

River, Mass., in a population of 104,863 there were 14,795 foreign born males of voting age, of whom 47.2% were not naturalized, and of whom 40.4% were illiterate, while in San Francisco in 342,782 of a population there were 60,014 foreign born, of whom 21,568 were non-naturalized, but of whom only 11.2% were illiterate. When we further note that while the illiterates in the total native born males of voting age in the white population of the United States were 5.8% of those in the same class, the illiterates in the children of foreign born white parents were but 2.0%, and that in both the South Atlantic and South Central divisions the illiterates amongst the colored population were more than 50%, many thoughts arise in our minds as to the meaning of these facts.

Adverting to the question of ability to speak English, it is found by the census that while, roughly speaking, the non-naturalized alien of voting age constitutes one-fifth of the total foreign born, there are very remarkable differences in the percentage in different areas. For instance, in the great agricultural areas of the North Central states, containing one-third of the population of the country, only one-tenth of an aggregate of 2,079,811 foreign born of voting age is not naturalized, and of this great number only 8.5% cannot speak English, while 29.8% of 200,923 male adult aliens cannot speak English. In other areas, as Texas with 87,169 adult foreign born, of whom 30,534 are naturalized, 35% cannot speak English, while 64% of the non-naturalized cannot speak the language. This latter fact serves to illustrate the point that in the degree that density of population and opportunity for admixture exists in any locality, will the newcomer acquire the language, customs and ideals of his surroundings, whereas in the degree that a people are isolated in sparsely settled communities, as the Mexicans in Texas, with few facilities and but little need for mingling with others of diverse speech, occupations and customs will their adoption of other language and habits be slow. What further is most noticeable is that where foreigners have gone largely into centres like the North Central states, where others of the same nationality are present in large numbers and have become as the various branches of the Teutonic race, prominent and important members of the community, the naturalization of the newcomers is rapid. Again, as borne out by the census returns, in states bordering in the one case on Canada and in the other on Mexico, there are by far the largest number of non-naturalized aliens who have been over five years in the country. Thus in the states of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine there is one non-naturalized adult alien for every 2.5 naturalized, while there is one in Texas to every five foreign born.