

The Immigration Question

By L. D. Mahone, A.M., Ph.D.

THE IMMIGRATION QUESTION has become one of the dominant questions of the hour. It is being debated in the fraternal order, the patriotic societies, the noon-day clubs, in the church, and congress. A few years ago no one seemed to be interested. Today every American who believes in making America what the fathers intended to make of her have something to say. It is a vital question. Because it affects every phase of our life.

Our duty at the present is two-fold, to-wit: First, that of preventing any more immigration coming

into the country until those within our borders can be assimilated; second, the educating and the making out of those within the country good citizens. The first task is one that must be attended to by the national congress; the second by all of the people. This is a work that cannot be done in a



HON. L. D. MAHONE

Author "The Destiny of the Republic," "Americanization With Facts and Plan of Procedure."

day. Through the public schools, the fraternal societies, the church and classes especially created for the alien element this work must be done. An active campaign to enlighten all of the people with respect to the facts so that congress can act with the consideration that is necessary. In this work every one can find some place where his or her might can be contributed.

There are 13,300,000 people of foreign birth on American soil. Many of them have become naturalized and to all outward appearances are making good in their adopted country; many of them have learned the English language and to the best of their ability they are measuring up to the ideals of America. The World War revealed to us the true situation, one in which the ordinary citizen had not even given the matter any consideration. When the boys were taken to the various cantonments and the required military training exacted of them it was discovered that they needed an interpreter for about every third or fourth man.

There are many reasons why the immigrants

should be kept out of America at the present. The aliens are here at the suffrance of our country. If they are not proper citizens, or if they will not live up to the ideals and traditions of America or if they violate the laws of the land, we are only doing our duty when we send them back to the place from which they came.

The racial problems brought out by the war must be corrected.

Large employers have used and are seeking the opportunity of getting many thousand more of aliens into the country under the pretense of lack of labor in their industry when as a matter of fact they are looking for cheap labor. These same men not more than a year ago went before congress and demanded a high protective tariff and among their reasons was that they wanted to pay the American wage. They were successful in getting the highest protective measures ever passed by congress.

The class of immigrants who have been coming to our shores since 1875, are not those impressed with the high ideals of America but come from races that have for many thousands of years shown an utter incapacity to appreciate the traditions and purposes in the building up of a great nation. The theory that Americans can be made out of any kind of racial material is wrong. The arrival of immigrants of low social status has an unfavorable effect on the birth rate of the higher types. Disease is brought over and transmitted to Americans.

A large part of the immigrants now coming from Europe come from the mongrel populations and this spells failure to any people who tries to mix with them. The fact that but one American out of ten is a foreman today should interest those who labor. The theory that the "Melting Pot" would take care of the aliens has been a dismal failure. The pot is "stewing" but there is no melting. An effort to stop a Kansas cyclone with your old hat will be just as effective as trying to make something out of thousands of these people who are within our borders. They do not have the capacity nor the inclination. A recent survey of Oregon of which I was a member, shows that we have 70,000 insane, near-insane, feeble minded, etc., in Oregon. The foreign element dominates in these unsightly figures.

We have "Big Business" and the steamship companies to fight in preventing the immigrants from coming to America. The coming in large numbers means millions of dollars to these interests. "Big Business" has a wonderful capacity in displaying the flag and proclaiming in the press and from the platform their high aspirations for America but they keep their Shylock hands beneath the folds of the flag to catch the almighty dollar.

The present congestion of our cities will not permit further additions being made to these millions who are now a menace to good government and to

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