

what they are doing

The Menace of the Panama Canal

One of the problems which will come to the front when the Panama Canal is open for business next year is discussed by Mr. L. B. Shippee, of the Washington State College, under the title of "Canal Immigration, Coming Problem of the Pacific Coast", in a recent issue of the "Survey".

It is pointed out that the coast states are certain to witness a tremendous growth of population, and that it is likely to be largely of the same class as the recent arrivals, namely from the countries of Southern Europe, instead of from the Northern countries. And the difference has been very marked, for while the Northern races are quite content to go out into the country and settle as farmers on vacant lands, the Southern races prefer to remain in cities or towns, where social life is found. And the latter are also more suitable for manufacturing work than for agricultural. It is shown that manufacturing does not seem to find a suitable environment on the Pacific coast, for iron is only found in small quantities, and even the wollen industry, which seems a likely one, has never got much of a hold.

The writer claims that if some of the money appropriated for the display side of the Exposition were devoted to finding out exact conditions and planning how to absorb the new citizens so as to benefit both themselves and the community, it would be wiser. In conclusion, he says: "It is time for us to shape our policies less for the advantage of the landowner who is planning to unload, and more for escaping those perils which impend from hit-or-miss handling of affairs. Development along the lines of least resistance is a policy no longer adequate to the situation."

Fire Apparatus Unnecessary

There is a little demand for expensive fire apparatus in St. Petersburg. The legal maximum height of buildings is only 77 feet and as the houses are generally hollow squares, and with walls and staircases alike of stone, brick or cement, the danger of a serious conflagration is very remote.

WATSON GRIFFIN'S NEW APPOINTMENT

Mr. Watson Griffin, who has been for over a year Industrial Commissioner of Brandon, Man., has just been appointed special Commissioner by the Federal Department of Trade and Commerce to investigate the development of trade between Canada and the British West Indies and British Guiana.

While congratulations to Mr. Griffin are in order, the Federal Government is to be congratulated upon selecting one who has devoted a vast amount of time and energy to trade conditions in Canada and who is acknowledged to be an expert on this important subject. And in addition to his technical knowledge, the result of careful study, as Mr. Griffin's character is beyond all doubt, the result of his enquiry will be absolutely unbiased by any petty prejudices. Brandon will be the loser, but the Dominion will be the gainer by the change.



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