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The UNITED AMERICAN

A MAGAZINE OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP

THE DEBT OF JUSTICE WHICH
AMERICA OWES THE IMMIGRANT

THE history of America is replete with chapters of immigrant resourcefulness, ingenuity and willingness to work, willingness to perform the most stupendous tasks requiring physical endurance, where there has been a reasonable certainty of reward, no matter how long the road of toil has been to reach the goal. Some of these chapters have been written, but most of them are only traced in the background scenes that represent the prosperous communities to which we point with pride all over this vast continent. The immigrants have come to America strong-limbed and courageous. They have cleared the forests and gone down into the bowels of the earth after our coal and iron. They have plowed and conquered the prairies and turned the wilderness into a paradise. They have built the greater part of our highways and railroads, and turned our raw products into marketable material. Hundreds of thousands of them have been needlessly sacrificed on the altar of gain. Their anguish has gone unheeded. Where a hundred fell there were a thousand idle hands in the modern mart of human life to fill the gap. Greed, coined greed, the responsible culprit, distributed prosperity and its enjoyment calloused our conscience. Their little children, Americans by birth, suffered and wept at the breast of an immigrant mother, able only to offer her frail protest in a foreign tongue which no one understood save those who suffered with her.

America's vision has become clarified. A better understanding of the immigrant is discernible. A common concern in his physical and mental, his economic and intellectual advancement, has opened the way for constructive Americanization work. The study of the immigrant's life, of his social and economic adjustments, is now provoking the most earnest attention of all who believe in equality and justice in America.

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