

## AMERICANIZATION IS CALLED BIGGEST JOB

Ray O. Wyland Tells New Trier Business Men United States Must "Discover America To the Foreign-Born"

Americanization was the keynote of a discussion Monday evening at Winnetka Community House where upward of fifty business and professional men foregathered upon the occasion of the monthly dinner and lecture given under auspices of the New Trier Township Commercial association.

"Americanization as Business Insurance," was the topic of the evening admirably presented by Ray O. Wyland, director of Service of the United Americans of the State of Illinois.

Mr. Wyland in offering a solution to the present situation outlined as our national duty the education and "spiritual assimilation" of the great masses of foreigners within our gates.

### Must Acquire Language

"We must discover America to the foreigner," he said. "To be a great nation it is not necessary to be of one blood, but it is positively essential that we be of one mind and one heart, loyal to one government and one flag. All must learn to speak one language—the American language; we must learn to understand each other that we may be loyal to each other."

It is by special request of those who heard Mr. Wyland that a portion of his address is published in these columns. It is a message that every American should read, presenting a movement that should enlist the active support of every loyal citizen of the United States. The address is in part as follows:

"About one year ago the business men of Chicago decided that it was time that action was being taken to meet the rapid spread of revolutionary propaganda that was being carried on by the friends of the Communist government and the I. W. W. These men felt that our dear old Uncle Sam was suffering a rather severe attack of influenza; that the feverish aftermath of a world war had reduced his vitality somewhat; that the presence of millions of sons and daughters of every nation under the sun did not help the situation a great deal. This national experiment of ours, which began with our nation's birth and has come down until now, resulted in the influx of some thousands of people annually from a few of the nations until 1900, but since that date and until 1915 we have received 14,000,000 immigrants from 50 of the nations as they have come pouring into the land of free men and equal opportunity. These 14,000,000 immigrants have given birth to 21,000,000 children, and their homes now provide 35,000,000 of our population, which means that every third home would contain the family of an immigrant if they were evenly distributed over the United States, but they are not so distributed; they are congested in the great centers of population, such as New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Chicago, where they constitute a large majority.

### A Case In Point

"I met, about a year ago, an old man sixty-five years of age, who had been in America twenty-eight years, and when asked how it came that he was unable to speak the American language, he told this story, through his little boy interpreter. He arrived in New York 28 years ago; was met by Hungarian friends, put on a train to Chicago, where he was again met by Hungarian friends, and was settled in Burnside among Hungarian neighbors, where he talked Hungarian on the street, in the store and in the church. He worked for an Hungarian boss in the Burnside Illinois Central shops among Hungarian workmen. His two boys were born in America and had gone into service; one laid buried in Flanders Fields; the other came home without an arm, and at the age of 65, after 28 years of residence in our country, the old father was attending night school to learn to speak the American language in order that he might become a citizen of the country for which his boy had made the supreme sacrifice.

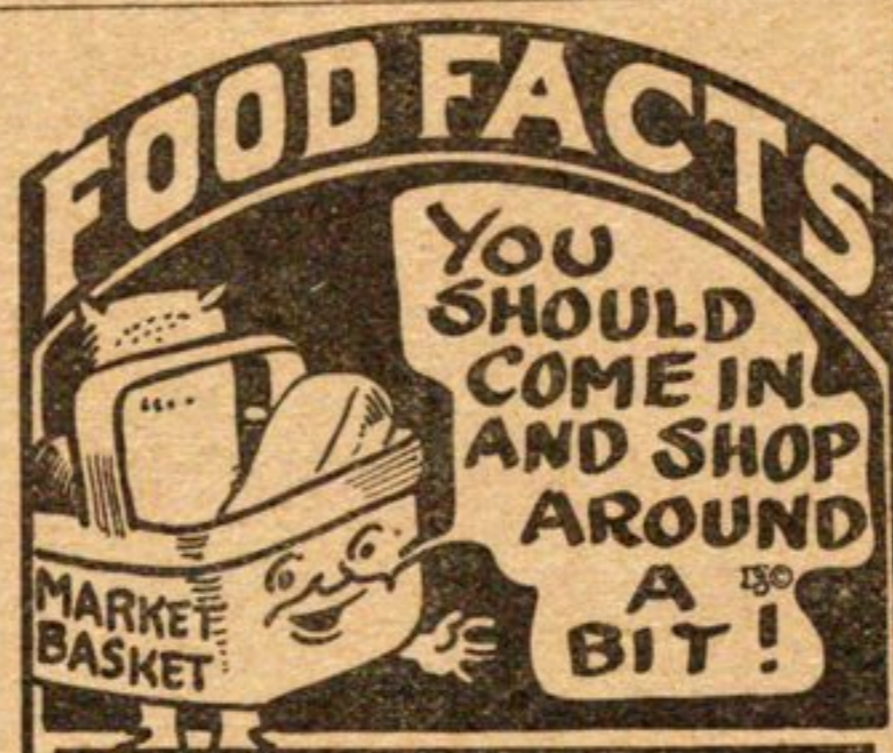
"This is typical of what happens in

every national group residing in Chicago today, or any other American city which contains a foreign-born population. The Bishop of the Pittsburgh Polish church said, "My people live in Pittsburgh and Pittsburgh is in America, but they do not see America. America goes on over their heads." That is exactly the point; we have not broken into the life and thought, social customs and standards of living of these immigrants with our American culture. They have been accustomed to look upon all government with suspicion and distrust. Government to them is opposition. It means taxation and privileges taken away. They have not learned that government means to American citizens protection, opportunity, co-operation, freedom and the self sovereignty of free born men. We must discover America to them, which means more than the knowledge of the map of the United States and a great deal more than a simple form of government. We must reveal to them the fact that America is a soul, that the real America is the spirit of our Democratic society in which every citizen meets every other citizen on equal level politically and on any other basis according to his gifts and achievements. It is not a mechanical melting pot process, it is a spiritual transformation that must be accomplished. We must assimilate our foreign population, which means that as the food which we eat is assimilated and metabolized being transferred into living tissue, brain cell and nerve fibre of our living organism; so shall the immigrants be transformed and assimilated into the living soul and idealism of the American society. To be a great nation it is not necessary to be of one blood, but it is positively essential that we be of one mind and one heart, loyalty to one government and one flag. All must learn to speak one language—the American language; we must learn to understand each other, that we may be loyal to each other. If we can talk together we can think together and act together in support of our ideals. As the fifty nations come filing through the doors of our republic, we must teach them that these are the fires of God, that they have come to, and that their old national feuds, race hatred and petty jealousies which have divided the nations of Europe for centuries, must be blotted out and forgotten. If the American soldiers, representing all these racial groups billeted together on the battle fields of France wearing the khaki, could pull together as "buddies" and comrades in time of war in a strange land, under the stars and stripes, surely these same citizens of the American republic can live together in our land of freedom in time of peace as neighbors, friends and

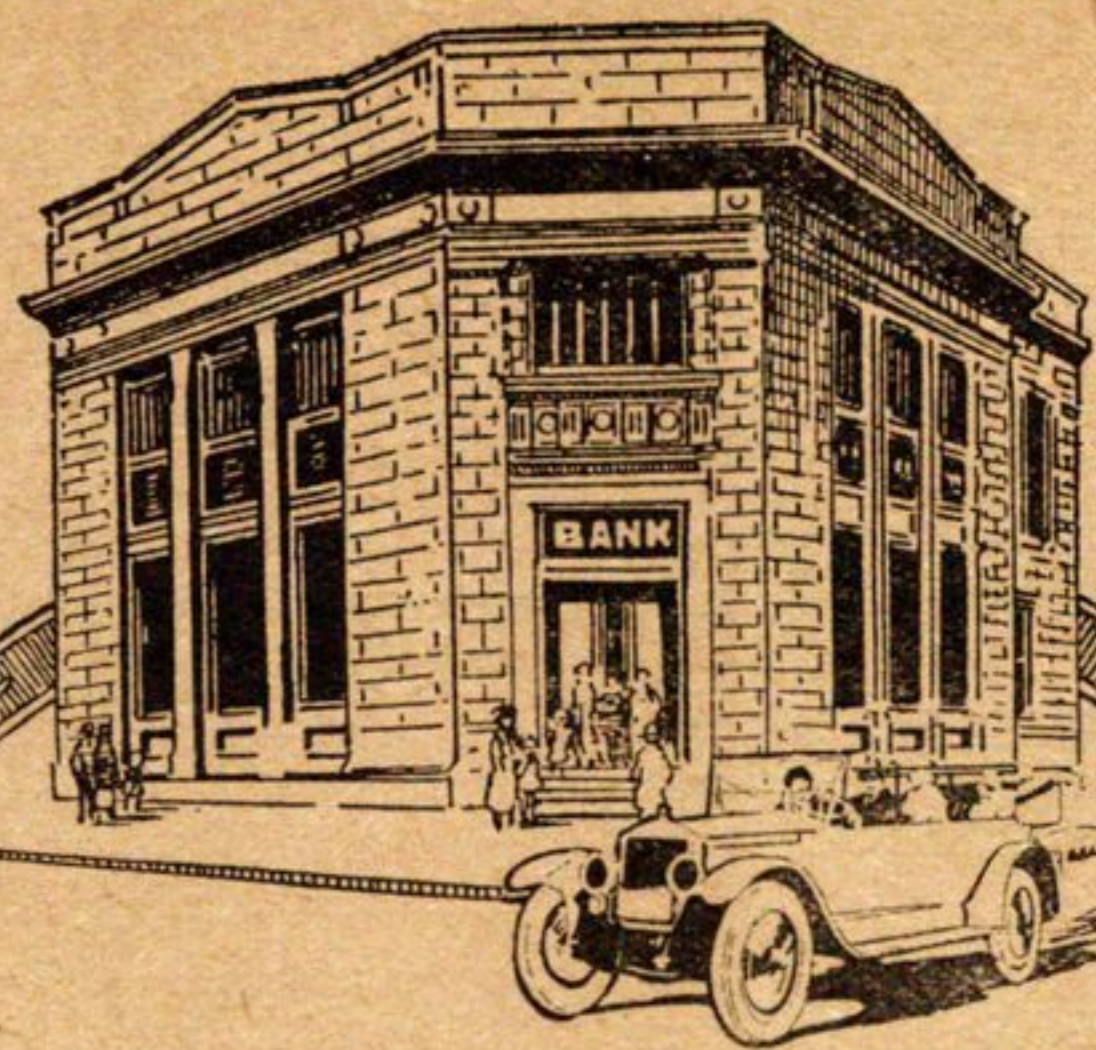
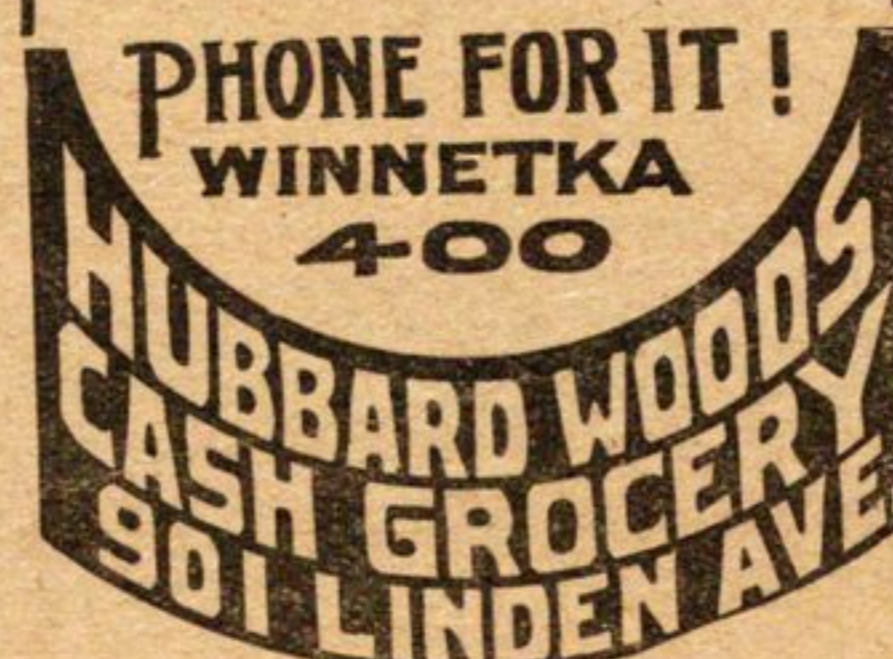
fellow citizens under the same flag of stars and stripes.

### The Effective Plan

"I have outlined the problem and have suggested the solution. The business men of Chicago have faced this problem for some years, but only in the last year have they devised a plan which comprehends the need of our vicinity and state. The United Americans of the State of Illinois have organized a complete service for the racial groups and the American people. It has provided a Speakers' Bureau, which has carried the message of Americanism to a million people in the last eight months. This Speakers' Bureau staged more than 1000 meetings on the street corners of Chicago, which were distributed over 67 centers, especially chosen because of the frequency of radical meetings in those sections. It has trained a corps of soap-boxers and to increase the force will open a school for soap box speakers within the next six weeks. It has carried a series of lectures into more than 60 of our largest Chicago



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**C. T. NORTHROP**  
556 CENTER STREET WINNETKA, ILL.

## Paulson's Observations

Good men are hard to get in the Summer, and especially so in the Spring.

Arrange for your work ahead

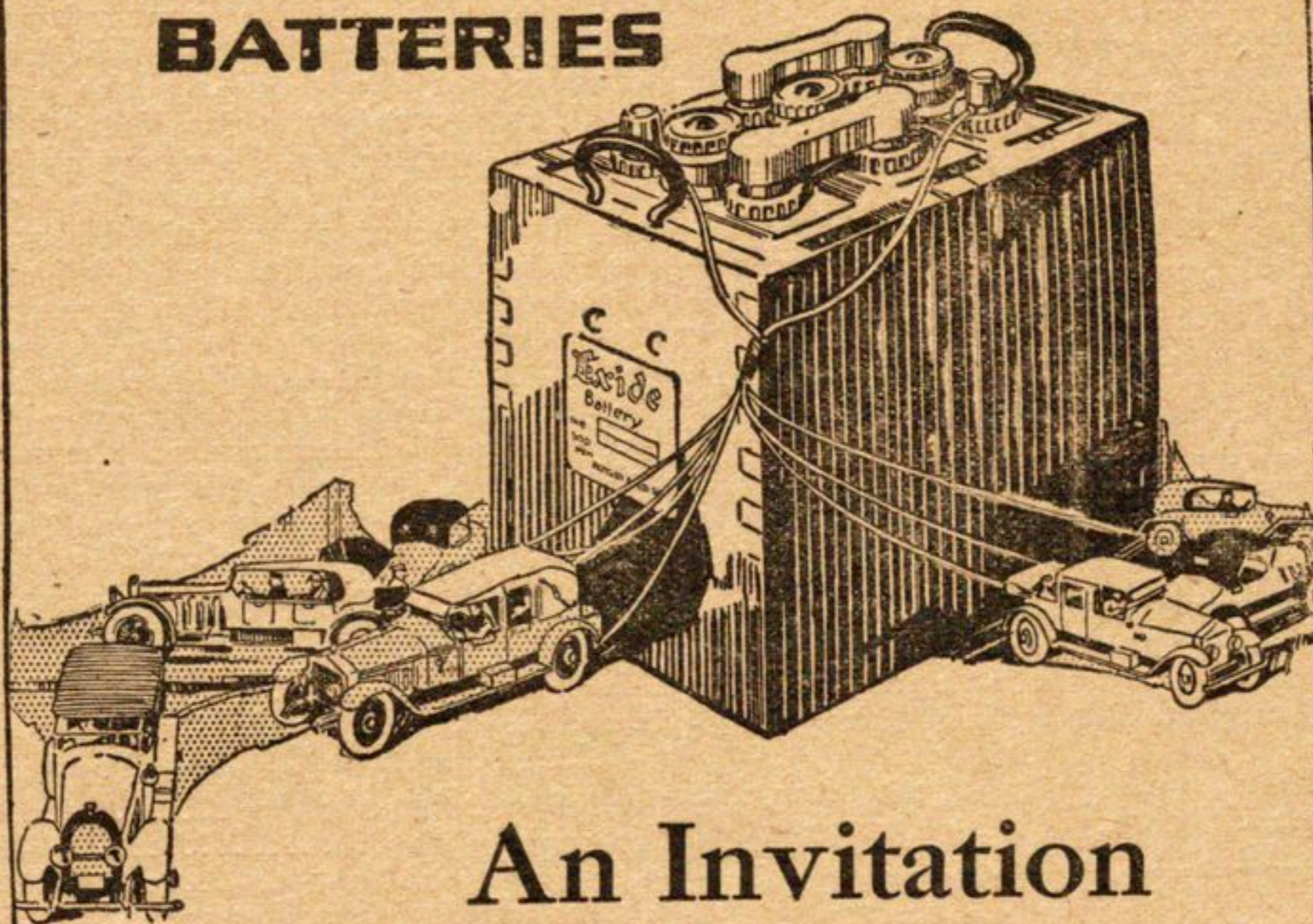
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