

At the Post of Duty!

THE MAN who can not read and write the language of the land of which he is a citizen, except where physical disability constitutes a bar, whether he holds such citizenship by right of birth or by right of naturalization, is not properly qualified to exercise the franchise of a sovereign citizen in a republic.

Hundreds of thousands of foreign born who obtained citizenship in the "good old days" when citizenship was considered a cheap thing are unable to read and write the language of the land of which they are citizens and a great many of them are even unable to make themselves understood in the tongue that Americans speak.

The only intelligence on American subjects they are able to obtain is that which they read, among the news of the old country and of their nationals in this country, in the foreign language publications in their own tongue.

Individually these people may be alright, collectively they constitute a menace to the American ballot until they proceed to gain the intelligence with which they may be able to defend their post of citizenship as Americans among Americans in America.

A joint resolution calling for a constitutional amendment to make possible the enactment of a literacy test law calling for a reasonable knowledge of America's language in reading and writing to be applied to American citizens in Oregon before they may be permitted to register and vote, passed the Oregon State Senate unanimously the other day. The House, no doubt, will concur and as the Governor is favorable to raising our standard of citizenship in Oregon the matter will, before the session ends, stand ratified, subject to approval of the citizens of Oregon at the next general election.

Let the majority of our citizens express their approval at the next general state election.



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H. J. Langoe.....President
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G. B. Hegardt
B. G. Skulason
H. J. Langoe

Phone Broadway 6600

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