Tuesday, February 7, 1939

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tent, the estimated number of prospective refugees in Europe is ten millions; and that is now attending to extraneous matters, as for instance, the numbers in other parts of the world is not more than a few hundred thousands.

Furthermore, one numbers those who are waiting for a million or so destitute in this country, and the plight of those in Europe becomes a little less drastic.

Gigantic efforts are being made to relieve the situation of our ten million, but what part of these efforts are being directed toward improving the status of these aliens at higher education—and there are thousands within our own borders who want it and need it, too.

In these days of depression when most colleges are reducing scholarly aid to native Americans, why are so many of them bending over backward to extend aid to unfortunates foreigners? It is a truly Christian act to support these refugees until they are able to get on their own feet, but it is a mistaken charity to extend our own for help we are backward in our own country.

There is no need to go so far afield to find people to help. Consider the plight of those students here at the Institute who are financially unable to bear the burden of a college education and hardship in order to get into it. These students have proved that they can appreciate and make the best of professional training in any line. Everyone can see that we are far better to devote the efforts now going to the benefit of refugees of naturally doubtful ability to the interests of a substantial body who have proved their need and capacity for making the best use of assistance.

Refugees of recognized merit—teachers, scientists, musicians, artists—who have proven their value to the world, should see that many of us are driven by a great enough enthusiasm for their field to suffer considerable privation and hardship in order to get into it. These students have proved that they can appreciate and make the best of professional training in any line. Everyone can see that we are far better to devote the efforts now going to the benefit of refugees of naturally doubtful ability to the interests of a substantial body who have proved their need and capacity for making the best use of assistance.

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