

EDITORIAL

TRAINING FOR AMERICANIZATION WORK

THE PORTLAND center summer session of the University of Oregon will this year among the many courses taught include a course of training for Americanization workers.

Dr. Ralph P. Boas, director of Americanization in Springfield, Massachusetts, will be the instructor in the Americanization course.

The course has been added at the request of the Portland Americanization Council with the view of overcoming one of the difficulties connected with Americanization work in this city and state, finding people competent as well as willing to engage in this great cooperative movement to bring the true spirit of America into the hearts and homes of the foreign born.

Few people in America have had such wide experience in this field of thought as Dr. Boas who is generally considered an eminent authority on the subject of solving the group problem and bringing about a more rapid process of assimilation and bridging the chasm between foreign and native born in America.

It is thought likely that organizations out of Portland who are interested in the Americanization movement will show their interest in this summer school course sufficient to pay for a scholarship and designate some willing Americanization worker as the beneficiary of such scholarship.

Among the recommendations of the Oregon University Americanization course, as outlined, is the statement from City School Superintendent D. A. Grout, who says:

America is the product of its immigrants. Our continuing problem has been the assimilation of those coming into the United States with the purpose of becoming future citizens. If this problem is to be solved successfully, serious thought must be given to providing trained teachers for the work.

Genuine Americans believe that all men have equal rights in life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We are a freedom-loving and a home making people. Our democratic ideals and beliefs must find their way into the minds and hearts of our future citizens.

The greatest present need in this city is more teachers and leaders who have been trained for this type of work. We rejoice that the University of Oregon is planning to contribute so helpfully to the cause by offering extension courses in its summer school for the purpose of developing trained teachers who will understand the difficulties and be able properly to organize and to direct the teaching of those who are ambitious to become worthy citizens of the greatest and best type of present-day human government.

In a city where more than three hundred thousand people live within the incorporate limits, there is room for work of this nature and it should be carried on by people having a thorough understanding of both the technical and the practical side of the situation to bring about the intelligent cooperation and coordination of all the individual units that constitute such a vast population, in the interest of better citizenship and a better community.

In our every day life there is reason to believe that

we in the past have shown altogether too little concern in the life of our fellow beings who labor day by day alongside of us in the shops and mills and live next door in city suburbs and apartment dwellings.

A genuine effort is today being made throughout the country to take in the slack, begin measuring up and take an interest in our fellow workers and neighbors, even though they may not be of our particular nationality, creed or race, or stand on the accepted social level with us, in order that we as fellow citizens may have something actually in common of what the term implies.

The proper spirit of neighborliness will remedy many of the domestic ills we complain of today.

More than forty of Portland's civic educational patriotic organizations pledged to the cause of Americanization and affiliated in the Portland Americanization Council, are expected to have some one of their members take this course so that they may have a trained representative in the movement of organized Americanization work, in schools, in shops and community group centers, when the indoor activities of social service in this city begins in the fall.

The scholarship tuition for this course is \$12.50. Enrollments are now taking place in the office of the Oregon University extension department in room 652 in the Multnomah county court house, in this city.

The only requirement for enrollment is a student's ability to do the work, but university credit toward graduation is available only under the usual regulations of the university. "Hearers" and others wishing to benefit by class instruction without preparing all assigned work and without taking the examinations, will register as do other students.

The registration fee is the only expense connected with the course aside from the purchase of text books and the necessary expenditures for carfare in connection with the work assigned in the course.

Additional information may be obtained by calling the university office, phone Main 3575. Anyone interested in Americanization work, having the time available, will find this course of great benefit to themselves as it will aid them in making life brighter and better, somewhere and somehow, for someone who by force of circumstances is living isolated where shadow and gloom have their harbor and where the sunshine of life is but a casual visitor.

In our later day progress, in the direction of excelling one another, we may have given the impetus to some worthy and highly beneficial developments aiding the human family, but when the spirit of excellence has developed a maddening disregard for the safety of human life, the evidence of which is noticeable on every hand, then it is obvious that the vehicle of progress has gained an unexpected momentum we are going to find it hard to check. The crazed thrill-seeking individuals who laugh at death at every turn and crossing may cheat the grim reaper once in a while but the game is a losing one for everybody save the sensational story hunter, the undertaker, the grave-digger and the tombstone-maker. Recklessness is a dangerous degree of insanity we still continue to license by granting death-defying individuals the right to control dangerous motive power, while we lock up harmless individuals not strictly "right," who would risk their own to save another life in danger. Due regard for life and property is a human quality apparently of small concern with some of us and in danger of slipping away from most of us, unless we begin seriously to apply the brakes.