

## Annual Report of the Citizenship Department 1922

Last year, under the very efficient leadership of Miss Crane, this department conducted numerous courses in Citizenship which were available to the general public. The ground was so well covered that the committee this year decided to work along different lines, and our main efforts have been directed toward Americanization.

We co-operated with the Historical Society in celebrating the Fourth of July by decorating a float called "Citizenship" which was manned by Uncle Sam and Columbia and several types of new citizens, both American and foreign born and which received second honorable mention. All new citizens were invited to march with the float, and a small delegation responded.

The candidates for the fall election and the questions at issue were presented to the public by the League, as a whole; but one meeting was held by this department at the Nurses' Home at Muhlenberg Hospital where the ballot was explained and general information given in regard to the election.

Mrs. Carstarphen, a most valuable member of the committee, has on six occasions explained to different organizations the purpose of the League and of the Citizenship Department in particular and urged and offered co-operation.

Through the efforts of this department, the term of the Night School for foreign, colored and illiterate adults conducted in the High School Building, was extended from 16 to 20 weeks this year, and the Board of Education enlarged its appropriation sufficiently to carry on the work for 20 weeks next year. We also held a cake sale to raise \$24.00 for an assistant to Mrs. Wardner, the Principal of the Night School, for the four extra weeks.

With a view to establishing a League in Plainfield, this committee carefully investigated the work of the Junior Citizen's League as now functioning in Glen Ridge. This is an organization of American citizens from 16 to 21 year of age, trained for and actively engaged in full fledged junior government in their own municipalities, and is the result of an experiment initiated by William R. George of the George Junior Republic. We feel that Plainfield should co-operate in this movement in the near future, but because of the excellent training in citizenship now being given in the 8th grade and in the first and junior and senior years of High School and the need is, in a great measure, already met. Miss Bond's course in Problems of American Democracy with the High School Seniors is most thorough. When Mr. Henry E. Jackson, President of the National Community Board, visited Miss Bond's classes last year after delivering a lecture in the High School on "Training for Citizenship, and inspected the work and questioned the pupils, he expressed the greatest surprise and satisfaction, and said the pupils were entitled to receive, on application, the medal given on the completion of his course. The same kind of work is done, but in a lesser degree, in the Continuation Classes under the able direction of Mr. Arthur Hooper, for those who who leave school at an early age to go to work.



Your chairman had the pleasure of filling out a questionnaire on Americanization covering Plainfield, for Mrs. Harriman Simmons, Head of the State Department of Americanization, and this was no doubt the inspiration for a questionnaire, which is now under preparation by this department and which will be sent to all local organization, in order to secure information in regard to what is being done in the way of training for citizenship, so that we may co-operate and help or be helped in our work.

We have a splendid, strong committee for next year with Mr. Arthur Hooper, Head of Manual Arts for the entire city, as advisory member, Mr. Hopper has charge of the enrollment for the Night School, and we are planning to work with him to increase the attendance and to follow up delinquents. We also hope to do some very definite work through volunteer teachers in the homes with those who need instruction but are unable to attend Night School.

To make naturalization more possible for those worthy of it, we hope to arrange for a definite hour for examination in Elizabeth and for motor transportation to and from, thus avoiding unnecessary delay and expense. Foreigners are especially trained for citizenship in the Night School, and it will be possible to have them work toward a diploma which will help in securing their papers.

Last year we made an effort toward public recognition of the new citizen on the Fourth, but in the many other interests of the day, this was lost sight of. Now we are aiming to have a special day of celebration, possibly Flag Day, when appropriate exercises may be held and the new citizen, particularly the foreigner, may be welcomed and made to feel the importance and responsibility of his new relationship.

It is possible that arrangements may be made with Miss Bond to conduct one or more classes for the public in the fall, along the lines followed in High School, but adapted to her audiences. Two local organizations have already expressed a desire for such classes, and if arrangements can be made, subjects and details will be submitted to the League for approval.

This department is looking forward to a busy and interesting year.

Respectfully submitted,

Harriet T. B. Chase,

Chairman.