

Racial Contributions to America

By Edward F. McSweeney

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A SERIES of books on the racial contributions to the United States, which is the continuation of the Knights of Columbus Historical Commission program, will give the people of the United States the most direct and unqualified answer to the wave of racial and religious ostracism which, since the war, has been sweeping over the United States.

The national convention of the Knights of Columbus which was held in San Francisco in 1921, considered primarily the effort which had been going on secretly for more than a generation, to weaken the solidarity of the people of this country, by controlling the story of the origin of the nation and its founders, by making school histories give the story of the colonial and revolutionary period, in such a way that children in the public schools were being taught to believe that the colonial leaders were practically all of questionable character; that their motives were not inspired purely by patriotism, and that the events which for more than a hundred years had been accepted as true were exaggerated; the effect being to make the Revolution a strictly family dispute and not the greatest step in the progress of civilization during the Christian era; for example, such leaders as Samuel Adams were held to be actuated by what the newer psychology calls an "inferiority complex," or in simpler language, that he realized his inferiority to his rulers, out of which grew the unreasoning hatred which dominated his every act, etc. This was the idea of practically all of the "newer" histories which had been secretly but effectively worked into the public schools.

A commission composed of distinguished citizens, each of whom had made an accepted contribution in service to the United States, with eminent educators, was appointed to prepare an historical program.

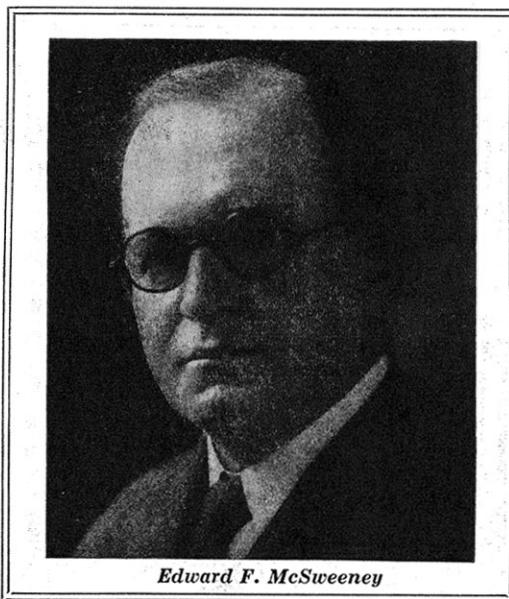
The first reaction to the work of this commission was that the charge that history had been deliberately falsified could not be justified, but it shortly was demonstrated that some of the great national societies organized specifically to preserve the true record of the colonial and revolutionary periods, had been working along these lines for years, but lacking in numbers and influence had not been able to accomplish definite and satisfactory results. As soon as the patriotic societies and the veterans' organizations of the Civil and World Wars began to co-operate in this work, following the entrance of the Knights of Columbus, progress was immediate and results definite and satisfactory.

Awakening Public Opinion

WHEN the people at large awoke to the fact that their children in the schools were being taught a false history of their nation, their protest made itself felt, and the publishing houses responsible for these histories began to act to save themselves. In the two and one-half years which have elapsed since the Knights of Columbus took up this matter at San Francisco, one history after another has been withdrawn and changed to meet the truth. This is not alone due to the legislative prohibition against these textbooks, but more because of the fear of an awakened public opinion aroused to the existence of the facts.

As the Knights of Columbus felt in 1921, that it was only necessary to call this matter to public knowledge, and the remedy would come; it has actually happened. It was never definitely intended to go into the history publishing business in competition with private interests, but some of the best historians of the nation under existing conditions, found themselves unable to find publishers for what they wrote unless they agreed to work under orders. Prizes of large amounts were offered by the Knights of Columbus, and the result has far exceeded expectation. About two-thirds of the books accepted have been written by Protestants. The "Jay's Treaty," the "Monroe Doctrine," "The Merchant Marine," "The Open Door to China," "The Story of Cables and Wireless," "The History of the Charters of Liberty," "The Origins of the Propaganda Movement," and a "Model Curriculum for History Teaching in the Schools" have already been published.

Events have demonstrated, however, that the effort to control the minds of the coming generation through the histories being taught in the schools was only one



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step in the general program, and in spite of the check to the false history movement, due to the protest of citizens generally, the next move was to attempt to put more than 80 per cent. of the population in a position of class inferiority, to a group whose control would rest not alone on intellect and wealth, but on an assumed dominance in numbers of the population, of the United States as it now exists.

Immediately after the war, an army of propagandists proceeded to expound the theory that the bulk of the nation are "hyphenates" who are not and never can be, true in the United States. This was accompanied by special drives on the Negroes and Jews, but particularly on Catholics of all racial derivation. More than a score of organizations with a wide diversity of methods but identity of aim, in which the false history textbooks were common to all, have been at work on this program steadily for five years.

To assert that because a citizen of the United States is unworthy of the right of citizenship because of color, racial descent or religious belief, is abhorrent to the spirit of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States, but this attempt is being made nevertheless, and openly supported by agencies and organizations that pretend to work under the cloak of "Americanization."

One of the great national monthly magazines is at present running a series of articles on "Immigration," supporting the theory on which this movement is based, defending this by an alleged census of the United States of 1790, which never existed in this form, and the figures

and deductions from which could not be given by the U. S. Census Bureau to-day, 134 years after the mythical census was said to be made. The facts as to this fraudulent claim are known and it is enough to say that they can be fully substantiated.

Facts and Nothing But Facts

EVEN before this phase of this movement against the United States was begun, the Knights of Columbus foresaw that, as the concluding factor in its historical program, it would be necessary to give the history of the contributions made to the United States by its various racial elements, and this work, which has been under way for two years, is now practically completed and ready for publication by the Stratford Publishing Company of Boston, Mass. This series is unlike any heretofore published, since it gives the actual history of racial contributions to the making of the United States, not from the isolated viewpoint of a single race, concerning other races, but from the viewpoint of each race concerning itself.

Each volume is based on verified statistics; each is written by a writer particularly selected for his scholarship and historical attainments. Each book is written by a man who, by birth or descent, is of the racial stock whose contribution to America is told in the book. The entire series forms an eminently fair résumé of American history. The titles now in press are:

"The Jews in the Making of America," by Mr. George Cohen, with the assistance of a board of Jewish editors. "The Negro in the Making of America," by Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois. "The English in the Making of America," by Dr. Frederick J. Kinsman. "The Germans in the Making of America," by Dr. Frederick Franklin Schrader.

Other volumes to follow:

"The Scandinavians in the Making of America," by Dr. Amandus Johnson. "The Irish in the Making of America," by Professor Joseph Dunn. "The Dutch in the Making of America," by Dr. A. C. P. Huizinga.

General Introduction to Series—Edward F. McSweeney, LL.D. It will be to the pleasure and profit of every Knight of Columbus and citizen generally to absorb the wealth of information this series contains about the highly important but hitherto obscure facts of American history.