

Welcoming the New Citizens

A PUBLIC RECEPTION to new citizens of America, on Washington's birthday anniversary, has become an institution in Portland. The foreign born who are still in the citizenship training classes take as much interest in the reception as the new citizens and their families, who are the guests of honor. Usually the reception resolves itself into a festival of welcoming—a welcome to those who have qualified for citizenship during the preceding year.

The Portland Americanization Council again sponsored the reception. Nearly five hundred new citizens had been invited. They came there with their families and friends. Many of those who have been so welcomed in previous years were there too. Several of them said they had come to every annual reception since the first one, six years ago. There was a noticeable manifestation of comity between the people of many nationalities and racial strains who gathered at the Auditorium on the evening of Washington's birthday. The occasion is one of great significance for many of those who have attained the priceless gift of a share in America, a personal interest in the heritage, which also their children are to have a part in. With faces all aglow and with a flutter of hundreds of little silk flags, presented at the door to each new citizen, the reception took on an aspect of a great fete day.

Though it had been announced as a PUBLIC reception to new citizens, the great mass of patriotic American citizens of Portland, outside of those with representation on or a direct contact with the Portland Americanization Council, were noticeable by their absence, save perhaps upwards of a hundred and fifty kindly souls, who had felt the urge to represent Uncle Sam in the receiving line with a warm handclasp and a genial smile.

Can it be possible that the citizens of Portland are so completely lacking in their understanding of the Americanization work that is carried on among the foreign born, that they are capable of only an abstract expression of interest?

The Portland Public Auditorium should, for an occasion of this kind, have no standing room left. There should be no doubt left in the minds of the new citizens that the community, to the last man, is back of this arrangement for a solemn and sobering review of what citizenship means and how it might be made into a force for greater good for the country, as much as for the new citizen.

Much of the spirit of good cheer, fellowship and appropriate entertainment was furnished by the foreign born themselves and revealed that several of them possessed fine artistic talents.

Such contributions as the solos by Sargeant P. M. Blenkinsop, Mr. McCauley and Miss Colombi, gave evidence of the finer culture America has come in possession of through these children of adoption. Lucien Becker's opening organ recital consisted of a colorful blending of many nationality melodies that have added to tonal colorings of home and public places in America. The night school classes, under the leadership of Mrs. Fred L. Olson, gave evidence of the immigrant's aptitude for the songs we treasure as our own. Judge Jacob Kanzler, president of the Council, who presided, gave an address of welcome in which he fittingly stressed the purposes for which the new citizens had been invited and gave a fine interpretation of the higher ideals in citizenship. Rabbi

Max J. Merritt gave the invocation, and the Reverend Father Smith gave the benediction.

The main address was delivered by Chaplain John W. Beard, pastor of the Sunnyside Presbyterian Church, who is a most delightful orator. His fearlessness in dealing with facts makes him extraordinarily interesting, as he makes no apology for his opinion of those who obstruct the road to the finer attainments of life. In his discourse he made it plain that Uncle Sam is entitled to the fullest measure of devotion and service from every adopted citizen who by his oath of allegiance has given his most sacred possession—his honor, as a security of his



ABRAHAM LINCOLN
Born February 12, 1809

"Let reverence for the laws be breathed by every American mother to the lisping babe that prattles on her lap; let it be taught in schools, in seminaries and in colleges; let it be written in primers, spelling-books, and in almanacs; let it be preached from the pulpit, proclaimed in legislative halls, and enforced in courts of justice. And, in short, let it become the political religion of the nation; and let the old and the young, the rich and the poor, the grave and the gay of all sexes and tongues and colors and conditions, sacrifice unceasingly upon its altars."



GEORGE WASHINGTON
Born February 22, 1732

"This government, the offspring of your own choice, uninfluenced and unawed, adopted upon full investigation and mature deliberation, completely free in its principles, in the distribution of its powers, uniting security with energy, and containing within itself a provision for its own amendment, has a just claim to your confidence and your support. Respect for its authority, compliance with its laws, acquiescence in its measures, are duties enjoined by the fundamental maxims of true Liberty."