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1896-1921

THE GIFT OF  
MRS. PRESCOTT F. HALL  
OCTOBER 7, 1922

Immigration Restriction  
League

Partial collection of Endorsements  
and Opposition

1894 — 1900

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OCTOBER 7, 1922

**RESOLUTIONS**  
Relative to the Restriction of Immigration.

WHEREAS, The present immigration laws of the United States debar from landing on our shores only a few of those immigrants who are undesirable for admission to this country by reason of their ignorance, lower standards of living and of morals, criminal tendencies and anarchistic beliefs; and

WHEREAS, The large immigration of recent years has given rise to unhealthy competition in the labor market by the introduction of foreign workmen living under degraded conditions, incompatible with the standard of living of American workingmen; and

WHEREAS, The immediate enactment by Congress of laws for the further restriction and stricter regulation of immigration is necessary for the preservation of our national character, institutions, and standards of living; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the *Boston Clothing Cutters + Finishes Union,*

respectfully urge upon the Congress of the United States the importance of the early enactment of laws for the further restriction and stricter regulation of immigration.

*By T.F. Gallagher Clerk.*

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WHEREAS, The immediate enactment by Congress of laws for the further restriction and stricter regulation of immigration is necessary for the preservation of our national character, institutions, and standards of living; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the *Brookline Branch of the Eastern Protective Union of America an organization of eleven hundred members*

respectfully urge upon the Congress of the United States the importance of the early enactment of laws for the further restriction and stricter regulation of immigration.



Hoisting Engineers' Association  
OF CHICAGO.

Chicago, Mar 17<sup>th</sup> 1897

Mr Prescott. F. Hall  
and Members of The restriction  
League Greeting -  
according To The action Taken  
by This association. at our  
last regular Meeting I am  
instructed To inform The  
League. That The Hoisting  
Engineers unaminously endorsed  
The amendments To The immigration  
Law and we fully Concur in  
The action That is being Taken  
I Remain Resp  
Hon. O'Neil Sec



*ansd*

*Duluth, Minn.* Mch. 19 1896 *189*

Immigration Restriction League,  
#428 Exchange Building,  
Boston, Mass.

Gentlemen:-

The inclosed certified copy of resolution passed by the Common Council of the City of Duluth, was adopted at the suggestion of your Mr. Ward, from whom I received a circular letter addressed to me personally.

Thinking that an official action of this sort would be of more weight than my private letter, I prepared a resolution and (send herewith) <sup>and</sup> secured its passage. Have sent copies of the same to our Senators and Representative.

One local daily reproved the Common Council, for the "impertinence" of a suggestion to the United States Senate; <sup>and</sup> it is possible that our Senators will pardon us for having trespassed upon the prerogatives of the press in this matter.

Very truly yours,

*C. E. Richardson*  
City Clerk.

# THE PERILS OF IMMIGRATION

## INSPECTOR LEVY STRONGLY SETS FORWARD THE IDEA OF THE IL- LITERACY TEST.

# STARTLING FIGURES ON ILLITERACY

## Great Numbers of the Lower Classes of People Have Been Coming Here—in Coal Mines.

Galveston, March 8.—To The News: In your editorial in to-day's issue of your paper on "American Citizenship and American Citizens," you say "that every bona fide American citizen should be protected and followed by the care of the government, there is no question. In order to properly claim and honorably assert the right to do this it is absolutely necessary that we should place a higher value upon the papers and privileges which we wish others to respect."

I desire to endorse and applaud this sentiment. It is not only true but goes to the root of some of the most serious problems of the day—immigration and its effects—the franchise and our foreign policies—each deeply but in a measure interwoven.

I am deeply interested in these questions, having made a study of them to some extent, and observed the practical workings of present laws, policies and conditions as an official of the United States, both in and out of this country. I am firmly convinced that the present great volume of immigration of the kind we are receiving should be restricted; that our franchise be held by all of some real value, and that until we assert ourselves by a proper valuation of our citizenship we need not hope for respect from foreign powers, and will not receive it, and rightly, too. Immigration is, of course, at the root of existing conditions. The great foreign population of our country occasioned the question. Our gates were wide open until very recently and our privileges were made easy of access for invitation and encouragement. They are again save to the very, very few yet, and our privileges are as free as when the nation was young. Check the undesirable elements of foreign immigration and amend the laws so as to place our franchise privileges higher and the "foreign policy," so called, will adjust itself. This question of immigration is so fraught, in any the least, with interest to our conditions, and so little studied, known or understood, that I beg to here to call the attention of your readers to a few facts and figures, which will give them some identity of why such industrial papers as The News, New York Herald, Boston Globe, et al., are editorially calling attention to the question and its legitimate consequences.

Chambers' "Information for the People," a work published in Scotland in 1842, says: "The United States now occupy the largest portion of the North American continent and offer a boundless field for the settlement of emigrants. They slope from the range of the Alleghany mountains to the Atlantic, comprehending the oldest settlements; the valley of the Mississippi, now in course of settlement, and the slope from the Rocky or Chippewa mountains toward the Pacific, which is still in a wilderness condition, and inhabited by Indians." This was written fifty years ago, and before the checks of the Mexican and civil wars on the tide of immigration. It was in the early stages of our history, when the whole country was practically one vast wilderness. Our mineral wealth was undiscovered and undeveloped, and the modern appliances of civilization, steam, machinery, electricity and labor saving devices were in infancy or unknown. When Uncle Sam was rich enough to give every man a farm and settlers were few and far between, we could in our abundance invite the world to our shores to share our blessings. That time has changed, however. We are not now devoid of population, and Uncle Sam's land has so diminished in quantity that now his sons stand in line in cold and heat, rain and snow, for days before the opening of some Indian reservation in order to obtain the last of his lateral assets. Cities teeming with a hundred thousand souls are now where neither house nor tent was then, and where was a wilderness and a foreign country in 1842, now the "Golden State" of California and the populous Pacific slope, the valley of the Mississippi, then in course of settlement is now a dependence for food of millions of people here and in the lands beyond the sea. From 1,600,000 population in 1842 to 39,000,000 in 1923, we have spread our wings and our feet for civilization. We still have a vast area of land for cultivation, but the value of the land and grain has risen so high that it is no longer available to the masses, and the great flow of immigrants, but hardly checked. We still develop our magnificent resources and encourage the raising of the standard of civilization. We lead the van, as we have ever done, in everything tending to freedom of thought, freedom of action and freedom of person. We set the pace and the world follows. There is something wrong, however. With all our prosperity and wealth there is something the matter. Our cities increase abnormally and their values increase, but our farms and lands are lessening in proportion and their values are either stationary or on the decrease. We are face to face with changed conditions, economic and social, and the closest scrutiny is necessary for preservation of high industrial and social standard, else, Macaulay says, "you will have your Manchesters and your Birmingham, and in these Manchesters and Birmingham hundreds of thousands of artisans will assuredly be sometimes out of work. Then your institutions will be fairly brought to the test."

The wide terms of freedom and liberty, the oratorical but impractical phrase of "refuge of oppressed humanity," the lightly spoken words of the "great west" and "sunny south," dismiss usually the growing importance of the grave question of the annual addition to our population of the peoples of other and less favored countries by those who have never investigated the question. As truly said "statisticians no given to our ears so loudly and insistently the cry that all is well with the American people but they drown the mean of suffering which bears continued evidence against them. But now and then some unfortunate victim of society makes of his misery a pinnacle whence he can cast himself in the light of all men down into oblivion, and those of us who lounge in the lethargy of comfort are forced to rub our eyes and do a little unpleasant thinking. We see so many evidences of wealth on every hand that we have no time to cast a casual penetrating glance into the crowded haunts of poverty. Fifth avenue is so fascinating to the eye and to the imagination that neither is disposed to wander to squall "herry street." The mind is so allured by the mansion of the millionaire that it can with difficulty be seduced into the foggy house and the swarming tenement."

But the sentiment in favor of a less discrimination and higher standard in these annual additions to our population is steadily growing and the country must come to the importance of the question. Labor of every sort in the mechanical and manual arts is being crisscrossed, forced by the keenest competition of men and women accustomed to a lower standard of life, and union from one end of the country to the other are noticing the subject by resolutions, ill defined notions and the lack of positive knowledge, the deficiency of the question to be handled, both from a domestic and foreign standpoint, and the fear of many public men to deal with a question fraught with so much danger to them by reason of the great foreign population in their sections, have so far prevented either strong legislation or a thorough knowledge of the subject. I appreciate full well the argument that immigration has helped make the United States, but I equally as well appreciate the fact that in the past conditions were different and favorable. When labor has accomplished the upbuilding of a mansion where only a field existed before, labor's work is finished on that house, and only sufficient work is necessary thereafter to keep it in good repair.

We have striven in the past to get quantity, we now want quality. We have flooded our cities with cheap labor. We now want the country given a chance—the cities rest. The illiteracy test will most nearly do this. It is not held that knowledge of reading and writing make good farmers, but it is expected that as a matter of practice the test will exclude a large proportion of the undesirable immigrants and will not keep out many who are worth having. The bulk of our arrivals since 1880 have come from Italy, Russia, Poland, Hungary and Bohemia—the races most alien to the body of our people, and the lowest and most illiterate of these races. During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1886, there were admitted 67,427 immigrants from Russia, Hungary, Galicia, Croatia and Serbia. Of this number 26,225 were illiterate, that is, could not read or write their own language or any other language. These immigrants are to be found in the undeveloped states in the south or west, where immigration is needed, but to the slums of the great cities, where the labor market is already overcrowded. The report of the United States commissioner of labor shows that of the slum population of Baltimore 77 per cent were from foreign birth, in Chicago 80 per cent, in Philadelphia 81 per cent and in New York 85 per cent. In Baltimore 91 per cent of these aliens were illiterate, in Chicago 87 per cent, in Philadelphia 81 per cent, in New York 89 per cent. The Empire state of New York gets the most of these pauper aliens and the worst of them. The reason is not far to seek. Most of them never get very far from the port of landing. They have no enterprise, no mechanical or business ability, no means of communication except with their own race and no money. The report of the bureau of immigration for 1886 shows that of the 233,800 immigrants there were 22,000 women and children with no occupation, being wives, etc., and 27,000 common laborers and servants, male and female, leaving 184,800 to be distributed as farmers and in every trade, profession and business. In 1884 there were 123,000 women and children, 130,000 laborers and servants, male and female, leaving 93,000 to be distributed as farmers and in trades, professions and business. The laborers and servants with their families, comprise over two-thirds of the arrivals. These laborers and servants come from the countries

and every locality. The percentage of illiteracy for 1886 was: Bulgaria, arrived over 15 years ago, 2,005, 44.33; Hungary, arrived 22,100, 41.24; Polish, arrived 127,476; Austria-Hungary, including Galicia and Bukovina, Bohemia and Moravia, Hungary and other Austrians, arrived 57,343, 39.0. Compare this showing with those nations more akin in character: England, 8 per cent; Scotland, arrivals 5,524, illiteracy 8 per cent; Germany, arrivals 25,231, illiteracy 10 per cent; France, including Alsace, arrivals 112, illiteracy 5 per cent; Norway, arrivals 212, illiteracy 1 per cent. The 150,000 souls who come from the countries named where illiteracy is greatest brought about \$3,000,000, or less than \$22 each, and of these 150,000 souls about 115,000 were over the age of 20 years. Even this amount of \$22 is hardly a fair average for the reason that it is a general average, and some bring more and some less than others, as, for instance, when ten souls bring \$8 each and one brings \$52 the average is \$22 each. Such immigrants are absolutely at the mercy of any labor speculator who likes to hire them and go to swell the great mass of unemployed and degraded humanity in the slums of our great cities, where they sicken and die, fill our hospitals and our charitable institutions, or worse, breed poverty, wretchedness, vice and crime. The districts where they live form nurseries of poverty and crime. They reduce the standard of comfort and bring down wages by excessive competition. Healthy competition is not unduly strangled, but our American laborer should not be compelled to come into competition with the discouragements of the earth.

John T. Tibbatts, secretary of the board of city magistrates, city of New York, in his annual report, filed December 7, 1886, shows that there were 72,537 prisoners held for trial in that city and that of these only 520 were American born, of these 75 per cent of their parents were foreigners. The report of the select committee of the house of representatives to inquire into immigration in 1889, says: "It can not be gainsaid that immigration in the past has been an important factor in the growth and development of this republic. The persons, generally speaking, who have sought homes in America have been largely composed of honest, industrious people who, by reason of a wish to benefit their condition and being in sympathy with our form of government, have come among us and proved a most desirable addition to our population. They have gone into the great west and by their industry, frugality and thrift, have aided in turning the wilderness into prosperous and thriving states and territories and have become thoroughly imbued with the spirit and genius of our institutions. They have harmonized with our population and stepped into law-abiding and worthy citizens. But can this be said of a large portion of the immigrants we are now receiving? The committee believes not. From the inquiry they have made, they believe that the time has now come to draw the line, to select the good from the bad, and to sift the wheat from the chaff. To any person familiar with the committee's investigation it must be apparent that this country can not properly assimilate the immigration now coming to our shores."

Generally speaking, the class of immigrants who have lately been imported and employed in the coal regions of this country are not such, in the opinion of the committee, as would make desirable immigrants of the United States. They are of a very low order of intelligence. They do not come here with the intention of becoming citizens; their whole purpose being to accumulate by parsimonious, rigid and unhealthy economy, a sum of money and then return to their native land. They live like beasts. The food they eat is so meager, scant, unwholesome and so revolting that it would nauseate and disgust an American workman and he would find it difficult to sustain life upon it. Their habits are vicious, their customs are disgusting and the effect of their presence here upon our social condition is to be deplored. They have not the influences, as we understand them, of a home. They do not know what the word means, and, in the opinion of the committee, no amount of effort would improve their morals, or Americanize this class of immigrants. They have been brought here in such numbers, and have been employed at such low wages, that America has resulted in their replacing the American citizens who formerly performed this class of labor until now there are comparatively few Americans engaged in mining coal in Pennsylvania.

The committee will not particularize further, but ask that testimony be carefully perused. Certainly immigration as applicable to the conditions under consideration upon the industrial situation of this country have been very bad, and the committee believe that the time has come when immigration should be more effectually regulated; that persons who immigrate to the United States should at least be composed of those who in good faith desire to become its citizens and are worthy to be such. The abstract questions of the right of men to migrate freely; of one nation's right to discriminate against others; of how a policy of restriction would accord with our political system, and the international effects of severe restrictive measures, are viewed from the standpoint of a United States citizen and believer in the political perfection, measured by the standards of the other powers of the earth, of the United States, to be considered in the light of the necessity of moral, social and political preservation. Considered otherwise through the thinker, on the one hand, into an unpractical application, or on the other, into the realm of the "isms." Founded as our government is on the idea that persons are of more importance than property, that life and liberty and the pursuit of happiness are

to be considered some of governmental and the means for securing the best results in persons and perpetuating the constitutional guarantees to this nation, are of paramount importance. A nation's first duty is to the natural born and adopted citizens, and his protection by law of these within the range of reasonable limit. The almost panoramic change of conditions within the past half century renders close scrutiny of what is necessary requisite. Clinging to ideals and fastening one's self to the conditions that existed in the early, or earlier, stages of our country's history is to return to the days of the ox-cart and the canal boat. Realistic conditions, not vague theories, confront us, and they should be earnestly considered by the patriotic, thoughtful citizen to-day.

W. T. LEVY,  
United States Inspector of Immigration.

## Enquirer, Phila., Pa. 3/11/97 Foreign Born and Crime.

During the session of the Schuylkill County Criminal Court which closed on Saturday 350 cases were disposed of. Large as the list was, it did not include many other cases which for various reasons could not then be tried. The length of the list, however, is not its most suggestive feature. That is to be found in the great number of Poles and Hungarians who figure as principals in the record of the session.

In about sixty-five cases for assault and battery, in which a nolle proes was entered and the costs of which were saddled on the taxpayers, not less than fifty were of the character named. Why the suits were not pressed is not clear in every instance, but the taxpayers paid the costs, nevertheless. In the matter of certain other offenses almost the same proportion is maintained. The names of Americans are a rarity in the published list. Those of the foreign-born are everywhere.

To a great extent the record in Schuylkill is typical of that in the other anthracite counties, and also of the counties of the soft coal regions. Turbulent foreigners, ignorant and vicious, shoot, stab and otherwise assault to their hearts' content. In many localities their Sundays are set apart for orgies of the most shameful character, and it is rare that these end without an affray of some kind.

And still, we suppose there are some good people in the mining regions who, in a mistaken spirit of generosity, yet believe that our ports should remain open to the scum of every land.

## JOURNAL, New York City. 3/11/97 MARTINELLI IN DANGER.

### Papal Delegate Threatened by New Orleans Mafia Because of Intemperate Remarks Concerning Italian Immigrants.

Washington, March 10.—Mr. Martinelli has stirred up a hornets' nest during his visit to New Orleans. In an interview he made a severe attack on the Italian immigrants to America, charging that, with a few exceptions, they were not typical of Italy, but came from the criminal classes and represented neither the middle class nor the industrious poor.

The morning after this interview was published Mr. Martinelli said mass in the Church of St. Anthony of Padua, the largest Italian church in New Orleans, and located in the Italian quarter. After the service he was informed that a delegation from the congregation wished to wait on him in the sacristy. This delegation proved to be composed mainly of prominent mafias and they brought a copy of the paper and demanded that the delegate immediately retract his statements against the Italian immigrants. Mr. Martinelli promptly refused to comply with this request, and answered that he had spoken advisedly, and had nothing to retract.

The committee then became so violent and so abusive that the delegate beat a precipitate retreat from the church, followed by a wildly gesticulating mob howling for his life. The Italian residents were in such a state of excitement that the local clergy prevailed on Mr. Martinelli to modify his statement in a second interview. This he did very unwillingly. The Archbishop of New Orleans felt profoundly mortified by the occurrence. So deep was the resentment of the Italians that they openly threatened the life of the Delegate, and were so daring and insolent in their criticisms that Archbishop Janasore advised Mr. Martinelli to leave New Orleans immediately.

MAR 25 1897

TALK ON IMMIGRATION.

At the meeting of the Union for Industrial Progress yesterday, Mrs. Lucia T. Ames spoke upon the immigration question.

The character of American immigration, she said, has greatly changed in the last 20 years. Formerly it was from the north of Europe and composed largely of people who spoke the English language or who were in sympathy with our public institutions. Of late there has been an extraordinary increase of people from southern and eastern Europe who do not so readily assimilate with us. A large proportion are illiterate and nearly one-half have no occupation.

Nonetheless, she went on to say, may flourish where the people are ignorant, but democracies may become merely disguised tyrannies. If the people are not intelligent enough to know what their rights are and how to obtain them.

Resolved, That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representative be requested to use all honorable means to secure such legislation.

Resolved, That the Governor be and he is hereby requested to forward an engrossed copy of this memorial and resolution to each of our Senators and to our Representative in Congress.

IMMIGRANTS AND THE FARMS  
INSPECTOR LEVY ARGUES THAT THE ILLITERATE IMMIGRANTS REMAIN IN THE CITIES.

HAVE NO MONEY TO FARM WITH  
Make Up the Slum Districts of Big Cities and Are a Menace to American Labor.

Galveston, Tex., March 20.—To The News.—The fact that certain steamship lines bringing immigrants have commenced regular sailings to the port of Galveston; that one vessel is to bring between 300 and 350 souls arriving next month; that immigration once started to a port or section means indefinite continuance, and the agitation going on over the question of the advisability of admission of such members of the lowest class of people of the south European countries as are arriving, constrains me to call attention to the question of immigration and its effects, and of its advisability in its present practically unregulated condition, upon our state and its future. Texas has never had any foreign immigration to amount to anything, despite her proximity to a foreign country, has, by the census of 1890, only 12,356 persons of foreign birth out of a population of 1,323,568, the greatest number, however, in any southern state save Missouri, with less than the number of either Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, North or South Carolina. Since 1890 the States and Canadian ports 18,523 immigrants. In consequence of the small number of arrivals, and these arrivals in nine cases out of ten going to friends and relatives, long-ago contacts, never seen or known, the effects, good or bad, of foreign immigration has commenced to feel the question of the stoppage of immigration, nor yet the vast and worthy kind, but I am strenuously opposed to the present unrestricted influx of immigrants, and I am a firm believer that a nation's first duty is to its own people, and when demand their protection to unservile wages, they should give it them. I am of the opinion that our laboring population needs protection from the hordes of the low class aliens arriving on our shores to-day, and should have it. Labor may be a commodity, it is the greatest on earth, and deserving of the utmost consideration; the one commodity that requires protection, for the greatest value. When droves of alien immigrants to the shores of the United States enter into ruinous competition with American mechanics, artisans and laborers for the sale of this commodity, both have and are anxious to sell. Restrict the entrance of this commodity to the proper class, to those whose mode of living and wages are somewhat commensurate to that of the American with whom he competes and talentedness can ask no more. Shut out the lower orders of inferior countries, but any one who has observed and you more nearly meet the problem than by any other means.

There is nothing in the plea that most desirable immigrants are often illiterate. The people who offer it have only their own selfish purposes in view. The illiterate are doubtless more desirable for them, for they will sell their labor more cheaply. They are not more desirable to the country at large and to the American and children, with all the worldly goods workingmen, for they depress wages and conditions and are in the nature of things a power to grasp the significance and value of our institutions.

Texas has not to understand in these problems, and I would wish those who oppose the restriction of immigration by an illiteracy test and believe that those who will come to Texas will be an added blessing, because, they claim, illiteracy and agriculture go hand in hand. It is argued that our young men of day are leaving the farms and flocking to the cities; that wherever the rudiments of an education are obtained, north or south, among white or black, that the first impulse is to go to the city to better conditions, and that illiterate foreign immigrants must take its place. The principal argument advanced to prove this seems to be the great increase in our urban population over the country since the formation of our government, and especially in the last few years—having advanced from 2 per cent in 1790 to 25 per cent in 1890. The advances of illiteracy among the farming population of the country, and of those adjoining, is the cause of the desertion of the farms and the increase in the cities. It is not regarded by them that the increase in the cities has been caused by the great strides made in the last half century in the mechanical, and other arts and appliances of modern civilization, and the corresponding demand for labor for other purposes, and the tremendous volume of immigration. According to the census of 1890 there are 215 cities and villages having over 1000 inhabitants each. Of these seven have 400,000 and over, twenty-one have 100,000 to 400,000, and a thirty having 50,000 and under 100,000, sixty-six having 25,000 and under 50,000, 128 having 10,000 and under 25,000, and 1000 having over 1000 and under 10,000. In the principal cities, those having over 5,000 population, there are 44 per cent of the 2,248,547 foreign born souls living, leaving for man and beast are then to be considered in the other 3281 cities and villages and the country. They fail to note likewise that where foreign immigration has been the greatest, that the cities have grown the greatest, and the per cent of aliens therein greater. And where there has been and is no amount of manufacturing done and no migration of which to speak, the increase has been smallest. Take, for instance, the states of New York and Pennsylvania, which increased in population from 1880 to 1890 250,000 and 200,000 respectively, and the increase in urban population was in full correspondence, while Mississippi and North Carolina increased 158,000 and 216,000 respectively and had practically no increase in urban population. The two first named are great manufacturing centers and are the Mecca of a large per cent of foreign immigration. While the two last named are not manufacturing states and have practically no foreign immigration. The idea that it is illiteracy that causes this increase in cities must be traceable to opponents of either public schools and education, or those uninformed of the per cent of illiteracy among farmers generally and who gain their ideas of what a farmer is from cartoons of him in comic journals. It is folly to say that the agricultural states of the south have for the most part a large percentage of illiterates, and then point to them as an example of the non-increase in urban population. Start manufacturing interests and at once the tide turns toward the cities. Where labor is in demand there labor goes, and where manufacturing and other industries requiring much labor are, there labor will surely go. In the southern states the blacks are farmers by training, and the whites are few industries to call them to the towns, they remain in the country, where a livelihood is obtained. There are sixty-eight cities and towns in Texas, and these are the only ones in the commonwealth in which there is an excess of persons of foreign parentage. These towns have a population of 1,112, 983, or 58 per cent of the total population of the state, while the remaining 29 towns have a population of 59,103, or 41 per cent of the whole population. This shows that the people of the state and worthy kind, but I am strenuously opposed to the present unrestricted influx of immigrants, and I am a firm believer that a nation's first duty is to its own people, and when demand their protection to unservile wages, they should give it them. I am of the opinion that our laboring population needs protection from the hordes of the low class aliens arriving on our shores to-day, and should have it. Labor may be a commodity, it is the greatest on earth, and deserving of the utmost consideration; the one commodity that requires protection, for the greatest value. When droves of alien immigrants to the shores of the United States enter into ruinous competition with American mechanics, artisans and laborers for the sale of this commodity, both have and are anxious to sell. Restrict the entrance of this commodity to the proper class, to those whose mode of living and wages are somewhat commensurate to that of the American with whom he competes and talentedness can ask no more. Shut out the lower orders of inferior countries, but any one who has observed and you more nearly meet the problem than by any other means.

It is claimed that these aliens will go to the country and develop the rich land of the country, and of those adjoining, and that illiterate foreign immigrants must take its place. The principal argument advanced to prove this seems to be the great increase in our urban population over the country since the formation of our government, and especially in the last few years—having advanced from 2 per cent in 1790 to 25 per cent in 1890. The advances of illiteracy among the farming population of the country, and of those adjoining, is the cause of the desertion of the farms and the increase in the cities. It is not regarded by them that the increase in the cities has been caused by the great strides made in the last half century in the mechanical, and other arts and appliances of modern civilization, and the corresponding demand for labor for other purposes, and the tremendous volume of immigration. According to the census of 1890 there are 215 cities and villages having over 1000 inhabitants each. Of these seven have 400,000 and over, twenty-one have 100,000 to 400,000, and a thirty having 50,000 and under 100,000, sixty-six having 25,000 and under 50,000, 128 having 10,000 and under 25,000, and 1000 having over 1000 and under 10,000. In the principal cities, those having over 5,000 population, there are 44 per cent of the 2,248,547 foreign born souls living, leaving for man and beast are then to be considered in the other 3281 cities and villages and the country. They fail to note likewise that where foreign immigration has been the greatest, that the cities have grown the greatest, and the per cent of aliens therein greater. And where there has been and is no amount of manufacturing done and no migration of which to speak, the increase has been smallest. Take, for instance, the states of New York and Pennsylvania, which increased in population from 1880 to 1890 250,000 and 200,000 respectively, and the increase in urban population was in full correspondence, while Mississippi and North Carolina increased 158,000 and 216,000 respectively and had practically no increase in urban population. The two first named are great manufacturing centers and are the Mecca of a large per cent of foreign immigration. While the two last named are not manufacturing states and have practically no foreign immigration. The idea that it is illiteracy that causes this increase in cities must be traceable to opponents of either public schools and education, or those uninformed of the per cent of illiteracy among farmers generally and who gain their ideas of what a farmer is from cartoons of him in comic journals. It is folly to say that the agricultural states of the south have for the most part a large percentage of illiterates, and then point to them as an example of the non-increase in urban population. Start manufacturing interests and at once the tide turns toward the cities. Where labor is in demand there labor goes, and where manufacturing and other industries requiring much labor are, there labor will surely go. In the southern states the blacks are farmers by training, and the whites are few industries to call them to the towns, they remain in the country, where a livelihood is obtained. There are sixty-eight cities and towns in Texas, and these are the only ones in the commonwealth in which there is an excess of persons of foreign parentage. These towns have a population of 1,112, 983, or 58 per cent of the total population of the state, while the remaining 29 towns have a population of 59,103, or 41 per cent of the whole population. This shows that the people of the state and worthy kind, but I am strenuously opposed to the present unrestricted influx of immigrants, and I am a firm believer that a nation's first duty is to its own people, and when demand their protection to unservile wages, they should give it them. I am of the opinion that our laboring population needs protection from the hordes of the low class aliens arriving on our shores to-day, and should have it. Labor may be a commodity, it is the greatest on earth, and deserving of the utmost consideration; the one commodity that requires protection, for the greatest value. When droves of alien immigrants to the shores of the United States enter into ruinous competition with American mechanics, artisans and laborers for the sale of this commodity, both have and are anxious to sell. Restrict the entrance of this commodity to the proper class, to those whose mode of living and wages are somewhat commensurate to that of the American with whom he competes and talentedness can ask no more. Shut out the lower orders of inferior countries, but any one who has observed and you more nearly meet the problem than by any other means.

How these people, without money, without a knowledge, even in the remotest degree of the country, without being able to read and inform themselves of sections, without a knowledge of the English language, with incomprehension of family, without knowledge of climate or crops, even when farmers, are to be the "immediate necessity of agriculture" is more than I can see. I have had hundreds of immigrants land at Halifax (Nova Scotia) and Quebec (Canada) ask me if they were not in the United States, and he greatly astonished, even incredulous, when I told them no. When destined to Chicago and the western cities it was hard to make them understand that they were sixty to thirty hours' journey therefrom. I have had them come without tickets and with only \$4 or \$5 in money, and when I refused them tickets of admission, argue with me that they could walk the distance without trouble, and when told the number of miles in their country's measurement, appear greatly astonished. This idea of sending immigrants to the country without means, even in the "sunny south," where millions of broad acres are to be had on the cheapest and easiest of terms, has not proven a success and never will. It is like advising a man to become a banker when the assets are 50 cents. It is most natural for the human race, being of a gregarious nature, to wish to live in, or near, aggregations of their kind, or cities, and as population increases in any country the cities increase in larger proportion than the country. But this increase should be steady and healthy and not abnormal. When the latter is the case the conditions must be suffering, penury extreme and dire want. The country is the safety valve. Illiterate immigration to the United States, and I say illiterate because the worst classes that come here are illiterate, that is, can neither read nor write in their own or any other language, is fast creating abnormal conditions in the cities. It is of no value to the country, for it has nothing of value to give or that can be given. And so the problem is. Our statesmen differ and protection is given one class and refused agriculturists. Unequal burdens cause the farm to be deserted for protected industries in some measure; straightway the cry is raised that immigration is needed to fill the deserted country, land to the real cause why our farms are deserted, to what is needed, to the fact that those who come can not or will not go to the farms, and ignorant or careless of the results of their cry for these peoples, who will yet be the cause of the best of a republican form of government and its manifold blessings.

W. T. LEVY,  
United States Inspector of Immigration.

Clipping No. 10  
Clipping from Boston Herald  
Date 3-23-97  
IMMIGRATION AND PROTECTION.

Joint Resolution Passed by the Legislature.  
The following Joint Resolution introduced by Senator Lord has been passed by the Senate and Assembly.  
WHEREAS, The Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives has under consideration the subject of the tariff with a view to further legislation emphasizing the principle of protection to American industries, and  
WHEREAS, In all such legislation during the past thirty-four years the manufacturers have reaped the benefit to be detriment of the tradesman, artisan and laboring man, who has been offered no protection against the distressing competition of the undesirable criminal and pauper classes of foreign countries, arriving on our shores at the rate of half a million annually assisted hither by government organized society or private aid, has benefiting the country left by relieving the labor market, and injuring this country by increasing the number of unemployed. Nearly every one reaching this country during the past fifteen years being a positive detriment to the people already here, and  
WHEREAS, Millions of our people are suffering for want of employment, and a natural increase of our population is, for an indefinite future, fully apply every demand that any possible development of the country that may be made, it should be the policy of our government to afford as full and complete protection to the mechanic, laborer, farmer, merchant, miner, employed and unemployed, as to the manufacturer, therefore be it  
Resolved, By the Senate, the Assembly concurring, that the Congress of the United States be and it is hereby memorialized to incorporate in all tariff legislation such provision as will forever prohibit from landing on our shores the undesirable element of the old world by the levy of a tax of \$100 per capita upon every immigrant to hereafter land, or such tax as shall fully and effectively protect our people.



JUN 4 1897  
IMMIGRATION LAWS.

LABOR COMMISSIONER SAYS CONGRESS SHOULD PASS THEM.

He Visits Cleveland to Obtain Statistics From Manufacturers—The Condition of Workingmen.

That strict immigration laws should be passed by Congress for the benefit of the workingmen of the country is the firm belief of Hon. William Ruhrwein, Labor Commissioner of Ohio.

Mr. Ruhrwein, accompanied by Mr. George Douglas, his chief clerk, arrived in this city yesterday from Toledo on official business, which consisted of collecting statistics from manufacturers from which he prepares his annual report. He called on Mayor McKisson during the afternoon, and later talked with a Leader reporter on the condition of laboring men throughout the State.

"While times are much better than they were last fall," said Mr. Ruhrwein, "they are not yet good for the workingman. Many of the manufacturers are waiting until they see what the new tariff bill will be and how it will affect them when finally made a law. The result is that in my travels over the State I have found that there is still quite an army of unemployed men, but I am certain that when the new tariff goes into effect all the mills and factories will resume operations and the men will be given work."

"What do you think is needed to better the condition of the workingmen of the State?" Mr. Ruhrwein was asked. "A good protective tariff policy to encourage the manufacturers into operating their establishments; the restriction of immigration, thus providing protection for the workingman against foreign laborers; a reduction of the hours of labor in comparison with the introduction of machinery, and a good sound money system which makes a dollar of our money worth a dollar the world over. The tariff is designed to benefit both the employer and employe, but the workingman should be given the additional protection of an immigration restriction law, which will keep out of the country the foreign pauper laborers who come to this country to compete with American workingmen and introduce un-American conditions."

Mr. Ruhrwein was in Cleveland about six weeks ago. Since that time he has visited Toledo, Hamilton, Middletown, Lima, Chillicothe, Springfield, and Washington Court House for the purpose of collecting schedules from manufacturers to compile in his annual report. He will leave the city to-day for Ashtabula on the same mission. Chief Clerk Douglas will remain in the city for several days, superintending the work of several assistants who are engaged in calling on manufacturers to ascertain the condition of business as compared with last year.

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POST, Pittsburg, Pa.

End  
JUN 14 1897

IMMIGRATION WAS SCORED.

REV. FITZWILLIAM SAYS THE PATRIOTIC ASSOCIATION IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN TARIFFS.

HURTS THE AMERICAN FLAG.

Vigorous Sentiments in the Speeches in Honor of Flag Day.

BOTH PARTIES ARE HELPLESS.

Fireworks of vigorous and uncompromising patriotic speech scintillated at the service of St. Paul's Christian church

association yesterday afternoon Immigration was scored to the last point by Rev. C. H. Fitzwilliam, of the Fifth Avenue Baptist church. This, as appropriate on an anniversary of the adoption by the continental congress of the colors which yet remain as they were stitched together 120 years ago to-day and presented to the colonial legislators.

Rev. Fitzwilliam touched broadly upon municipal and national misgovernment, branding them as the greatest barriers to the cleanliness of the flag. He pleaded for a separation of partisanship and patriotism and for the righting of the immigration wrong. Red, white and blue colored both the speech and music. There was singing of old and new national songs, strains from an orchestra, pleasing bits of song and recitations by children, and two virile talks, which were received with genuine American enthusiasm by the big audience. Besides Rev. Fitzwilliam, Rev. D. S. Little addressed the meeting.

Rev. Fitzwilliam was bold and starting in his treatment of the labor question, as discussed from his starting point—the flag. In part he said:

**What Tariff Tinkering Means.**  
"This flag," he said, holding one in his hand, "with its increasing number of stars, is one of the oldest and pre-eminently the greatest emblem of liberty in the world. It should be very dear when we consider what it has cost to hand it down to us unsoiled, untainted, not a star gone. It is in ribbons, but the stripes remain. The flag means full liberty without license. Just as Bartholdi's statue in New York harbor tells the incoming immigrant that it means liberty only for those who are willing to obey our laws."

"Of the great problems threatening the safety of the flag the first is partisanship as opposed to patriotism. Partisanship is at once the mainspring of popular government and its bane. The intervention of national politics in municipal government is a menace, and we can never have prosperity until the separation is accomplished. The mighty cry of the flag to-day is, 'Give us rest.' The commercial world needs it and neither party can give it. The blessings of political partisanship we are enjoying are commercial depression, municipal misgovernment and a depraved public conscience."

"A problem of problems is that of wages and immigration. I believe with Congressman Hicks that the immigration question is of vastly greater importance than that of the tariff. Workingmen, your wage is too low. You are not receiving a fair proportion of the wealth your industry is accumulating. I want protection for the workingman."

Castle Garden's Open Gates.

"But wherein lies the difficulty? In the tariff? Only to a limited extent. In the wide open gates at Castle Garden. I say welcome to every man who will become a part of our institutions by maintaining American standards, but to the burden of vicious illiterate men who undervalue our American workmen in the labor market, we have no use for you."

In this connection Rev. Fitzwilliam drew with startling truth a picture of the way miners live in the Pittsburg district, like bonas in some places. He quoted as the percentage of foreigners in Pittsburg 65 and in Allegheny 72. The third problem, the want of confidence among Americans in their political leaders and among business men, he said could be remedied only by the growth of practical Christianity. He concluded with a glowing eulogy to the flag as the stripes of discipline, the stars of victory, held by babies and school children and the veterans, a protection to the home, the nation and the citizen abroad, a symbol of the history of the country and worthy of all veneration.

Rev. Little followed briefly, taking "The Flag" for a text and "Red, White and Blue" for the sub-heads. In the red he found the emblem of the blood it has cost to maintain liberty and of the ties by blood of the Americans. In the white was the purity and in the blue the unchangeable and eternal truth and righteousness of liberty.

Globe-Boston, Mass.

JUN 14 1897

**For Restriction of Immigration.**  
NEW YORK, June 24—All the local unions of the American federation of labor in this state, representing 98,000 trades unionists, have voted in favor of the enactment of a law by congress to suspend immigration to this country five years.

4/24

On Disposing Of Pauper Aliens.

It has been ascertained by a legislative committee that there are 20,000 alien paupers in Pennsylvania who are supported by the state at an annual cost of \$1,500,000. A bill is proposed to rid the commonwealth of this enormous and obviously unjust charge and it is not likely that its passage would be strenuously opposed by anybody having the interests of the state at heart.

Our people are generally willing to bear the heavy burden of the support of citizens who are unable to maintain themselves, but they do not as a rule recognize a similar obligation with regard to indigent aliens. It is true that such unfortunate ones have as strong a claim upon our humanity as those who are bound to us by ties of citizenship, but we are not in the habit of looking at the matter from that point of view. The practical principles of business obtain to a great extent in the management of public charities, and these would expel from our almshouses every foreigner now harbored by them.

The state believes that its charity should not only begin at home, but that it should also end there. For this reason it would not be surprising if Pennsylvania should follow the example of several other states in sending back to the countries whence they came all of its alien charges.

Whatever may be done as a result of the legislative inquiry and report, a strong argument has been furnished thereby for more stringent immigration laws and a stricter enforcement of the immigration laws already on the statute books. It may be well enough to send the alien paupers out of the country, but it would have been vastly better had they never been let in. lax immigration laws and a lax administration of those laws are undoubtedly responsible for a large percentage of the pauperism which imposes so considerable a tax upon our public revenues. To empty our asylums of aliens may remedy the evil temporarily, but it will never be entirely eradicated until greater restrictions are placed upon foreign immigration.

Times, Washington, D.C.

End  
JUN 28 1897

Dr. Huntley's Views on the Subject of Immigration.

The Eloquent Preacher Points Out Some of the Objections Urged to Present Immigration Laws.

Rev. Dr. E. D. Huntley, pastor of Trinity M. E. Church, southeast, delivered an interesting and forcible argument last evening to a large congregation.

Dr. Huntley took his text from Acts, xvii, 26-27: "And he hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the time before appointed and the bounds of the habitation."

This text from St. Paul's address to the Athenians was the basis for the subject of the discourse, "Immigration."

In the general discussion of the subject Dr. Huntley touched on the single tax. He said he was not sufficiently conversant with the question to discuss it, but as a minister of the Gospel would venture the statement that the time will come when there will be a restoration and the people will rise up and claim some of the broad acres of the land made by God for their use. The tramp, tramp, tramp of American workmen walking the streets of American cities begging for work was a disgrace, he said, and something would have to be done to bring relief.

This relief he was of the opinion could be had by the shutting out of all immigrants for a period of at least twenty-five years. He did not favor the present restriction on immigration, but believed it should be stopped entirely for twenty-five years, for it would take at least that time for the country to digest the heterogeneous mass of immigrants who now swarm the country.

There is a great diversity of opinion, Dr. Huntley said, as to the ability of mixed bloods. This statement he illustrated by the remark of John L. Sullivan after one of his fistic victories: "He was only a half-breed." Concluding, he said that there were so many nations represented in American politics that it is high time for the Christian church to call a halt, at least for investigation. The speaker then adverted to the causes which induced such a large influx of immigrants to this country.

On the question of immigration, he said, there has been a great change of opinion. This, however, should in no way be surprising. The conditions had changed and it was only natural that the intelligent minds should also change. The causes which drove people from Europe were reversed in this country; there the taxation was very high and the requirements to military service were severe. In this country the reverse was true. Another great inducement was the opportunity for office. He also spoke of the cheap rates of transportation and the assistance foreign countries gave those who desired to come.

In conclusion the preacher said that the stopping of immigration would be the greatest blessing to the countries from which the immigrants came as well as to the United States.

Times, Washington, D.C.

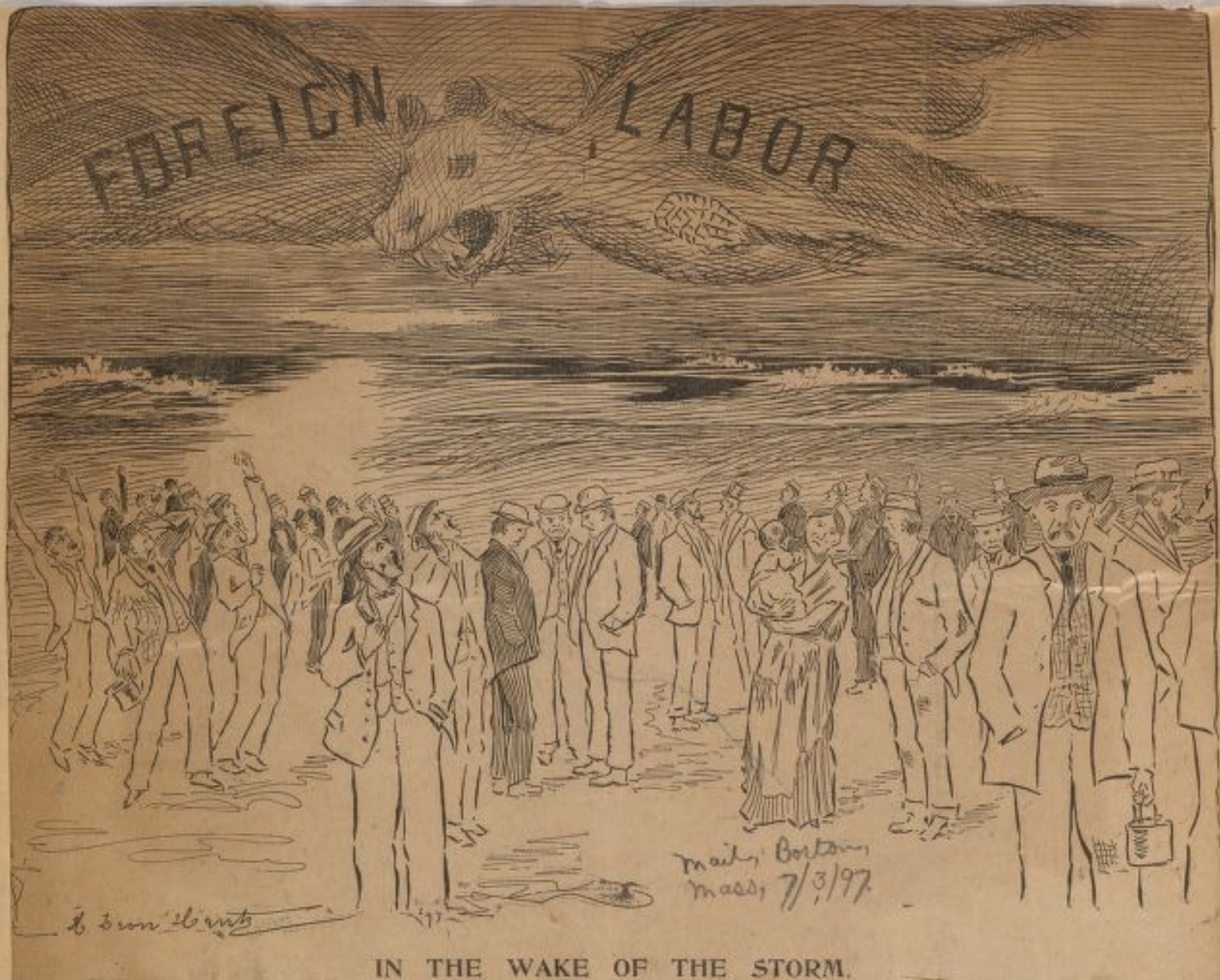
End  
JUL 26 1897

The Central Labor Union's Special Committee Completes Its Report.

The special committee of the Central Labor Union, composed of Messrs. J. S. Gompers, Milford Spohn, and William Sawyer, appointed to investigate and report on the subject of immigration, completed its report yesterday and will submit it at the meeting of the organization this evening.

The report, it is believed, will lay special stress on the civil status of the immigration and also recommend some restriction as to educational qualification. There is also a strong feeling against admitting pauper labor, on the ground that the United States should not be made an asylum for the hungry and naked surplus population of the world.

More stringent restrictions, it is understood, will also be recommended in reference to the contract labor clause. It is now it is claimed it is circumvented and violated every day to the detriment of home labor.



IN THE WAKE OF THE STORM.

**NEARLY ALL A UNIT**

**For Restricting Immigration**

**ARE LABOR MEN**

**Differ on Remedies to Check Evil.**

**HANDLE WITH CARE**

**Voice of 98,000 Unionists in New York.**

Never has there been a more stupendous question confronting organized labor than which it now meets face to face—the restriction of immigration. Action has not been taken yet among the various unions of Boston, but will come shortly.

In view of the alarming increase of the number of the unemployed, the subject has been taken up and discussed over all other

questions discussed. The action taken by a referendum vote in New York will no doubt be accepted by the majority of organized workmen with satisfaction. The fact that thousands of skilled workmen walk through our cities in search of employment, while their positions are filled by the pauper element, will, now that strong measures are being adopted, put a stop to the growing evil and have a tendency to give back to the American workman a chance to live, and live as an American, not as a pauper.

The organizations in New York affiliated with the American Federation of Labor are now pledged to support an agitation for a federal law to suspend immigration for five years. By a referendum vote of 8,000 wage workers the following resolution has been adopted:

"Whereas, The repeated abuses of this country's very liberal immigration policy; the regular evasion of laws extending generous privileges and opportunities to the oppressed of all nations, and the increasing degradation and displacement of American workmen by the importation and employment upon our public works of cheap labor from foreign lands, have opened the eyes of our wage earners to the fact that a system of protection which operates merely to exclude a few foreign products, while attracting and admitting hordes of foreign producers, is a curse instead of a blessing to home industry; therefore, be it

Resolved, By this Convention,

representing 88,000 trade unionists of New York State—and thus voicing the suppressed appeal of 2,000,000 unemployed but willing workers throughout the United States—that we recommend to Congress the enactment of a Federal law suspending immigration for a period of five years, and until such further time as the domestic demand for labor shall have overtaken the supply. And be it further

"Resolved, That steps be taken to notify the workers of the world that we believe the interests of international brotherhood demand this action for the good of all concerned."

**VIEWS OF BOSTON LEADERS**

With a view to ascertaining the ideas of many prominent in the labor movement in Boston the following interviews have been obtained for The Saturday Mail:

**Henry Abrahams, Secretary Cigar Makers Union 91.**

"Do I believe in restricting immigration? Why not?" said Mr. Abrahams. "Ask am I opposed to the Italian padrone system, New York tenement house cigars or the use of the Baron Hirsch fund to all factories with cheap labor.

"We Americans believe that the wife should be at home and the children at school, while the husband and father should earn sufficient to clothe and feed the little ones in a manner becoming an American citizen.

"Go to the tenement house districts of New York and observe how the workers eke out a miserable existence in the cigar trade and garment workers' industry. Visit the opium dens of the Pacific slope. Ask the carpenters what they think of those birds of passage who come here from Canada. In all large cities you can observe an element that group together, speak their own language, work for wages and live under conditions that are a blot on civilization. The other day I read an account in a New York daily of a number of Huns who occupied one shanty and slept in one room with a female as housekeeper.

"More leisure, less hours, better sanitary conditions, steady work with good wages can be achieved by restricting immigration; not more laws, but those we have enforced by commissioners who favor the present laws.

**John F. O'Sullivan, General Organizer American Federation of Labor.**

"While the Lodge-Corliss bill, so called, was before the national Congress in December last," said John F. O'Sullivan, "the convention of the American Federation of Labor, then in convention in the city of Cincinnati, considered the restriction of immigration.

"After a favorable report upon the Lodge-Corliss bill had been submitted by a committee the convention refused to accept the report and sent to a referendum vote of the membership of the organizations represented in the A. F. of L. the entire subject. Like a majority of the delegates present at that convention, I am opposed to the restriction of immigration as proposed by the Lodge-Corliss bill. An educational test will not be a guarantee that the best persons will be attracted to this country. As a tenet of political economy the principle of restriction is wrong, especially when it would keep out of America man, woman or child capable of self-support or likely to add to the general wealth of