

WILL IT PASS?

The bill of Mr. Oates, of Alabama, amending the naturalization laws, has been favorably reported to the House from the Judiciary committee. It provides that no alien ever convicted of a felony shall be naturalized, nor one who holds anarchist views, or favors polygamy, or who has evaded any immigration law or regulation. The applicant must have resided five years within the United States, and in the state or territory in which he applies one year—and this residence in both cases must be continuous, and he must be able to read the constitution of the United States.

Whether this covers all the points needed we shall not here discuss, nor do we care to traverse the provisions at all—only to say that it is looking in a much-needed direction. If we do not want politicians to be demagogues, and if we do not wish courts, juries and public officials to wink at crime and plunder, we must raise the character of the voter.

Was it not that crime wants license; was not the plunder of taxpayers the one way open to enrich unworthy men, thousands of honest citizens in Kansas City would not have been disfranchised by a public official, nor would other thousands of fraudulent votes been given in their stead.

If a constituency was what it ought to be, such official crime would be impossible. This criminal vote has been imported and is largely not only ignorant of our form of government, but really ignorant of what they are doing. The real authors, or those by whom this mass has been brought here, were the great corporations. Cheap Chinese labor, during the war, built the Pacific roads, and when in response to sand-lot demagogues they were sent back, the corporations imported the worst dregs of Europe that have made the Oates bill a living thing. The immigration preceding these great enterprises was a legitimate one and came to take up land and engage in skilled labor. It added immensely to national growth and prosperity. This later imported labor was with the connivance of the governing powers of Europe to get rid of their dangerous classes. It would have been far better to have continued the Chinese, for, like the Irishman's steam shovel, John didn't vote.