

Americans have a lower standard of living, with accompanying willingness to work for lower wages and sell their produce for lower prices. The same objections have been raised in regard to German, Russian and Polish immigrants and their families in other communities. Yet given a chance to prosper and time to integrate themselves into American communities they have proven valuable citizens, in spite of the suspicion of older residents. One has only to note the clean-cut, intelligent, very American appearing slant-eyed boys and girls on our streets and in our schools to realize that they are well on the way in the same process.

Are we going to help or hinder them and their families? Are we going to show them a spirit of ordinary good-will, or an un-Christian attitude of suspicion and animosity? Here is a good place to demonstrate our faith in Christian and American principles by extending the hand of friendship and neighborliness to these newcomers; and by example and helpfulness assist them to the fullest realization of citizenship and Americanism. Only bitterness and retardation of these aims can result from any attempt at exclusion.

People of intelligent and enlightened self-interest have always recognized that their own welfare is inextricable bound with that of the nation as a whole, and therefore with all groups in it. If we can help the Japanese-Americans, Spanish-Americans and other groups of generally lower incomes to increase their incomes, improve their standards of living, and become more integrated into the community, we will benefit individually.

As an example, suppose a Japanese-American family buys a valley farm. They may make that piece of land produce as never before. Members of the family may hire out to neighbors for work in peak seasons, when help is badly needed. If this family prospers the merchants with whom they deal benefit; county, state and national incomes increase proportionately, and therefore public services to all. Children of this family go to public school, absorb American customs and ideals. Perhaps they learn better agricultural methods for their farm, or emerge from college as doctors, lawyers and scientists equipped to contribute materially to American life, and also to help others of their original national group to become finer citizens.

Is it worth a little kindly effort to bring this about? Or must we scream hysterically of the "threat" to our community, and of the desirability of "avoiding violence"?

Are we going to direct our energies into fruitless or fruitful directions; into persecutions here at home; or into those efforts that will bring our boys back quickly and victoriously, and to a better U.S.A.?

You and I must answer these questions.

Yours truly,

/s/ Helen Hopt Kleven.