

To the Editor of The Daily Star:

In your issue of Saturday the Third Inst. there was reported, "One of The Most Profitable Discussions" on "How To Deal With The Foreigner," and the Italian in particular. Nothing was said of the Austrians who live in the same locality, and under the same conditions. The Italian was singled out for a lot of most vituperative and unmerited abuse. Now, it is well known that the second heat from a furnace is of considerably more value than the first, and that same peculiarity is noted of many conventions, political, religious, and "Rotarian." The platitudes, the views of alarm, the mutual admiration fests of the platform, are often trivial when compared with the after comments and discussions that some of the statements made provoke. The majority of the speakers at the recent "Oratorian" meeting held in the Y.M.C.A. was "furninst the furriner," his mode of living, his honesty, his loyalty and patriotism, his ignorance, etc. Let us take the speakers categorically, as reported in the Star and analyze them, nice fellows, good, smooth talkers, held ace high in the councils of the land. However, what they say today they are likely to take back tomorrow, or around election time. Italians, howdy! Yep, no doubt it was a cheerful meeting if you overlooked the talk fest as you emerged from the atmosphere of patriotism and so forth. You could see about you corrugated brows and half-closed eyes break into sunshine of jovial exchange of opinions, comments, and determinate plans for the redemption of the Italians!

Mr. McPhail stated that Miss McCrea was doing more good work than twenty ersons in the Soo, among the foreigners, by her devoted attention to them, throwing her whole life into the work of educating them. Well, there are others doing just that who are not, nor desire to be, in the limelight. Why single one out? How about Miss Haddeck, or the good sisters? It has been my experience as superintendent of the Finishing Mill, where eighty per cent of the employees are foreigners, to observe that ninety percent of them can read and write in their own language, which will compare very favorably with the literacy of any nationality. There is an education however, in which they are sadly lacking, the education of the sophisticated, who consider it "bourgeois" to have more than one or two in the family, if any. That would interfere with society duties, don't you know? Then, if we look over the criminal docket for the last few years we will

and that dishonesty, as Mr. Fuller says, was not confined to the ignorant foreigner of the West End. During that trial for the misappropriation of the public school funds in the East End, it developed that there were two Italians who could draw ad. lib. on the local banks without security, viz. D. Pietro and Mr. Scarfont. I doubt if any of those "Oratorians" could do the same.

Mr. Hollinrake then called for two-minute speeches, with Lawyer Goodwin up. "At least seven-eighths of the criminal records of the city are from the foreign elements." Italians, howdy! Mr. L. L. Jacobs said their low standard of living was the great difficulty; they pretend ignorance. Well, Mr. Jacobs, 32½ cents an hour does not allow an "Oratorian" standard of living these times. If you doubt that try it with a family to support. R. H. Carney says to take a friendly interest in them. Right, oh! 'twas a nervy thing to say there! Mr. Green was satisfied that education was the only thing. He found that the parents were bad, but where the children could be taken hold of and education given they come along all right. So said Voltaire: "Give me the child until he is seven and you may have him afterwards." Magistrate Mackay says compel them to learn the English language or ship them back. Will Mr. Mackay state how many teachers we can supply who are competent to teach English-Italian or Italian-English to adults? Obviously this would be necessary. Mr. Fuller is not sure that we wish to accept them as citizens (Mr. Mackay, contra) as they would degenerate the race; would put them on probation. Well, they are on probation along the Piave and the Isonzo, alright. Yes, Mr. Fuller, these same Italians take no second place in the battle for world Democracy. Tom Chitty says the foreigner is a pretty decent chap when you know him; we should help him learn our language, and incidentally he might help us to learn his, if we can, and also help him to live in clean, sanitary surroundings. Negative morality never gets one very high up, says Mr. Bassingthwalthe, and this is the only way the police court can deal with them; it is a positive system we want. Well, \$200 and costs is positive enough for drinking grapejuice! He adds that it is a farce to give the women a vote. Look out, Mr. Smith! Mr. Crume said he knew where they went when not in charge of the police. They "Obeyed that Impulse" of course. Didn't the other speakers say so too? Good boy, Leo! Mr. Mayer finds that after his Sunday night meetings in the Italian Theatre they are all converted. Mr. T. E. Simpson said he might have had more votes if he had had some Hiram Walker. Bring it along! You'll need something more than inferences next time.

Mr. W. J. McCormack of Algoma Central Steamship Lines said his men come to roll up a pile in the summer months (at 30 cents an hour) and spend their winters at Nice, or on the Riviera. He also says that the great majority only obey the law because they have to; we shouldn't allow them in the country for you cannot trust ninety per cent. of them. Howdy, Italians! We are trusting them on the Eastern front all right, and they are not betraying us. Jimmy Lyons slumped Little Italy and said he thought it was the result of their training, but, heretofore, the Almighty Dollar was the only thing in sight in our dealings with them, and it isn't entirely eliminated yet. That concluded the gabfest. Then the "Oratorians" appointed themselves a committee to take the matter up again and adjourned sin die.

Such was the summing up of "How to Deal With the Foreigner", as "summed" by the "Oratorians." It appears to the writer that to understand and give an intelligent opinion on this big question will require much more than theoretical information. They have built our railroads, dug our mines and ditches when it was impossible to obtain other labor to do such work absolutely required. It seems to me that the findings of the members of the "Rotarians" were a sorry libel on the foreigners. If any of these members would come up to the gas or boiler house, or any of the "hurry up gangs" they would take a more human view of the foreigner and understand the subject a trifle better.

Mr. Kelso stated at a previous meeting that the Government sent agents abroad to bring these men to our shores; they came in shiploads, and when here our interest ceased abruptly. We provide them with no proper houses to live in and many families are forced to congregate in one house. He further stated that about 800 boys, illegitimate children, who had gone to the front had, in the main, made good. Nor were all these foreigners. It would surprise many of the "Unco Gude" to know that the City of Glasgow holds a foremost place in the European cities for "free" marriages, with the city of Naples among the lowest. Well might we say with the immortal bard that:

"O wad some pow'r the giftie gie us  
To see oursel's as others see us!

It wad frae monie a blunder free us  
And foolish notion:

What airs in dress and gait wad lea'e us,  
And ev'n Devotion!"

"Then gently scan your brother man,  
Still gentler, sister woman,

For tho' they gang a kennin' wrang,  
To step aside is human!"

Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for so much space on behalf of the foreigner,

I am, Yours truly,

J. J. Brothers, 128 Kohler St