

## THE AMERICAN BALLOT AND AN ADOPTED CITIZEN'S AMERICANISM

A TRANSATLANTIC passenger steamer, bound for America with its human cargo, chiefly consisting of immigrants in the third class, hove in sight on the horizon off Sandy Hook.

An immigrant was leaning over the railing. With searching eyes he measured the skyline before him—through the mist he saw the rugged outline of America, the land of his dreams.

As the huge vessel steamed past Sandy Hook light, the mist cleared over the New York harbor. He saw the Statue of Liberty and the forest of towers and tall buildings of America's great city of New York. In this panorama he saw, as he thought, the realization of his dreams. In the new land, wealth and leisure were to come at his call. He saw himself kindly received and treated with justice and understanding everywhere.

That was several years ago. In the world of reality, the dreamland faded away.

How this immigrant found himself in America is a story of interest to native born and foreign born alike. As he tells his story today, it contains a message to all Americans. Let us tell it to you:

At first, I was bitterly disappointed. I made a mistake of supposing that I was coming to a civilization that would relieve me of all responsibilities; one that already was perfect and complete. I thought I had only to stretch forth my hand to pick the golden fruit.

It is well that I was mistaken, for my struggles made me strong. I have helped to build up America. America is in the making. What America will become depends on those who labor for it as they labor for themselves. The Declaration of Independence says there are three great rights—"Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness." But they are not things for each man to enjoy for himself—they are to share with his fellow men, whether foreign born or native born, irrespective of race or religion. If we want them, we must work for them, and work together!

First I found I had to learn the language of the country. Then I studied its customs and government. I complained of race prejudice; then I discovered that I also had prejudices against other races. As I came to know other people, to work with them and for them, my prejudices began to disappear. Now I am an American citizen and this month I shall cast my first ballot.

For this new American, citizenship has a real meaning. Trained in the American school of intelligent thinking, grounded in the principles and the ideals of America, to him the ballot is a sacred thing. His will be an intelligently marked ballot, free from prejudices, racial or religious. No selfish interest will dictate how he is to mark his ballot. He knows but one creed: **With malice towards none: with charity for all!**

The spirit of this new American is exemplary. He went out in search of the true citizenship and was amply rewarded. His reward is America's gain. His Americanization is complete. The color of his eyes, the shade of his hair, the texture of his clothes,

the place of his birth, the religion he professes and the racial strain that is his, are elements of no consequence in this man's Americanism.

Hundreds of thousands of native born and foreign born citizens in America are today casting an un-American ballot, a ballot of prejudice, malice and intolerance.

There are an alarmingly large number of citizens in Oregon who, unfortunately, have become alienated from the true course of citizenship. They, too, will cast an un-American ballot this month in the state election: a ballot of religious, racial and nationality prejudice. If they win, government for all the people in Oregon will cease but in name.

The one, who as an American citizen desires to help in the making of America should not let his personal likes and dislikes dictate the marking of his ballot. He should cast his vote intelligently, in the best interest of all the people. He should not vote just to oblige a friend whose very speech is a flame of hate and malice, nor should he follow blindly the advice of the so-called leaders. He should cast his vote for fair-minded citizens, who stand out in the open, espousing the interests of all citizens alike, regardless of race, religion or place of birth. He should vote for policies not as they favor the interests of a particular group, but as they affect the welfare of all the people. In this way he also can help to make America the ideal country of his dreams.

## NEW FEDERAL LAW CHANGES STATUS OF CITIZENSHIP FOR ALIEN WOMEN

A NEW and timely law was recently enacted by Congress and signed by the President whereby alien women no longer obtain United States citizenship through marrying an American citizen, or through the naturalization of their husbands.

That condition ceased to be satisfactory with the enfranchisement of the women, or by the adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which conferred the rights of the ballot to all the women of this land.

When the suffrage amendment became operative, hundreds of thousands of foreign-born women in America were given equal rights to determine the destiny of this nation by the use of the ballot, without having in the slightest degree met any requirements preparatory to cast an American ballot, and largely without the knowledge of our language sufficient to read even the ballot titles.

Picture and correspondence brides by the thousands, who had married American citizens of their own nationalities, living within nationality confines, only geographically a part of America, automatically became citizens, and obtained rights to decide American issues and vote over American law measures, while they hardly had learned their A. B. C. to American citizenship.

On the other hand the nineteenth amendment disfranchised thousands of American born, intelligent and patriotic women who had married foreign born men, who had, as yet, not become naturalized.

That this strange situation among our American electorate has had a serious effect upon our body politic is so evident that there is no argument necessary to prove it.

This state of affair will, to some extent, be