

PAN AMERICAN CLINIC
JOHN WILLIAM HARRIS, President
P. O. BOX 156 - DILLEY, TEXAS

*Copy 32
Chapters 12
Documents 34*

Civilization's Challenge →

Civilization's Challenge

My Fellow Countrymen of America:

Our Objective, set forth in "WHAT IS THE PAC?", is to concentrate the knowledge and skill of the Medical and Agricultural Scientists and Christian Psychologists on preparing man's character in the KNOW-HOW and the KNOW-WHY of erecting the HOME as the greatest institution of this world. This is not blowing soap bubbles.

Hear what Thomas A. Edison wrote about it:

"It is undeniable that the great quest of humanity is happiness. But was the world created to be happy? How many are truly happy?"

"What do I consider the nearest approximation to happiness of which the present human race is capable? Why, living on a farm which is one's own, far from the hectic, artificial conditions of the city . . . a farm where one gets from one's own soil what one needs to sustain life, with a garden in front and a healthy, normal family to contribute those small domestic joys which relieve a man from the business strain."

After Mr. Edison's death, Oct. 18, 1931, Mrs. Edison came to Puerto Rico and was our house guest for the New Year. She appreciated what the Polytechnic Institute of P. R. (founded by me in 1912) had accomplished for the Island's youth. She also studied my plans for what is now the PAC of Texas, my native state. Later, in her home, West Orange, N. J., Mrs. Edison gave me the above quotation, saying: "Dearie envisioned just the same ideal for the rural home as you are proposing for Texas. Use this as you like."

Henry Ford, knowing what I had done in Puerto Rico and also what I was then proposing to extend into Texas, sent me the "REPORT OF THE 1937 CONFERENCE OF SCIENTISTS held in Detroit and sponsored by the FARM CHEMURIC COUNCIL AND THE CHEMICAL FOUNDATION INC. OF N. Y. CITY. From this report I quote:

"We dare not, in the pressing problems that confront us, trade our liberty for security. In the storms and struggles that are ahead, may we seek to preserve not only the equality of opportunity and reward, may we make Christian citizenship and democracy the cornerstone on which to build.

"There is before us the challenge of developing, on American soil, the finest rural civilization this world has ever known."

And now appears in a recent number of the N. Y. Times Magazine the cheering words of Arnold J. Toynbee, the Historian. Like the prophetic vision of Isaiah quoted by the MASTER in Luke 4:18, Toynbee announces what Edison often discussed with his friend Henry Ford. I quote:

"Can we guess what the outstanding feature of our twentieth century will appear to be in the perspective of 300 years? My own guess is that our age will be remembered chiefly neither for its horrifying crimes nor for its astonishing inventions, but for its having been the first age since the dawn of civilization, some five or six thousand years back, in which people dared to think it practicable to make the IDEAL OF WELFARE FOR ALL a practical objective instead of a mere utopian dream."

Agriculture is being stressed, at present, as the basic foundation of all business. There is at present no way provided for a young man without means to buy his own farm.

The people on earth will unite in accepting PEACE ON EARTH AND GOOD WILL TO MAN, neither by creed nor by force . . . it has to come from within, the acceptance of and committal to a great human task under God . . . a task too big to be attained alone by any nation, race or individual . . . that task is the building of happy homes for all, and the settlement of trained Christian characters as owners of the HOME as the only institution universally accepted and loved.

Were I financially able I would erect a PAC in every state in the union and in every Republic along the Pan American Highway from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego.

I am but a voice. I cannot erect this first proposed PAC without the cooperation of those who want to see our Western Hemisphere inhabited eventually by progressive, productive, educated and trained Christian farmers living in their own homes, on their own soil, bought and paid for by their own produce . . . a population imbued with the spirit of the Master's injunction . . . "All things whatsoever you would that men do to you, even so do you also to them." . . . families working unitedly in one great task for the development of our western hemisphere into the finest rural civilization for which this world was created. God established the first home and placed man in it "To dress it and to keep it."

Let us erect this Pan American Clinic, Dilley, Texas . . . an institution in which the matchless advances of the medical, economical and spiritual resources are to be united in developing families for a happy, successful sojourn in their own home.

"There is before us the challenge of developing, on American soil, the finest rural civilization this world has ever known."

Signed,

December, 1951

J. WILL HARRIS