

city that almost lost its American identity and temporarily at least ceased to be an American unit, politically.

America's West is quite a ways from America's East, but there are noticeable inroads of European aliens to our western cities of the kind we would much prefer to have less of. These immigrants quickly acquire a workable knowledge of the I. W. W. principles and become quite proud of their "red" proclivities and ditto membership cards. The reason for this is that there are dozens of trained I. W. W. workers in the field, for every single Americanization spokesman, actually taking any interest in the incoming immigrants.

If half of the people who embrace the philosophy of Americanization, around luncheon tables, in clubs and even as features of vari-colored entertainments, were to go out into actual Americanization work, as far as their time would permit, present conditions would be materially improved.

If we could arouse enough public interest to have our public school system respond to our requirements of adult immigrant education, as part of our educational system, with every civic agency available, organized to encourage and help bring to the school room every alien of our city, the I. W. W. would lose his base and his work would be ineffective.

Every school house in the city should stand available for adult immigrant night school classes in every sector or center of the city nearest to any number of resident aliens sufficient to constitute a class.

If it is agreed that this would be a most desirable and practical solution of the alien problem in the American city it should furnish food for thought that Portland, Oregon, is spending less for public education among adult immigrants than any city of its size in America. The reason is not that we have a proportionately smaller quota of aliens in need of American education in this city, but because we have too many indifferent American citizens within our midst who permit the alien antagonists to control the machinery of public education.

Every American has a perfect right to pursue the mental course consistent with his state of mental development. The basis for his intolerant reasoning may be traced, however, to the influence association brings. By the same analogy we arrive at a reasonably accurate conclusion in tracing the cause to the manifestations of radicalism among immigrants too new in this country to be even remotely familiar on first hand with the America institution they are mentally warring against.

This leads us definitely to the source of our many domestic difficulties. The better part of our citizenry is too preoccupied with business and idle social activities to take an interest in **constructive** social activities and community, state and **NATIONAL POLITICS**, the foundation upon which rests the superstructure of our form of government.

Our form of government was intended as an instrument to the attainment of the ideal state, composed

of thinking and intelligent citizens who would continue to give their thought to government as much as to their personal interests. In this we have more or less failed, because personal interests have become the all absorbing and actually taxing problem of life to all our so-called **successful** citizens to the exclusion of any serious interest in our political affairs of state and nation. The result is that in our form of government with its flexible institutions, based on equal rights and equal opportunities, the pendulum is constantly swinging from one extreme to another.

That we have as yet been unable to meet all the complicated and novel situations arising out of our restriction regulations, in order to be as humanly fair as **justice** to others, and at the same time **safety** to ourselves, demand, should cause no true American citizen any great deal of mental qualm.

America must first **play safe** before it is charitable.

The oppressed of the world can not all find place in our "asylum" or the asylum would be no longer. It is therefore proper that a logical method of selection be applied, and, if need be, the placard temporary placed at the asylum gate bearing this simple legend: "Due to overcrowded and congested condition this asylum has been temporarily closed."

Unless we have a general awakening among our citizens and a general support of a nationwide Americanization movement whereby we can assimilate the immigrants we choose to admit, and help to make them coordinated units in our American scheme of things, the day will soon be here when the sensible restrictionists and the Americanization elements will loose their combined strength, and then for the only reason that public sentiment did not sustain their plans. Then the day of the exclusionist will be here, and too late we will realize that because we were indifferent to the application of practical and sensible remedies, America may have to declare a state of "quarantine" upon itself to keep the incurable contagion, that is following in the wake of the present-day immigration, away from our doors.

Will the exclusionists have the stronger power, or will the thought of sensible restriction and the will to Americanize have sufficient public backing to influence the immigration legislation that will be presented to the next congressional assembly, convening next fifth of December?

Coming events will contain the answer.

If our present-day Americans would follow in the footsteps of our immigrant forefathers and the early American born children of foreign born parents, instead of in the footsteps of the clowns and dancing masters of the modern school of American fraternal politics, we would presently have enough worthy examples among the native Americans to help guide right the newly admitted immigrants who are everywhere trying to find that better America by which they might some day be able to properly acquire that which too many aliens improperly obtain—citizenship.

Those who so freely accuse others of thinking more of their creed and religion than of their country seem to be the very ones who are perfectly willing to let the country go to perdition in the interest of their fanatical fraternal creeds.