

## Uncle Sam Is Checking Up On Some Disturbing Elements Within

LEADERS of foreign language organizations and groups in America, unable from time to time to stem the tide of Americanization inroads have of recent years found it necessary to call upon their native countries for assistance and this "call from Macedonia" to "come over and help us," it is safe to say, never goes unheeded in the land of their nativity. Hence, the constant stream of orators, of greater and lesser lights, mostly of the lesser, from the old world who at regular intervals make the nationality group circuits, "drumming up" fatherland interests among their nationals, painting pictures designed to awaken a feeling of "home-sickness" not particularly conducive to contentment with the new homeland or to create any real determination to make ideal American citizenship the main objective.

Whether it is the fascinating picture of moonlit nights along the romantic Adriatic, the Mediterranean or the Aegean Sea shores, where the swains as of yore are singing their amorous songs of love to the maiden's fair of sunny Italy or Greece, or it is the glory of a northern land bathed in the glowing light of the midnight sun spreading its magic carpet of red and golden rays across the bosom of the mighty ocean from its orb in the northern horizon to the shore lines of the rugged coast dotted with beautiful islands and inlets with peaceful little homes, the effect is the same, it quickens the pulse, it creates a longing, a bitter longing, a greater determination than ever to "keep the faith," to preserve a heart allegiance to this land of childhood, the land, however, for most of them, never to be. This innocent agitation has a tendency to develop resentment among the foreign born, resentment against every happy being of this new homeland in which they are but strangers, because they permit themselves to be blinded against its wondrous beauty, because they refuse to go beyond the group confine in search of true understanding, because they never try to learn the language properly and to interpret the music in the laughter of happy carefree children at play, or the smiles and kindly greeting of American acquaintances.

The "Nordmandsforbundet," an association of Norwegians throughout the world, with headquarters at Christiania, has, according to Norwegian newspapers, engaged the Norwegian author, Johan Bojer, to go to the United States to lecture to the Norwegians in America. He will lecture in this country, under the auspices of the Nordmandsforbundet, in conjunction with the nationwide organization in America, the "Sons of Norway." It is said that his lectures, which will be in Norwegian, will deal with the Norse legends and the fishing districts of Lofoten.

It is not very long ago since this organization sent one of its official heads, Dr. Gade from Christiania to lecture to Norwegians in the colony centers in America, under the same auspices. The announcements of his coming revealed as little as the announcement of Bojer's coming, that he was to make

any suggestions to the Norwegians, about to be assimilated as Americans, to keep their "nationality lamps bright and burning," above all else. Yet, that was Dr. Gade's suggestion—we prefer to call it propaganda—in his lecture(?) to the Norwegians of Portland. In his speech of Norway he stressed Norwegian nationalism to a point of distraction, kindling the consciousness of that nationality to the best of his ability.

Dr. Gade, a very astute little gentleman, trained in the art of diplomatic propaganda, made caustic references to our acclaimed "one hundred per cent Americans" whom he had encountered while in America. He had "even run across" Norwegians who "preferred to be called Americans." In order to sufficiently ridicule those "Americanized" Norwegians he stated in his Portland lecture that he asked them this question: "When you stand alongside of a Pole, a Russian, an Italian and a Greek, claiming as much, how do you feel then about being a hundred per cent American?" "Concluding his address the doctor did condescend that it might be perfectly all right for Norwegians to become citizens of America, while he appealingly admonished them "not to forget to be Norwegians first."

The Nordmandsforbundet was not organized for the purpose of instilling disaffection in the hearts of Norwegians who have become citizens of other countries. On the contrary, it was founded for the purpose of instilling greater efforts to achieve honorable success, in the countries to which they had emigrated, by making the magazine of the association a messenger between Norwegian-born citizens of every land. In this way the association hoped to be of world-wide benefit to the present generation of the Norse people of whom a larger number than ever before have gone out in the world seeking greater opportunities than the land of their birth had to offer.

While we at the time did not publicly take issue with Dr. Gade, we feel, in view of the fact that another emissary of the "Forbundet's" cause is coming to America, that the "Nordmandsforbundet" should censor Mr. Bojer's speech before he leaves Norway and see to that he "sticks" to his subject as announced and admonish him not to inject any of the Dr. Gade brand of "Norwegian first of all" gospel as an antidote to the Americanization of his countrymen who have come here and made America their home.

Generous to a fault, Uncle Sam has patiently listened to these lurid tales of foreign emissaries and interpreters within, robbing these children who have sought him for opportunity and protection of the happiness and contentment they are entitled to as members of his family, a family too heterogeneous as a result of outside interference.

Gradually the light is dawning. Uncle Sam is doing a lot of thinking these days. The propagandist at home and from abroad should be able to read a new determination in the countenance of Uncle Sam. A house cleaning is due most any day, for Uncle Sam is not only peeved, he is getting sore, mighty sore.