

that have been conducted in six central school buildings in this city also to be abandoned?

Are the immigrant residents of this city to be punished in this way because the voters of this city in the recent school election turned down the school building program and the school levy submitted by the local board and administration of public education?

If the superintendent is quoted correctly there is not alone little doubt of the correctness of this conjecture, but more than ample proof of the assertion that the present school administration is for reasons of its own not a whit interested in adult immigrant education and absolutely out of harmony with an advanced program of Americanization.

It is time for the citizens of this city to voice their opinion and place themselves squarely on one or the other side of this issue. The question is not one for any single civic organization to solve, it is one for the people at large. Political manipulations and wire pulling must be kept out of Portland's department of public education. This can only be accomplished through a public awakening and with a watchful and correctly informed public opinion on guard.

The Western American stands squarely behind the Americanization movement with a watchful eye. We have condoned many abuses and many aspersions cast upon the immigrant population as a whole, but we have come to the conclusion that we will rather meet our Waterloo as champions of an unobstructed road to intelligent citizenship, built and maintained at public expense in acknowledgement of the better values brought to America by the worthy immigrants of all races and nationalities and in proportion to their contributions to our well being as municipalities, states and nation, than to prosper by compromise and in lieu of being considered "good fellows" by those who play the game.

We believe that with an aroused public opinion the plan will carry to make every public school building in the city an Americanization center for social and educational activities; the social activities to be carried on and conducted by volunteer Americanization agencies; the educational activities to be carried on at public expense through the Department of Public Schools with none but carefully trained teachers conducting the classes after the present system of qualifications in vogue has been abolished through public protest.

The immigrant influx to the great Northwest and into our cities will increase year by year. The complex situation presented by an almost overwhelming alien population in many of our sister cities of the East can be avoided in this city by promoting adult immigrant education, as outlined, NOW.

What we invest now in adult immigrant education through public expense will come back with interest in lessened law violations and avoidable trial costs with reduced public expense.

In another month the public mind will turn from frolicking to resume its accustomed place in education, politics and business. Let there then be a strong mind and will expressed for advanced instead of re-

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