

wasted in lengthy questioning and hearing of friendly witnesses who draw elaborate pictures of the applicants' good character, in the hope of persuading the judge to grant the illiterate applicant his citizenship.

A Commission or Advisory Board consisting of five citizens having had experience in Americanization work will be a dynamic force for effective organization and the carrying out of well studied plans of Americanization. The board will safeguard the public interest and protect the immigrant people against any wrong practices and guarantee full co-operation by the State Department with all agencies having done Americanization work or engaging in such activities.

By the provisions of this bill the State is not at this time being asked for any specific appropriation neither for the Department nor for the Board, except, perhaps, a small additional allowance for increased educational work placed in the hands of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The expense of this branch of public education will be optional with the educational boards in each community, but the work that is carried on and being planned will then become standardized and a tremendous impetus for intelligent Americanization in Oregon will have been created.

OREGON'S COMMERCIAL FISHING LAW

WHEN PUBLIC sentiment in Oregon, a few years ago, caused the enactment of an amendment to the state fishing law, making it unlawful for aliens to fish in the rivers and waters over which the state has jurisdiction, the average citizen had in mind the large number of aliens who, from ten to forty years, have been permanent residents of Oregon, yet never sought to become American citizens.

The enactment of the citizen clause, as a license qualification, was not intended as a permanent injury to these fishermen, it was rather intended to act as a remedy against the common practice among the immigrant fishermen in Oregon, to live and die as aliens and never concern themselves about citizenship. It is in this connection to be deplored that those who caused this law to be enacted, made no distinction between those aliens who have been here FIVE YEARS or more and those who have NOT been in America five years. The first and most essential citizenship applicants' qualification, according to federal provisions, is that he shall have lived in America continuously for five years. The intent back of the federal provision is clearly that for FIVE YEARS the immigrant SHALL have the right and opportunity to make his livelihood at a vocation or trade he knows. As long as the gates of America are open to immigrants, no matter how limited the number admitted, the federal government and Congress, the very spirit of our Constitution and all our laws, stand definitely against any attempt by any commonwealth to legislate away from any immigrant, during his residential qualification period, his right to earn an independent living.

The Oregon fishing code, on this point, operates in contravention of the federal laws and regulations.

Section 131 and 132 of the Oregon Commercial Fishing Code, under the sub division, "License Schedules and Regulations, of the General Laws of

Oregon for 1921, should be amended so that its restrictions apply only to aliens having lived in the United States FIVE YEARS or more.

In the amendment of this law, as it applies to the salmon fishing industry on the Columbia River, where the newcomers under the present conditions cannot even be engaged as boat-pullers, provisions might be made, limiting newcomers, or those who have been in America less than five years, to employment only as boat-pullers or assistants. This would prevent new immigrants from obtaining licenses, in their own right, to operate boats and gears, if such legislation is desired.

Limitation and regulation can stand defense, but the sweeping exclusion that is now on our statute books is reacting unfavorably to the state. It is an insult to the intelligence of the people of Oregon and is a direct economic loss, which is effecting the state as a whole, but particularly Astoria and the lower Columbia River districts. Under present conditions two citizens, each the owner of a boat and gear, invariably have to leave one gear and boat ashore and go out fishing together, because they cannot obtain boat-pullers among native Americans. As the operating fishermen, in the past, have obtained their boat-pullers almost exclusively from among the newcomers, the new law has caused a needless loss, and inasmuch as it is doubtful that it was so intended, the 1925 Legislature should, before the session is over, remedy this mistake, made by the legislature of 1921.

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