

FOREIGNERS AT NIGHT SCHOOL

Earnest Portland Students Who Learn Patriotism While They Are Acquiring the Rudiments of English.

"My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty—this with all the ringing stanzas of our National hymn is sung by 40 or more scholars every evening at the close of the night school for foreigners, the sessions of which are held in the High School Building, in charge of Mrs. Mayme Bryant Hogue.

The vigor with which the hymn is sung and the earnestness in the faces of these young men and women seem to express most fittingly the dominant purpose that runs through all the work of the school. This purpose is not only to teach them in the quickest way to speak, read and write English, but how to become useful, loyal and intelligent citizens, to love their adopted country and to honor the flag.

They are eagerly in earnest, the 15 members of Mrs. Hogue's night class. There is no passing of notes, no whispering, no idle dreaming. Each student bends over his desk with an entire absorption that shows his determination to make the most of the two hours of English drill.

Nearly all the nations of Europe are represented, there being Germans, Swedes, Danes, French, Roumanians, Poles and Italians in attendance, besides several Chinese and Japanese. Most of them do not understand a word of English when they enter the class, but in six months they are able to read in the first reader and to write neatly and legibly.

Although they have usually been fairly well educated before coming to this country, they find it hard to secure employment before they have learned to speak English, and this is doubtless one reason of their anxiety to learn quickly.

Mrs. Hogue does not require them to stand during recitation, as many of them have put in a full day at hard work before coming to the class.

One of her most interesting students is a rosy, bright-eyed little German girl called Wanda, who came to her a year ago unable to speak a word of any language except her own. Wanda has made very good progress in the school, and now has employment in a dressmaking shop at good wages.

She has a sister, Hilda, who was a trained nurse when she came here, but found it necessary to learn our language before she could enter a hospital.

"Is that Wanda's sister?" Mrs. Hogue was asked as she spoke to a yellow-haired girl who came in.

"No, that's another Hilda," Mrs. Hogue said. "I have five or six Hildas." And looking at the flaxen German heads all over the schoolroom it is not surprising to be informed of the abundance of Hildas.

The school is free, being a department of the system of night schools supported by the City of Portland. Fundenberg's phonetic method of instruction is used, together with original methods of Mrs. Hogue's own. She writes the words to be learned upon the blackboard, marking the pronunciation and crossing out the puzzling silent letters. The class is first taught to make the sounds separately, then to join them in the word, the teacher giving the living meaning by gesture and illustration.

While the class in reading is in progress, it is rather startling to hear a big, blonde, broad-shouldered, deep-voiced son of the Vikings thunder out this artless sentiment: "Oh, Jane, I am glad you have your doll with you; how pretty it is!"

And this from a little Frenchman: "John, we're dead you get you fox—I caught them when a trap was small."

But the Frenchman does not mean to stop with the first reader; the height of his ambition is to read The Oregonian.

The class just beginning in American history showed a lively and intelligent interest in the adventures of Captain John Smith and the Indians:

"What was Powhatan?" asked the teacher.

"King of Virginia Indians."

"What presents did the English make to Powhatan?"

"A red robe, teen basin and bedstead," said the little Frenchman.

"And Lee," asked Mrs. Hogue of one of the Chinese boys, "Who did Captain John Smith say could wear his blue beads?"

"No one but greatest Princess," answered Lee.

"And how many beads did Smith give for a boatload of corn?"

"Two pounds."

The history lesson is illustrated by a fine, large map of the United States.

"Now—see the Chickahominy River?" said the teacher, with her pointer on the map. "What did the King of England think could be found by sailing up this river?"

"Pacific Ocean," said a young Japanese, with an expression which indicated great disgust at the monumental stupidity of the King of England. This boy is always eager to answer questions, and often jumps up from his seat fairly spitting in his excitement:

"T-teacher, teacher, I t-tell!"

As the lesson progresses, the history of the United States is simply yet vividly unfolded through the study of events which cluster around the lives of great men, from Columbus down to men of the present day.

In the spelling lesson, definitions were required, and Lee explained that "pirate" meant "sea robber," and that "sea robber" and "land robber" are all the same.

When "wigwag" was the word, the class all eagerly exclaimed, "Indian house," showing that the picturesque points of the history lesson had made a deep impression.

"What do we use to end a sentence?" "Period," said the class, promptly.

"If I write 'morning' on the board and I don't have room on this line, I write 'morn' and put a little mark after it, so, and write 'ing' on the next line. What do I call that little mark?"

"Dash."

"No!" said the teacher, and somebody else confidently exclaimed, "Connection!"

Then a studious-looking German ventured the statement that the mark was a hyphen.

Side by side in a front seat sat a German and a Japanese studying "Dole's Citizenship." Mrs. Hogue considers this one of the most important things she has to teach—the principles of home and school government, leading up to the government proper, the duty of taking out citizen's papers, how to vote and why.

"Wherever men are, it is a duty for them to take a stand in politics and to vote," she told her class; "but first they

should thoroughly consider the question to be voted upon, and be sure they understand what is right and what is wrong. Then they should act for themselves."

The Japanese as well as the German read from the text, and listened to the teacher's comments with evident pride and interest in the subject. The class of young men and women sitting behind them, who had not yet mastered enough English to study the text-book, still could understand enough of the recitation to beguile them from attention to their own studies, and the expressive faces seemed to show a longing for the time when they, too, could learn of the duties of citizenship and later on become real members of the great American commonwealth.

Paralleled with the lesson on the public duties of the citizen and his right to think and act for himself, the teacher placed with emphasis the great law of

house in the North End. Not knowing a single street in the city, nor a word of English, they are piloted the first time to the High School building by a knowing little Italian girl of 7, a child whose life in the street makes thoughtful hearts ache. For who will ever pilot her?

The spirit of helpfulness seems already to pervade the school. Some have assisted others in finding employment, and

lem. Matches, of course, are not used in all the countries of the world. There are many primitive people who are still kindling fires by striking sparks from flinty substances, just as our ancestors did in the long ago when they made pots and kettles out of clay and stones, and knives out of bones and the harder formations in the crust of the earth. Some countries are so damp that matches cannot be used with convenience. In many of the tropical countries which may be classed as civilized, matches cannot be struck on account of the dampness, except on the rough, sandy edge of the box. But in the great and more advanced countries of the world matches are in almost universal use. Exceptions may be found in the rural sections that are almost completely isolated. Like some portions of agricultural Germany or remote parts of the United States, for that matter, but these exceptions are very rare. Getting back to the daily consumption of matches, it is really an enormous thing. The consumption in the United States daily is something enormous. Roundly,

there are 80,000,000 persons in the United States. On the accepted allowance of five for each family this means 16,000,000 families, so right on the jump we would have 16,000,000 matches which would consume at the very lowest an average of three matches each and every day, or a total of 48,000,000. In the evening the lamps must be lighted in each of these homes. Then there are the hotels, the restaurants, the saloons and the business places generally which keep open at night, with their millions of gas jets and lamps, and it is reasonable to assume that the consumption of matches in these places would equal, if it did not surpass, the consumption in the homes of the country. Mind you, I have said nothing about the factories and institutions of that sort, and nothing about the vast quantity of matches consumed daily by the smokers of the country, the cigarette smokers, and the fellows whose pipes are always going out. Why, a fortune goes up daily in matches' smoke.

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