

NEWSPAPERS LAUDED, READERS ARE RAPPED

Sensational Impression of Papers Is Lack of Understanding, Sociologist Declares.

By Times Special
CHICAGO, Dec. 18.—Why is it that the ordinary newspapers account of incidents in every-day life seem sensational to the newspaper reader?

Prof. Robert E. Park of the sociology department of the University of Chicago, says it is because the newspaper reader knows so little about "this complex thing called life."

In a preface to a volume in which he analyzes the modern newspaper, Prof. Park points out that it is a truth of psychology that when anything shocks us we don't understand it.

Here are some of the professor's comments on news and newspapers.

"Humanly speaking the newspapers are about as good as they can be. If they are to be improved it will comethrough the education of the people and the organization of political information and intelligence. It is the existence of a critical

condition which converts what was otherwise mere information into news.

"Where there is an issue at stake, where, in short, there is a crisis, there information which might affect the outcome one way or another becomes 'live matter.' Live matter is news; dead matter is information."

MAYORS CAN'T WRITE

By Times Special
ILLITERATE OFFICIALS SIGN NAMES WITH CROSS.

PARIS, Dec. 18.—It is not unusual to see official documents from small French towns on which the space for the mayor's signature is filled by a cross with the regulation phrase: "States he can not write."

These illiterate mayors belong mostly to small and remote villages where it is difficult to find anyone to assume the duties of local government at small pay.

REMOTE POLICE POST

TORONTO—The world's most northerly post, also the most remote of any bureau habitation, is to be constructed next year for the royal Canadian mounted police at the far end of Ellesmere Island. Building materials and two years' supplies have been cached within easy freighting distance of the point.

Millions of acres of exhausted and neglected soil lie right at the doors of our great centers of population, he said, in Indiana, Illinois, Virginia, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Ohio, and other states not generally thought of as having a reclamation problem.

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WASTE LAND IN STATE

Secretary Work Would Reclaim Indiana Soil.

By Times Special
WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Extension of the Government's efforts to reclaim waste lands to Indiana and other midwestern States, was advocated by Interior Secretary Work in a recent address before the United States reclamation conference, meeting here.

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