

1906, petitions can not be filed 90 days before election taking therefore three months more out of an otherwise perfectly good year. Papers cannot be obtained during the judiciary vacation lasting over a period of ninety days during the summer. The Federal Court in Cleveland holds three or four large hearings during the year which thousands of petitioners attend. During those days the Federal Examiner's office is closed. For these proceedings we may allow seven days. Any alien who does not respect some of his own national holidays would not perhaps be the most desirable citizen for us to adopt so we should therefore credit him with at least five days for such celebrations. This being a total of 365 days, we can readily see by this crescendo of mathematical logic, a foreign born may obtain papers on but one day in four years or every leap year, and then only by a coincidence of meeting in time, place and manner, of at least six people, the judge, his clerk, the Federal Examiner, and the same two witnesses who appeared at the preliminary hearing.

Why do we need any further bungling up of the present procedure when the average applicant for citizenship is already registering six times before final admission? First, the application for the Declaration of Intention; everyone is quite familiar with the questions that are asked upon this document; secondly comes the first paper. Another registration comes in the form of an application for certificate of arrival. Enrollment four, is presented in the shape of a petition; and five, is the identification card mailed out by the court, in which the petitioner is asked for the nth time, his name, address, color of eyes, color of hair, this is a significant requirement at this stage since what was black might now be gray; marriages and births since filing petition and in this last requirement we find sometimes that two or three children had been born since proceedings began years before. And finally comes the certificate itself which is another form of registration.

The proposed law seemingly based upon an hypothesis, and a false one, would imply that all aliens are inherently criminal. At the hearing of 1921 our congenial commissioner stated that through his fourteen years of experience the fact had been demonstrated that from seventy-five per cent to ninety-five per cent of our aliens who sought naturalization were fair, straight forward and honest; in fact the commissioner's report for last year indicated that approximately 2,000, if we except Boston's classification of draft evaders as of immoral character, were denied because of ignorance or questionable conduct. This would make the number of exceptionally deserving as high as ninety-nine per cent. Why should we attribute the derelictions of a few to a whole class in the form of a general law.

The certificate of arrival is a living example of the futility of any such effort to reach the undeserving few who are usually cunning enough to avoid any law.

It is not, generally speaking, the uniformity of the law that causes so many hardships and unnecessary delays, but the non-uniformity and the inharmonious interpretations of the law.

(Continued on page 15)



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