

ON THE FOREIGN QUESTION.

To the Editor of the Daily Star:

I was very much pleased to see that the much despised "foreigner" has his champions who will not stand by and see him misrepresented or slandered. Many of these foreigners could give these charitably disposed Rotarians some pointers as to what constitutes good citizenship. I am certain, too, that the large majority were honest socially and politically until at the behest of some high salaried government supporter he landed in Canada and was put wise to our various and devious ways of getting the coin without working for it. Even after being so educated he is more willing to live and let live than many Canadians. What sticks most people in their relations with Europeans is their failure to understand and sympathize with their mode of thinking. These people have aims and ideals comparing more than favorably with ours, but because they cannot think of or explain them in the Canadian way they are thought to be ignorant. They are, as Mr. Grassl remarks, much more appreciated by a cleverer and more progressive people than we are, for the American is much more just to the immigrant, who because of that justice in a very short time becomes an enthusiastic American citizen. For the past few years he has been a conclusive factor in cheaper commodities for the workingman, not because of his "lower standard of living," but because he is a better and fairer business man and laborer than the Canadian. He has always been willing to do work that the average native would turn his nose up at, for reasonable wages. If he chose to send his money home or go home to escape the winter that was his affair, as he had given good value for the money received. It is about time that we realized that these people are a big asset to the country, adding millions of wealth every year, and treat them accordingly. It is a cheering sign to see English-speaking men such as Comrade Brothers take up this impor-

ant subject and show that there are

some fair-minded men in our city.

Yours,

D. W. GEMMILL.

FROM MR. SHUTE

To the Editor of The Daily Star:

Will you kindly give space to reply to Mr. Grassi and others. I should say that owing to the remarks of the Rotarians he and his fellow countrymen have found out many friends, therefore they will have much to thank the Rotary Club for. I would like to call Mr. Grassi and others attention to the fact that the signs "No Englishmen need apply" have only lately been taken down. Therefore we can sympathise with the past treatment given to the Italian. I may say that it is not my intention to hit anybody. As Mr. Brothers advised in his letter, we have so much to put right in ourselves that we have no room to condemn others, yet he too fell a victim to the same mistake. Now, Sir, much criticism and abuse has been thrown at the members of the Rotary Club for their unjust, though possibly over zealous, sayings in regard to the Italian and other foreigners, yet where are there those among us who have not thrown such names as "Dago", "Hunkey," etc.

Also we have been accustomed to saying "This or that job is not fit for a white man," meaning of course "give it to the Italian," which invariably meant harder work, dirtier work, and above all less wages. Thus we can all be accused of this unjust treatment. I would therefore say that we have to thank Mr. Hollinrake and his colleagues for what they have done. They have opened our eyes to the bigoted spirit which we have allowed to prevail in us. Some seem to wish to take this as an opportunity to bring in politics Creeds, etc. It was inferred that votes were bought by intoxicants. Well, I would suggest to Mr. Grassi and others of his fellow-countrymen that they show the public in general that this, too, was wrong and the only way to win the respect of the public is that at their next opportunity they do their utmost to show that their countrymen are not bought by the cry of a future anticipation of a good drunk, which will no doubt be held out to them and others in exchange for their votes. Mr. Grassi this should have been the proudest occasion of your life to open up a subject to such persons and eventually prove to them that they had a lot to learn of the grand Italians who had lived and still live to make this world a better place to live in. Now in justice to our worthy neighbors the Scotch I would like to remind you, Mr. Grassi that as a people they, too, can be compared with the very best and this can be found out by just the same principle, a little study of their accomplishments will reveal wonders. Now if we wish to avoid the mistakes that, as well as the Rotarians have been wont to make, let us close this controversy by joining in spirit with the last verse of that grand song which we all can use. God Bless our Native Land. Last verse:

Nor on this Land alone,
But be God's mercies known.
From shore to shore,
And may the Nations see,
That men should brothers be
And from one family
The wide world o'er.

Yours very truly,

A. S. SHUTE.

169 Gore street.

FROM MR. BASSINGTHWAIGHTE

To the Editor of The Sault Star:

Some of our Italian friends are laboring under such misapprehension as to the nature of the discussion, that took place at the Rotary Club on the 2nd. inst, that it seems well to make it clear what was said,—if you will kindly allow me space for the same in the columns of The Star.

Mr. Grassi seemed really to feel that his nationality had been insulted by somethings said during that discussion, and goes into a long justification of his countrymen by referring to the long history of his country, ancient and modern, and its accomplishments in art and literature; all very true, but all very unnecessary in this connection, as no "attack" was made on his nationality at all; the Italians were not named at all, except by one man. I will refer to his remarks later; I might just mention here though, that all that Mr. Grassi said as to his nationality does not show that the uneducated laboring class from his country, might not have much to learn, before they get the Canadian idea of citizenship, and adopt Canadian standards of living. Literature and art and a proud national-history can have no effect on those who know nothing about it. The Jewish nationality has a much more ancient history than the Roman, and a much greater literature, and probably a greater proportion of them have a knowledge of their national history and literature, than of any of the people of the Eastern European nations have; but that proves nothing as to their fitness for citizenship, when they come from the east to our country. Some of the laboring class from London, subjects of an Empire such as Rome never dreamed of, and citizens of a country that has produced the greatest national literature the world knows of, have pretty nearly as much to learn, as one of the speakers of the Rotary Club pointed out, as many of the foreigners, before becoming good Canadian Citizens.