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City Club of Portland (Portland, Or.)

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"Harmony in  
Diversity"

# PORTLAND CITY CLUB BULLETIN

"Fore"

VOLUME I

PORTLAND, OREGON, MAY 20, 1921

NUMBER 35

**FRIDAY, MAY 20**

*Hotel Benson, 12:15*

SPEAKER

**WILLIAM T. McELVEEN**

Pastor First Congregational Church

SUBJECT

**"Some Interesting Observations Pertinent to the Present Labor  
Readjustment"**

A live subject presented in Dr. McElveen's vigorous fashion

**Report of the Americanization Committee will be Presented**

## AMERICANIZATION

*Report of Americanization Committee*

To the Board of Governors—  
Gentlemen:

Your committee has been meeting regularly with a joint committee of all organizations active in Americanization to formulate a program for the more effective development of the Americanization work in Portland.

It was found that only 800 out of a possible 5000 or 7000 non-English speaking foreigners are in classes. A plan was submitted to the committee by which it was proposed, (1) to correlate the work of the various organizations represented, (2) to make a thorough canvass of the city, enlisting the support of the industries and the foreign societies with the end of securing a permanent committee and a greatly increased attendance in Americanization classes, (3) to undertake this intensive cultivation with a campaign of education, showing to Portland people the national importance of teaching the American language and American ideals to foreigners.

Obviously such a program required a paid director under whom all interested organizations could join. The Public Schools offered the logical place for leadership, since the work is fundamentally educational and non-sectarian.

In order to preserve the character and to capitalize the enthusiasm of the various voluntary organizations now engaged in the work, it was suggested that a citizens' committee representing these various organizations and other civic bodies be appointed to act in an advisory capacity with the director chosen by the school board.

A petition, concurred in by the committee above named, was directed to the School Board, and the members of the Educational Committee of the School Board, along with the School Superintendent were called into informal conference. It was decided that an appropriation of \$3,000 to \$4,000 would be ample to secure this needed director and start the new work, but the School Board were hesitant about any new expenditure no matter how desirable.

The plan outlined to the School Board is similar to the one now in operation in Akron, Ohio, which has been highly successful.

It is pointed out however that the Akron plan greatly increased the attendance of foreigners in night classes and that the plan proposed for Portland may double the present attendance and thereby increase the expense in Portland night classes, (which means more Civics and English language for foreigners).

The committee thought that if it were possible to double the number of foreigners in Portland, learning the ideals and language of America under a competent school system, that the comparatively small appropriation asked would be money well spent.

It is now necessary to have an expression of opinion from the various civic bodies addressed to the School Board. Your committee cannot but feel that the City Club will want to act favorably in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

L. R. WHEELER,

*Chairman, Americanization Committee*



# PORTLAND CITY CLUB BULLETIN

Published Weekly By

## THE CITY CLUB OF PORTLAND

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### CITY CLUB OFFICERS

L. D. BOSLEY . . . . . President  
GEORGE E. MURPHY . . . . . First Vice-President  
FREDERICK S. COOK . . . . . Second Vice-President  
ELLIS R. HAWKINS . . . . . Secretary  
J. EARL JONES . . . . . Treasurer

### GOVERNORS

C. W. PLATT  
ROBERT R. RANKIN  
DR. C. ULYSSES MOORE  
DR. J. EARL ELSE  
ELLIS F. LAWRENCE

### CITY CLUB NOTES

Last Friday's meeting was a promising beginning for the new year; the attendance was good, a new spirit of fellowship seemed to prevail and new interest was in evidence.

Bishop McDowell's address which is reported on another page emphasized anew the importance of City Club work.

John C. Veatch has been appointed by the president to serve as chairman of the legislative bureau and has begun the preparation of reports on the measures which are to be presented for the vote of the people in the June election.

The regular meeting of the board of governors was held on Monday. Members of the Club are urged to send suggestions for the consideration of the governors.

On Friday, May 27th, nominations will be made from the floor, for a governor to serve for the unexpired term of George E. Murphy who was elected to the office of first vice-president, thus leaving a vacancy on the board of governors.

### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, this Club believes in the basic principle of teaching American ideals and the American spirit to foreigners;

WHEREAS, we believe that the best results in the Americanization work in Portland can be obtained only by a correlation of the various local Americanization agencies under one general head;

WHEREAS, a petition has already been addressed to the School Board asking for the employment by that body of an Americanization director to have general supervision of the Americanization work in conjunction with a citizens' committee representing the various interested organizations;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Club heartily endorses the petition to the School Board for employing a director of Americanization and pledges its support and co-operation to the centralized program under such director.

### CITY PLANNING

It is interesting to note what is being done in other countries.

The English housing act of 1909 was not only an edict effecting houses but also a town planning act, and provided among other things, that practically every local authority in England should prepare a "scheme" for the future development of that community.

Several such schemes had been prepared, when the war put an end to all such work. The new housing act of 1919 was also a town planning act. It not only simplified procedure and provided for the speeding up of the preparation of schemes, but also made town planning obligatory for the larger communities.

Literally, this means the compulsory inauguration of an official town plan having the modern advantages of scientifically developed street systems, provisions against congestion of traffic and housing and all the merits to be attained by the application of a competent and practical study as applied to a community. The significant thing is that it applies to the whole of England (and Wales).

American cities have lent themselves very freely to promoting the preparation of town plans. The result has been a wide range of merit in the plans as a whole and especially in parts of some of them.

NEW OFFICERS OF THE CITY CLUB



GEORGE E. MURPHY  
*First Vice-President*

Elected May 6, 1921, to serve  
for one year.



FREDERICK S. COOK  
*Second Vice-President*



L. D. BOSLEY  
*President*



ELLIS R. HAWKINS  
*Secretary*



J. EARL JONES  
*Treasurer*



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## THE WORLD FROM WASHINGTON

Bishop William F. McDowell brought a striking personality and a ready fund of wit to bear in his speech on "The World from Washington" which delighted the members of the Club present at the meeting of May 13th.

"It is a commonplace to say" said the Bishop, "that the place of Washington in the councils of the world has undergone a very marked change in the last few years, but we have an easy fashion of fastening on phrases without any very careful definition of what they mean. This change that has taken place needs definition.

"The first statement I would make is that Washington is not simply or chiefly the oddly laid out city on the Potomac, which is the capital of the nation. Washington is the only city that I know of that sentimentally, politically and really stretches across the continent. All of us are citizens of Washington as a matter of fact. It belongs to the whole of us. It has no habitat in a state. It is in all states and in each one equally. Do not lose sight of the fact that your capital is as much in Oregon or in Ohio or in Massachusetts as it is in the District of Columbia.

"We are accustomed to making pretty free remarks about our general government; accustomed to electing congressmen and a president and then standing off and passing remarks upon them. We create a government and detach ourselves from it. It should be clear that the tides of patriotism at Washington cannot rise higher than the tides of patriotism that sweep in from the Pacific to the Atlantic. When the tide is low here it is low there. You cannot expect an idealistic government if the bases of civilization and the rest of the people are governed by a materialistic philosophy. It follows therefore that the capital has a vital relation to the country as a whole. That is my first proposition. What you do here has a meaning across the continent. Low ideals, questionable practices here will be reflected at the capital.

"There is a degree of idealism in Washington of which the country may well be proud. I lived there all during the war. I know the bases of the criticism which was inevitable—extravagance, waste, duplication. But thank God

out of the high places came no odor of persona graft, though the opportunities therefor were plentiful and easy. Money was extravagantly and wastefully spent of course, but the whole nation had sent in a demand to 'speed up and don't watch the price of gasoline.'

"The great test upon the country now is one which always follows a high level of patriotic passion, moral idealism, personal devotion and fine consecration. That is to say, there is likely to be a sagging of ideals. And the test of citizenship is this: Can we keep going in the unexciting times of peace the idealism we lived on in war? Clubs like this have to help. The standards must be kept forever up. At Washington and elsewhere we must recall that high ideals are those which win. The purity of political, social, commercial and personal relationship—that is Washington's contribution to the world if it has any to make. And Washington means the United States.

"Our supreme achievement is not the establishment simply of a democratic form of government; not to lead the world's commerce; not to have the biggest navy; but to furnish the best type of manhood and womanhood for the world; to establish spiritual standards to which nations must conform.

"Washington (which is the United States) has a vastly better place in the world than merely to have the best streets, the most beautiful buildings and to be capital of the greatest commercial nation. Washington must lead the world's manhood, its educational aspirations, its domestic life, its religious realities, the world's dream of a chance for men, until we have lifted this old world and bound it with chains of gold to the very feet of God.

"Never forget in your club life or in your personal life that the great contribution we have to make is that of the idealism which at the last is the saving grace of the world. We speak of commercial failures; of depression. It is for us to develop the sort of wealth and the sort of manhood which no material storm can touch. As it was said by the Master of long ago, 'A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things he possesseth'."

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