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A Foreign Language Press Preceptor's View

THE FOUNDERS of the foreign language press in America without known exception, were men who were enthusiastically and wholeheartedly all for the country in which they cast their lot, and in which they labored for the good of their people, and for the general good.

But with the passing of these pioneers and with the succession of a foreignborn and foreign educated element to editorial capacity on these publications, many doctrines that would have appeared strange, and would not have been countenanced for a moment by their predecessors, have for a number of years been preached and are still being preached. Many of these doctrines will no doubt appear strange to the American reading public when they are made plain to them, whether or not they will be countenanced remains to be seen.

A brief review from the beginning of the war will enable us to a fuller understanding of the present, which is where *The Northman* takes up the subject. While the foreign language press from America's entry in the war proclaimed itself wholly loyal in carrying this country's interests to the fore, Government agents nosing into its columns soon found that such was not the case. A complete investigation revealed a direct and well-formed opposition, if not in whole, at least in part, to the American program. It then became necessary to take steps against the most vicious and render them ineffective for the duration of the war, while the larger group of less offenders was admonished to proceed along altogether different lines. There are a few notable exceptions, but on the whole it was found that the editors of the foreign language press in America held a decidedly different conception of American ideals than did the great majority of American speaking Americans.

In order not to suppress all, which would not have served the best results at the time, the Government found it advisable to establish a coaching bureau and issue a correspondence training course for those whose hearts were not in America but in some foreign land where they had acquired their education, their process of reasoning and logic—and whose mental attitude was too fixed to become American in the proper sense of the word. A bureau was established with capable American writers who were entrusted with the task of interpreting in brief editorial and comment this country's cause in such a manner as to convey the unity absolutely necessary to success. Writers of all the various nationalities represented were set

SAMPLE OF UNIFICATION MATTER FROM FOREIGN LANGUAGE INFORMATION BUREAU.

BULLETINS SENT OUT UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS.

to work translating the articles by the American writers. These were set up in type in all the different languages and a sufficient number of proofs printed of each to cover the foreign language field of about 1500 publications, and sent out with request that it be published. Then the papers were again searched to find if the request had been complied with. This program entailed the employment of a small army in itself in order to secure co-operation with the American reading people, and the attendant cost of colossal figures.

Shortly after the armistice this bureau with many others that were created for the duration of the war should have been discontinued, but it appears that the government thought it advisable to continue the foreign language bureau with the translators and writers at work, in order to continually reach the foreign field with some brief information deemed necessary, therefore the press sheets continued to go out to the foreign language papers with regularity. The continuation of this service was finally transferred to the supervision of the American Red Cross and is known today as the American Red Cross Bureau of Foreign Information Service. The following letter explains:

New York, April 28, 1920

Editor, Pacific Skandinaven,
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Sir:

The Bureau of Foreign Language Information Service of the American Red Cross has just moved its offices to our new permanent headquarters at 1107 Broadway, New York City. We would therefore ask you kindly to change our address on your exchange mailing list to conform to our new address. Kindly see to it that all of your editions are sent us regularly each week so that a proper record may be kept and due credit given. All the Norwegian language papers are now being sent us as exchanges for our weekly "clip sheet" news service, which we supply the papers free of charge.

As this institution is a continuation of the government's Committee on Public Information and the Foreign Language Governmental Information Service, Scandinavian Bureau, 95 Madison Avenue, New York, and 6 West 48th Street, New York, as well as 124 East 28th Street, New York, please strike all these addresses off your mailing list, if you still have them, and enter us on your exchange mailing list as follows:

Norwegian Section, American Red Cross, Bu-

reau of Foreign Language Information Service,
1107 Broadway, New York, N. Y.

Thanking you for your co-operation, I beg to remain,

Very truly yours,
H. Sundby-Hansen,
Manager Norwegian Section.

It now appears that writers in this bureau do not hesitate to inject their personal views and doctrines of foreign lineage, under the auspices of the American Red Cross, and under guise of approval of the U. S. Government, the President of the United States being president of the Red Cross. The text in the original of the current issue of this "clip sheet" news service is herewith presented, together with the American translation, that the American reading public may be enabled to grasp the situation and possibly the import and that those who read the original may see the fairness of the translation:

American Red Cross.
Bureau of Foreign Language Information Service.
—Norwegian Section No. 589.

FEMMEDSPROGPRESEN.

I et land som De forenede Stater, hvor den invandrede del af befolkningen udgjør en saa stor del af hele folkemængden at antallet gaar op i flere millioner, er meddelelsesmidler i andre sprog end engelsk en absolut nødvendighed. Blandt de indvandrede af første generation er der fremdeles flere millioner, som ikke er det engelske sprog mægtig og som tilfredsstillende kun kan læse og skrive sit eget morsmaal. Disse mennesker er stort seet gode og retskafne folk, som ønsker at leve i fred, arbeide, bygge sine hjem og opdrage sine barn til at bli gode amerikanske borgere.

Det er et brud paa det amerikanske samfunds- og retsbegreb at "gjøre forskjel paa folk". Hvorfor da skulle fremmedfødte ud fra de andre? Hvem har begaaet dette brud? Visselig ikke de indvandrede. Betragter man til eksempel den norske, svenske og danske indvandrede del af vor befolkning finder vi, at de kom til dette land for størsteparten med de bedste forudsætninger og en udpræget retfærdighedssans.

De havde store forhaabninger. De var begejstret for Amerika, for dets store økonomiske muligheder, for dets frie forfatning, dets jevne velstand og den formentlige fordomsfrihed, som her var raadende.

Sent og tidlig blev det tudet dem i ørene, at her er frihedens land, her er retfærdighedens tempel. Ingen vilde spørge om hvad du var, kun om hvad slags mand eller kvinde du er. Fordomme mod alt det gamle skulde være banlyst fra dette frie, oplys-