

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN'S CREED

In 1916-1917 much discussion took place in the United States as to what really constituted "the political faith of America." The press of the country took up the matter and inaugurated a contest open to all Americans to secure the best summary. This contest received informally the approval of the President.

The City of Baltimore, being the birthplace of the Star-Spangled Banner, offered a prize of \$1,000, which was accepted, and the following committees appointed:

A Committee on Manuscripts, consisting of Porter Emerson Browne and representatives from leading American magazines, with headquarters in New York City; a Committee on Award, consisting of Matthew Page Andrews, Irwin S. Cobb, Hamlin Garland, Ellen Glasgow, Julian Street, Booth Tarkington, and Charles Hanson Towne; and an Advisory Committee, consisting of Dr. P. P. Claxton, United States Commissioner of Education, Governors of States, United States Senators, and other National and State officials.

The winner of the contest and the author of The Creed selected proved to be William Tyler Page, of Friendship Heights, Md., a descendant of President Tyler and also of Carter Braxton, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

FROM CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

The complete proceedings in regard to the official acceptance of THE AMERICAN'S CREED may be found in The Congressional Record, No. 102, April 13, 1918, from which is taken the following explanation of the doctrinal origin of THE CREED:

"The United States of America"—Preamble Constitution of the United States.

"A government of the people by the people, for the people"—Preamble Constitution of the United States; Daniel Webster's speech in the Senate, January 26, 1830; Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg speech.

"Whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed."—Thomas Jefferson, in Declaration of Independence.

"A democracy in a republic"—James Madison, in The Federalist, No. 10; Article X of the Amendment to Constitution.

"A sovereign Nation of many sovereign States"—"E pluribus unum," a great seal of the United States; Article IV of the Constitution.

"A perfect Union"—Preamble to the Constitution.
"One and inseparable"—Webster's speech in the Senate, January 26, 1830.

"Established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes"—Declaration of Independence.

"I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it"—In substance from Edward Everett Hale's "The Man Without a Country."

"To support its Constitution"—Oath of Allegiance, Section 1757, Revised Statutes of the United States.

"To obey its laws"—Washington's Farewell Address; Article VI, Constitution of the United States.

"To respect its flag"—National Anthem, The Star-Spangled Banner; Army and Navy Regulations; War Department circular on Flag Etiquette, April 14, 1917.

"And to defend it against all enemies"—Oath of Allegiance, Section 1757, Revised Statutes of the United States.

OFFICIAL VERSION