

## Americanization Movement, the Great National Unity Agency

WHILE STRIFE between opposing political, religious and fraternal factions in the cities and in the rural communities, throughout the nation, has seriously interfered with many community interests involving the greater good to the greater number, one movement of potential possibilities for good to the citizens of this land has been able to steer clear of the factional shoals and unite people from all warring factions in a common bond for a common purpose, that of promotion better citizenship through Americanization.

Here and there throughout the nation, men and women, who had come to realize that America's national future was insecure unless the American people could be made to rally to an All-American movement for national unity, began immediately after the conclusion of the war to call public attention to the alienation process that was gaining a strong foothold among the people of foreign nationalities in America.

Movements of intolerant nationalistic character fed and nurtured the growing unrest among the foreign born and America saw immediately after the war the development of a group consciousness of nationality, creed and race, that had never been known before in this country.

In the midst of this strife and struggle, intolerance and hatred, men and women imbued with true American patriotism responded to the call for the All-American unity movement. In cities and towns throughout the country, citizens from all walks of life banded themselves together to promote tolerance, better understanding and mutuality of interest between all races, creeds and nationalities. They pledged themselves to promote helpful agencies where the native born could meet the foreign born on a common level, cultivating his nobler qualities and facilitating educational requirements, the stepping stone to intelligent citizenship and true allegiance.

From a small beginning the Americanization movement has gradually assumed proportions that are giving promise of national recognition for the only agency through which national unity can successfully be worked out.

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When a handful of men and women in the city of Portland, interested in the Americanization movement, met about three years ago to discuss the plans of a city wide movement for Americanization they did not realize that they had struck the keynote of harmony in citizenship building in this city. Invitations to organizations, in this city having an interest in the movement, to send representatives, met with hearty response and in less than two years the movement was well under way, with Protestants and Catholics, Gentiles and Jews, all harmoniously working together to promote a kindly and helpful contact with the foreign born.

It is safe to say that the Portland Americanization Council today, through its representatives, can reach

further through organized channels than any other organization in this state.

The first officers elected in the Council have been continued throughout until the present time. Mr. L. R. Wheeler, one of the publishers of The Portland Telegram, is president; Mr. Jacob Kanzler, judge of the Court of Domestic Relations, is vice-president; Miss Anne Mulheron, Librarian of the Portland Public Library, is secretary, and Mr. H. Langoe, editor The Western American Magazine, is treasurer. Members of the executive committee, together with the above named officials, are Dr. Norman F. Coleman, executive official of the four L organization; Mr. V. W. Tomlinson, United States Naturalization Examiner for Oregon and A. M. Gray, superintendent of the Public Night Schools.

The management of Portland's Community Chest gave last year recognition to the Portland Americanization Council's work, including it among its beneficiaries to an amount of \$3000 yearly.

Last October Dr. Edward O. Sisson, professor of philosophy at Reed College, at the request of the Council, accepted the position of non-salaried director to have charge of the Council's Americanization work in cooperation with the executive committee. Offices were subsequently opened on November 1st, in 335 Chamber of Commerce building, and Miss Catharine A. Bradshaw, an experienced welfare worker, was engaged to take charge of the office as paid Field Secretary under the direction of Dr. Sisson.

The Council's work among the foreign born has been directed towards friendly social contact and to create interest in American language education and citizenship training in the Public Night Schools.

Among the organizations represented in the Portland Americanization Council are the Daughters of the American Revolution; the Federated Women's Clubs; the Y. M. C. A.; the Y. W. C. A.; the W. C. T. U.; the Parent-Teachers' Association; the Knights of Columbus; the B'nai B'rith; the University Women's Club; the City Club; the American Legion; the Spanish War Veterans; the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the latter organizations' ladies' auxiliaries, the Methodist laymen's missionary movement; the Central Labor Council and many others.

One of the noteworthy undertakings of the Council last year was the staging of a grand naturalization ceremony on Washington's birthday, February 22nd. For this occasion Federal Judge Wolverson consented to conduct the United States District Court in naturalization proceedings on the spacious stage of the Portland municipal auditorium. The foreign born of the city were given special consideration for this occasion, the entire lower floor of the auditorium being reserved for them, that they might witness the public reception of friends and relatives who in the number of nearly one hundred, of many nationalities, were officially inducted into citizenship with solemn and appropriate ceremonies. The occasion was one