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EXTENSION TEACHING

XIV—RUNNING AROUND DENMARK

I am beginning this letter in Odense, propped up in bed at three in the morning, working with a letter pad on my knees, Mark Twain fashion. One of the penalties I pay for modern discomforts is having the honk of an infernal automobile explode a bomb in my brain at some ghastly hour of the night, and being unable to get to sleep again. It is no new experience. I have had it in Chapel Hill times without number. So I feel about for my pencil and paper, and go to work as usual, without worrying about sleep. It is a trick I learned years ago—an idiosyncrasy, as Mr. Dooley properly pronounced it.

A Prophet's Home Fame

Odense is Hans Christian Andersen's home town. His humble birth place is only a little way down the street from my hotel, but I had great difficulty in finding it and I stumbled on it at last quite by accident. Not one of a gang of youngsters half a block off gave any signs of ever having heard the name of Odense's most famous son. I had the same trouble in Derby, England, fifteen years ago, trying to locate the little pigeon-box of a house in which Herbert Spencer was born. Not a policeman I ran across knew anything about it or had ever heard of Mr. Spencer. But such is fame!

The Hub of the Universe

The hub of the universe sticks visibly out in the center of the city park of Odense. It was the distinguishing feature of Boston Commons in Oliver Wendell Holmes's day. But it has been moved, or so I gathered yesterday afternoon from an exuberant Dane three miles out in the country at the Huumanskole. Which means the school of farm management and housewifery for the sons and daughters of the little landers or small farmers of Funen. "The island of Funen," said he, "is the center of Denmark and Odense is the center of Funen. You needn't look any further for the center of the universe. If you are in any doubt about it, please look at our cows and their butter fat records."

I did. And furthermore I went through the creamery, the bacon factory, and the egg-packing plant, and heard at length about the 110 steamboats that carry the farm products of Denmark into every large port of the world. Every one of these huge enterprises is organized, owned, and operated by the farmers themselves or their highly salaried agents. And what Odense is every other town in Denmark is—a center of cooperative farm business.

Culture and Cooperation

The Dane's argument went without contest. He is no uncommon figure in Denmark, I may say in passing. He is a farmer, a country school teacher, a botanist, a political economist of note, an author, and a translator of American books. Men of his type hold exactly half the portfolios in the King's cabinet. Whatever may be true of the farmers and the country school teachers of other lands, they sit at the head of the table in Denmark.

Culture and cooperation have made these farmers rich, and a prosperous agriculture has dotted the map with prosperous cities. To be sure of this fact, you have only to move about Denmark a little. Not only are the Danish cities rich but they are modern in the last degree, and beautiful every one. I have found no lovelier city than Odense, not even excepting Pasadena.

Comfortable Living

I am this minute quartered, for instance, in the best hotel I have seen this side of California—not the largest or the most flamboyant, but the most comfortable. Ten electric lights are blazing in my bed room as I write. I have a table light and a telephone within easy reach at the head of my bed. On my arrival I ran into the inevitable cattle show, and the only room not filled with farmers was the bridal chamber in The Grand Hotel. The landlord is charging me bridal chamber prices and I am doing my best to sleep in both the beds. I am only trying to

get my money's worth, the same being section one article one of the constitution of every born American. And I am succeeding very well, but for the two fat feather beds—which on the continent here you are expected to sleep under, not on. It is incredible, but the Danes do it the year around, even in the fog end of July. It must be so, because there is no other bed cover in the room. If I could get safely away with one of these daintily draped feather bed covers, I'd take it home for L. R. Wilson, and let him give his electric bed-warmers a rest in the Dog Days.

Spying Out the Land

My first month in Denmark is being spent in spying out the land and taking an intimate look at the things I have been reading about and lecturing on for many years. Two weeks were devoted to Zeeland, the island on which Copenhagen is situated, and to Falster, Laaland, and Funen, which are the other important islands of the compact group in the Baltic. It is on these fertile islands that the town and country life of Denmark is most intense and most significant. I have lived day and night in trains, steamboats, motor cars, and hotels, taking such space and such accommodations as the farmers have left, for the farmers have pre-empted every thing in Denmark.

Farm-Owned Transportation

Travel is comfortable and comparatively inexpensive. Indeed it is the least expensive thing in Denmark. The explanation lies in the fact that the state owns the railroads and the steamboats that bridge the water gaps in the state system of transportation. But the farmers own the state—look, stock, and barrel, and they run the railroads in the interests of agriculture. The freight and passenger rates are therefore made as cheap as it is humanly possible to make them in Denmark. For instance, it was a sixteen-hour trip on fast trains from Copenhagen to Esbjerg and up the west coast to Viborg in north Jutland, and my fares in the best compartment coaches amounted to only forty-nine kroner, which is \$8.62 in our money. A sixteen-hour day-coach trip from Greensboro to New York, as I remember it, costs around \$17.00. If I had traveled third class, as most Danes travel, the fares would have been less than \$6.00. The short-haul freight rates show the same contrasts. All of which benefits the farmers and the country regions, and at the same time the merchants, the manufacturers, and the cities of Denmark in general. When I suggested that the roads were being run at a loss, my traveling companion, a leathergoods manufacturer in Odense, replied: "Nobody is bothering about a deficit in the state railway account. The taxpayers settle it, the burden falls on everybody, and anyway it is too small to talk about. The state has re-arranged the rates so as to wipe out the insignificant losses and we shall have no deficits hereafter. We are satisfied to take pot-luck with the farmers. They are making money hand over fist and so are we. So what's the difference?"

A Port City

I am now exploring Jutland, the peninsular mainland and larger portion of Denmark. My trip this week is taking me from Fredericia on the east coast straight west to Esbjerg the new port city built on the sandbars of the North Sea. Its harbor was dugged out of an inlet that offered more difficulties and fewer natural advantages than Beaufort enjoys. Esbjerg is some twenty years old and already has a population of 20,000. It is the terminus for fast freights from all parts east and the point of steamboat departure for England and the rest of the world. The boats on every trip go loaded to the gunwales with the bacon, butter and eggs of the Danish farmers. I am proudly informed that Esbjerg is the Chicago of Denmark. A similar rapid transit freight and passenger service has been established from Copenhagen through Gedser into Germany. The Danes long ago learned the trick of running solid trains upon boats and fer-

COOPERATION

Co-operative cotton marketing is an indictment of the waste and sharp practice of the present system. We boast the efficiency of American commerce, and it is efficient in many respects, but it fails miserably in the supreme test, which is the total cost of getting the commodity from the producer to the consumer. The American farmer is the best farmer in the world in that he produces more per man, but he receives less of the consumer's dollar than the farmer in any other enlightened country. That is the damning charge which commerce must meet. The farmer is in revolt. He may be defeated in this attempt; he may fail by his own blundering, but he will win ultimately by one means or another. They are blind who do not see in the present movement a desperate resolution of those who feed and clothe the world to receive a more equitable share of the world's income and accumulation. Heretofore the American farmer has been conservative; his cooperative undertakings for self help and self protection are conservative. Let commerce be careful not to make him radical.—Commerce and Finance.

rying them across twenty-six miles of sea. All these enterprises have been developed in recent years to promote a farm business that has risen into large commercial proportions. The exportable farm surpluses last year were \$250,000,000 reckoned in our money. And mind you, they are enterprises on part of a state with just about the population and less than one-fourth the size of North Carolina.

Realization of a Dream

Yesterday I spent nine hours in slow trains from Esbjerg north through the low-lying sandbars of the west coast and on across the sand hills and heath lands to Viborg, a picturesque little city in the middle north. It is the center of a region that Steen Blicher made famous in poetry, and that Dalgas a social-minded army officer began to reclaim fifty years ago. I traveled in slow trains, because I wanted a good look at exactly such a country as you see on a trip from Wilmington to Aberdeen and Southern Pines. And what I saw along the way completely reversed my notions of west Jutland. There are sand bars, sand dunes, marshes and heath lands, to be sure, but it is a region in process of rapid reduction to agricultural uses, the shifting sands and soils set the grasses and pines imported to reinforce the native ling in the battle against the winds, grass covered dykes as wind-breaks, newly forested waste lands planted and carefully cultivated to the same end, cattle, dairy cows and horses everywhere in the fields, farm buildings in squares surrounded by trees to shelter them against the fierce winter winds of this high latitude. They are the homes of prosperous, big-scale, livestock farmers, for here as everywhere else in Denmark the basis of a safely balanced agriculture is livestock, beef cattle, pigs and dairy cows in particular. I say they are prosperous farmers, because of the surprising number of farm establishments I see in this region of marginal lands, the size of these establishments, the gleaming white of freshly whitewashed homes and barns, the shining red of the new tile roofs, the new farms recently brought under cultivation, and the brand new railway towns, every one of them a center for cooperative farm enterprises, creameries and bacon factories mainly. It is a realization in Denmark of just such a dream as Governor Morrison has for Tidewater Carolina.

Man Vs Nature

I am coming to believe that the marginal land that Ricardo figured into his theories of rent is land that does not exist anywhere in Christendom. There are marginal men but no marginal lands, was Sidney Lanier's notion. There's more in the man than there is

in the land, said he. Flanders proves it. Every inch of it was once a sand bed, and that was not so many centuries ago. Today it is the garden spot of Belgium. And west Jutland proves it against the heavy odds of barren sand plains, and peat bogs that defy drainage because they are the remains of lakes in the pockets of a glaciated area. The soils of Denmark are generally poor or indifferently good even in the most favored regions for mainly they are beds of moraine pebbles, sands, and clays in various mixtures. The Danes have had to build their soils everywhere. But while they have been building their soils they have been building their own big market businesses and credit institutions.

Farmers Good Business Men

The Danes are not the best farmers I have seen, but they are far and away the best business men among all the farmers of the world. "They are the only farmers on earth", says Jacob E. Lange, "who have proved that they can stand on their own feet alone and unaided and go forward on their own initiative without outside help, for they won their successes long before the state came to their aid with railroads and loans to landless farmers." I shall be looking into the eastern farm belt of Jutland before I get back to my headquarters in Copenhagen. The letters that follow will detail the farm prosperity of the Danes, the ways and means of it, and the effects of it upon city prosperity, national life, and legislation.—E. C. Branson, Viborg, July 26, 1923.

EXTENSION CLASSES

As part of its extension service, the University of North Carolina will conduct at certain centers throughout the State extension classes. These classes will be taught by regular members of the University faculty, and the work offered in these classes will correspond in every particular, as to class requirements and credits, with that given in similar courses at the University. University credit may be secured upon satisfactory completion of an extension class by those who meet the entrance and other requirements of the University. Extension classes will not conflict with, or duplicate, the work offered in local high schools through either day or evening classes; the work is distinctly of a college or university grade.

The Purpose

Extension classes are offered to serve the needs of ambitious men and women of any age or training who desire the advantages of University training but who cannot attend a university or college. Extension classes afford a means by which the University can carry the advantages of University training to the people of the State; they make the State the campus of the University. Courses of both a vocational and cultural nature will be offered.

Who Are Eligible

Any man or woman over twenty years of age may enroll in any extension class, unless the instructor of the class has sufficient reason to believe that the student cannot profit by the course. In certain instances, where the student in question is a graduate of a high school, for example, persons under twenty years of age may be permitted to enroll. The best work can be done, however, when students more nearly alike in training, ability and interest comprise a class group. This fact needs to be fully realized by local people interested in working up an enrollment for any prospective class.

Extension Centers

Any city or community in the State in which the University conducts extension classes, is called an extension center. Many different courses may be offered in a single extension center. Due to the fact that most of the extension classes for the present will have to be taught by members of the University faculty who have teaching schedules at the University, most of the Extension centers for the first year or two will have to be near Chapel Hill. Full-time extension teachers have been added to the faculty of some departments at the University, however, and this makes possible the organization of extension centers anywhere in the State.

Courses Offered

It is not practicable to offer through extension classes some courses now being given at the University. In general, however, whenever the nature of a course now being offered at the University is such that this course may be offered through extension centers, and when as many as fifteen students in any extension center desire the course, the department of extension teaching, by conferring with the proper department at the University, will try to provide an instructor. The number of extension courses which can be offered will be determined by the resources which the University has at its command. At present facilities are such that extension classes in the following subjects are offered: EDUCATION, PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY, RURAL SOCIAL ECONOMICS, ACCOUNTING, BANKING, ADVERTISING, SALESMANSHIP, ECONOMICS, ENGLISH and MUSIC. Other subjects may be added to this list. The first communities to secure the necessary enrollment for courses in these subjects will be the first to be provided with instructors.

Term and Fees

The extension class teaching year will be divided into two terms of sixteen or more weeks each. The first term of each year begins the first of October and ends with the month of January; the second term commences February 1 and ends in May. A registration fee of \$10 will be charged each student for each course in which he enrolls in any extension term. This fee goes to pay the travel and subsistence expenses of the instructor.

Class Meeting

Each class will meet at least once a week in some satisfactory building convenient to the students, and at some hour convenient to both students and instructor. Generally these classes will be held in the evenings commencing about seven-thirty. Each meeting, unless otherwise arranged in cases of non-credit courses, will be for an hour and forty-five minute period. There will be sixteen such meetings—generally one meeting each week until the course is completed.

For further information, address: The Director of Extension Teaching, Chapel Hill, N. C.

OUR CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

Our Leather Tanneries

All North Carolina wears shoes or uses leather in some form or other. Hides are one thing, usable leather goods are another. A process known as tanning converts hide material into leather. Dehaired and defleshed hides are treated with tannic substances obtained by extraction of the oak, chestnut or hemlock bark, which substances cause the formation of a very tough, stable compound with the fibrous matter of the hide. This tanning action can be produced much more cleanly, more uniformly and exactly by the application of the chrome (chemical) tan treatment. The tanneries constitute an important industry in civilization. We are interested in knowing, the position which this industry occupies in the industrial life of our state, and how much of the leather goods we use comes from within our boundaries.

The first tannery to be incorporated in North Carolina was that of the Kistler Lesh Company in Morganton in 1891. Before 1900 there were four plants in operation. At present there are twelve plants tanning leather or producing the extracts for tanning purposes. Three plants are making extracts alone, while some of the tanneries make their own tanning material. The entire tanning industry involves a capital investment of \$8,500,000, and a plant valuation of \$6,500,000. The value of the annual output is about \$10,650,000. Thirteen hundred men employed in this industry receive an annual wage of \$1,300,000. Four of the plants have a capital investment and annual production of over \$1,000,000 each. These latter plants are located at Andrews, Sylvia, Kosman and North Wilkesboro.

Since there is a constantly growing demand for leather products and the raw material is lagging behind the demand, leather must be made better and produced more cheaply. This can come about only by having men in charge who understand the application of scientific principles to the industry.—S. C. Smith, Division of Industrial Chemistry, Department of Chemistry, University of North Carolina.