

ROOSEVELT AND IMMIGRATION

Returning Italians Show Weakness of United States Laws—Americanization Necessity Brought Home Through Incoming Hosts.

NEW YORK, Oct. 20.—The vanguard of the host of Italians who sailed with their families and their savings for their native land as speedily as possible after the armistice was signed returned to New York last week, on the steamship Dante Alighieri. There were 800 of them, all traveling steerage, and they prophesied that their disappointed countrymen would fill westbound ships for months to come.

Turbulent Italy, they declared, has no place today for thrifty sons returning from foreign shores. Food, rent, clothes and fuel are at prohibitive prices, they said, and profiteers throng on every side to pounce upon the unwary.

This news item might equally well have applied to any one of the southern nations of Europe from which our immigrants have come for the past decade. It points to a sinister menace that is becoming clearer to those Americans who have eyes to see. It means that Americanization, as applied to many of our foreign-born citizens, is a flat failure.

Aside from the fact that less than ten per cent of these same immigrants even go through the form of taking our citizenship papers, aside from the fact that more than one-half of the workmen in our fundamental industries, iron, steel and coal, are foreigners, there remains the bitter truth that we have a huge and undigested alien population within our boundaries, which has come here for what there is in it, and is interested only in what it can get out of our country, and eager to return to home lands with its earnings at the first possible moment.

Theodore Roosevelt said, "Unless we are thorough-going Americans and unless our patriotism is part of the very fibre of our being, we can neither serve God nor take our own part. Whatever may be the case in an infinitely remote future, at present no people can render any service to humanity unless as a people they feel an intense sense of national cohesion and solidarity. The man who loves other nations as much as he does his own, stands on a par with the man who loves other women as much as he does his own wife. The United States can accomplish little for mankind, save in so far as within its borders it develops an intense spirit of Americanism."

His words are worth pondering. It is our own fault that we take small pains to teach the immigrant what America means, and what are the ideals upon which this country has grown great; it is our fault that we let him remain dependent upon a foreign language press that, with rare exceptions, is interested only in the news of the race. It is doubly our fault that we permit him to live here without the possibility of sympathy with and understanding of our country, without the fellowship of Americans.

Beyond and above and below any other need is the need for the immigrant to learn the language of the land of his adoption. Until he can speak and read English he is helpless. Until he knows the language of the Declaration of Independence, he is a menace.

One of the priceless legacies left us by Theodore Roosevelt was his clear vision and powerful words on this problem. He knew; and we can do well to remember what he said.

LETTER FROM COLONEL HOUSE

"Commissioner Plenipotentiary of the United States of America.

Paris, September 23, 1919.

"Dear Mr. Thompson:

"I consider it both a privilege and a pleasure to be associated even in a small way with the purposes of your organization. Theodore Roosevelt needs no memorial but coming generations should be constantly reminded of what he stood for in our public life. When he died, a great virile, wholesome figure disappeared from amongst us. Roosevelts do not belong to many generations. Let us be thankful that he belonged to ours.

Sincerely yours,  
(Signed) E. M. HOUSE."

McKELVIE NAMES OCTOBER 27 AMERICANIZATION DAY

Proclamation by Our Governor

The progress that our country has made as a nation has been greatest during those periods when the people made the least departure from the true principles of Americanism. And today I think the greatest danger lies in a tendency on the part of some to confuse the principles of the republic with those of other less desirable forms of government. So, in these times of confusion and uncertainty and unrest, it is important that we should seek to restore normal conditions through a full understanding and a conscientious application of the

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principles of the republic.

The republic has produced many great statesmen. It could not be otherwise, for the requirements of this form of government are such that success can only be wrought through the development of virile, sane, clear-thinking men, who are able to comprehend the great problems of the times. Among these, Theodore Roosevelt stands out most prominently. He was the type of true American who, with a clear vision of the purposes of the republic, repeatedly called the people back to an understanding of the dangers that lurk in departures from the purposes of the fundamental law that was written by the fathers. Unfortunate it is that we have not the benefits of his wise counsel today, but we have in its stead the memory of his unflagging courage and his determination of American purposes, to guide us and stimulate our patriotic impulses and efforts.

Therefore, in order that we may properly respect the name of this great American, and, through a study of his life, instill in the minds of the people a new appreciation of the meaning of true Americanism, I hereby designate October 27th, which is the birthday of Theodore Roosevelt, Americanization Day, to be observed throughout this state and by all the people.

SAMUEL R. McKELVIE,  
Governor.

TRIBUTES TO THE GREAT AMERICAN

(Continued from Page One)

our public life. It was he, in our time, who first effectively asserted the dominion of the commonwealth over all private power. And when at last he spoke for social justice, he was the first public man in America to blaze the way along which we all now know we must go.—Medill McCormick.

"He was of the West—he was an American.

"He was for America first, last and all the time.

"He was a hard hitting, free thinking fighter for truth and upright dealing.

"He was an American.—William S. Hart."

"When a great man dies, the whole people feels bereaved. The stream of pilgrims, which has been flowing to the grave in which lie the earthly remains that once held the spirit of Theodore Roosevelt, is the unique and at the same time, symbolic expression of the love which is flowing in spirit, from the whole American people, to his memory. He was closer to the hearts of the people than any leader of his time. No American, since Lincoln, has been such an exponent of the genius of America.

"Down deep in their hearts, all Americans love him. He stands out, head and shoulders above all his contemporaries, by his marvelous versatility, and therefore, by his broad humanity. As reformer, as statesman, as soldier, as leader in the awakening of the social conscience of the country, as student and writer, as scientist, traveler and explorer, as the fearless and aggressive exemplar of the strenuous life, and lastly, as the great patriot, who was anxious to fight for his country, and the opportunity having been refused him, showed the nation how a father, with holy joy, could dedicate all his sons to his beloved land, Roosevelt stood out in American life, as the man of most varied interests, of the widest and most catholic sympathies and the most intense Americanism.

"He loved righteousness, he loved America, he loved mankind. He intensely loved life. And as the root of all these loves, was his love of nature. He is immortal. He is deathlessly enshrined in the heart of America. It should be a holy privilege and a joyous duty for all Americans to contribute to a memorial, which shall assure the continued influence of this great and beloved man in the life of the nation.—Samuel Schulman."

"It appears to me that the great value of the Roosevelt memorial campaign lies in the fact that it will call to the mind of those who are contributing and of the public at large, the qualities of courage and individual resource which so distinguished Theodore Roosevelt. It is this doctrine, as opposed to paternalism, which seems to me must ultimately prove the sal-

vation of all democratic institutions.

"There has been too great a tendency among the public to believe that somehow, in some way, the government can bear all its burdens and solve all its problems. The truth is that the government will be just what the people, by their constructive wish, demand that it should be. Therefore, the nature of the government will depend upon the degree to which self reliance and determination are the controlling instincts of the people themselves.

"When one sees or reads of the Washington monument the mind unconsciously reverts to his life and character. In like manner a memorial to Theodore Roosevelt will, when it is seen, direct the attention of the observer to the character and life of Roosevelt himself, and will thus be a subtle but nevertheless powerful influence which will tend to strengthen those characteristics which will mean so much to the betterment and permanence of our republican institutions.—John S. Cravens."

DISSATISFACTION VOICED AT LABOR CONGRESS

(By Associated Negro Press.)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 23.—In the labor congress in progress this city, many complaints are coming from various groups. While the railroad unions appear to be the only group invited which may refuse to participate, the conference will assemble with the farmers and Negroes dissatisfied with their representation.

Farmers' organizations have protested that they should have more than three delegates and some Ne-

groes have requested that a member of their race be appointed to present their interests.

The Negroes were not given a delegate, it was said officially, because no attempt was made to draw a color line in considering labor problems, and all recommendations will apply indiscriminately to white and black workers.

LAW BREAKERS ATTEMPT INTIMIDATION

Destroy Furniture and Wreck Dwelling.

(By Associated Negro Press.)

BALTIMORE, Oct. 22.—Mrs. Isaac Shipiro (white) of this city recently rented a home in the 1100 block on Sharp street to colored tenants. The house was locked for the night, the furniture being left on the lower floor, while the family was moving in.

On entering the house in the morning it was discovered that the floor was wrecked, the walls and plumbing fixtures destroyed, the furniture which was moved in was taken out of the house, the bathroom fixtures were moved to the roof and debris was scattered all over the first floor. The neighborhood has very few colored families in it.

Monitor subscription contest closes Saturday, November 15. Get busy if your church is going to earn that \$100.

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