

heavily upon the Constantine case. And if we take this language at its face value, as Judge Allen took that of the Ohio constitution, the Constantine case is itself destroyed, notwithstanding the expostulations of certain of Judge Allen's colleagues. It is hard to imag-

ine that it could again enjoy the potency as an adverse precedent which it had in Michigan and California. This, being so, should at the same time blight the Kalamazoo and Sacramento cases, so far as their use as precedents in other states is concerned.

IS THE COUNTRY HEALTHIER THAN THE TOWN?

There is a general impression that the selective service law demonstrated the physical inferiority of the city man. But did war statistics really show this? And with respect to preventable diseases the country record is inferior to the town's. :: :: :: :: :: :: ::

I. THE PHYSIQUE OF THE CITY MAN GOOD IN SPITE OF WAR STATISTICS

BY RUFUS S. TUCKER

In his little volume entitled *The War with Germany*, Colonel Leonard P. Ayres declares that the examination of registrants under the selective service law showed the country boys to have made "better records than those from the cities." "One hundred thousand country boys," he says, "would furnish for the military service 4,790 more soldiers than would an equal number of city boys." Colonel Ayres does not indicate the figures upon which his conclusions are based, and the map which accompanies his book differs in many respects from the official reports of the surgeon-general and the provost marshal general. But statements of the same general tenor have been commonly made by other writers; hence it may be worth while to examine the statistical evidence upon which they seem to be based.

CROWDER BELIEVES COUNTRY BOY HAS ADVANTAGE

General Crowder, in his *Second Report*, declares that "a considerable physical advantage accrues to the boy reared in the country." This conclusion is drawn from the following table:

Men examined in selected urban regions.....	100,000
Men rejected.....	21,675
Percentage of rejections.....	21.68%
Men examined in selected rural regions.....	100,000
Men rejected.....	16,894
Percentage rejected.....	16.89%

The urban regions selected for this computation were in the cities of New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Milwaukee, Seattle, St. Louis, Cincinnati and New Orleans; the rural regions were in all states and were

chosen from those districts which had less than 1,200 registrants.¹

The report of the surgeon-general states that "defects were found only eighty-seven one-hundredths, or seven-eighths as commonly in rural as in urban districts."² But in the same report it is explained that "part of this excess of defects in cities is probably due to the more critical examination by the physicians of cities, and to a more critical grade of examiners in the camps that drew from the more densely populated regions." In this case the line between rural and urban districts was drawn by classifying 204 cities of 25,000 or more inhabitants as urban and all other districts as rural. The actual number of persons examined was 1,336,906 in the urban and 2,427,195 in the rural districts; but only about one-half of these were re-examined at the cantonments. Consequently the difference in standards of examination between urban and rural examiners (if there was any difference) was not wholly corrected.

It would seem, however, that if the camp examinations were themselves uniform and unprejudiced the rural local examiners were more careful than those in the cities, for among the 681,749 men from urban districts re-examined at the camps 283,937 (or 41.65 per cent) were found defective; while among the 1,279,943 men from the rural districts re-examined at the

camps only 456,367 (or 35.66 per cent) were found defective. At any rate a separate analysis of the results at Camps Devens, Upton, Dix and Grant shows that in each state contributing to these camps the proportion of men from rural districts found defective on re-examination was less than the proportion among urban men. The same is true if rejected men only are considered instead of all men with physical defects. We must conclude, therefore, that drafted men from the rural districts were in fact superior to drafted men from the cities in so far as physique is concerned.

URBAN MEN VOLUNTEERED EARLIER

Does it then follow, however, that the urban population as a whole, or even the urban male population of military age, is inferior to that of the rural districts? And if it does follow, is this inferiority the result of the urban environment, or of the methods of city life, or of the racial structure of the city's population? As to the first query it should be remembered that over 1,400,000 men volunteered during the war. These, we know, came in greater proportion from the urban states than from the rural ones, and very probably in greater numbers from the urban districts of each state. That the urban states furnished more than their proportion of volunteers is shown by the list of statutory enlistment credits allowed to be deducted from the gross quota of the first draft; also by the figures of voluntary enlistments to December 16, 1917, published in the *First Report* of the provost marshal general, and by the ratio of registrants in military service to the total number classified in all drafts as reported in the provost marshal general's *Final Report*. Exceptions to the rule are Michigan, Illinois, Ohio and Connecticut, urban states which had fewer volunteers and

¹ In his *First Report* General Crowder presents a table based upon 79,000 physical examinations from ten different states. This shows a ratio of rejections amounting to 28.47 per cent in urban and 27.96 per cent in rural districts. The urban districts, in this instance, are in cities of from 40,000 to 50,000 population with no large proportion of alien immigrants; the rural districts are counties in the same states containing no city of 30,000 or more.

² *Defects Found in Drafted Men* (Washington, 1920), p. 348.

several rural states which had more than the average proportion of voluntary enlistments.³

It is a well-known fact, moreover, that the National Guard, on account of the location of its armories, was mainly composed of urban men, and it is very likely that the easier access to recruiting stations caused city men to enlist in the army or the navy in greater numbers than men from the rural districts.⁴ A slight allowance for these

³ Oregon, Maine, Utah, Wyoming, Vermont, Kansas, Idaho, Nebraska, South Dakota, Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

⁴ General Crowder in his volume on *The Spirit of Selective Service* (pp. 166-167) alludes to the fact that voluntary enrolment on the inactive list of the navy kept many thousands of city youth out of the draft in the early summer of 1918 while the rural boys stayed on the farm until drafted. There can be little doubt, moreover, that a very large proportion of the officers, especially in the technical branches of the service, came from the cities.

factors would bring the physical showing of the cities to a parity with that of the country.

At any rate the physical inferiority of the urban to the rural population of the United States is by no means conclusively established by the figures which the military authorities compiled during the war. These figures leave out of account the very large number of voluntary enlistments, federalized national guardsmen, voluntary enrolments on the inactive list of the navy, and commissioned officers. Were these included it seems highly probable that the showing made by the cities would be much better. There is no conclusive evidence in the draft statistics that urban life is less healthful than rural life or that the average city man's physique is inferior to that of his fellow countryman on the farm.

II. RURAL COMMUNITIES SUFFER MORE FROM PREVENTABLE DISEASES

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THE great difficulty in attempting to draw comparisons between the health status of rural and urban dwellers on the basis of statistics alone is that the available statistical data on population, disease and defect cannot be correlated. For example, the report on population of the United States bureau of the census classifies as urban population that residing in cities and other incorporated places having 2,500 inhabitants or more and in towns of that size in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island. The report on mortality statistics of the census bureau, which covers only the "registration

area" of the United States or 82.2 of the total estimated population, classifies as city population all that in municipalities of 10,000 or more. All other parts of registration states are considered as rural. The surgeon-general's report on the examination of men at the mobilization camps during the war drew the line between the cities and rural districts as follows: All counties having only one local board were considered rural districts and those having two or more local boards were considered as cities or densely populated counties. In other words, according to this report: "The line