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AMERICAN

A MAGAZINE OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP

RESPONSIBILITY AND REMEDY FOR SOME
INFRACTIONS OF THE AMERICAN LAWS

WHEN THE foreign born residents, through ignorance of our laws and because we have neglected to instruct and impress upon their minds the importance of observing the legal and moral principles of America, are caught in acts of violations of our municipal, state and national statutes and penalized for their transgressions, a charge of contributory guilt may from a moral standpoint be properly placed against the American citizenry at large. Having failed to take proper interest in these strangers who have been given the privilege to come and make their homes in America, to seek in this new land, in exchange for honest toil, the measure of happiness for which all humanity yearns, a degree of responsibility rests upon EVERY AMERICAN for their shortcomings, their infractions and their failure to grasp the importance of a literal application of the American code of conduct, their failure to make proper distinction between right and wrong, between liberty and license. This responsibility extends to all our citizens; it includes the officers of the law, the public prosecutor, the judge who passes sentence, the mayors and city councils of the municipalities, the governors and legislatures of the states, the president and the congress of our nation. Failure to establish facilities to train the mind of these strangers commensurate with our highly efficient means of practical training of the hand to perform the tasks assigned to them, constitutes ground for a blanket indictment against the American people, containing charges of moral delinquency that could never be adequately disproven before the tribunal of American justice, at the bar of American conscience.

Contributors to this nation's wealth, its progress and its achievements, these strangers within, who largely perform the menial tasks in every field, are entitled to American justice, tolerance and a square deal. They are entitled to educational facilities in proportion to the wealth they have produced. There should be a willingness on the part of the Americans to right this injustice of the past. The time has come for all Americans to give earnest thought to concrete, simplified, COMPULSORY educational plans for the intellectual development of every foreign born adult resident of America and the establishment of adequate facilities for putting them into practice. We should cease wasting time in antagonism and instead demand that our government forthwith set in motion a nationwide machinery of educational scope to instruct the foreign born intelligently in the language, the fundamentals, the history and the laws of America.

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PORTLAND, OREGON