

opinion, at large in America during the war, which put all Germans in the same class.

In order that this injustice never again shall be done against any American of foreign birth, there should be a wholesome and vigorous coöperation on the part of all American citizens of foreign birth to check up on the "freedom" of foreign language expression in America. This would go a long ways toward preventing that a stigma should again become attached to the very name of a citizen's nationality, on account of the misdeeds committed by a few mentally unassimilable individuals, converts to the un-American creed so freely preached in the native country's language press that is issued in this country.

There should never again come the day in America that a foreign born citizen should feel that his citizenship was on trial on account of his nationality and that he should feel inclined for that reason to repudiate his place of birth among the people of which he has become a part. Such instances were too numerous in America during the war.

These repudiations were perhaps in no instance motivated by a desire on the part of any such citizen to erase from his own mind, if it were possible, the memory of the land of his birth or with any regret that he had sprung from the soil and the source he did, but it served a purpose of expediency (for business and social reasons mostly), to keep the esteem of fellow Americans and save what has the greatest value to any American citizen—unquestioned equality rights.

There may be neither valid nor sufficient reason for any set or group of native Americans to exclude the foreign born from close confidential affiliation on the common ground of patriotic citizenship, but the cause for such action on the part of the overzealous natives may again be traced to the work of these perfidious burrowing toads who claim citizenship but make their living by that part of their nationality contingent which has consigned itself to remain in the immigrant stage, and eventually obtain, in lieu of "faithful service," a royal decoration from the foreign potentate for whom they reserved a secret allegiance.

The Western American has a collection of foreign language press expressions of recent issue. Some of these will perhaps show us why some foreign born have not been very anxious to become citizens until public opinion made it rather unpleasant for them to be known as having lived half their lives as aliens in America and why others again have become bolshevists, I. W. W. and most anything else imaginable, save that of becoming Americans.

Aside from "keeping the home fires" of the foreign countries bright and burning, some of the foreign language papers are giving considerable editorial space to amuse the foreign language readers at the expense of "Americans."

Whatever Americans think, say and do, is evidently so "sidesplitting" to at least some of the foreign language editors, that they can not refrain from indulging in a little "innocent" humor to make their readers laugh with them at the funny antics of the Americans.

Here is a sample from an editorial in one of last

month's issues of "Reform," a Norwegian language weekly in Eau Claire, Wisconsin:

The immigration question pops up ever so often. The great industries are suffering from labor shortage. On the other hand we have the "patriotic" elements who are troubling themselves because so many people come to America who can not speak English and who therefore necessarily must be regarded as low down and ignorant beings suffering from natural anarchistic tendencies. Continually there are the labor organizations, opposed to immigration of labor, because they are afraid of wage reductions.

But now we have also come to the point—have in fact always been—that the heaviest labor is being performed by Negroes and immigrants. Even today you find Italians and Finns in the copper and iron mines, Hungarians and Poles in the coal mines, people from the Baltic provinces in the stockyards and packinghouses, the Irish and the Scandinavians in the logging camps and sawmills and it is said that the fishermen along the Alaskan coast are 95 per cent immigrated Norwegians. Almost all tradesmen are Germans and Scandinavians.

The appeal in our school system is, away from common labor. Even our second generation and almost the entire third generation of Norwegians (in America) have been educated away from physical labor and the situation is identical with other nationalities.

And there you are. The "undesirable" immigration is just what we need the most. Of hightoned people with higher school education and knowledge of our language we have a plenty. There are lots of boys with high school education going idle while the big industries are in need of men to do physical labor. There are many idle girls with good school education; but it is almost impossible to obtain a servant girl even for good pay. In the cities parents are well satisfied if their grown girls can earn enough to clothe themselves by employment in stores and offices.

So it is not so surprising that the immigrant question is

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