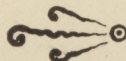
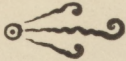


# RESTRICTION OF IMMIGRATION.

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The literature pertaining to the immigration of Europeans to our shores is one of deep interest to the present generation of Americans. Eminent statesmen have written upon the subject, pro and con. While some writers go so far as to advocate absolute restriction of immigration, others proceed at once to show the fallibility of such measures so long as we have thousands of miles of our border unprotected which would make it an easy matter for eager emigrants to enter our dominions from Canada and Mexico.

The principal immediate questions concerning immigration are: What alarm is felt, what is the real danger, what are our present laws, and what new legislation is needed? The alarm springs from a constantly increasing influx within our borders of classes of



immigrants of a most undesirable character. The danger is the reduction of wages to the injury of the American workman, and his home and family, the debasement of the suffrage, and a wide contamination of society.

The public prints are filled with statistics of immigration, of the areas of unsettled lands, and of the laws relating thereto. The government printing presses are furnishing the results of work performed by agents who were sent abroad to inquire into the condition at home of the prospective emigrant. These articles are not wholly without interest or importance, but the country demands better and more detailed information. The American people have a right to know what are the results upon the communities wherein large numbers of Southern Europeans settle, how they live, the wages they earn, the money they spend, their proportion of crime, their superstitions and



the prospects of having them assimilated to the native population.

The total immigration from June 30 to December 31, 1891, is 241,162, of which there came from Italy 19,013; Poland 15,455; Russia 45,362; Finland 1,304. About one half the above increase of 105,017 is composed of the very worst class of immigrants. They are illiterate, coarse, and stupid - utterly unfitted for residence or citizenship in the United States. These remarks apply to recent immigrants from southern Italy, Russia, Poland, and also Hungary.

What adds to the danger of such a class of immigrants is the fact that they settle in clods in our large cities, and in the mining districts of the East, and drive out American laborers by their willingness to work for wages too low for a well brought up laborer to subsist upon. Thus whole



districts are denationalized. We read that in the anthracite regions of Pennsylvania an appalling state of affairs exists. The richest region on Earth, overrun by hordes of Hungarians, Poles, Bohemians, Arochs, Italians, Sicilians, Russians, and Tyrolers, - all of the lowest type. The richest region in America almost denationalized by the scum of the old world; a region where women fear to drive about the country roads by day, and where unarmed men are not safe abroad after the sinking of the sun.

Immigration has been advantageous for the United States. is advantageous, and is likely to continue advantageous, but we must begin to draw the line somewhere. When any portion of our country becomes congested as Pennsylvania is, we know the country is in great danger. We must assimilate all those who come, or this fair land will become



a land of riot, disorder and anarchy.

In the following table is shown the number and per centum of immigrants of each sex, from the leading countries of Europe, arriving from 1881 to 1889 inclusive.

Country from which arrived.	Males.	Total % of Males.	Females.	Total % of Females.	Total.
Germany.	836,291	57.6	616,680	42.4	1,452,970
Ireland.	334,729	51.0	321,253	49.0	655,982
England.	395,173	61.3	249,407	38.7	644,680
Sweden & Norway.	346,862	61.0	221,508	39.0	568,362
Italy.	243,923	79.4	63,386	20.6	307,309
Russia incld Poland.	174,481	65.8	90,607	34.2	265,088
Austria.	142,221	62.9	83,817	37.1	226,038
Hungary.	94,243	73.8	33,438	26.2	127,681
Scotland.	92,252	61.6	51,617	38.4	143,869



A glance at the above table will show that our most desirable immigrants are those who bring wives, mothers, and sisters with them. Thus showing that our best immigrants are those who bring their families with them and when they have earned sufficient money send for their relatives. It is interesting to study the official figures in this respect, for we discover in them the motive of the immigrant, and when we find his motive we may judge of his worth to the community. Of the 51,383 Irish who came during the past fiscal year, 25,684 were females. There were 118,168 Germans of whom 52,271 were females. Italy sent 61,631 in all, only 14,232 of whom were females. These figures by contrast conclusively show the necessity for extraordinary care on the part of the Government in making selections of those who are to people this country. The immigrant who brings his wife comes to stay.



He assimilates rapidly, and his offspring make good Americans.

As is stated in the report of the Commissioner of Immigration, the character of the Europeans coming to this country for homes during the past years shows a decided improvement over previous years. There are other encouraging signs worthy of note. The general belief that immigrants are not contributors to the wealth of the country, but bring with them only the rags upon their backs is erroneous. As an example, for the last half of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1892, the 152,360 immigrants over 20 years of age who arrived at the port of New York brought with them \$3,660,908.15, or \$24.09 each. The adult French immigrants brought an average of \$55.67; The Swiss are the next highest in the list, the Welsh third, and The Germans fourth. Hungary, Italy, and Poland are lowest,



showing an average of \$1.75 to each adult. Strange as it may seem when we consider the miserable appearance of the Russian immigrants, the figures show that they brought \$2.10 per (adult) Capitan.

But the strong honest, healthy immigrant brings more than the paltry dollars in his pocket. He brings value difficult to estimate. In a book published in 1878 by Frederick Knapp, the Commissioner of Immigration of the State of New York, the average economic value of each immigrant is given at \$1.25.

Says Mr. Knapp, "What is the economic value of each immigrant to the country of his adoption? We are perfectly familiar with the estimates which during the existence of slavery, were made of the value of negroes. A good field hand was considered to be worth \$1,200 and over; a good cook was valued higher. And a seamstress or housekeeper was in some cases



valued at from \$1,300 to \$1,600. In order to obtain a proper idea of the importance of immigration to the United States, we must endeavor to capitalize, so to speak, the addition to the natural and intellectual resources of the country represented by each immigrant.

Dr Engle computes the cost of raising a manual laborer in Germany at 40 Thalers a year for the first five years of his life; at 50 Thalers for the next five years; and at 60 Thalers from the eleventh to the fifteenth year, or 750 Thalers in all. The Hon. H.C. Hansbrough considers this estimate as correct as can be, and assuming that in this country subsistence costs about twice as much as in Germany, we may assume the expense of bringing up an American farmer or unskilled laborer for the first 15 years of his life to average 100 Thalers per year, or a total of 1500 Thalers, equal to about \$1500 currency. Allowance



must be made, it is true, for the fact that about one fifth of the immigrants are less than 15 years old; but this is fully balanced by the great preponderance of men and women and by thousands who represent the highest order of skilled labor. Hence it is safe to assume the capital value of each male immigrant to be \$1,500. By a similar calculation Dr Engel estimates that an American girl will be found to cost only about \$750, for the reason that she becomes useful to the household at an earlier age.

To gain an idea what the extent of immigration is I will give some statistics. It is estimated that since 1820 there have come to this country between twelve and fourteen millions of immigrants. The arrivals during the decennial years since 1820 have been as follows:

1820 — 8,385.

1830 — 23,322.



1840 - - - 84,066

1850 - - - 110,004

1860 - - - 153,640

1870 - - - 356,303

1880 - - - 593,703

1890 - - - 455,302

1891 - - - 560,319

During the ten years from 1881 to 1891 inclusive, the number was 5,246,613. During the past six years the total immigration (not including that from the Canadian Dominion or Mexico) has been as follows:

1886 (year ending June 30) 334,203

1887 - - - - - 490,109

1888 - - - - - 546,889

1889 - - - - - 444,427

1890 - - - - - 455,302

1891 - - - - - 560,319

The first question which might arise on reading these statistics is, Have we room in



this country for these vast armies of foreigners? In answer to this the Hon John B. Weber, United States Commissioner of Immigration at the port of New York says, It has been estimated by accepted authorities that we can accommodate seven times our present numbers without equalling Europe in density of population. The single state of Texas as could have taken the entire inflow of the past few years, with advantage to her interests, and still have had room to spare. Europe, in truth does not suffer so much from over-population, as over-taxation to support royalty and immense standing armies and navies, making the burden so heavy as nearly to obliterate the great middle class which is the strength, as it is the pride and glory of this land.

In my estimation the immigration question



should be reduced to the consideration of the following points:

Is this country made the "Dumping Ground" of the refuse material of the Old World, and if so to what extent do the authorities aid such movement?

What system, if any, can be devised which will enable us to sift the goods, accept the desirable and reject the undesirable?

Is it wise to stop all immigration or to diminish its volume by methods that do not moderately offset the influx of the unproductive kind, and yet decrease that element which by reason of age and vigor is the most productive?

Says the Hon. J. B. Meyer, "In France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, and Austria, countries which I visited for the purpose of investigating, neither governments nor societies, directly or systematically transport



their paupers, criminals or other defectives to this country.

The constitutional vagabonds of Europe does not emigrate. The plums are pluggish and are seldom so agitated that the filth is flung across the sea. From the desirable countries of Europe the percentage of prepaids is the same as of past years. Prepaid tickets are tickets purchased in the United States and sent to relatives and friends on the other side, who it is fair to assume being members of the same family, are in a manner vouched for as desirable. If they are in respect to general quality similar to the pioneers who have so materially aided in the development of our national resources, why should it not be assumed that their coming will continue to add to the national wealth unless a change of condition has been reached?



Our resources have hardly been touched, certainly the point of exhaustion has not been approached, so that development is feasible and desirable. We are told that cities are over-crowded, and that a vast army willing to labor is unemployed. Immigration contributes to the overcrowding of cities, although two-thirds of the arrivals continue to go west, most of them to farm.

It is asserted that foreigners furnish a larger percentage of paupers and criminals than does the native element. This is probably true, but not because they are foreigners, but because they are the poorer half of society, and consequently are less able to cope with misfortune or to withstand temptation. It is not so creditable for a rich man to refrain from stealing a loaf of bread as it is for a hungry one. Healthy Americans would



not be so numerous if it had not been for the immigration of so many Europeans.

About fifty years ago the American Know nothing party was formed in this country. Many honest men joined it, sincerely believing that our interests were being jeopardized by the increasing arrival of foreigners, that we were rushing headlong to destruction, and that the safety of our institutions rested solely upon the success of that organization. That party perished, but the republic still lives. Since that time we have received, to our advantage over 12,000,000 foreigners who have assisted, very materially to make this country the most productive on earth, and this summer we will show to the world the wonderful progress of our country at an Exposition held in a city that at the time the Know nothing party existed was but little more than



a barren prairie, but to day numbers over a million people, while the political organization which was so fearful of the destruction of our republican institutions has perished, thus proving how a great party may conscientiously advocate a wrong principle. The potent driving European has been the fulcrum and American brains and enterprise the lever of our great progress. If we hope to continue our marvellous development we must not turn the immigrant away. He is a necessary part of the human machinery that causes the commercial and financial world to revolve in its daily orbit. The places that he is satisfied to fill in the trucks cannot be filled by the native American, who has moved up to a higher plane and more congenial employment.

In order that we may keep out the undesirable class we must perfect existing statutes where



they are weak, continue a rigid inspection at our ports, and place the expense of returned immigrants upon steamship companies, whose self interest will force to guard against bringing over defectives. We must expel those convicted abroad of crime, upon discovery, and all paupers as soon as they disclose the implied condition, this status to continue until the burdens of our citizenship have been assumed and its privileges obtained. Foreign governments would expel an American if he fell into a state of pauperism or were convicted of crime, and this kind of reciprocity would suit us all. This method would not place any obstacle in the way of those whom it is desirable to add to our population. It would relieve us of paupers when they reached or disclosed the pauper state. It would rid us of convicts upon discovery, and of criminals as soon as they served sentence. We are



under no moral obligation to provide shelter, furnish maintenance, or extend the protection of government to those not fitted to bear the burden of citizenship, or who by their own misconduct have forfeited the privileges of its acquirement, and we can prescribe such legal obligations as seem necessary for self protection. There are on our statute-books now laws excluding the insane, idiots, persons suffering from dangerous disease, paupers, persons likely to become paupers, convicts, polygamists, and contract laborers. Under these laws the Immigration Commissioners of New York state during the five years preceding the control of the business by the Federal authorities, barred and returned, to Europe 1977 people. From the beginning of Federal control, namely April 19, 1890. to November 1, 1892 - about two years and seven months - 3051 persons were barred and returned.



It may seem strange to some but it is nevertheless true that the continued influx of foreigners has elevated rather than depressed the labor status of their predecessors. Americans except in the early days have done very little hard manual labor. When the foreigner came in, the native engineered the jobs, the foreigner did the shovelling. The foreigner plows and sows, the native reaps; the one builds railroads the other runs them; one digs canals the other manages the boats. one burrows in the mines the other sells the products. The vast tide of immigration has greatly developed our almost limitless resources, levelled forests, built railroads, dug canals, while cities have sprung up, and the wilderness has been made to bloom like a garden. Fields grow with the weight of grain to feed our own vast population and countless toilers across the sea.



First the German did the digging, then the Irishman crowded him out of the ditch, not downwards, however, but upward to a higher plane of living; then came the Pole and the Hungarian Slovak and the Irishman was advanced. Following these come the Italian, elevating his predecessors, and as we have drawn the line on the Chinaman the Italian promises for a time to remain at the bottom of the hill.

Stop this grand stream and where will the supply come from to make good not only the waste by death but the needs of the continued expansion and development of our hardly touched natural resources? The natural increase in population will not supply the waste of time and the decay of brain and muscle. Large families are no longer the fashion in America. Take the figures of population in the last census, deduct the arriving immigrants for



ten years past, and it would show but a small growth during that period.

The safety of our country respecting the influx of strangers to our shores lies in the supply being drawn from various countries, whereby nationalities are blended, the best characteristics of each being retained and a high type of physical strength produced, the most desirable foundation of mental quality. The fact that large numbers settle in certain localities is deplorable as it gives us very little chance to nationalize them, but so long as they are willing to work for small wages and we can keep them under civil discipline no immediate danger can be anticipated. Every patriotic American is willing to see his fellow prosper. We are unwilling to see the American's wages reduced to the starvation point. A moment's investigation will



show that the wail of low wages is generally raised by those who are recent arrivals on our shores, and truly their condition is greatly improved over what it was in the mother country. The fact that the poorest paid laborer in Pennsylvania can save enough money in several months to take him home again proves this. Cities are overcrowded from choice, as there is a great scarcity of farm laborers at present and every agricultural immigrant is welcomed by our farmers. Farm laborers never received better pay in this country than they do at the present time, and the demand for them was never greater, while the steady development of all our resources demands that our restriction laws be not too restrictive.