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WESTBROOK PEGLER . . . "Fair Enough"

NEW YORK, Aug. 2.—Should success attend the efforts of the federal government in its various proceedings against Mike Carrozzo, the gunman and racketeer, who operates under the charter of the American Federation of Labor in Chicago, it will then be in order—in fact, mandatory—to inquire into the legitimacy of his citizenship. Citizen Carrozzo was naturalized on July 6, 1937, after two previous applications had been withdrawn on the strength of warnings that if he pursued them he would be blackballed. He came to the United States from Italy in 1906, and did not apply for citizenship until Nov. 17, 1926. In July, 1927, he withdrew this application—in which, incidentally, he gave his address as the Drake Hotel, Chicago, an expensive house which would have been beyond the means of a legitimate leader of a union of day laborers.



Westbrook Pegler

Carrozzo next applied in August, 1927, barely a month after the withdrawal of his first attempt, and withdrew this petition on Sept. 27, 1928.

His third and successful petition was filed on Jan. 29, 1937, and granted on July 6 of that year.

**Investigation Warranted**

The current Sherman Act indictment against him and the pending income-tax case, in which the old habitue of the Chicago vice district has posted securities of \$277,251 to lift a lien of \$241,083 from his country estate, concern a period which antedates the granting of his citizenship. If it should be shown that Mike was engaged in illegal activities within five years before his petition finally was granted, his naturalization will be seriously impugned. Proceedings to nullify it will then become the obvious duty of the Department of Justice, which now has jurisdiction over such matters.

That Mike, in his capacity of labor leader, could have acquired by means consistent with the professed ideals of the American Federation of Labor a sufficient income to deserve a deficit and penalty of \$241,083 in two years,

to say nothing of the large income which he did report for those years, is not to be considered. If he acquired the money or a portion of it by corrupt dealings with the paving ring in Chicago, or by extortion from laborers, any portion of it which was obtained before July 6, 1937, when he was granted citizenship, will provide a basis of inquiry into his naturalization.

Of course, there is a difference between the tight, legal proof of the exact dates on which Mike received his various items of income and the nature of the services involved and his notorious character as a gunman and racketeer. He has always been an associate of criminals of the Capone and labor rackets in Chicago, and the fact that the court permitted him to become naturalized at all, after the withdrawal of two previous applications, adds no dignity to American citizenship.

**Said We Need Mussolini**

For almost 20 years he had been a notorious character in Chicago, where he took up residence in the brothel district within a year after his arrival, and humble, honest immigrants, aspiring to citizenship as a great honor and privilege, are likely to be disillusioned on hearing that a Mike Carrozzo could obtain the same certificate. Nevertheless, Mike got it on his third attempt, and a citizen he may remain unless the evidence in the racketeering or shakedown case, better known as the Sherman Act case, and the income tax proceedings show positively that he was racketeering before the final papers were issued.

The return from 1937 was not made until March, 1938, so the filing of a fraudulent return, if fraud be shown for 1937, occurred after he had become Citizen Carrozzo. But any fraudulent or otherwise illegal activities which can be shown to have antedated July 6, 1937, could be cited in revocation proceedings.

In a moment of anger recently, when his activities were being questioned, Mike, speaking, it is hoped, only for himself and not as an official of many unions of the American Federation of Labor, exclaimed: "What this country needs is a Mussolini!" There are those who dissent from that view, but more would agree that what this country doesn't need is Mike Carrozzo, gunman, racketeer, a disgrace to the American Federation of Labor and a reproach to American citizenship.