

"Peoples' High Schools" Made Co-operation Possible.

GREAT SUCCESS OF AGRICULTURAL CO-OPERATION IN DENMARK DUE NOT ONLY TO A SPLENDID SYSTEM OF COMMON SCHOOLS AND COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE, BUT ALSO TO A UNIQUE SYSTEM OF HIGH SCHOOLS.

By CLARENCE POE.

"What's The News?"

Matters of Current Interest.

THE farmers rule the roost in Denmark," Mr. Monrad said to me as we talked together in Copenhagen. "It is not a lawyer-bossed country such as you have in America, where lawyers outnumber all other classes in Congress, in the Legislatures, and in the party councils." Mr. Monrad had lived in America several years, and knew what he was talking about. "In our Rigsdag or Congress," he continued, "the farmer members have an absolute majority."

The explanation of all these things is not far to seek. If three things—Ownership, Education, and Co-operation—explain the Danish farmer's prosperity, two things—Education and Organization—explain his political power. Organization alone will not do the trick. You might organize 10,000 men in your country tomorrow into an army, but if they had not been "educated" for their work—that is, if they had not been trained to shoot and to march and to maneuver—they would go to pieces in a minute before a thoroly organized and disciplined—that is to say, thoroly "educated"—German battalion. So our farmers, no matter how well organized, will fail, in great measure, unless they are educated, unless they read and study and plan as wisely as the great body of the educated and organized forces with which in a democracy, they must always contend.

The Sign and Password of Danish Success.

Let me give my readers here the sign and password of the Danish farmer's success. I found the sign at the first farmers' school I visited in Denmark—the Karehave "Husmandskole," near Ringsted. It is the emblem of this school to which so many farmers come for short courses and might well be the emblem of many a similar institution in America—an owl and a spade united—the owl representing knowledge, the spade representing labor. "It means 'Wisdom and Work,'" ("Visdom og Arbeida") we were told, and our entire party agreed that it might well be taken as the emblem of the new Denmark. And it is, indeed, because the Danish farmer has combined Wisdom and Work, Learning and Labor, Education and Energy—it is for this reason that he rules his Kingdom and divides to every man the fruit of his labors. While, of course, it is to the splendid system of compulsory public school education that we must look for the secret of the Danish farmer's intellectual progressiveness, the Karehave School itself is about as good an illustration as one could wish for to emphasize the general thirst for knowledge. "Husmandskole" it is called, or "Housemen's School,"—housemen being the Danish word for small farmer. No one under eighteen is admitted, and the instruction the boys and men receive is agricultural in character, while that for the girls and women looks to helping them in cooking, housework, poultry keeping, gardening, etc. As a matter of fact, let me remark, by the way, no Danish young woman, no matter how rich, would think she was treating her husband right if she took charge of a home without knowing how to cook and look after general house-keeping in an intelligent manner. At the royal court, Minister Egan says, you may sometime take notice of the temporary absence of some beautiful young woman who has figured in social functions. "And where is your daughter? I have not seen her lately," you may remark to her father. "Oh, she is engaged to be married," will be the reply, "and has gone to such-and-such a place for a few months for training in housekeeping."

A Five-Months' Agricultural Course.

But this is what Tom Sawyer would call a "diversion." We were discussing the courses at the Karehave Husmandskole—the agricultural course, which is chiefly patronized by the men, from October to May, I believe, and the domestic science department, which is more popular from May to October. One secret of the success of this school is that its courses last only from five to eight months. In my opinion, it is a pity that our agricultural colleges in America do not provide more such courses. Whether it ought to be so or not, the fact remains that very, very few boys who are going to be farmers will ever take a four-year course at an agricultural college, and a very inconsiderable number a two-year course. If some sort of six-months' course could be worked out, however, say from October 15 to April 15, I have a conviction that it would eventually help thousands and thousands of farmer boys who under present circumstances will never see inside a college building.

Old Man Past Seventy Still Thirsty for Knowledge.

Karehave's greatest service to the farmers of

Denmark, however, is doubtless rendered thru its "short courses"—eleven-day courses in such subjects as dairying, stock feeding, poultry raising, special crops, etc.—eighteen of these courses being given each year, one beginning the first Tuesday and another beginning the third Tuesday, in nine months of the twelve. It was inspiring to see the grown men and women who had come for these courses, when I visited the school; middle-aged farmers, smoking their crooked pipes, walked across the campus in company with their gray-haired wives who had come to find out how science could help them in their work. "Frequently the husband comes first and takes the agricultural course," I was told, "and is so much pleased that he has his wife come, or perhaps comes back with her. Or perhaps the good woman is smarter than her husband, in which case, she is not rarely the first one to find out the helpfulness of the school." Aged men and women, such as could seldom think of such a thing in America, renew their youth and refresh their minds with new-found knowledge at Karehave. "I believe you have had one student seventy-two years old," Editor Christensen said to Mr. Nielsen, of Karehave, as we talked together. "No, we have done better than that," Mr. Nielsen replied. "We have had one pupil enrolled who was seventy-six, and at one time we had two pupils past seventy years old!" Perhaps, just as Denmark is said to have "the microbe of co-operation," it also has some microbe that keeps men always eager to learn more. At any rate, when I called by the American Embassy in Copenhagen the day I sailed, to tell Dr. Egan good-bye, I found him assiduously engaged in a French lesson—and he is sixty-four!

Counties Help Worthy Students.

Eleven dollars a month, I was informed, covers the cost of board and tuition at Karehave, but the students who stay thru the entire session usually receive help from the county or the State. Suppose the son of a "houseman," or small farmer, wishes to take the agricultural course, but lacks funds. If he is worthy and promising, application is made to the County Council, or Board of County Commissioners, who may agree to defray part of his expenses, and the National Government thru the Royal Danish Agricultural Society may also give him some aid. But the theory in all such grants is that the individual must do all he can for himself and not lean on the Government in any case where he is able to stand alone. Mr. Monrad was very severe in his criticism of American Legislatures, which too often either neglect a good cause entirely, or wait until political pressure is brought to bear and then vote money recklessly without requiring the recipient to do his part. "The plan is to help only those who help themselves," he declared. "When I was in dairy work in America I often found a State Dairy Association, for example, asking a State Legislature for an outright gift of \$2,000 a year. I always said this principle was wrong. The Legislature in such case might well offer to duplicate each dollar the Association would raise itself, and the association would then amount to something, whereas, to support it entirely would be just as ruinous as it is to support a boy without making him work for himself." Karehave, for example, gets some help from the State, but no coddling. Its founder, Mr. Nielsen Klodskar, if I am correctly informed, received no aid until he had demonstrated what sort of school he could make. Then the Government made him a loan, and it now makes a small annual appropriation—only \$810, I believe; just enough to make the difference between profit and loss, with economy and skilful management.

Greatest of All Are "the Peoples' High Schools."

But what Danish educators chiefly boast of is their system of "people's high schools," attended by thousands and thousands of young men and women, from eighteen to twenty-five years old. These schools differ a great deal from our American high schools, which, as a Dane said to me, too often aim only at preparing a boy or girl for college or the university, whereas, the Danish popular, or people's, high schools aim at preparing for life, industry, and citizenship.

So far as I know, there is nothing anywhere else in the world quite like these "People's High Schools," and they deserve the careful study of all our people who are interested in the improvement of country life. In Denmark these people's high schools are the true "social centers," which should form the heart of every country neighborhood, and they no doubt account largely both for

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AN ARMISTICE has been signed by Turkey, Bulgaria, Serbia, and Montenegro, and hostilities have ceased for the time, with the armies still in the field. Greece refused to become a party to the armistice, but will take part in the peace negotiations. There are many vexing problems to settle—problems involving the great Powers of Europe, as well as the nations engaged in the war—but it is believed that all danger of a general embroilment of Europe has passed by and that terms of peace will be worked out without serious difficulty. The big problem seems to be the disposal Albania, in which an independent government has been set up, and which Serbia hopes to annex. Brief as the war has been, it has been fierce and destructive; cholera and starvation adding thousands of victims to those killed in battle.

We, as a people, have no greater failing than our lack of respect for the laws we have ourselves made and to which we look for our protection. It is safe to say that in no other civilized country, could be found a State whose Chief Executive would openly declare his contempt for the Constitution and the laws he had sworn to enforce, as did Governor Blease, of South Carolina, at the Governor's Conference last week. We are taking no part in factional politics in South Carolina or any other State; but as long as men elected to high position flout the laws of the land, it is idle to hope that the youth of the country will grow up into law-abiding citizens, or that the life of men and the honor of women will be secure. There is no greater menace to American liberty than the mob spirit.

In the recent campaign Geo. W. Perkins contributed \$262,500 to aid the nomination and election of Mr. Roosevelt; Frank A. Munsey, \$229,250; Dan R. Hanna, \$177,000, and Wm. Flinn, \$144,000. The largest single contribution to Woodrow Wilson's fund was \$10,000. Mr. Thomas R. Ryan who has heretofore contributed so liberally to aid candidates who might do the bidding of the trusts, found no favor with Mr. Wilson despite the urging of Col. Henry Watterson.

The feature of the times now is the struggle for official appointments. We have just heard of one small town where there are twenty-seven applicants for the postoffice, while another man has just moved in to establish his citizenship so as to become the twenty-eighth. It will be a bad day for the country and a bad day for the Democratic Party if its leaders get the idea that the election was for the purpose of giving certain men the spoils of office and not of bringing about certain great reforms.

A reader has written us for a verification of the statement we recently quoted from Attorney-General Dawson as to the results of prohibition in Kansas. We have written him for a verification of his statement, and will publish his reply. Meanwhile, we may note that the latest returns from the election in West Virginia indicate an even greater dry majority than was first claimed. Only two counties in the State went wet, while fifty-three gave a majority for State-wide prohibition.

Representatives of about one hundred leading furniture manufacturers in the Southern, New England, and Western States met in High Point, N. C., lately, and agreed to advance furniture prices ten per cent. And yet the press report goes on to say: "It was distinctly stated that nothing in the nature of a combine or trade agreement was formed." How to devise legislation that will affect informal conferences like this is a big problem in the protecting of the people.

The income tax law will probably be in effect before many months. Thirty-four States have ratified the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and only four have rejected it. The approval of two more States will make it effective. Another amendment providing for the direct election of United States Senators by the people is also being pressed at this time, and it is thought likely that it will be in force by the next Congressional election in 1914.

Congress is again in session. Little is expected to be accomplished beyond the passing of the appropriation bills. Notable recommendations in President Taft's message are for citizenship for the Porto Ricans, a reorganization of the army, and the adoption of the Monetary Commission's plan of currency reform.

