

ican official cannot be bribed and that it is a serious thing to do to offer an official money in exchange for special grants and concessions. Had he done this he would have been minus all the excellent publicity he received, which may or may not prove to be a means to advancement, but his would have been the satisfaction of knowing that the Austrian colony in Clifton would now be having a still deeper respect for Uncle Sam, attaching that sense of security, trust and confidence which constitutes the foundation upon which honorable and upright citizenship may be built.

The brass-knuckle method as a means to teach the aliens the meaning of the American law is an attempt to revive also this antiquated system of old Europe, an importation that should be knocked out of our system wherever it appears in disguise as an American virtue. Without it we will lose nothing of our firmness and the principle of self-government, which rests on the individual's natural reactions in support of the law, will retain its hold on those millions who are citizens in the making as much as on those who are naturalized or native-born.

The means which Mr. Thomas admittedly used to accomplish his sensational capture of the alien fisher folk who are alleged to have tried to corrupt his morals, leave much to be desired. Whether it is legally a case of entrapment we are not at this time in a position to say, but certainly it is morally a case that has all the earmarks of a cruel entrapment.

What naturalization examiner is there who cannot tell any number of incidents where aliens in some awkward manner have approached them with a similar purpose? Their dignified and corrective responses have had a most wholesome effect, though they missed the publicity that Thomas gained. If Thomas' method of handling this situation is right in the sight of all America, then we are not Americanized, and what's more, we are not anxious to be.

Believing, as we do, that Mr. Thomas, in a show-down, will, himself, stand arraigned in public opinion, we submit the prima facie evidence for public consideration, and invite the people of Oregon, in the interest of a higher standard in citizenship, to take an interest in the alien people in this state and demand that they be given the help they need in Americanization so that repetition of such scenes as these enacted in Astoria under the direction of Mr. Thomas shall never occur again.

Poor misguided people of the fishing hamlet!

No one had told them that it was a felony and penitentiary offence to offer an American official money for a favor not strictly within the law.

"Attempted bribery" is one of the horrible American expressions the fishing folk at Clifton have learned to understand since this trouble swept in on them like a tidal wave.

A FERVENT PRAYER WITH A PRACTICAL MODERN APPLICATION

By Dr. John H. Finley

WHEN AN ancient sat down to write, he was wont to invoke the presence and aid of one or another of the Muses, who dwelt by some distant spring or

some remote mountain. But in our democracy we have need of the presence in every school, near at hand, of those who help the teacher and parent to carry this highest gift from one generation to another,—the Muses of our Mother-tongue, the Parts of Speech. It is their presence that I would invoke for those who teach the adults of alien tongue as well as those who teach our own children:

O Parts of Speech, who preserve our laws so that they are written as on tables of stone; who remember what is forgotten even by our bodies, by the pictures that fade and by the cairns that crumble; who can express thoughts so subtle, so profound, so exalted, that no artisan, no artist or musician even can translate them; who can endow the human voice with a speech, small and quite, yet mightier than that of the hurricane, earthquake or fire; whose syntax can work changes more wonderful than the achievements of synthetic chemistry; whose etymology is more discerning of human spirit than is analytical chemistry of earthly elements! May your declensions, inflections and conjugations in our schools be as the rites of a sacred service in which life has its most useful, fullest, highest utterance!

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