

GOT FIRST PAPERS

TWENTY-SEVEN ITALIANS FROM THE VICINITY OF DICKINSON APPLIED FOR CITIZENSHIP.

RECORD FOR 1904 DOUBLED

And Over in One Day—Twelve Italians Signed Such Intentions Last Year.

Twenty-seven Italians, farmers and truck growers in the vicinity of Dickinson, appeared at the County Clerk's office yesterday and expressed their desire and intention of becoming naturalized citizens of the United States. Accordingly, each was issued his first papers by Clerk Burgess.

In explaining why such a company of the sons of the Sunny Peninsula should desire all at once to renounce their allegiance to the King of Italy and become citizens of Uncle Sam, Mr. Burgess said:

"Some of them probably happened to be together, and the matter of naturalization was mentioned. Some of them perhaps said they were coming to Galveston to take out first papers, others decided to do the same, and the party was made up. Once, I remember a company of some forty persons came in and took out first papers at the same time.

"The fact of so many foreigners deciding all at once to become American citizens does not, I believe, in this case indicate anything important other than that, living in this country, they want to be citizens of it."

First papers in naturalization entitle the holder to the privileges of an American citizen and the protection of the American flag. The right to vote, however, is only given when the applicant has complied with the other requirements of the law on the right to exercise his suffrage, such as a year's residence in the State, six months in the county, etc. He is not a full-fledged citizen until the filing of his final papers, which must not be issued until two years have elapsed after the making of the declaration of intention. To receive the final papers or documentary passport of citizenship the applicant must have been a resident of the United States for at least five years, and two must have elapsed since the filing of the initial papers.

The number of Italians who took out first papers yesterday is more than double the number of that nationality to whom first papers were issued during the entire year of 1904, the number of such for that year being twelve. But this is not all. The number of Italians who yesterday signified their intention of becoming American citizens is greater than the total number of any one nationality who in 1904 took out first papers. Germany headed the list last year of Nations furnishing sons who desired the rights of citizenship in America, the number of German applicants in 1904 being twenty-three, or four less than double the number of Italians who yesterday secured their first papers. The total number of aliens who were granted first papers in 1904 was 143, and so it will be seen that about a fifth as many were given first papers yesterday as were given them during the 365 days that preceded the first of last January.

The names, which appear below, are sufficiently Italian in every respect to call to memory all the Italian artists, poets, musicians or banana venders which extensive reading of the classics or a long residence in Galveston may have brought to a person.

It would appear that already these aliens have begun to take on American traits, for to one of these foreign sounding names on the register was found the American appendage "Jr.," signifying that the possessor of the name already knew how to get himself distinguished from his father.

The names of those who yesterday took out naturalization papers follow:

Baldacci Faustius, Savio Ramieri, A. Schillecci, Salvato Giuseppe, Graafortuna Giuseppe, Andrea Mamola, Tony Leggio, L. Dibenedetto, P. Dibuetto, Frank Leggio, Gasparo Gaspero, Sam Schilliaci, Matteo Campisi, Salvato Antonio, J. Enrulte, S. Enrulte, Frank Mamite, L. Lovechio, V. Cipriano, G. Zucca, V. Vilanza, J. Salvato Jr., V. Lovendo, G. Masselli, B. Fiore, J. Falco, Gaetano Palmiero.