

AMERICAN LIFE DRIVES MEXICAN VISITORS INSANE

Our Brutality and Job Conditions Too Hard

By **BERTRAM D. WOLFE.**

(Staff Correspondent of the Federated Press)

MEXICO CITY, March 5.—The large number of immigrants deported from the United States to Mexico every year, were driven insane by cruelty and exploitation and neglect in the United States, concludes Dr. Luis M. Orci, health officer of the Mexican immigration department in Ciudad Juarez.

The doctor's report is a scientific one, made without animus and after a careful study of the case histories of the surprisingly large number of Mexicans who were deported because they became insane in the Land of Prosperity. Here are the salient paragraphs:

Environment Too Hard.

"Our countrymen go into an environment entirely unknown to them; language, customs, climate; infrequent cases they receive treatment that is almost brutal; later comes unemployment and the imperious necessity of bringing bread to the family. And that, in an environment so hard as that in which they find themselves located, tends to weaken more and more their minds, already exhausted by the previous suffering. All this in a body badly nourished, badly fed, and more badly clothed to support the rigors of the latitude, must in my opinion, originate functional disquickness and especially affect the brain."

Immigrants Are Workers.

Yet the imperious necessity of seeking employment, added to the sweet promises of the Enganchadores, the employment agencies that paint glowing pictures of the land of plenty and promise where the eagle screams and oil turns into gold, results in thousands of unskilled workers crossing the border every year.

They go to the beet fields, fruit regions, cotton fields, wheat harvest, Alaska fisheries, steel mills and other Yankee paradises. Sometimes they cross with their entire families.

The Imperial valley is a part of the climate-famous California in which, to quote the feudal barons there, "no white man would work." Here every year thousands of Mexican families enter to pick fruit and cotton.

Find Child Labor Here.

Child labor is more common than adult labor because every family has more children than adults. Nobody in California ever talks about enforcing the compulsory education law, every enforcement officer being too busy with criminal syndicalism. On Feb. 16, 1,500 Mexicans crossed the line at Ciudad Juarez bound for the center of the Michigan sugar beet fields. They are only the vanguard of the exodus in that direction.

Last year 879 Mexicans were deported from the United States, the overwhelming majority of them because the land of freedom of contract and unconstitutional safeguards for labor had driven them crazy. What figures has 1924 in reserve in the matter of this lamentable "balance in trade?"