

THE NEED FOR THE APPLICATION OF  
EUGENIC MEASURES FOR THE PRE-  
VENTION OF CRIME AND FOR  
RACE BETTERMENT

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People who observe and think well will agree with the leading and upright judge who said recently that "people of stunted intellects and moral defects are scattered all through society."

The socially unfit people thus described are a menace to civilization. They account for most of the lawlessness that prevails and the crimes committed. From such as they come the inmates of our prisons, schools for feeble-minded and delinquents, and more than 75 per cent of all prostitutes and incompetents. They are like poisonous weeds and stinging nettles in a garden, and the feeble-minded ones among them are multiplying between two and three times more rapidly, relatively, than normal-minded people. Not one-tenth of them who should be in institutions for their care are there according to the 1910 federal census. Those who are at large breed like ones who have to be sent to our overcrowded state institutions. In Minnesota these number about 500 yearly, who are placed in charge of the State Board of Control. They represent only a small fraction of the yearly total crop of mental and moral defectives who are the offspring chiefly of high-grade morons at large who, though adults, have a mental age below twelve years, capable in some ways perhaps, but lacking in judgment and in a proper sense of duty and justice, and are unable to control their self-

ish impulses and fail to conform to social order and because of defective brains drift easily into crime. Of their children from 20 to 100 per cent are subnormal mentally in any large number of cases.

Visit the School for Defectives at Farbauld, and you will see some of the fruitage of these defectives at large. And the trees from which they come are still in bloom for further crops of idiots, imbeciles, feeble-minded, epileptics, and criminals. Only the worst of these are gathered up and given in charge of the State Board of Control whose work, carried on at a cost of several millions of dollars yearly, is useful and necessary but most of it is much like keeping an ambulance at the foot of a cliff to carry to the hospital the people who fall over, while the thing needed is a railing above to prevent such accidents.

A law permitting of eugenical sterilization of the unfit at large, but amply safeguarding their interests, would be placing the railing about the top of the cliff, would be preventing the seeding of trees that bear unwholesome fruit, would be humanely removing the human barberry bushes that harbor the destructive rust germs, would be sifting from the wheat the tares which should not be sown, would be weeding the human garden, breeding a better herd, drying up the springs of evil, actually purifying the polluted germ-plasm streams of life, and would be a fundamental, practical preventive measure removing defects at their source and making impossible any more hereditarily feeble-minded and such delinquent persons as Tom Johnson, all of whom together cost the people of the United States \$500,000,000 to several times that sum yearly, Minnesota's part of it being estimated at more than \$30,000 dollars daily.

Sterilization of the obviously unfit, segregation of certain others, and eugenical education carried on in Minnesota for one generation

would make it excelled by no other state in the Union. Its best types of men and women would be increased; its unfit dropped out humanely; crime would be reduced; dependency diminished; taxes greatly lowered; divorce made less frequent; homes made more congenial; the rearing of children would be improved, much disease would be prevented and our people would be made happier by the social uplift.

The opinion of practically all biologists, doctors, jurists, and thoughtful people who give any attention to the subject, is, that the lowest family strains must be prevented from procreating for the promotion of the public welfare else we may be swamped before long in a sea of mental and moral degeneracy. The situation to-day as nearly as it can be learned from World War intelligence tests and other psychological evidence is that 70 per cent of the people in general have a mental age of but thirteen years; only from 4 to 5 per cent of the people are exceptionally bright; only 3 per cent can reason well and have good judgment; 20 per cent are incapable of properly rearing children; about 4 per cent use opium or other habit-forming drugs; and about 20 per cent suffer directly or indirectly from syphilis. In 1910 there were, according to the federal census, more insane people in the institutions for their care than there were students in all the colleges and universities in the United States. The epileptics were almost as numerous as the insane while the feeble-minded far outnumbered these two groups together. If to these the high-grade morons at large be added it makes an army of six to seven millions of obviously unfit people in the United States and most of them are procreating rapidly, the fit slowly. Any person can see what the end will be if the situation goes on unchanged, for subnormal mentality is a bar to spiritual perception and to loyalty to the nation, the home and the institutions of society.