A MAGAZINE OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP

THE AMERICAN PUBLIC SCHOOL AND ITS RELATION TO THE IMMIGRANT

WHEN the common people decided to sustain public education by public taxation and place the American public school on par with the privately sustained educational institutions, bringing FREE education within the reach of all, they struck a deadly blow to the old world system of class arrangement through education, which had found its way into the new world, and established the first base to permanency of America's democracy. To sustain the public school it has never been necessary to violate the fundamental American principles of personal liberty and rights, and the choice between the public, the private or the parochial school, has in the past been wisely left to parental preference. The wisdom of this plan will never be satisfactorily disputed by spasmodic and sporadic repudiation in form of compulsory state legislation or community regulation. America's public school is safe and secure if we introduce no false standards and continue to practice and teach the true tenets of our democracy, Make the school respond to a still greater need of public education by opening every public school house in every district and city suburb throughout the land where aliens, who do not speak the language of America, live isolated and largely ostracised by the American citizenry at large.

If the district school houses are open to the children of alien parents whose educational requirements are mediate, they should be open to the adult immigrant whose educational needs are immediate. Failure to provide for the education of alien immigrants has cost us millions of dollars and untold numbers of lives. If we were to employ a few more teachers to help them to live intelligent and useful lives in America, we should be able to employ a proportionately less number of policemen, prosecutors, judges and jail keepers with an additional saving in jury and witness fees, in courts and state institutions.