

# THE UNITED American

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### WHEN JUSTICE IS SWEEPED OVERBOARD THE IMMIGRANTS MUST TOIL THROUGH OBSTACLES

By H. J. LANGOE

WITHOUT A QUESTION it is true that the bulk of the federal and state legislative enactments, since the world war, pertaining to regulations and restrictions of the immigrant people in America, can easily be traced to one common source.

Whether it be defined by the general term **intolerance**, or separated into several contributing arteries of mental perversities, such as inflated racial self-consciousness and superiority feeling, foolish pride or jealousy, all hidden beneath a thin veneer of patriotism,—it matters not, eventually it emerges into the great stream of intolerance which has swept through our land inundating and submerging every level of sound reason.

But as the torrential stream is receding and flowing into the normal channels of public opinion, its influence is being checked. The survey is revealing a deplorable state of destruction far greater than any good that can be found and the American levels of reason and "square shooting" have fared badly.

While the Northwest can boast an exceptionally fine class of immigrants, a thrifty and industrious type, of a higher average intellect than can be found in any other section of the country, the appreciation of the immigrant and his contributions in this section is sadly below par.

In the maelstrom of maledictions that has been flowing freely in this section of the country for some time, much of the constructive values have been overlooked while the acts of the criminal aliens, though comparatively few, have been magnified beyond all reason. In mills and factories and in construction work, where there are great hazards, as well as in field and in forest, the immigrants have been sent forth to labor and perform heavy and dangerous physical tasks. Out on the rivers and streams, on the rough seas, from the shore lines to the far distant banks, miles out the ocean way, these sturdy people of foreign birth have

performed services of vast economic benefit to the Northwestern states.

It is nothing but the truth that the immigrant people actually started the fishing industry in this section of the country. They knew how to fish, they were trained in early life to brave the dangers that are ever present when the storms are raging. Another important fact is that it is the foreign born and their children who furnish the demand for the fish products that come in such great varieties from this section of the country and in such great quantities. When we then consider, if we are fair, that it is the foreign born who are catching the fish, citizens of a year, perhaps a few short years at best, then it becomes clear that from an economic standpoint, as a whole, the immigrant has been contributing more than he has taken away. If there is doubt in any one's mind regarding who is the producer and who is the consumer of the Northwest fish products, verification can easily be obtained from the canners and packers of the fish products who know the fishermen and have gone to the trouble of finding out who the actual consumers are.

The fishing industry alone has given the northwestern states a tremendous source of annual revenue, averaging pretty well through the years, in proportion to the capital invested, in boats, nets, gears, canneries and plants.

The native American has never taken to the actual fishing end of the industry, except in rare instances, and then it is usually the children of foreign born fishermen who have been trained by their elders. The native American is creating a very small demand. His taste is more for meat products than for fish. His fish orders are few and far between. These facts should always be borne in mind whenever the mountebanks are "on the air" discoursing on "the terrible aliens and how much better we would have been off if they never had come over."

The American community, before the war, was