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A MAGAZINE OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP

WHERE AMERICA MUST GO BARGAINING
UNLESS NATURALIZATION LAWS CHANGE

UNTIL AN intelligent process of educational Americanization shall precede the formal naturalization of the aliens, their inability to comprehend American issues from an American point of view will in the eyes of future historians absolve them from blame for having put a foreign stamp upon that branch of American government over which they have a margin of control through sheer voting power. American issues of vital importance will in the future be bargained for at the alien nationality counter, if the present developments of political interfusion of naturalized nationality elements continue unabated. If the earnest appeals from thinking Americans of native and foreign-birth, who for years have been pleading for a revision of the present naturalization laws, can be so wantonly ignored, then there should be little need for further evidence that the bargaining process is already in a fair state of development. The strength and loyalty of political units in the home district or state is something Congressmen and Senators cannot afford to discount, but meanwhile it should not be wholly overlooked that more converts to the foreign political doctrines of the Third Internationale are going through the form of becoming naturalized citizens of America than ever before.

The naturalization proceedings have come to be looked upon by a large contingent of aliens, who are anxious to become voting units in America, as a ludicrous form. Listlessly they observe the court-clerk's reading of the formula by which they forswear all foreign attachments and mumble incoherently the acknowledgement of the oath of allegiance. A keen examiner and a conscientious judge may pierce the curtain and have their misgivings, but their hands are tied by forms and adages, while busy America is heedlessly passing on, unconscious of its participation in the staging of the play—a time-worn farce, with tears behind the scenery.

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