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*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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IMMIGRATION ILLS, TREATMENT AND CURE CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF REMEDIAL LEGISLATION

THE European immigrant of a decade or two ago did not linger long in the American city. He usually sought the open country, first finding employment on the farm, then taking up either a homestead, renting or buying, on time, a piece of land where he set to work to carve out his economic independence. He toiled early and late. The thriving livestock herd, the large fields, the neat little farmhouse and the fine looking barn—it all testified to the value of the new acquisition in our citizenry. The wilderness gave way as these intrepid immigrants went at their task, transforming the central western continent into a vast agricultural expanse.

As they prospered the speculators of the cities made them their prey, paying them far less for their products than was justly due. Though they were not learned in letters they were thoroughly grounded in the practical principles that are embraced in honesty, integrity and the square deal, and in spite of every handicap in their fight to conquer the forest, the prairie and the elements on one side and the city sharks on the other side, they prospered beyond their fondest dreams. And they built America for their children. Happy and content they laid their implements of toil aside to leave it all behind—to their loved ones, when the Master's messenger came to them with his final summons. Theirs was a work of love, sacrifice and prayer, and America is richer today because they came here, because they have lived here. They asked little for themselves, only a fair chance to work. They gave in a greater measure than they received. They did not bring along any parasites from the slums of the European cities. They were clean limbed and honest-minded people largely from

the rural sections of the old world countries. Thank God they at that time in America were not measuring the incoming immigrants by any literacy test, or America would have been minus the strongest, purest and best blood and the noblest virtues in the American fiber today which have come to us through these earlier immigrants.

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When the European city dwellers began emigrating to America they brought with them the undesirables. These undesirables did not come to seek work and a chance out in the open American country. They sought the American city, where they began to pollute the purer strain and lower the American standard of moral and living conditions. In our later efforts to restrict admissibility of undesirables we set up a "Literacy test law" and made educational, rather than physical and moral qualifications the basis for immigrant admissibility.

The chief motive back of the literacy test law was naturally a desire to cut down the illiteracy in America which, according to the census statistics, was constantly increasing, instead of being diminished, on account of the immigration into America of peasant people from Europe who had received no schooling in their native country. This was very natural and in the absence of a system of adult immigrant education—the practical solution of the problem—which could have been expediently and at a proportionately low cost handled through the public schools throughout our country and made possible through government and state aid, congress instead adopted the policy of preventing the immigration of Europe's uneducated people by setting up the literacy