

# 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

JANUARY 1923

Number 4

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## SAFEGUARDING OUR NATURALIZATION LAWS EASY ROADS TO CITIZENSHIP MUST BE CLOSED

IF THE AMERICAN people who are clamoring for a higher standard of citizenship and demanding stringent naturalization laws and their enforcement, made it their business to attend the naturalization hearings two or three times a year, they would, by their presence at least, convince the courts and the examiners that they had as much interest in the court proceedings dealing with the admission of aliens into citizenship as they have in the trial of a bootlegger, a burglar, or a felon. When a case is called for trial the judge and the attorneys in the case may well judge the importance of their case, so far as the public is concerned, by the number of spectators present. If the benches in the rear of the court room set aside for the public are well filled, the judge and the attorneys will be alert and conscious of the fact that the public for some reason or other is vitally interested in the proceedings; if the benches are empty they are equally certain that the case under consideration is of no public interest and such a trial becomes dull and uninteresting to court attaches, judge and barristers.

If you ever chanced by accident to walk into a court room where naturalization proceedings were in progress you probably felt an immediate urge to walk right out again before you should become smitten with the drowsy feeling prevailing in the court room. Invariably the judges of the courts have in the past looked upon the naturalization proceedings as matters foreign to their courts and the hearings have by many judges been looked upon as an injury to the dignity and importance of the bench. For that reason the judges have in a large number of cases

shown their indifference by hunching down in their chairs letting the chin rest heavily on the breast and the jurist's slow breathing would indicate that the court had taken a mental recess, leaving the examiner and the clerk of the court to expedite matters. Had the public evinced an interest in these proceedings and filled the spectators' rows in the room the examinations of applicants for citizenship should long ago have become important court proceedings and the alien misfits who hold United States citizenship today should not alone have been minus their claim to protection against deportation, but thousands of the taxpayers' dollars that have been spent for their care and custody in feeble-minded institutions, in houses of correction, in hospitals for criminally insane and in state prisons, would have been saved, besides that many innocent American boys and girls who have followed these vermin on the primrose path would possibly have been leading clean, respectable and useful lives.

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Under the naturalization regulations it is required that the names, address and nationality of the applicants for citizenship and the names of their witnesses be posted conspicuously for ninety days, before the final hearing, in the United States clerk's office, so that the information shall be available to all citizens interested in safeguarding against those being admitted whom they may know to be unfit for citizenship. It is safe, however, to say that not one citizen in a thousand takes the time to drop in and look over the list between naturalization hearings. Citizens not alone have the right to object to