

sion to the imaginative brain of most foreigners. They have not yet learned the cold, hard, practical way we Americans do things. They have been used to pomp and ceremony and expect it. Therefore, the greatest step of their lives should not be so matter of fact. We propose that for April 27th of each year, and for as many other days as local conditions will permit, a real ceremony of initiation into American citizenship to be held in each community, along the general lines of the following:

1. Have as large a class as possible to take the oath.
2. Have both male and female, with the children present.
3. Have the place of the ceremony decorated with American colors only.
4. Make the ceremony as impressive and fitting to the occasion as local talent and conditions will permit. Have Veterans present in uniform, and men of the Service, if possible.
5. Have at least one address by a competent official who will outline the real duties of American citizenship and the opportunities thereof; that the candidates are taking the greatest step of their lives and that they are expected to be good citizens; that as long as they are they will be protected by the Country and the Flag; that they cannot be good citizens and cling to the hyphen. Distribute copies of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States printed in American and their old language that they may better understand it; impress upon them that they had better learn the language of our country and customs as soon as possible.
6. At the beginning of the taking of the oath ceremony have the flags of their fatherlands displayed; immediately before the oath is administered furl them with appropriate remarks, and then with the playing of the National Anthem unfurl the Stars and Stripes with the most impressive ceremony possible; exact a salute to the Colors; teach them true respect to the Flag and hand them a copy of "Etiquette of the Stars and Stripes" so that they will know.
7. Give them copies of America and the National Anthem and teach them how to render respect to both the song and Flag.
8. Sometimes during the day or evening after the ceremony give them a reception of welcome such as they will understand and feel that they are genuinely welcome as long as they are loyal and useful citizens. Instruct them where to come for advice and help, and treat them as comrades in citizenship.

It is a commendable outline for appropriate observance of this important event in the life of a foreign born, when he becomes naturalized and to all intent and purposes is becoming an American.

The recommendation that April 27th be made a nationwide Americanization day, sponsored by the V. F. W. organization, serves another purpose, that of commemorating the birth, the life and the name of one of America's greatest citizens, Ulysses S. Grant.

The reasons why the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States have taken up Americanization work through a large national committee are set forth in the following definite points:

1. To make America better for Americans and make Americans better for America, and "Americans" mean the people of the United States.
2. To commence with the school children and inculcate true patriotism within them.
3. To teach and train the young to believe in the principles for which our ancestors fought and for which they made sacrifices.
4. To make an effort to revise school text books on American History to conform with our sincere belief in the worthy traditions of our ancestors.
5. To make our citizenship desirable and eliminate the undesirable alien.
6. To protect and substantially maintain our American industries.
7. To protect American ideals and foster the principles laid down by the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

8. To support the Constitution of the United States and avail ourselves of its protection.

9. To keep our public schools clean, pure and free from politics, maintain the highest standard of efficiency and not be hampered with the influence of politics or matters sectarian. Let the young be taught the slogan which we advocate—"One Flag, One Country and One Language."

10. To train our citizens for useful peace time vocations and the pursuit of happiness at the same time reminding them of the necessity for preparedness.

The V. F. W. thru this committee is pledged to do everything within its power to eliminate the hyphen in organizations composed of residents or citizens of the United States.

To endeavor to bring about the speaking of the language of our country at all times and in all places within the boundaries of the United States.

To use our utmost efforts thru legislation and other means to insist that the alien population of this country prepare to become citizens or prepare to leave the country until they change their minds, and furthermore, that all aliens who for cause have been refused citizenship be at once deported.

Those who are scanning the Americanization programs of every source for the purpose of finding fault may register their objections and brand the program as a coercive program and therefore wrong in principle insofar as it does not sustain the "right" of anyone to live indefinitely in America without citizenship or knowledge of our language; but every true and loyal American citizen, while considerate of all others and their "rights" is fully in sympathy and accord with the V. F. W. and their program to make America better for all those who have a valid claim either by birth or by having renounced their former allegiance in favor of an honest, heartfelt allegiance to America. Those who want to share these rights should begin to live up to the spirit of the American citizenship in which there is no compromise and no place for foreign concessions.

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The Portland "Over the Top" Post of V. F. W., with over one thousand active members, the boys who only recently were out there in no man's land in France fighting our cause, have made arrangements to observe the V. F. W. Americanization day on the evening of April 27th at the Lincoln High School auditorium and are asking general participation among foreign born and native born. Fred W. Angell is the present commander of the Post. The program will consist of an Americanization address by Clark P. Bissett of the faculty of the Washington University, several musical numbers and four or five short speeches by naturalized citizens. The local committee in charge are John W. Jones, chairman; Dean H. Dickinson, Aleck Karahales and Dr. James Walsh.

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The Veterans of Foreign Wars are through representation in the Portland Americanization Council closely affiliated with the general Americanization program in Portland and the Council will in turn co-operate with the V. F. W. in their noble work to exemplify the spirit of citizenship and to join with the service men in extending the hand of fellowship.

At the close of a little leaflet issued by the V. F. W., which contains in brief some excellent patriotic thoughts for the men who but recently fought for

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