

The Massachusetts School Program of Americanization

By CHARLES M. HERLIHY, State Supervisor of Adult Alien Education, Boston, Massachusetts

(Special for The United American)

THIRTY THOUSAND foreign born working men and women representing fifteen non-English speaking races have been enrolled annually in the public school Americanization classes in Massachusetts during the past several years. There were less than three thousand adult foreign born in such classes in 1919 prior to the enactment of the Massachusetts State-aid Law. This legislation provides reimbursement to local communities for one half the cost of instruction to adult aliens in English and citizenship.

The splendid growth in this work may be traced very definitely to the following:

I—Adequate Public Support.

Public appropriations by local communities and the State Legislature for this work have been made with a generous spirit each year.

II—Trained Teachers.

Public school teachers in Massachusetts have responded magnificently to the call for trained workers in this field. The division of University Extension has awarded certificates for work done in the 15 conference courses to more than 4,000 teachers during the past five years.

III—The desire for Schooling on the Part of the Adult Foreign Born.

Immigrants representing all nationalities have taken advantage of the opportunities for

schooling in evening classes, factories, homes and neighborhood centers.

IV—Special Texts and Lesson Materials Adapted to the adults.

Experience has proven that the adult men and women up to the age of 45 will stay in school if the teaching is good and if the lesson material is of practical everyday value. Under the direction of the State Department special lessons and courses of study have been prepared for beginners, intermediates, advanced and citizenship classes.

Forty cities and towns in this state have appointed full time supervisors who are responsible for the recruiting, organization and supervision of the Americanization classes. In addition, fifty communities have appointed supervisors on a part time basis where the local immigrant problem does not require full time leadership.

Immigrant education has been established as an integral part of the school system in this state. The ultimate aim of this work is to insure a better understanding between the native and foreign born through the medium of English as a common language. The schools alone cannot accomplish this end. Interested civic organizations, however are co-operating splendidly with the schools in the task of bringing the immigrant into closer touch with the social life of the community.

The State Program of Adult Education in Arkansas

By MISS WILLIE LAWSON, Deputy State Superintendent of Public Education and Adult Education, Little Rock, Arkansas.

(Special for The United American)

ADULT ELEMENTARY EDUCATION began in Arkansas with an illiteracy crusade. The Illiteracy Commission was created in 1917 but because of strenuous war work and lack of appropriation, it did not function for two years. From 1919 to 1921 the organization and publicity work of the Commission was financed by donations from banks, civic clubs and philanthropic individuals.

The Legislature of 1921 made a biennial appropriation of \$13,000 and that same year the Business Manager of the Arkansas Educational Association was made the Field Director of the Illiteracy Commission. In the fall of that year a Field Worker was appointed and the next summer another one was added to the force.

At the present time there are two field workers organizing and supervising the Opportunity School work in the various counties. The work is under the supervision of the Deputy State Superintendent of Education. Some states begin the work in one county and enlarge it into a state-wide program. Arkansas began her work as a state on an extensive scale and is gradually intensifying it by putting on programs in certain counties for a specified length of time.

During the past year the Arkansas Federation of

Women's Clubs has donated \$4,000 to the work of adult education. With this money two organizers have been kept in the field in certain districts.

Out of the intensive county program in one place during the past year has come the decision of a city school board to elect a trained teacher to teach Opportunity Schools (adults from beginners to fifth grade) during the entire term of 1925 - 26.

So far, the teaching has been done by volunteer workers. We hope to have this cared for by private donations this year and by increased appropriation in 1927.

NOT WANTED HERE

Christian Endeavor World

ANATIVE of Europe, a resident of Texas, lately applied for citizenship in the United States. In connection with his petition he declared his sympathy with national prohibition and its enforcement. It appeared, however, that he was the proprietor of a saloon in Juarez, Mexico, just across the Rio Grande from El Paso, Texas, a saloon drawing patronage from El Paso as well as from Mexico. The judge that passed upon the application for citizenship sensibly refused it. He declared that neither good moral character nor devotion to the principles or welfare of the United States is shown by one that will furnish liquor to the people of the country, but under conditions that make it possible for him to dodge the consequences.