instead of seeking a position to the north and west, where went the ships of other nations.

There may be dangers ahead in the abolition of extra-territoriality, and troubles may follow; but there is no doubt that it is the honest purpose of the Japanese Government to do all in its power to protect the interests of foreigners from any ill-effects of this radical change. Such eminent men as Count Okuma, Viscount Aoki, Count Matsukato, and Marquis Ito told me on my last visit to Japan that while the undertaking was a most serious one, there would be no stone left unturned by their Government to satisfy the expectation of foreigners and foreign governments; and they hoped that these in turn would fully reciprocate in their efforts to make the new treaties work successfully. If foreigners would approach them and accept them in the right spirit there would be few difficulties or dangers. We can at least afford to be charitable in judging the first workings of these new conditions. The more kindly the spirit manifested by the American Government and by Americans residing in Japan, the greater will be the strengthening of the bonds between the two governments and the privileges and favors shown to our residents. The United States cannot for a moment overlook any violation of the spirit or letter of the new treaties, and we must zealously guard our interests; but there is a vast difference between mere quibbling and basing complaints on just grounds.

The Japanese are strong, virile people. Their vigor of body and mind is one of the strongest qualities which augurs for their success as a nation. They can stand setbacks and survive periods of distress which would bring misfortune and disaster did not her sons and daughters possess these elements of mental and physical force. Japan is face to face with innumerable problems of internal

government which may retard her progress and disappoint in their issue her well-wishers; but in that respect she is only repeating the experience of all of the nations. There may be unfortunate features of Japanese character and political and moral methods, as there are of other nations, and the Government to-day may not be on that satisfactory, solid basis which could be desired; but one who has met her leading statesmen is inclined to be far more confident than pessimistic in regard to the future. The late Japanese Minister to the United States, Mr. J. Komuro, and the distinguished ex-Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Kentaro, who was given a degree last year by Harvard University, are strong illustrations of forceful, intellectual, and influential Japanese statesmen, whose mingled integrity and patriotism will do much to guide their ambitious nation through the tortuous channels it must pass. Those that I mentioned before, along with these latter two, are but a few selections from a large body of strong men who appreciate the dangers as well as the possibilities ahead of Japan, and who will do their utmost to make her a world power. Among them all there is a prevailing feeling that Japan should draw closer to the United States.

While it is contrary to precedent and to our policy to make any formal alliance with a foreign power, there is no limit to the combined influence of the United States and Japan in the Pacific. United in policy and purpose, they could demand and insist upon the consummation of any plan. They could call a halt to the movements of any other nation, or they could refuse to heed the restrictions of countries which might meddle where Japanese and American interests should be supreme. It is within the power of Japan and America, without war or thought of war, to direct the commerce and politics of Pacific lands along those lines which will be conducive to the best interests of both. They alone could preserve the integrity of China, work out the destiny of Korea, inspire Siam to greater efforts, and exercise a healthy influence throughout the other parts of Asia, which would not only merit, but which would receive, the active support of Great Britain and of Russia.

There is no doubt that to-day England stands ready to unite with Japan and the United States in shaping the future of Pacific lands. But there is no reason why we should antagonize Russia. She is too great a power in the Pacific. Possibly, there could be no better assurance of the continuance of the peaceful relations that have always existed between Russia and the United States than that they

should reach a clear, definite understanding, supplementing notes already exchanged, that all portions of China, which may eventually be considered as Russian spheres of influence, shall be always free and open to American trade to the same extent and degree as now permitted by the Tientsin treaties with China. The differences between Japan, the United States, and Great Britain, on the one side, and Russia, on the other, are, after all, greater in theory and possibility than in present reality. There is danger ahead unless proper provision is made to avoid it; but the differences are not such as to warrant the thought of war on our part, first, because we have too much to gain in Russian territory by maintaining perpetual peace and friendship with Russia; and, second, because war will not be required when the moral force of nations working together and understanding each other can accomplish far more than war to the hilt.

This leads us to mighty China, not now mighty in administration of law and order, but in virility, in racial force, in population, in area, in resources, and in opportunities and possibilities yet undeveloped. The historical age of China, reaching back through a great many centuries, makes the United States but the merest child in comparison with her as an independent Government; but our material progress in one decade is greater than that of China through 3,000 years. Japan has even accomplished more on modern lines in twenty-five years than China has done in twenty-five centuries; and yet there is an element of credit due to a government which has lasted through those uncounted years which we must not forget. After all, is it not marvellous that China has stood the wear and tear of all these centuries, while European nations have risen and fallen? There is a homogeneity among the Chinese people that has enabled China to withstand storms and struggles that would have completely wrecked any other nation. Here again we have an element of heredity which must be considered. The Government may be called weak, but the Chinese people move on with the same unbroken spirit and persistence which characterized them hundreds of years ago. Possibly they may move in a circle; but there is untold strength among China's masses, which is sometimes forgotten in the consideration of her possibilities.

If we note the qualities of the Chinaman as a trader and business man, as a manager of large or small institutions, as a student or as employé of foreigners, as a high-class or low-class laborer, as a resident

of his own home town, or as a wanderer among other people, we find that he is ever the same stoical, easy-going, but unremitting, worker and gatherer of dollars and cents. He gives little and takes much. Wherever he goes he carries away more than he brings in, and through all conditions he never becomes assimilated: he is always a Chinaman. It requires a large measure of virility and force of character to stand the competition with all other peoples and still retain absolute individuality.

The Chinaman, however, can be led and influenced; and it may remain for America to become the chief power whose influence shall direct the Chinese people along those lines which will make them realize their possibilities among other peoples. There can be no greater danger to the United States, to the Anglo-Saxon race, and to progressive Christian influence throughout the world, than that of the vast hordes of China, directed by conditions or led by influences antagonistic to those of Europe and America, conserving their strength to be thrown upon our flanks at the weakest spot, and some day bring us to the point where the "yellow danger," as it is sometimes termed, will become the foremost enemy of civilization and progress. The United States must consider the responsibility resting upon her, so that she may use her material and moral strength in China in a way which will always enable her to exercise such influence over the mighty forces of China as will direct them along channels that shall not be destructive to her and other nations.

From the inauguration of America's treaty relations with China we have never endeavored to take the prominent position occupied by Great Britain or Russia, and we have never sought any Chinese territory. There is no reason now why we should depart from our former policy and methods; but we have certain well-defined treaty rights which we must closely watch and preserve. If we simply insist upon the carrying out of the spirit and letter of the treaties ratified in 1859 and 1869, we shall have little to fear in the future and everything to gain.

I shall not enter here into a statistical discussion of our commercial possibilities; but every one who studies the physical resources of China must become impressed with the great opportunities that there are before us. As to their development, it may be simply said that if American capital does not take matters in hand, that of other nations will. If we have capital lying idle which will not seek investment within the borders of the United States, no matter how

earnestly we might desire it, but will go into the railways, coal mines, gold fields, and general opportunities of development in China, our Government should encourage it by every legitimate process.

It may be argued that all this attention to China will teach her the more rapidly to find herself, as it were, and to enter into actual competition with the United States; but an enormous amount of purchasing from America must go on for a long period before this point is reached, which, again, will go to some other country if the exporters and manufacturers and capitalists of the United States do not improve the field. It is largely a question of the opportunity for one man to make money if another does not. China must develop, improve, and reform, whether as an independent nation or as one divided among other powers; and it is well that the United States, as a great commercial and material country, should receive her legitimate share where she can do so without involving herself in other responsibilities.

The present railways planned for China are only the beginning of what she will need when once the real movement of progress is begun. There are vast fields of coal and iron which must be opened up; there are great tracts of agricultural areas which are not cultivated to one-tenth of their capacity; and there are the multitude of other opportunities which a country that has had little material progress for thousands of years, but with tremendous latent possibilities, affords. The chief American enterprise of the present, namely, the construction of a great trunk line from Hankow through the heart of southern China to Canton, and thence to Kowloon, opposite Hong Kong, is like the construction of the first important railway from New York to Chicago or from Chicago to New Orleans. After this is once built, through a country having a population equal to that of the United States, there must necessarily follow not only the building of branch lines, but the starting of new industries, the building up of towns and cities, the rearrangement of groups of population, and, in short, a complete change in the lives and conditions of the people in the interior of China. Along with this trunk route will be others from Shanghai to Hankow and on to Chungking, from Chungking through Szechuan into northern Siam and Burma, connecting there with lines to Bangkok, Rangoon, and Calcutta. Some will reach from Peking southward to these principal points; others will extend northward through Manchuria, where Russia is already building with marvellous rapidity.

It is not merely an imaginary and doubtful picture when one describes the time when the traveller can leave Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Tientsin and go not only to any important part of the great Chinese Empire, but seek such distant points as Saigon, Bangkok, Singapore, Rangoon, Calcutta, Bombay, Teheran, Constantinople, Moscow, and St. Petersburg, along all-rail routes. The most gigantic of these enterprises is the one which is nearest completion — the Trans-Siberian Railway. England, if she would safeguard her interests, cannot long delay the construction of a railway from Burma, in India, into China, which will put her in touch with the Yangtse Valley, which she regards as her especial sphere.

The great market which all this construction will provide for American locomotives, general rolling stock, rails, timber, and a multitude of lesser supplies which accompany the greater is a most inviting possibility. If, under existing conditions, we are selling ever increasing quantities of cotton goods, flour, petroleum, food products, and a long and varied assortment of manufactures, with only a few treaty ports and a small portion of China's millions accessible, what a field of trade should be open to us when China is covered with a network of railways! The day of a network may be distant, but the carrying out of the present plans will be sufficient greatly to augment the amount of our exports to the Middle Kingdom. The Chinaman's buying capacity, which is often used as an argument against the development of China's commerce, will increase in corresponding ratio as he is provided with an opportunity to get his raw products and riches of the earth to markets which have money to pay for what he has. The world need not trouble itself about John Chinaman's capacity to get hold of the dollars if he is only given the opportunity; and no man is more ready to part with the same dollars in barter or trade, provided he sees his way clear to make more. A few cents mean more to the average Chinaman than dollars to the average American; and if one Chinaman has not the buying capacity of one American, the greater number of Chinamen will, in a measure, make up for this deficiency of capital.

American influence and capability of taking advantage of the opportunities for the extension of our commerce and trade must largely depend upon our policy at Peking. With the present prominence which we have attained in Asia, and in the knowledge of our achievements in the minds of the Chinese, there is a tempting chance to strengthen our political and commercial influence throughout China;

but the bringing about of this end is not to come through any illegitimate process of diplomatic pressure. By mingled firmness and regard for China's inalienable rights, we shall, in all this flood of duplicity, win her sincere and lasting esteem.

China knows, as all the world knows, that her future now depends more on our dictum than on that of any other nation. If we should consent to her division, or to the full consummation of spheres of influence, her integrity would immediately become a thing of the past. Legitimate material concessions and privileges, as well as the protection of the moral rights of our missionaries, will be ours if in this hour of trial we shall treat China fairly.

We have everything to gain and nothing to lose by the maintenance of Chinese sovereignty over all portions of the Empire, because now our rights are guaranteed by treaty, and with their protection we shall be able successfully to compete with all other nations in commerce and trade. On the other hand, with China divided we may get something or nothing. By recognizing a policy of division of the Empire, we shall give up a bird in the hand for one in the bush. It is a singular fact that every American merchant, exporter, and manufacturer doing business with China is strong in advocacy of the American policy which will preserve the integrity of the Empire. To my mind, if Russia, France, and Germany are approached in the right way, there is no reason why they should not act with the United States, Great Britain, and Japan in insuring that integrity which we so much desire; but there are many good merchants who fear that we may wake up some morning to find that the growing market for our cotton products in Manchuria and Shantung is restricted by new conditions which will either kill it outright or provide for its slow, but none the less certain, death.

At the present moment our relations with Russia are most friendly, and she probably is sincerely desirous of trading with us and of buying what she needs from our manufacturers as well as from the manufacturers of other countries; but we must remember that Russia is preparing for a great industrial future, and means herself to become a manufacturing power of the first class. She knows that it will be difficult for her to compete in the markets of western Europe and America, and therefore she looks to Asia. She cannot be blamed in this provision for the future; but we must consider her possibilities as a competitor in countries where now there are treaty rights which give no preference to her or any other nation over us, but which

may be ignored or overruled in the course of events if the present tendency toward the break-up of China is continued. We must build up our markets in Siberia and other parts of Russian Asia, but at the same time we must protect those that have already reached large dimensions.

I am more optimistic than pessimistic as to the future of China; but I believe in carefully considering the difficulties that may confront us, and in preparing against contingencies that may arise. What greater diplomatic achievement could do honor to America's foreign relations than leading in a policy which shall make both Russia and Great Britain work in harmony for the preservation of the best interests of all three? Japan would certainly give her support, because her interests are akin to ours, while Germany and France would be forced to accept, without question, the decrees of such diplomacy.

We are now stronger than ever before, not only at Peking, but at St. Petersburg, London, and Tokio. Let us take advantage of the situation; and may no untoward event arise to lessen our influence or prevent the consummation of a policy which shall perpetually protect our interests in Pacific lands.

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VACATION SCHOOLS.¹

THE vacation school movement originated in the desire of citizens to provide other influences than those of the streets for children during July and August; popular observation, school reports, and statistics of juvenile arrests showing this interim in school occupation to be injurious mentally, morally, and physically. Other phases of this work are "fresh-air parties," "country weeks," summer camps and farms. Summer play-grounds also have developed into vacation schools, since it has become apparent that games have a strongly educative influence; and the play spirit carried into certain forms of instruction increases the attractiveness of play-grounds.

Within the last six years vacation schools have been opened by private initiative in over twenty cities. In Philadelphia and New York they are under municipal conduct—the final object of this movement elsewhere. They are for children under sixteen years of age, and continue six weeks in July and August, with morning sessions only. The attendance is voluntary; therefore, to be successful, their methods must be popular. The best results do not follow training "across the grain," after artificial methods. Play is the way of living of all young animals—their natural method of preparing for existence later. Therefore, the spirit of play cunningly permeating vacation school curricula secures as regular attendance and faithful work as do truant laws; the work, however, being of a different character.

The design of the vacation school is to supplement the public school, and to give the children certain advantages which parents of intelligence and means supply, by their own preference, through home environment or travel. One of the chief functions of vacation schools is that of serving as experiment stations, so that these schools exert a positive influence upon regular school methods. No books are used. The instruction is, briefly, according to the laboratory method.

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