

the admission of an unfit alien but are looked for to assist the naturalization bureau in securing such information, otherwise difficult to obtain. This public record in the United States clerk's office, in Multnomah county, and in the county clerk's office in all other counties of the State of Oregon, should be carefully scrutinized by all citizens so that as far as possible no one should be admitted whose character and past life constitutes a bar.

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The lack of interest shown by the American people in the naturalization of aliens in America constitutes a national crime against posterity only in a measure checked by the enactment of congress in 1906 of the first national code of uniform regulation of the naturalization of aliens throughout the United States and the establishment of a national Bureau of Naturalization under the Department of Labor.

While Richard K. Campbell immediately, by appointment, assumed charge of the new and important bureau at Washington, D. C., as Commissioner of Naturalization, the vast detail work in establishing naturalization districts, qualifying examiners and setting the bureau machinery in motion, became the task of Raymond F. Crest, appointed Chief Deputy Commissioner of Naturalization.

The appropriations for the bureau, one of the new and novel experiments of the government, were very limited and did not permit of the establishment of an office of naturalization examiner in each of the respective states of the Union. Several states had to be districted into units in order to make it possible to extend a semblance of jurisdiction of the bureau throughout the country.

The northwestern district, comprising Montana, Northern Idaho, Oregon and Washington was assigned to John Speed Smith, who immediately after the establishment of the bureau assumed charge under the title of chief naturalization examiner for this district, establishing his headquarters at Seattle.

Naturalization hearings in the courts in Oregon were, after that, with long intervals, conducted by a deputy examiner sent from Seattle, until Mr. Smith in 1913 secured from Washington the appointment of Henry Hazard as naturalization examiner for Oregon under the supervision of the chief examiner of this district. The result was that naturalization hearings could be held with more frequency in the Oregon courts.

The new naturalization laws and regulations when put into practice met, at the outset, with a storm of protest from the aliens and the public at large as well as from many of the judges and court functionaries who formerly had handled naturalization in their own way.

The old method of naturalization was indeed a farce, a huge joke with tears back of it. In most of the courts where citizenship was doled out to anyone for the asking, a cheaply printed sheet of paper, given the name of certificate, was handed the new citizen. In any number of courts no record of such naturalization was kept and as the county clerks in many instances made no entries of the proceedings and issu-

ance of papers, the charges for which only helped to swell the emoluments to the clerk holding the office, the value of these papers invariably ceased if they ever became lost as the victims of these farcial citizenship proceedings in most cases were unable to prove that such proceedings had ever taken place. Any number of foreign born people who have been naturalized somewhere in America under the old system and unfortunately have lost the paper attesting that such proceedings had taken place, have been unable to prove their claims by any record in the county where the naturalization took place. To regain this status of citizenship they have been forced to go through the formalities of a renaturalization.

In spite of these shortcomings of the old system and the abuses incidentally practiced, it is quite difficult to make some people understand just why the new system and why an alien should pass an examination to prove that he is sufficiently familiar with the American institutions and principles in government to "qualify" for citizenship, after having lived for five years in this country and by length of residence having become entitled to citizenship.

And today, more than sixteen years since the enactment of the naturalization law, many Americans even look upon the requirements under this law as unnecessary "formalities." This view it may be safely said is reflecting the general consensus of opinion until this day among the foreign born.

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In 1918 Mr. Hazard was called to Washington, D. C., where he was appointed chief naturalization examiner in the Bureau of Naturalization. As his successor to the post of naturalization examiner for Oregon, Mr. Raymond F. Crest, selected Mr. V. W. Tomlinson, a young attorney of this state, who has made an enviable record as an examiner during the trying period since the war.

The post war problems that followed the cessation of hostilities gave the naturalization bureau many added burdens. Shortly after Mr. Tomlinson took charge of the examiner's office the act relating to the naturalization of service men was passed. This alone, for a time, doubled the work of the office. Aliens who had claimed exemption from military service in the army of Uncle Sam, many of whom had had their Declaration of Intention legally cancelled in order to lay claim to their alien citizenship rights, yet had chosen to remain in this country, suddenly experienced a change of heart when the war was over and realizing their unfortunate situation as alien slackers, rushed to the naturalization offices to file application for citizenship anew. These applications and cases needed special investigation. The filing office of the military questionnaires at Washington, held the only source of proof in a large number of these cases where the applicant would go on the witness stand and swear that he had not claimed exemption from service. Mr. Tomlinson has always made it a rule in all cases of applicants of service age to request their military questionnaire from Washington. This document has in innumerable cases proved the testimony of an applicant false by his own writing and signature.