

designed to provide a combined cultural and industrial education for the young men and women, whose families, of pure Anglo-Saxon strain, have for several generations been residents of the agricultural highlands of the Ozarks. This territory produces representatives of fine old American stock whose physique, crania, and profiles would not have been out of place among the Greek athletes in the stadium at Athens, in the time of Solon. I fancy that some of these Ozark college boys are pretty good foot-

ball players. But they can lay bricks, too, for a handsome, modern, new dormitory is rising on their campus, in the building of which they have furnished helping hands.

This little, struggling Arkansas college deserves the attention of all those who are especially interested in that vital problem of American education—the problem of combining cultural education with training in productive self-help. Under the guidance of its progressive president, Dr. Wiley Len Hurie, the

College of the Ozarks might almost be called, in somewhat high-brow phraseology, a practical laboratory of pedagogical research. While Yale and Harvard and Princeton, quite properly and deservedly, are raising their millions, perhaps somebody interested in a fine type of Americanism will drop a few thousand in Dr. Hurie's lap. When the average travelers in the smoking-room of a sleeping-car say he deserves it, as I heard them say, one may be sure that he does.

After the Flood

By JOHN M. PARKER

Relief Director for Louisiana

THE people of America have failed, until now, to realize that the problem of the lower Mississippi River is a National problem. That is true because they have not taken the trouble to consider the fact that the overflow area of the Mississippi comprises thirty thousand square miles, approximately two hundred million acres—an area nearly three times larger than all of Holland. They have not taken the trouble to consider the further fact that the rain which falls upon thirty-two States drains into the Mississippi; that in times of flood we along the lower reaches are overwhelmed by an inconceivable volume of water hardly a drop of which fell from the clouds upon our soil. The flood gates of all but sixteen of the States of the Union open to the sea through—and in flood periods over—the State of Louisiana.

The National nature and scope of the problem has been realized for many years by individuals, some of them in high official position. President Arthur, in 1882, sent a special message to Congress in which he emphasized the fact that "the protection of the people of the Mississippi Valley" was not a local but a National question.

During the forty-five years that have elapsed since that message was written, there has been at times some sort of official recognition of the fact, but no definite plan has ever been established, and the work that the Federal Government has done has been patch work, financed by piece-meal appropriations.

Within that period, expenditures upon levees along the lower Mississippi have amounted to \$229,000,000. But of that sum the Federal Government has paid only about \$65,000,000. The remaining \$164,000,000, approximately, has come from local sources in those States near

EX-Governor Parker, of Louisiana, tells of the problem that faces the inundated districts in the Mississippi Valley and calls upon the Nation to take over the effort to harness the giant river that drains thirty-two States of the Union. In next week's issue, *The Outlook* will publish the first of two articles by

John R. Freeman

on the control and utilization of the waters of the Mississippi. Mr. Freeman is one of the leading civil engineers of the world. His services as a hydraulic engineer have been in demand from the St. Lawrence to Panama, from Boston to China. He has been President both of the American Society of Civil Engineers and of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. *The Outlook* is fortunate to secure so authoritative a discussion of the National problem of the Mississippi.

the mouth of the river over which the flood waters of the other States pass.

The Federal Government has never really had any authority to do any thing for the protection of the Mississippi Valley. Whatever it may have done toward that end has been done under the guise of improving navigation on the Mississippi River.

The time has now come for us to look to the future and squarely face our problems.

My recommendation would be to cast aside all camouflage and to clearly and unequivocally state that the work is for the protection of the Mississippi Valley. And that protection should mean a thorough, concrete plan carefully worked out, embodying levees, spillways,

outlets, or any other methods by which modern science can cope with and prevent the ravages of our streams. To that end, a suitable, able board should be organized, to be charged with formulating a general plan for the alleviation of flood menace in this valley, and of furnishing an estimate of the cost of the work it recommends.

With this in hand, an intelligently formed plan can be presented to Congress which must then take the responsibility of accepting or rejecting it.

If appeals for absolute Federal handling of our levees are unanswered, then, with the fact of deforestation, tile drainage, and improved drainage all through the West, irresistible floods will continue to be hurled at us, and we are sadly convinced that we, working alone, will be bankrupt long before we can assure ourselves protection. Our losses this year alone to State and Nation are so high that National welfare demands a vigorous, fearless, capable handling and solution of this problem.

Considering the National appeal of President Arthur, supplemented by request after request from other Presidents with no substantial results during those forty-five years, it is necessary now that public opinion bring this issue squarely before the President and the Congress of the United States, emphasizing the fact that to-day this is one of the greatest problems before our people.

Is it necessary to speak here of the tremendous catastrophe through which we are now passing? The story of it can never be told. Scraps of it have been told, through the daily press and otherwise.

I have fought through every overflow since that of 1882. This time, my position has been doubly hard—not because

of the work; I have worked no harder than all of the others—but because, drafted into a position of authority, I have had to sit here where no human help could avail anything until after the passing of the flood, and hear the pathetic appeals of those who were being destroyed.

One day, I remember, three delegations came to me from the parishes of St. Landry, St. Martin, and Iberia. All of them, I knew, were reliable men. They took pains to make the fact plain to me at the beginning that they did not want charity. But they were being wiped out by the overflow, left with absolutely nothing. What they came to ask was if some arrangement could be made by which they could borrow, for five years, a little money to rehabilitate themselves. They would pay it back one-fifth and the interest annually.

To my personal knowledge, this request was the cry of despair from splendid American citizens who are famous for regarding a debt as sacred. In one of these parishes, there are about 7,000 small farmers, nearly all white people. They had fine, attractive homes. As a rule, they have large families. They are

descendants of old French citizens and of those Canadians, who, years ago, moved to Bayou Teche. They represent some of the most thrifty, kindly, and good people to be found anywhere.

THESE are some of the people, who, when the floods have passed, we shall have to help to their feet again. They must be returned to their homes—not to their houses, for those, in many cases, are washed away and only the bare earth remains—and given a chance to produce the necessities of life. Many of them were impoverished even before the overflow came. They had had two years of short crops at extremely low prices.

Those who have never seen the effect of an overflow can hardly understand that fields which were covered with cotton and corn and sugar and rice and other crops are, after the passing of the water, as bare and dead as if a devastating fire had gone over them. But, with our wonderful fertility of soil, other crops—sweet potatoes, peas, beans of all kinds, Mexican June corn, sorghum—can be planted after the water recedes. Tilling these crops will keep some of

the people busy, will prevent their becoming a menace by crowding in thousands to the cities in search of employment.

But, even so, many must find employment elsewhere than in the devastated fields.

IMMEDIATELY after the subsidence of the flood, the Secretary of War should issue instructions to those responsible for the rebuilding of levees. Reconstruction of those which have been washed away would give employment to thousands of day laborers who otherwise would be idle.

The same course should be followed by the United States Bureau of Public Roads in replacing highways which have been destroyed. Neither the States nor their various subdivisions will have any funds from which to make such payments at present.

It is to be hoped that no red tape will prevent the Government from giving this relief by going at the work as soon as possible. It is necessary, in order to give occupation to those who will be unable to start their farming again until next season.

Economic Europe

This Survey of the Conditions Confronting the Economic Conference at Geneva Is Based on an Interview with the Famous Foreign Minister of Czechoslovakia, Edouard Beneš

By ELBERT FRANCIS BALDWIN

The Outlook's Editor in Europe

“WHAT country of Eastern Europe has the greatest relative buying power?”

“Czechoslovakia.”

“Is that due, primarily, to the people's frugality?”

“Yes.”

“And then because you have three-quarters of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire's industries?”

“Certainly.”

“And finally to your financial policy?”

“Exactly and emphatically.”

Here the staccato style stopped and I heard: “Had other countries done what we have, there would not be so much need of an International Economic Conference at Geneva. Czechoslovakia is the one country of Eastern Europe, which, despite dire difficulties, did not descend to the depths of inflation.”

An Up-to-Date Talk in an Ancient Castle

So started this morning a twenty-minute talk in a great room, hung with rich, red damask, in the Hradschin, the imposing castle high above Prague, the capital of Bohemia and now of that Greater Bohemia called Czechoslovakia.

The castle was very old but the talk very up-to-date. Some of its statements were mine; some, those of the person who had answered my questions, Dr. Edouard Beneš, Czechoslovak Foreign Minister.

Since the War, it was agreed, despite a relatively and startlingly fine Czechoslovak showing, economic conditions, particularly in Eastern Europe, had grown grave.

Currency

ASIDE from the outright destruction of capital, the most striking fea-

ture had been currency instability and demoralization. This had destroyed both fixed and floating capital. Result: Europe has lost some of her ability to consume. She is paralyzed by just so much. For unstable currencies affect commercial transactions within the particular country itself, and then, of course, its imports of foreign goods, creating complementary difficulties in the countries whose currencies may be stable.

Tariffs

BUT this, however, was only the beginning of troubles. Men have regarded foreign trade with suspicion. Fear of future war seems universal. Every country is trying to be self-sufficient. To this end, into some countries, new industries must needs be forcibly imported. For example, Hungary, after never having done anything but grow grain, must now establish textile and