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between Native born and Foreign born.*

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IN THE FIRE OF THE AMERICAN CRUCIBLE OFFERING A REMEDY FOR AN INEFFICIENT SYSTEM

By H. J. LANGOE

THE AMERICAN Naturalization code, in other words, Uncle Sam's rules and regulations governing the adoption of immigrant people, or those who have come here from foreign lands to become permanent members of the American household, is so far from being anything worth the name, that it is a difficult thing to find two representatives of that bureau of an important administrative governmental department who are in accord with one another and in accord with the bureau chief. It is a matter of record that the rules and regulations set up in one examination district are quite different in every other. The objections raised by an examiner, and sustained by the judge, against an applicant for citizenship in one locality, are not made an issue by the examiner in a neighboring district. The consequence is that the aliens, in many instances, who have acquired residential qualifications in one state or district, when desiring to become naturalized, find that in their home-district they are barred on a technicality in the examiners' qualification rules, which the federal examiner in an adjoining state has omitted or held irrelevant. To obtain citizenship under these circumstances many aliens, considering it of sufficient importance, move to the neighboring state and establish their residence for the length of time necessary to file their applications. Armed with sworn affidavits from two citizens attesting to good conduct during period of previous residence, covering five years in all, each applicant, having been admitted to citizenship, moves back to the old residence district, each as an American citizen.

Judges in different localities are by no means in accord with the federal examiners' home-rule code of qualifications, even in the same naturalization district. Naturalization hearings, including intelligence examinations in open court, are necessarily tedious, and at best a questionable use of the courts' time, whether it be in a federal or in a state court. The matter of

converting the court room, once or twice a month, into an elementary school room, for a day or more at a stretch, while important litigations must stand aside waiting, is a thing which judges, lawyers, litigants and taxpayers are entitled to discuss. In most states the examinations of applicants are conducted by the examiner either in his office or in the classrooms, at any time convenient. Where this procedure is followed the examiner can appear in court at a convenient time between trials, go through the formal procedure (exclusive of intelligence examination) and within a very brief period pass a large number of applicants before the court, present formal questions to witnesses and applicants and have the latter take the oath of allegiance, the hearings thereby being materially shortened.

Where this procedure is followed there is, however, the danger that the examiner, if of an arbitrary turn of mind, may reject an applicant for personal reasons; but then again the applicant has the right, if considering himself unfairly dealt with at the private or the classroom hearing, to ask that he be permitted to appear in court for full examination.

The federal examiner should be more of a school teacher, with training for adult educational work, than a lawyer. Inasmuch as an examiner, in the eyes of the law, is not an officer of the court but an administrative officer, the question cannot well be raised that he must be an attorney qualified to try legal matters before the bar before he can be permitted to present matters concerning naturalization before the court.

Naturalization proceedings are not trials, although some lawyer-examiners are trying hard to make a "case" out of every application. There should be serious but not unkindly consideration of every application. The applicant should be questioned in a kindly manner, both to ascertain his mental attitude toward America and our political institutions, as well as his technical knowledge of America's history and conduct