

Americans All

WHO is your true American? Is he only the child of the Pilgrims who landed on Plymouth Rock or of the English adventurers who settled Virginia? Or is he the descendant of the Dutchmen who founded New York, the Swedes who established themselves in New Jersey or the Spaniards who blazed the way for all in their settlements in Florida and New Mexico?

During ten years now we have been seething with nationalistic ferment. Each according to his own vision and his own prejudices has been trying to make over America in his own image.

High and low, rich and poor, we have been struggling for the customs and ideals congenial to us and in many cases we have been attempting to make our fellow countrymen conform to our notions.

So we have had the amazing pageant of defense societies ranging from the red hunters of the Union League Club to the Ku Klux Klan and from the Daughters of the American Revolution to Mayor William Hale Thompson's "America First" band wagon at \$10 a ride.

Almost every nationality which has found a refuge on these shores is endeavoring to have American history rewritten to enhance its own reputation. The melting pot for the time being seems not to be fusing the various elements but rather to be emphasizing our difference in a crucible of white heat.

The entire outburst of nationalistic exuberance is destructive and dangerous to everything essentially American.

English is our language and out of British laws and British customs is woven the pattern of our life as a nation but it is absurdly superficial to attribute to any single racial stock responsibility for what has already been achieved or to fear for the future.

America is not Britain transplanted, nor Germany, nor Ireland, nor Scandinavia, nor Italy, nor Russia but only the shortsighted are insensitive to the advantages conferred

upon us by each of these lands and by emigrants from many others.

The oldest instinct of any race is to believe that they are the people and wisdom shall die with them. Every strain which calls itself American appreciates its own merits and regards less favorably the characteristics of its neighbors.

Let's not deceive ourselves. All are needed if America is to realize her inherent possibilities.

Nobody can say that one race has created a better civilization than another. Only a stupid person would say that Germany or France or Britain or Ireland or Sweden produced better men and women than any other country.

The British are good at government and the Irish are deft in politics and the Italians sing well and have a talent for painting and sculpture. The Slavs have no great reputation for tolerating differences of political opinion but they write great books and compose marvelous music. Even a peasant from Central Europe may have artistic appreciations and capacities far beyond the imagination of the most substantial American of older stock.

We can't benefit our country by despising or hating our fellow countrymen, however they may differ from us.

Irish can't successfully hate the English in the United States and the Ku Klux Klan cannot serve by preaching ill-will toward all not of old Protestant stock. Germans neither benefit themselves nor their country by keeping alive the fires of nationalistic hatred.

America has been the promised land to so many races not because we were a bit of the Old World transplanted but because we were unique in opportunity and in freedom of achievement.

We are not bound by class or hereditary distinctions. Our government makes possible tolerance of the widest divergences. Let's make use of the freedom we have inherited to build a greater nation on coöperation, good-will and mutual understanding. Thus only can we truly progress.

Equal Rights

THE National Woman's party has renewed its fight to persuade or force Congress to refer to the states a constitutional amendment providing that men and women shall have equal rights.

If the proposal applied only to equal rights to the fruits of their work, to property acquired in any legitimate manner, and legal equality in questions concerning the custody of children, the amendment would then go the whole distance with little opposition.

But removing the barrier which most states have raised against the employment of women in industry at muscle jobs calling for long hours, night work and great hazards goes so strongly against the best judgment of the average man or woman that the proposal is likely to be defeated, as it should be.

The recent finding of the British Industrial Research Board that the average wom-

an has little more than half the physical strength of the average man is a convincing argument against throwing women to the mercy of the same class of employers who now tax young children beyond their strength.

The most serious objection to a complete equal rights amendment is the strong probability that it would be nullified in many states, as the Fifteenth Amendment, supposed to give all the rights of citizenship to Negroes, has been nullified.

Looking over the federal records of 223,507 convictions under the prohibition amendment, with sentences totaling 22,500 years and fines amounting to more than forty-two million dollars and seeing that the law is being openly violated on all sides, the people are not eager to try another test of the limits of the Constitution.

They are not going to weaken the Constitution further by using it to upset a biological law of sex inequality as old as the known history of life.

One Dog's Day

UNDER the laws of Kentucky a dog accused of killing or wounding sheep is entitled to a man's trial by jury. In a recent case at Mt. Sterling nearly all of a court day was devoted to the trial of "Kaiser Bill," a police-trained dog which was accused of killing and wounding several of the sheep of Prewitt Young.

Bill lost the case. Bill was condemned to die, but was granted the right to appeal and released to his mistress on a \$300 bond.

Bill's mistress and his lawyer refused to take refuge behind a plea of insanity. They could have presented a vivid picture of Bill reverting to his primitive instincts, and they might have won for him a parole.

Bill's experience was a man's travail up to the plea itself. But then he scorned the tricky devices of man and set an example that should be graven above the bench of every court where weakling crooks renounce their minds to save their necks.

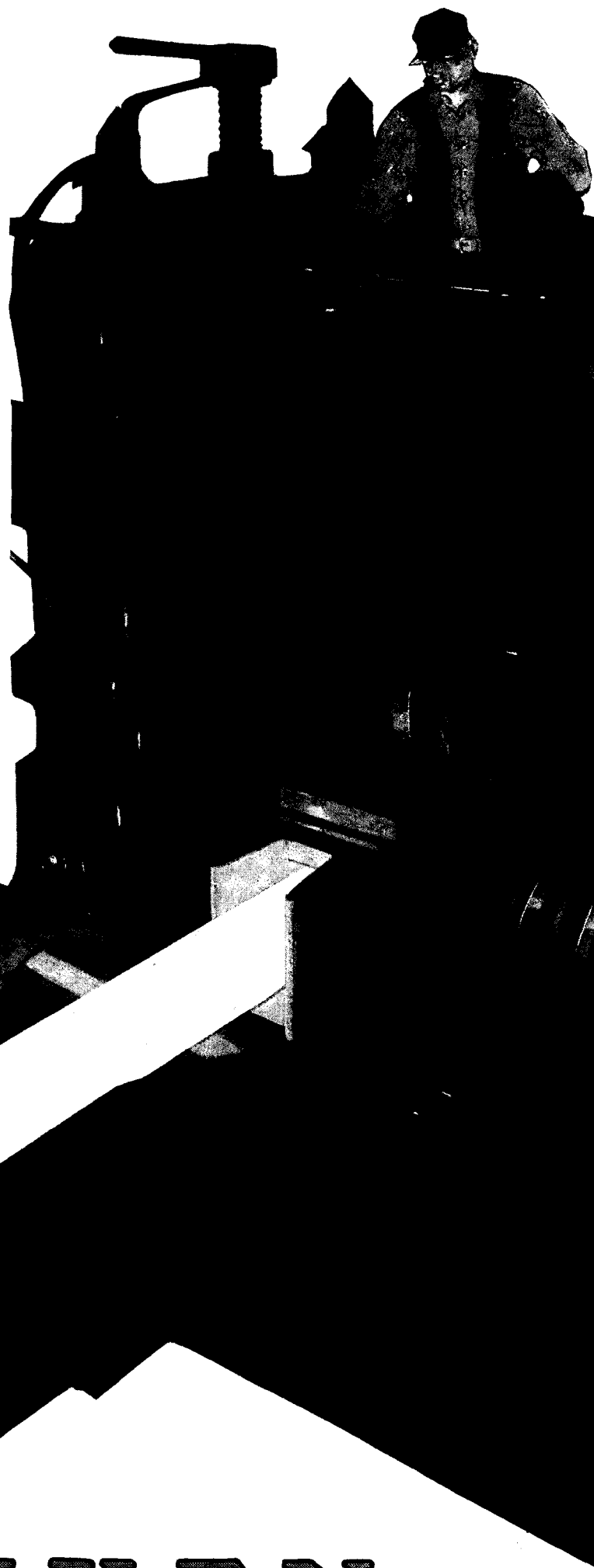
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