

showed that \$935,434,706 was lopped off the debt. The reduction in the calendar year 1923 was \$1,072,250,610.

A reduction of \$234,422,256 was made in the debt in the December fiscal operations alone, and a further reduction is expected when the Treasury completes its March financing.

The American people paid \$1,773,509,732 in taxes on their incomes and profits in 1924, or about \$21,000,000 less than in 1923.

In the first six months of 1924 the receipts from income and profits taxes were \$783,585,050, while in the last half of the year they aggregated \$989,924,682. For comparison, it was shown that income and profits taxes yielded \$819,387,973 in the first six months of 1923 and \$974,686,563 in the last half of the same year. Customs revenues were \$504,912,472 in the last twelve months, compared with \$565,030,008 in the calendar year 1923, which, according to government officials, is said accurately to reflect the trend of the world's trade with the United States.

Efficiency in government is basically attached to economic management of the financial affairs of the nation. Public confidence rises and falls in proportion to the display of efficient or deficient administration.

The present administration is not only pledged to economy, but the success which has already been attained in effecting reductions in cost of government plus the re-payments made against our staggering public war debt has produced an effect upon the country at large that perhaps is best seen in the steadiness of America's financial market. The confidence that is generated at home is in turn reflected abroad where stability and confidence are essential to the return of pre-war financial and industrial relations and more than all else — peace.

Be proud of America. Boast of America. Every citizen of foreign birth should feel an especial urge to back his adopted country with every ounce of good will and by every word spoken. He should challenge every disgruntled knocking and kicking individual whether he is native or foreign-born.

AN EXTENSION COURSE IN CITIZENSHIP TRAINING

THE EXTENSION course in citizenship instruction for the particular benefit of the adult immigrant people of Astoria and vicinity, which will be given during 1925 through the columns of the United American and will appear in a series of articles or letters written by A. C. Strange, Superintendent of Public Education at Astoria, commences in this issue, and the first letter, under the heading "Becoming an American", appears on page nine.

Backing this course — and backing The United American as a potent influence in the construction and formation of good citizenship among the foreign-born as well as being a reliable source for Americanization interpretation — stand the Astoria Americanization Council, the Astoria Chamber of Commerce and allied patriotic forces and more than two thousand adult immigrant people of Astoria.

With all the letters of endorsement from public

officials and prominent educators from all over America who have seen in The United American the force for Americanization that is needed in a publication devoted to this cause, it remained for Astoria to be the first city in the country to incorporate The United American in its local work of adult immigrant education and Americanization.

In connection with the course, Judge Buchanan of Astoria and the Editor of The United American will conduct a question and answer forum for general information in matters of citizenship.

The immigrant problem in Astoria is not in any particular sense different from that of any other urban center where immigrant people live and labor in a considerable number. Astoria only differs in regard to public interest. What Astoria is doing today a few other cities are already doing, and many more will eventually be doing the same thing when local bickering and differences of opinion as well as the present indifference and ignorance have been superseded by a thoroughly Americanized community spirit.

There is still too much of a tendency to treat the Americanization element of thought in a relative sense with Einstein's theories, psychic analysis, bridge, five-hundred and common or uncommon club discussions. Those who venture beyond this point of interest do so largely to become known as patrons and patronesses of some activity having for its purpose to "stage" something on rare occasions with a few foreign-born people adding color to the performance.

The job of Americanization is a continuous one so long as immigrants are coming through our gates, and due to the sad fact that we had never done anything in this field of thought, until after the recent war, there is an enormous job on our hands, to remedy the mistakes of the past and help to assimilate and intelligently Americanize the millions already here who are living spiritually isolated from that America of which they are geographically a part.

More than two thousand immigrant people of Astoria and vicinity are taking this course as individuals and in groups. Into these many homes, in this section alone, this instrumentality for better citizenship will find its way during 1925 and, to the large percentage, continuously for years to come.

To other centers in Oregon where adult immigrants live who are untrained in citizenship, this course and The United American are available. The simple gospel of true Americanism, a gospel of tolerance and good will, that runs through its columns, is the most direct antidote available against racial and religious intolerance and radicalism of this or that foreign brand.

With The United American a new influence for good will enters among the people of Astoria and vicinity, and the result there, as elsewhere where The United American has gained ground, will be a better and finer standard of citizenship and less noise from the camps of the misguided and agitated aliens who are more to be pitied than reviled for their erroneous ideas, thoughts and speech — the net returns in every field where there is no constructive Americanization work.