

**STUDIES IN AMERICAN  
SOCIAL CONDITIONS-  
3. IMMIGRATION**

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Studies in American social Conditions-3. Immigration by Richard Henry Edwards

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**RICHARD HENRY EDWARDS**

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Edited by

Richard Henry Edwards

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Madison, Wisconsin

January, 1909

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## The Social Problems Group Idea

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It is agreed among social workers that enough reliable information about our social conditions has been amassed to stir all thoughtful citizens, were the facts but generally known. It is likewise agreed that enough lines of solution have been proposed to make effective war on the forces of greed, lust, and death, were those solutions but widely and earnestly attempted. It is an immediate necessity, therefore, to get the ear of all right-minded men and to direct their attention to the naked facts of our social conditions till they be stirred to intelligent and persistent action. The Social Problems Group Idea is aimed at this necessity. It embraces a definite and tested plan for the constructive study of American Social Questions from the popular point of view. It connotes the wide spreading of reliable facts, the grip of those facts upon the social conscience, and intelligent action in cleaning up bad conditions. It is in brief, this—that a group of men meet regularly from time to time to consider the salient facts of our leading social problems; that they candidly discuss those facts and the proposed solutions, and that they take individual or united action toward solving the problems acute in their community. The plan is adaptable to widely different types of mind and

to men of all schools in political, social, or religious faith. A group can be formed anywhere without formalities, through the mutual desire of a few men, the choice of a leader, and agreement as to time and place of meeting.

An account of the original Group which was formed at Madison, Wisconsin, in the fall of 1906 will be found in an article in *Charities and the Commons* for October 17, 1908. A reprint of that article, which tells how to prepare for and conduct the meetings and touches upon the duties of the leader can be secured from the address given below for ten cents post paid.

In view of the fact that the original group met in a Christian church, the question of the reality and extent of the contribution made by the teaching of Jesus to the solution of each problem was considered. Those who desire to study the problems from this point of view are referred to "Christianity and the Social Crisis" by Walter Rauschenbush, Macmillan, New York, 1907, \$1.50; to "Jesus Christ and the Social Question" by F. G. Peabody, Macmillan, New York, \$1.50 (fifty cent edition Grosset and Dunlap, New York); to "The Social Significance of the Teachings of Jesus" by J. W. Jenks, International Committee, Y. M. C. A., 1906, 75c. and the books to which they refer.

Parallel studies upon eleven problems will appear in the following order during the present winter as rapidly as the exigencies of editing and printing will permit:

1. The Liquor Problem.
2. The Negro Problem.
3. Immigration.
4. The Labor Problem.



5. Poverty.
6. Excessive and Concentrated Wealth.
7. The Divorce Problem.
8. The Problem of Clean Municipal Government.
9. The Boy Problem.
10. The Increase of Crime and the Administration of Criminal Justice.
11. The Treatment of the Criminal.

These studies can be secured at ten cents apiece or one dollar for the series of eleven including a reprint of the Charities article. One hundred copies of any study (except the Labor Problem, for which no reduction can be made), or ten sets of the entire series will be sold at nine dollars. All orders for these studies and communications in regard to the Social Problems Group Idea should be addressed to R. H. Edwards, 237 Langdon St., Madison, Wisconsin. Orders should be accompanied by cash.

### Suggestions for Use

The use of this study upon Immigration is in no way confined to Social Problems Groups.

1. It may also be used for personal study. References to concise statements of fact in readable form are given for those who desire a brief but orderly survey of the problem. Those who desire more scientific matter will find it under references marked with a \*.

2. Interesting questions for club, high school, and collegiate debates will be found in taking up the comparative effectiveness of proposed solutions.

3. A survey course of instruction in American Social Conditions adaptable to varied institutions can be based on the material here furnished together with like material upon other problems appearing in parallel form.

4. It is especially adaptable to use in civic organizations, social settlement clubs, betterment leagues, labor unions, Y. M. C. A. classes, granges, men's clubs in churches, business men's associations, and men's clubs in general, where the basis for a constructive study of the problem is desired. For such organizations and for Social Problems Groups the following order of subjects by meetings is suggested, on the supposition that rapidity of treatment is desired, and that as many as eight or more problems be treated in the course of a winter.

First meeting, topic 1. Second meeting, topics 2 and 3. Third meeting, topics 4 and 5. Fifth meeting, topic 6. Sixth meeting, proposed solutions 1 and 2. Seventh meeting, proposed solutions 3 and 4.

Many groups will prefer to make a more thorough consideration of the problem which is of course highly desirable. Several months might well be spent upon it.

## The Immigration Problem

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American Immigration has become the greatest movement of population known in history. Approximately twenty-six millions of people have landed on American shores since 1820. The insignificant groups of Anglo-Saxons who came in the early decades of the last century have been steadily followed by larger and larger companies of varied stock, until each recent year, save one, has brought a horde of more than a million. The number arriving annually doubled between 1870 and 1905 when it totalled 1,026,499. In 1906 there came 1,100,735; in 1907, 1,285,349; and in 1908 782,870. Almost six million out of the twenty-six have arrived in the last six years.

A depression in American industrial conditions appears to be the only factor capable of largely decreasing the volume. The falling off in the numbers for the fiscal year 1908, the period covering the recent financial depression, illustrates the sensitiveness of immigration in general to changes in economic conditions. This is especially emphasized by the report of the Commissioner General of Immigration for 1908 which shows for the first time the number of aliens who emigrated from the United States which was 395,073, and also the net immigration which