

A Question and Answer Page for Foreign-Born

Questions on Americanization, Naturalization, Citizenship, Civil Rights and all matters of importance in regard to the necessary adjustments for foreign-born who have come here for the purpose of remaining permanently, will be answered promptly and as fully as possible, By Judge J. A. Buchanan, President Astoria Americanization Council in Astoria, and by H. J. Langoe, Editor The United American. Anyone asking a question may request that it be published under such pseudonym as he desires but the questioner must in all instances sign his correct name and address to the letter that accompanies the question. Anonymous questions will not be published or answered in this forum. People who are living in Astoria and vicinity may address their questions directly to Judge Buchanan.

Q.—My father and mother were immigrants on the way to America some thirty years ago when I was born, somewhere on the Atlantic Ocean onboard an immigrant ship, the name of which I never learned, nor the date and month it arrived in America, and where. My mother died before we reached our destination and my father passed away a few weeks later. I was given into the care of some kind people in the state of M., who reared me, though they never adopted me. Now both of my foster-parents are dead. Can I regard myself as a native American or what is my status? —Freda L.

A.—Most people would consider you as an American with every right as such and you may have exercised all these, even the franchise without a challenge from any source, yet, according to the law, you are an alien in your own country. Your nationality and nativity is that of your parents and you are, in the eyes of the law, an immigrant such as they were. You may possibly be in a still more difficult situation. Having been born at sea, you were not registered as a passenger at the port of embarkation and your arrival, which took place while the vessel was at sea, was probably neither recorded nor your name entered on the ship's manifest. It is also likely that you for that reason received no certificate of arrival and could not obtain one now even if you knew the date of arrival and the name of the ship on board which you were born. Unless you have affidavits in your possession, properly acknowledged, sustaining your story of origin, you should

secure affidavits from people in the locality where you were reared, sustaining these facts as far as they know them to be true. Such documents will aid the Naturalization bureau in obtaining official credentials enabling you to proceed to become naturalized according to the regulation form. —H.J.L.

Q.—My sister and I came to America in 1912. My sister married an American citizen in 1918 and I married an American citizen in 1923. How is it that my sister is an American citizen and can vote and I can not. My sister never was naturalized, yet I am told that if I want to vote and be of her standing, I must become naturalized? —Ebba W.

A.—That is correct. Your sister who married in 1918, obtained citizenship through her marriage to an American Citizen. This law was amended in 1922 and went into effect in September the same year. Since then, the status of an alien woman remains the same though she marries an American citizen. To obtain citizenship and equal rights with your sister, who married before the law was changed, you have to comply with the regular naturalization requirements. —H.J.L.

And On and On. Blake: "So you've been married for eleven years. What do you live on?"

Drake: "Oh, we just live on."

—Am. Legion.

Unidentified. Emanuel Jackson, mule tender, appeared one morning on crutches.

"Lawdy!" exclaimed a friend. "An thought yo' was one o' de bes' mule han'l'ers in de business."

"So Ah is," affirmed Emanuel proudly, "but we done got a mule in dis mo'nin' dat didn't know mah reppitation."

—Am. Legion.

Naughty Boy—Hands Off. "You certainly have a trim little waist," said her admirer.

"You're right," she replied, "there's no getting around that." —Selected.

Overdoing It. Sam:—"Is dat mule a good worker?"

Sambo: "Good worker? Huh! Dat's why Ah is sellin' of him!"

Exactly. A Scotch preacher had been abroad and when he came back he was preaching to his congregation on the marvels he had seen.

He wound up with this: "And the same

Creator who made the vast ocean made the dewdrop. The Creator who made the mountain made the pebble. Yes, and that same Creator who made me made a daisy!" —Selected.

Unwelcome Recommendation. Mother:—"But why all of a sudden don't you like those trousers, Bobby?"

Bobby: "Listen—did you buy them to please dad or to please me?"

"Why, you, of course, Bobby."

"Well, I don't want 'em. Didn't you hear the man say that they'd stand lots of punishment in the seat?"

—Am. Legion.

Two of a Kind. Judge—"What is this man charged with?"

Officer: "Intoxication, your honor."

Prisoner: "Judge, I'm as sober as you are this minute."

Judge: "Pleads guilty—ten days! Next case!" —Am. Legion.

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