

# THE WESTERN American

(continuing *The Northman*)

## A MAGAZINE OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP

Devoted to the Cause of

*Americanization, Assimilation and Group Elimination; Pointing the way to a Constitutional Americanism, to Equality in Citizenship, and a better understanding between Native born and Foreign born.*

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## UNSOLVED PROBLEMS OF AMERICANIZATION SIDELIGHTS ON THE REACTIONS OF LOCAL EDUCATORS

WITH THE development of the Americanization movement in the city of Portland the citizenry at large in this city and state have become interested in immigrant education and intelligent instruction in citizenship to an extent that is gratifying at least to those who have been less sanguine in their anticipations. In a small way the movement has for the last year been given support by the public, through the community chest, making it possible to sustain a small service station and one paid combination field and office secretary. Gradually it has become clear to those who have taken indirect and more or less direct interest in the Americanization activities, as well as those actively engaged in Americanization work, that success in this work, however, depends largely on teacher training and a careful study of the racial background as it affects the immigrant. To equip the Americanization worker engaging in social activities or in teaching with these fundamental requisites means the development of a course in Americanization study in connection with some higher educational institution, wherever Americanization work is to be undertaken with any reasonable expectation of success.

While volunteers from all walks of life have entered into the work and given their services free, or in the classes in the night schools, where they in a measure have been paid for their services, it has been felt that the individual solution of the immigrant teaching problem, while in some respects very good, has only proven the great need of unification methods in teaching and the need of a higher standardization of qualification has likewise become more and more apparent.

At the instigation of the Portland Americanization

Council, the Oregon University Extension Department, conducting classes during the summer months in the city of Portland, added this year a course in Americanization for the purpose of training Americanization teachers and social workers. At great expense the university faculty brought two trained and experienced Americanization instructors from eastern centers; Mr. Geo. A. Green, Director of the Citizens Bureau at Cleveland, and Miss Huldah Cook, assistant director of Americanization at Cleveland, Ohio, to teach the Americanization class in this city the many important elements that necessarily enter in, in the proper assimilation, educational and social development of the immigrant to better carry out the purpose of helping him to become a more intelligent and dependable unit in our citizenry.

Many of Portland's civic and social organizations, having Americanization committees, sent a representative to take the course and it has been a matter of common discussion among teachers and students attending the university summer school that the Americanization course has been one of the most interesting and important classes conducted this season and as an educational departure has more than proven a success both in attendance and in subject matter presented, from racial background study to the simple practical methods in language instruction with the object of immediate results and rapid development in language knowledge even among illiterate immigrants.

While the university's plan to give a course in Americanization was given a strong indorsement by the Portland city superintendent of public schools, the department of Public Night Schools, conducting a limited number of adult alien classes in language and