

mendations should be nullified by another which seems so foreign to the spirit of American life and so at variance with our national traditions and ideals. The slightest sketch of any phase of the subject we have under discussion would at the present time be miserably imperfect if it were to omit a reference to the proposed annual registration of aliens by public school authorities. In the Secretary of Labor's annual report, we note the term "registration" has been softened by the substitution of the word "enrollment." A reading of the hearings held before the Committee of the House, will convince most any one of the favor the scheme is meeting with that body of legislators. In brief, its protagonists claim the following merits: the seven million undesirable aliens in the United States, potential citizens must in order to eradicate the particular doctrines of radicalism in America, be enlightened in the privileges and duties, rights and responsibilities which attach to citizenship, etc., with emphasis upon the natural changes which may be brought about through evolution by means of the ballot.

To put across such a program there must be a method-systematic and automatic means of bringing the alien into contact with the government in a friendly spirit of cooperation. Much of this is in the words of the Secretary. It has also been said that our foreign population in American will accept such a plan with enthusiasm and that such a registration with public school authorities would eliminate the requirements of furnishing two witnesses on at least two different occasions to prove the good moral character of the petitioner. Assertions of this kind when issued as facts are subject to searching analysis so that everyone may know their contents. In the first place not all of us will interpret the United States census of 1920 to mean that there were 7,000,000 naturalizable aliens residing in the United States. If we subtract the number who have taken out first papers and do not take into consideration the thousands that have not been accounted for, there would undoubtedly be less than 4,000,000 of a total of 12,000,000 naturalizable aliens who have not sought citizenship. In the second place, advocates of registration grossly err in their belief that hundreds of thousands of honest, decent law abiding aliens want to register annually and submit to government surveillance because it is for their own best welfare and for that reason, should pay handsomely for it. The first suggestion as to cost, we are told was \$25.00 a year for each alien desiring citizenship which amount was to be paid continuously until he became naturalized. A Russian Passport system dominant under czaristic rule, a sort of character ticket to be carried by the individual and years of moral standing punched out annually. When we say this is not compulsion or a recrudescence of that reprehensible order of things in 1789 and 1802 when alien identification schemes found ephemeral life and expression in our naturalization laws, we do violence to the truth. If they could not prevail, in those early days of our national existence when prejudices were strong and intolerance everywhere, how can we find any place for such

measures today when tried by the larger standards of the present age.

Would such a provision in our law simplify procedure in any way, or reduce present expenses or alleviate any of the concomitant delays and hardships so characteristic of the process? Under present laws the minimum loss in occupational endeavor per man per day is seven. The applicant must bear the expense: one day's loss in labor for obtaining the Declaration of Intention; three days for petitioning and three days for the final hearing. Under registration as proposed, he must bear the loss of an equivalent of eight days' labor; one day for the securing of the Declaration of Intention; five trips to public school authorities, one day for the petition and another day for the final hearing. Someone with reasonable propriety might ask, why is the loss of any time necessary? Perhaps it should not be. In answer to a query of this kind, I have, in my public discussions of the subject, made use of the following illustration with apologies to the Irishman who asked for a raise.

There are 52 Sundays in a year in which naturalization courts are closed. There are 52 Saturdays in which naturalization proceedings are not held in our courts. There are seven legal holidays in Ohio and the courts observe every one. Final hearings occur regularly each Thursday in the Common Pleas Court in Cleveland and on those days the Federal Examiner's office is closed making 52 more days in which the petitioner may not obtain papers. Because of wholesale naturalization in New York City prior to

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