

An Americanization Review From Cleveland

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(Special for The United American)

SPECULATION was rife among Adult Immigrant Education workers after the enactment by Congress of the Quota Immigration Law of 1924, as to what effect the new act would have upon the work of Cleveland institutions dealing directly with the immigrant. The two local agencies, it was expected, would be immediately affected were the Travelers Aid Society and the system of Public Evening School for Adults, both being among the first of Cleveland's institutions to reach the immigrant upon his arrival.

The effect of the law which went into operation on July 1st, was immediately reflected in the work of the Travelers Aid Society, which during the calendar year 1923 had met at the trains four thousand three hundred and fifty-three incoming immigrants. During 1924, only one thousand one hundred and fifty-six immigrants were reached in this manner, and the greater part of them before July 1st. Where from twenty-five to one hundred were arriving on a single train prior to July 1st, only ten or fifteen arrived thereafter.

Despite the drastic immigration restrictions the Board of Education, however, registered very little declension in the enrollment, and reported that the anticipated difference was not a decrease to the point of being commensurate with the decrease in the number of new arrivals. This meant that enrollment and attendance

in the Public Evening Schools for Adults were maintained by an increasing number of former pupils who had returned for further instruction. The Evening Elementary Division of the Public Schools, during the year, has numbered in attendance at its classes for adults, sixty-four thousand non-English speaking residents.

Larger numbers were encouraged to remain in the Evening Schools because of the inauguration of a definite course of study and the possibilities provided for better grading by the introduction of new language accomplishment tests measuring the students' English language ability. For those who were willing to travel some distance from the home there was provided a course of study appropriate to their peculiar and specific needs.

The total amount appropriated by the Cleveland Board of Education for the Elementary Adult Classes during the year was \$65,011.00. A charge of \$2.00 for a twelve week course consisting of three two-hour sessions per week was made and the total fees collected from this source amounted to \$14,021.00.

The Division of Educational Extension collaborated with the School of Education in developing courses of study for the different grades, in making research studies of the most imperative needs of the adult night schools and in ascertaining the value of departmental

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