



Gratia A. Countryman and Family Papers.

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Report from Dr
Huko Americanization
Class.

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FOR AMERICANIZATION CONFERENCE

The Library- Its Contribution

The library's contribution to the education of the New American scarcely needs an explanation. It is in the very nature of library work that it should serve the New American in the regular course of its daily work. The library in the main does not adopt any unusual methods or make any definite program for Americanization.

The slogan of any good library is "an equal chance for every citizen to read for pleasure and profit." An equal chance for every one—that is what a library seeks to give. An equal chance means that the library must plant stations and branches where the people live. It is not an equal chance if the well-to-do can reach the library in an automobile or within walking distance of their homes while the workman and his children must take a street car. An equal chance means a library within walking distance and especially so if the neighborhood is poor.

So the very purpose of a library to furnish books equally convenient to all parts of town brings the library into the neighborhood of the New American. There it is in the Russian neighborhood or the Polish or the Slovak. The children find it; they begin to bring little brother^s and sisters; they grow up in it, using books in English, imbibing American ideas and customs. Mothers begin to leave the children in the library as a safe place and gradually get acquainted with the Librarian. Books drift home to the parents. If the parent cannot read English, books in his own language are sent home by the children. The librarian in the course of her regular duties goes to the day school and helps the children to take out their library cards. In the same way she attends all the night schools and helps the night students, many of whom are foreigners, to get library cards and then helps them later as they come to the library, to get the books which they can read.

But it is all in the day's work; The good librarian studies to be

helpful. There is no special method or propaganda; it is the avowed purpose of the library to bring the gospel of good books to every one that can be reached and the New American is just naturally within the scope of the librarian's activities. The Public Library has always helped the foreigners through books in his own language or through his children or through his own efforts to read English and has not named the effort Americanization.

But there may be some especial reasons why the library has made a good contribution toward the Americanization problem:

- (1) The library has such a variety of material at its disposal; picture books for wee little foreign children, foreign magazines and newspapers, books on all the trades, - mechanics, building, automobiles. Many foreigners are artistic, many are musical. The library can always find some point of contact through the variety of books at hand.
- (2) The library is an informal place, especially the branch libraries. There is always some one ready to help both the grown-ups and the children, but they are equally free to browse around and settle down comfortably to read what they please. There is not much red tape in the ordinary branch library and the atmosphere is cordial and unrestrained.
- (3) Then the library is open, at least in the cities, for long hours. The workman off, in the evening or holidays, or slack times, always finds the library open week days or Sundays. It is an inviting place where he is always welcome.

The library has of course made some especial efforts to teach the New Americans, which are worthy of mention: When the applicant for citizenship applies for his final papers our Library has sent to him an invitation to visit the library and get material to help with his examination. Each

month when the second papers are given to groups, a library representative is present in the court room and supplies each new citizen with a library card and invites him to use the library and assures him of our desire to help him in his further study to become a good citizen.

The library contribution to Americanization is an intangible thing, difficult to express. It is just as difficult to express the constant influence on an American child who grows up in a good library, reading good books, absorbing ideas and moulding character. But if hard to express, it is altogether clear that the foreign child browsing among our books, feeding his growing little mind with stories of our American life, lives of our American heroes, is absorbing through books into his very blood and muscle the ideas which we would find it difficult to put there otherwise. It is altogether clear that the opportunity to study and read, the cordial help given by library assistants, the freedom to take books home without charge is a web of strong threads binding him ever stronger to the new land of his adoption.

LIBRARY ACTIVITIES
October, 1919

REGISTRATION

The Library has registered 4791 new borrowers.

Last October we registered 2003 new borrowers,- a gain of 2787

The largest previous month in the Library's history was October, 1916 with a registration of 3037. This year's gain over that was 1754.

Four night schools were visited in October, and 529 students registered.

Visits to the Federal and District Courts for October resulted in 96 New Americans furnished with cards and lists of books.

CIRCULATION

The entire circulation for October amounted to 147,176 volumes,- a gain of 35,819 volumes over last October.

1916	129,655 volumes
1917..	127,901 volumes
1918	111,357 volumes
1919.....	147,176 volumes

Franklin Branch was the banner branch with a circulation of 11,326 volumes.

The Bremer School Branch made the largest gain,- 3050 books.

Clippings circulated amounted to 3062 pieces.

Lantern Slides circulated to the amount of 7441 slides.

Americanization Speech

Yesterday Democracy called to the
nations to train their men, to
fight

Today Democracy calls to the
nations to train their men to
think

Yesterday the nations united to train
& equip the soldier and all the
resources of society were called
into service to give him a fighting
chance

Today all the resources of society must
be called in to equip the citizen
to set free his powers of mind
& spirit

Library method of Americanization

Americanization is not a new subject to the Public Library. For years the larger libraries and many of the smaller ones have consciously and deliberately carried on an action program among the foreign born. The library is a public institution supported by the people and given to all the people, and its whole purpose is to reach all of the people with educational opportunities. In a democratic government where every man (and every woman) has the franchise, it is most important that every voter ~~should know~~ ^{knows} how to use that great privilege. ~~No democracy can be an utter success unless every individual in it expresses his judgment in his decision and opinion through the ballot.~~ All of our democratic ideals rest upon the foundation of a wide education and an equal opportunity to acquire it.

The Public Library

What other American institution can play the part which the free library plays in spreading a wide educational service. This library is a free high working school; it is the one free democratic public institution which carries to every man and woman the educational opportunity - so greatly needed - at this new epoch of the world's history. To reach out through the community to find those who need its service and to offer them is and has always been the library method of operation. ~~It is just the library's~~ naturally, by virtue of its very purpose and organization an americanizing agency.

1. Because it is one of the agencies which can best reach the adults of a community, the school prepares and directs the children, an indispensable service; but the library goes on with their self-education the rest of their lives. It is the school

for a adult, the school in
Citizenship for the foreign born, the
school in craft for the artisan, the
general school for the education of those
who have missed regular school
opportunities. The Day-schools do not
reach directly the larger body of our
foreign born population. Those who
attend night schools are a very small
percentage of the whole. Many men
think themselves too old to go to school
and women are tied up with household
duties. But if books are obtainable
they the adult is in possession of the
~~the~~ best means of education.

2. The library has peculiar
advantages for Americanization: its
reading rooms are informal and
inviting. There are no organized
classes. The tired working man
who cannot strain his attention
any further after the day's work can
still ~~and~~ read with pleasure and
profit even if he cannot go to
night school or do any regular study.

2. The library is convenient for the working man or woman, because it is open ~~the year~~ ~~around~~ throughout the year, every day and evening in the week. A woman who cannot learn little children to attend regular school sessions, can run into the library when she can, or can send for books by the children. They can drop in evenings or Sundays and get their schooling through books as they can find time.

The Specific ways which the library adopts for the benefit of the foreign-born members of the community may be summarized as follows:-

1 - The library usually contains books in

America is an undigested mass
of foreigners. We are different
from every other country. We are
a country of diverse languages, of
divided loyalty, with different
ideas of freedom and democracy.

We have been rather proud of
calling ourselves a melting pot,
but we haven't realized that a
melting pot, with no one in
particular to watch the fire or
stir the pot, doesn't brew a
nation, especially when some other
nation has been indirectionally
doing the stirring.

Thanks to this war we are
freed from the delusion that
we are a united people marching
steadily along an American highway
of peace and prosperity. We are

Not a united people. and the sooner
all of us wake from this delusion
the quicker we will understand our
responsibility for bringing about a
united people, with all the effort in us.

During all of these years, America
has neglected, even forgotten its
task of making Americans out of the
people who came to its shores - many
of whom came with visions of this
land of the free, only to find
themselves exploited, cheated & thwarted.

Now we stand aghast at our
problem. About $\frac{1}{4}$ of our population
is foreign born, about $\frac{1}{3}$ are either
foreign born or born of foreign
parentage. One third of our population
with foreign traditions and customs and
sympathies.

There are estimated to be
5,000,000 alien ^{immigrants} ~~residents~~ in the

U.S. - Why alien and not
citizens. Is it their fault or
Americas fault? Most of them
came here with courage and strength,
with dreams. And what have we done
herded them into stock yards and
factories, crated them up into
dirty tenements or horrid little
hovels. Let them live in filth
and dirt, in little colonies where
American ideals of living were
never seen, where the English
language was never spoken
where their babies died like flies.
What thought have the great
employers given to Americas
interest in that man - as a
voter, as a citizen, as a taxpayer.

Why should these aliens
love America. Many of them
know nothing about the America
which we know and love.

But now we are awake - We
have felt the disloyalty shown by
many of our American citizens during
the great war. We have also
seen with wondering eyes the long
lists of foreign names on our honor
rolls - We are beginning to
realize what America is.

For a hundred years America has
been the goal of the European
peasant's ambition. Never has
there been in history such a race
movement as that which has
added 20 millions to one race
in a half century. Formerly our
large migrations were Irish
German & Scandinavian. Now
the large numbers are from the
Southern races. In 1914 &
nearly 300,000 Italians came and
more than 300,000 Slavs.

Besides the European nations, there
are the Turks, the Syrians, Armenians
and other Asiatics.

Out of all these we are
fashioning a new Race, we
are trying to merge the blood
the creeds, the aspirations, ~~the~~
of many races into one people.
It is a mighty experiment, ~~full~~
~~of danger if we do not face and~~
~~overcome the dangers.~~ And no one
but the Almighty himself could have
started such an amalgamation of
the races of the world into a new
Race. We have Europe Asia and
Africa - all here and slowly but
surely they are going to be made
over into one Race. Isn't it
a gigantic proposition. When we
talk about Americanization, we
are talking about something very
big. We are talking about the
infusion of a common spirit and
common ideals into this heterogeneous
mass, we are talking about
assimilation - not the mere

Adoption into citizenship - important
as that may be, not the adoption
of a common language simply,
but the winning of the mind and
heart through instruction and
enlightenment. America is a spirit
to be taught. America itself is
the greatest demonstration of
Christianity, the finest answer to
"Who is my neighbor?"

Perhaps we haven't realized America
and what she stands for ourselves.
As a Church we have heard our
call - Go ye into all the world and
ye have gone. And the world has
turned and entered our doors.
Here is our wonderful opportunity.
Right here! If the Christian
Church does not realize that just
what it has dreamed of & prayed for -
the freedom from Egyptian bondage
has come, and does not follow
up with Christianizing influences, then

this war has been fought in
vain.

Given problems are before us
problems that demand the united
wisdom of all who care for
the welfare of humanity in the days
to come. From the torn
countries of Europe are likely
to come thousands of broken
down men, especially those from
the lower grades of society and
whose coming will be a distinct
danger.

Already there are organizations
studying construction legislation
on the immigrant problem.

There are strong convictions on the
part of social workers and
students that those who are here
should be assimilated before
any more arrive.

There are questions too large
to discuss here. They are for the
legislators.

In the last resort the Americanization
of the foreigner rests with the
attitude of the Nation American
towards him. Are we satisfied that
he should live in housing conditions
unfit for animals. (Case of girl sleeping
in ~~room~~ bed with a perfect stranger,
morality blunted from childhood - no
privacy) Are we willing to exploit
little children in factories in the
street trades. Do we call them
Dago or Paddy or Sheenys - these
neighbors of ours

We think of them often as some
strange animal - with feelings
different from ours - but they are not.
The Poles - 250 years ago John Sobieski
turned back the Brutal Turks who
threatened Western civilization -
the Bohemians - their anniversary at
Prague is older than any German
University.

But now let us not get lost
in the business of it all - and think

that these great forward moving
forces will take care of all -
it is the attitude

It is rather terrible to realize
that now when every person counts
thousands and thousands of people
cannot talk to us - nor we to them
because we haven't even a common
language. It is our inhospitality
our indifference and neglect and
we are reaping the results.

It is time we were awake
I wish that we realized that
our foreigners are not some
 queer kind of animal to be
approached only within a discreet
distance. They are just folks,
kind friends and good neighbors
and we owe them hospitality and
neighborliness.

Map of Minneapolis
& Library work for them

Friends we face the stern necessity
of Americanizing these peoples.
Let us define to ourselves this term
Americanization (read Kellogg p 10)

We women must recognize that the
foreign born woman and her home
is the vulnerable spot in our
democracy.

The foreign born child is
Americanized in school. The men
are more likely to have a chance
at their work. - They read more
than women. The army and
the Cantonnments are great American-
ization centers today. Every man
who comes back a thorough American.
But the mother in the home - she
is our job. Shall we let her
feel that the war has brought
her only loss and horror. No
we must take care of her, teach
her English, keep her to understand

her new country. We must be interested in woman labor and child labor and all the problems that hit hard upon the life of the ignorant immigrant. We must bravely lay aside all racial prejudice and our Anglo-Saxon Superiority.

The other day a railroad advertised for some women to work on scrap iron in the yards. (See Keller p 12)

Teaching English to foreign women

What we are doing in Mpls

Individual work -

Our job will never be done by Association or legislation. But by the friendly attitude of each one.

~~Don't~~ If each of us should adopt an immigrant family - be a neighbor to them, see that the father ~~and~~ son are naturalized, that the mother

learn English, that the children
are free that you are the family
friend. Don't delegate your
friendly services - do it yourself.

— Spread this doctrine of the
friendly attitude, and the immigrant
woman and her family will soon
love this country as well as you
do -

Tendency of foreigners is to throw
off religion along with other
compulsory things that belonged to
the old world -

Illiteracy

The quotas at Ellis Island -
(let about it) -

What is Americanization -

It is assimilation into the U.S. It is
not the adoption of American citizenship
^{mere} but the actual raising of the immigrant
to the American economic, social & moral
standard of life.

American in spirit as well as in
name.

There is no such thing as an
American race. We are fashioning
a new people - we are trying to
merge them into a new race

(over)

Americanization is a process
of education, of winning the mind &
heart through instruction & enlightenment

Our ignorance of the foreigner &
the conditions under which he works
is as much the reason for his
isolation as is the barrier of
language. — To protect him
against fraud & exploitation,
he chose to raise his children
free

Survivor, the immigrant himself
has no desire to destroy American
institutions - He came longing to share
in their benefits.

Many agencies are at work to
help the alien adjust himself to
American ways. In the local
resort the Americanization of the
foreigner rests with the attitude
of the Nation American towards him
rather than with the immigrant
himself. Shame be placed for the
miserable housing conditions where
they herd like rabbits (sewer corner
conditions) No air, sewed up children.
Parents & teachers organizations to reach
sanitary conditions. Natural modesty
has been blunted from childhood.
Our good church people own tenement
houses - & live from the proceeds -
Better housing - for sanitation
& morality. The Street Trade

is coming at the rate of 30000
per year. So are the Southern Italians.
In 1914, only 36000 Scandinavians
came to 296000 Italians.

So also are the Turks, the
Syrians & Armenians and other Asiatics
Japs - - Most of the people who
come belong in the lower grades of
society and there coming is a distinct
danger.

Strong conviction among social workers
and students that those who are
here should be assimilated before any
more arrive. There is danger
that the city will become broken
up into poorer racial districts and
the sense of civic unity destroyed.
Morals & religion suffer. Crime
poverty & disease increase.

Not an insoluble problem.
The nation should have been able to

Congreg. Church. not have classes for
teaching English. Arouse interest in
the alien - Civic clubs, work in
immigrant communities

Cong. Church has a missionary at Elli-
Island - Support the different educational
institutions that are preparing teachers for
aliens

Interest in foreign races - their
customs literature & culture - what
each race brings

Here is the ^{Woman's} Polar Alliance

Be a friend to one foreign woman
who needs you.

For a hundred years America
has been the goal of the European
peasant's ambition. The American
people are being altered by it.
Society is being re-shaped by it.

Never has there been in history
such a race movement as that
which has added 20 million to one
race in a half century.

It is a problem that has to do
with all phases of life - economic,
political, religious. A problem
that demands the united wisdom
of all who care for the welfare
of humanity in the days to come.

Formerly our large migrations
were Irish, German, Scandinavian.
Now the large numbers are from
the Southern Countries.

①

Library Methods of Americanization

Americanization is not a new subject to librarians. For years the large libraries and many of the smaller ones have consciously and deliberately carried on an active program among the foreign born.

- Why? Because no other agency can so well reach ^{the} adults of a community.

The schools do not reach directly the large body of our foreign born population. Those who attend night schools are a very small percentage of the whole.

② This library has peculiar advantages for Americanization.

because it is providing an informal
because it makes less strenuous demands
upon hard working men, - ~~because~~
because it is open throughout the year
every day in the week.

because men who think themselves too old to go to school and women who cannot learn little children to attend frequent school sessions can find help at the library.

How - (1) The library should catch the interest of the newly arrived immigrant by books in his own language. They can be sent to him through his children who usually find the library through their school teachers - they can be sent through his neighbors. Notices should be found in his foreign language paper if there be one.

The library should subscribe to foreign magazines and newspapers - The immigrant should be kept informed of public events of his new country through his own language (if he can read it) while he is learning our language.

There is at present some discussion as to the advisability of furnishing foreign books and magazines. To determine it - one should imagine himself in a foreign land, compelled to go without reading matter or current news until ~~one~~ he has acquired the new language.

2 - The public library has for years visited every night school and furnished the students with library cards and asked them to bring others to the library. They have been told about the foreign language books and been given lists of helpful books in learning English.

(3) For several years ~~in~~ in Napa, an assistant has been each month at the Naturalization Courts, when the new citizen gets his first papers. The judge usually commends the library to each man, and he comes directly to the assistant and signs his application blank for a library card. Which is later mailed to him with ~~the~~ a helpful list of books and the address of the library branch nearest his home.

(4) During this past winter, a list of all names filed for first papers has been secured each month from the Naturalization Clerk. ~~A letter~~ It is more helpful to the immigrant to use the library while he is preparing for his second papers. So a letter inviting him to get a card and use the library is sent to him upon his first application for citizenship.

(5) The library keeps everything that is published as helps in teaching or learning English, books on citizenship, simpler books on American history, American biographies, and local history, books on the Constitution and American ideals ~~part~~ and books on American in foreign languages.

(4)

~~it furnish lists short ones for the~~
~~newcomers, and~~

These are placed together in a
conspicuous place where the newcomer
may help himself. Most foreigners are
timid, and will go without rather than
ask. Librarians recognize this and make
it as easy as possible for the foreigner
to get his library card and to choose
his books without embarrassment.

The short lists ^{of books} ~~help him greatly~~
distributed widely by the library. Help
him greatly in making a wise selection.

6) Every library assistant should be well informed on naturalization procedure, and should urge every foreigner who enters the library or with whom she can make a contact to file his application for citizenship.

7) The Library should part its work -
by into the foreign communities, through branch libraries or through school or factory libraries so that immigrants need not come so far from home to obtain books.
The library assistant herself should know every racial group within reach of her branch, should know the racial leaders and their organizations. She should know the industries in which they work and what their interests are. She should carry on a persistent and incessant publicity campaign to draw the benefit of a free library. She should get the active co-operation of their churches or labor lodges or societies.

8) ~~The library is always willing to co-operate with any~~ (231)

(6)

Now all of these methods are for
the sake of getting the immigrants
to use the library.

In addition the library must
Co-operate with every ^{other} Community-
Agency in Americanization service.
It must be willing to make surveys
of the neighborhoods around library branches
and put its information at the service of
any worker. It must ~~be~~ work in
a helpful spirit with social workers,
visiting nurses, teachers and principals,
night schools, civic bodies & business
organizations in any effort to bring
~~the same~~ principles to Americanize
our foreign newcomers.

In this, as in all other forms of
service, it is the library must to do
all it can not only directly, but in
co-operation with every other ~~person~~
person or society who seeks the same
result.

1) I think that the very presence of this group devoting their summer months to the study of work with the foreign born, is proof of the earnestness of our desire.

I am glad to claim relationships with the teachers and workers who are seeking social contacts and methods of educating our new Americans. for the library is one with you in all good efforts. We have tried to study the problem and to adapt our methods toward some solution.

In the days following some members of my staff will outline our work in connection with the immigration officials and courts, ~~and~~ our work with foreign children and with adults.

I wish to present a general view of the work of a large library as it affects

American citizenship generally, and adds its particular contribution to American Education.

1. A library is essentially an institution for adult education.

Now think of the magnitude of this task.

In opening this Conference on the
Relations of Librarians to the Foreign Born
I am not going to dwell on the
methods which

2) of adult education.

We have been giving enormous sums and great professional skill to the development of the public school - secondary education - and to the comparatively few who go on with higher education - to the children & youth.

Now we are running night schools & vocational schools for adults. University extension classes reach out ~~to~~ into the towns and rural communities. Agricultural schools have special courses for adults who are busy earning their living.

But with these agencies, there still remains the great mass of people - the mechanic, the factory hands, & street laborers, the busy shopkeepers, housewives, the great body of citizens, who do not take advantage of any of these opportunities.

It is that group that the library must serve. To be sure the library is

always at the service of the schools and classes & clubs who are doing systematic work, (that goes without saying). I am only trying to bring out its

constant, unheralded but persistent usefulness to the great mass of adults who unconsciously perhaps are getting their education through the library.

It is the magnitude of this task that keeps the librarian thinking & planning & ways to interest & draw this great group. The children come to us through school interests. It is necessary to seek the adult who has not got educational ambitions.

The Importance of the task also presses heavily upon us.

It is trite, but true enough to keep on stating that a successful democracy depends upon a thinking citizenship. We all realize the danger and peril of ignorance in our civic life. And we are all engaged in developing thinking American citizenship. A few demagogic leaders can take a mob of unthinking followers with them.

It is our business to make clear honest thinkers. to keep them to have opinions, to crystallize their thoughts, to give them perspective.

But who will do this for the great body of the people - who but the library! It has the newspapers, the up with all modern magazines, the books. It keeps

Tell how we reach adults
 by Branches, delivery stations, factories
engine houses, even School Houses.
County work.

[2] The library is a many sided institution.
 It is ~~not~~ a research laboratory not
 on one subject only, but on every
subject. Does the Business man
 want all the Steamship lines + their
 dates of sailing to every So. American
 Port, or the laws that are pending
 before the Texas Legislature - well
 there is the Business Branch which
 makes a business of collecting everything
 that a business man wants.
 Is some poorly stricken young worker
 interested in music trying to develop
 his talent, there is the music dept. to
 that loans all kinds of music for
 all kinds of instruments.
 I remember one poor fellow who
 studied books on etching for weeks, he
 learned all he knew of it from the
 library. He is now a member of the
 International Society of Etchers.
 Once when we advertised our books on

Laces, a man came with his wife
 to see them, hoping he said to see
 some designs that he could use
 for wrought iron. He was at once
 shown some fair designs for wrought
 iron, and improved his work.
 Men have taken courses in civil
 in concrete, in accounting, in architecture
 by studying by themselves in the library.
 There are more ~~students~~ people doing private
 study in the library, preparing for
 better jobs, getting ready for civil
 service examinations, or just
 improving their general information
~~than are enrolled in all the~~
 or getting some specific facts for
 a special occasion, than are
 enrolled in all the schools in the
 city put together.

See
 desk

> If I could read you the questions
 that come over the desks of the
 various departments in one hour
 it would illustrate the diversity
 of things which the library is prepared
 to answer, either to the casual
 inquirer or the serious student.
 It is an open minded, unbiased
 laboratory, equally interested on every
 side of every question that interests people.

3] Americanization

But what has all this to do with Americanization. Everything. We are trying to serve every part of this great mass of people. The new American is a part of it. They are part of every community, they are engaged in every factory and in all the trades. They are for the most part treated as one of us not as a separate problem. As soon as they get acquainted with the simple methods of using the library, they slip into the easy & free use of our magazines & books, and are helped ~~just as our people~~ to find what they want without any reference to their nationality. If they are embarrassed it soon passes away. If the difficulty of language makes them reticent, we try to anticipate their questions. In other words they are one of our patrons. Our service is a common benefit to all alike. We must make him feel this.

But Americanization is a process of many generations. It is not as hard to work out certain educational &

7)
Social problems with the new comers
as it is ~~with~~ sometimes with the next
one.

Real Atlantic (June 1922) p 766

Each generation has in fact to become
Americanized afresh

Ah there is the problem -

To do more for the souls of our people
To make ~~not~~ American citizens in
name, but Americans

To give them the spirit of American
freedom, ~~the~~ loyalty for justice
and right. appreciation of opportunity
respect for law.

This is a task not confined to the
foreign born, but to his children and
grand children

We workers in the library field join
with you in all attempts to establish
this democracy on a foundation of
intelligent thinking citizens. No
library can justify its use of public
funds, unless it keeps this ~~object~~ purpose
definitely before it -