

# THE WESTERN American

(continuing *The Northman*)

## A MAGAZINE OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP

Devoted to the Cause of

*Americanization, Assimilation and Group Elimination; Pointing the way to a Constitutional Americanism, to Equality in Citizenship, and a better understanding between Native born and Foreign born.*

Vol. 1 Continuous  
Volume 19

NOVEMBER 1922

Number 2

## AMERICANIZATION WORK IN THE CITIES

### INTERPRETING AMERICA TO THE STRANGERS WITHIN

IF THE RANK and file of the foreign born people in America, who speak no other language than their mother tongue and able to understand but very little of America's language, fully understood what the organized Americanization movement meant to them, there would scarcely be a single alien in the United States who would not be a pupil in a class, day or night, where the American language is taught and where the proper interpretation is given the institutions of America.

If those of foreign birth, who have assumed leadership among their countrymen and hence, in a measure, are responsible for their warped state of mind and inability to progress, would cease to exploit their less fortunate nationals and stop their sneering and ridicule of the Americanization movement, there would be less room for extreme isms among Americans and no cause for organizations of native born people, taking exceptions to the foreign born who have made their home in America.

While misinterpretations of the Americanization movement have continually agitated the alien group centers, the average American has taken little stock in the movement, being, himself, by training, too indifferent regarding the mental and physical well-being of "these strangers within," to look upon it as a matter of his concern that these strangers be assimilated and, as far as possible, made to feel at home, not merely as taxpayers, but as community builders, neighbors and friends.

In spite of these impediments, the Americanization movement is taking form, and a veritable army of young, educated and truly American men and women are gradually sweeping away the ob-

stacles, the inertia, the obstinacy and the outright enmity, in its progress for better understanding of the mutual interests of native born and foreign born on the common ground of one language, one flag and one nation.

The Americanization work, which gradually has come to be an institution of community activity, particularly in the cities, has largely been carried on, at personal sacrifice, by Americans of native and foreign birth, who have heard their country's call for service in the great cause of bringing into unity the scattered and widely divergent groups of people who call themselves **Americans!**

The Americanization work has, contrary to many people's belief, had no financial support from community, state or nation. The American millionaires, who invariably have gone hunting for a worthy movement to endow with large contributions, have evidently overlooked this great cause, and the Federal Government has so far been unable to appropriate money for Americanization work. The naturalization work, under the direct supervision of the government, is evidently not considered of much more importance, due to the fact that the naturalization bureau at Washington has not had enough money to care for this important work in the respective states, rendering the examining officer unable to give the applications the proper examination and at the same time keep the naturalization docket clear.

Organized Americanization work had, as far as known, its beginning in the city of Cleveland.

Shortly after the United States declared war on