SHIP LINES MUST ENFORCE ALIEN ACT

Immigration Bureau Has No Agent Abroad to Enforce Limit-Law Provisions

EXCESS OF POLES ON WAY

Washington, June 9.—As the result of the manner in which the Department of Labor and the Department of State have been forced to construe the new Immigration Act, actual enforcement of the law will be placed largely upon the steamship companies.

The law which limits annual immigration from various countries to 3 percent of their nationals already in the United States, expressly provides the check against the numbers permitted to enter shall be made by the Immigration Bureau of the Department of Labor at American ports. The Immigration Bureau has no foreign agents and, therefore, no facilities to limit the number of emigrants actually sailing from foreign ports. The sole duty of the immigration officials will be to keep track of aliens seeking admission into the United States and turn back all those arriving after the authorized limit has been reached.

It is due to the fact that the law became effective June 3 that the steamship companies now find themselves confronted with the task of returning a large number of immigrants from Italy or holding them here until July 1. Italy’s quota of 3244 for the period of June 3-30 has entered the country and ships with thousands of Italians aboard are now due in New York and Boston. Immigration officials said to-day Italian immigrants aboard the Canopic, which arrived in Boston today, probably would be kept at Deer Island by the steamship company until July 1, and brought in under the July quota.

Little confusion is expected after July 1, the Commissioner of Immigration said today, if the steamship companies realize the importance of cooperating to observe the provisions of the new law.

New York, June 9.—Approximately 600 Poles in a total of 2600 now nearing the United States will have to be sent back, due to an excess in the quota allotted to Poland under the new immigration law.

That was made known yesterday by Max Straus, of the Baltic American Steamship Co., who said Poland’s quota of 1979 for June was not communicated to the company until the evening of June 1. The law went into effect the next day, when 2600 already were on their way here.

North Wales Bans Fireworks

North Wales, Pa., June 9.—A ban has been placed on fireworks at North Wales. Borough Council has passed a resolution prohibiting the sale of fireworks in the borough. Permits will be issued for private displays.

Evening public ledger. [Philadelphia, PA], June 09, 1921, NIGHT EXTRA, Page 6, Image 6
CLEARWATER REPUBLICAN, OROFINO, IDAHO

FOR AMERICANS, NEW AND OLD

The House has voted to extend the 3 per cent immigration act for another year from the present date of its expiration, June 30, 1922. The decision is important and valuable both to present and to prospective Americans. There can be no doubt that restriction of immigration is essential to the prosperity and stability of this country. That is proved by figures accompanying the committee's report. These figures show that the total immigration in eight months under the present bill was 192,923, as compared with 566,343 admitted during the corresponding months of the previous year. That is to say, without the bill we would have had approximately 400,000 aliens, mostly unskilled and ignorant, added to the millions of idle persons now in this country, and taking a living by hook or crook from the workers. Without the restrictive bill next year we would probably have 700,000 or more such immigrants to burden society and lower the standards of American life.—Chicago Tribune.
NEED OF UNSKILLED LABOR FORCES FIGHT ON IMMIGRATION ACT

Hampering of Industrial Machinery Hastens Action in Congress.

EMPLOYERS COMPLAIN

Bill to Carry Out Harding’s Suggestions to Be Introduced.

SELECTIVE PLAN SOUGHT

American Federation of Labor to Oppose Any Change in the Law.

BY LOUIS SEIBOLD,
Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD

The pressing need for unskilled labor to man adequately the national industrial machine undoubtedly will precipitate one of the most spirited conflicts scheduled to hold the attention of Congress after the holidays.

Employers confronted with a labor shortage which threatens to impair and curtail the production of manufactured materials of all kinds believe that their appeal for the modification of the existing immigration law justifies immediate attention.

Executive officials of the Government having most to do with the immigration problem are of the opinion that the immigration law should be changed. Reports of conditions throughout the industrial world have convinced them that the restrictions imposed by the present law should be lifted before serious damage has resulted from its continued operation.

Enlargement of Quotas.

There is hardly any question that if the Government, which fully appreciates the situation, can obtain the necessary Congressional cooperation the totally inadequate present quotas will be enlarged under restrictions which will permit the Administration to exercise intelligent discrimination in the matter.

In his message to Congress President Harding said in referring to the registration feature of the immigration question:

This provision will enable us to guard against the abuse of immigration, checking the undesirable whose irregular coming is the first violation of our laws. More, it will facilitate the needed Americanizing of those men to enroll as fellow citizens. Before enlarging the immigration quotas we had better provide registration for aliens, those now here or continually pressing for admission, and establish an examination board for it abroad to make sure of desirables only. By the examination abroad we could end the pathos at our ports when men and women find our doors closed after long voyages and wasted savings because they are unfit for admission. It would be kindlier and safer to tell them before they embark.

The President’s suggestion for the assignment of examination boards in foreign countries does not meet general approval. The attitude of foreign Governments toward it is that such a step would be impracticable and probably distasteful.

Commissioner Husband’s View.

Commissioner of Immigration Husband believes the present immigration quotas should be modified “so as to let in the men who shall fill the industrial needs of the country and
at the same time have the qualities to make them desirable as residents in American communities."

The problem of devising a method of supervision which will accomplish the purposes outlined by the President is now engaging the attention of the Secretary of Labor and the Immigration Department. Just how this Government is to exercise abroad the right of discrimination is a problem yet to be solved.

Complaints Received Daily.

Members of Congress are daily receiving complaints from business men employing unskilled labor of the adverse effect of the present immigration law on their output. These employers have informed their Congressional representatives that business generally is suffering because of the insufficient number of unskilled workers available to meet the pressing demands.

Labor leaders do not want the subject brought up in Congress because of their apprehension that the necessities of industrial businesses will compel an expansion of the present quotas.

"We are entirely satisfied with the present 3 per cent. quota law," an official of the American Federation of Labor said to-day, "because it gives the workingman a chance to get a job at a living wage. We fully appreciate the fact that financiers and employers of labor favor unrestricted immigration. But we also know that if there is a surplus of labor due to any expansion of present quotas wages in this country will naturally go down and the interests of organized labor be seriously affected.

"People should not be deceived about the industrial situation. There are many thousands in the United States without employment. Those who fear that the number of immigrants now coming to this country is not adequate to supply the industrial needs can learn differently by visiting an employment office."

Unskilled Labor Problem.

While admitting there are thousands of persons without employment, Government officials assert most of it

What an Alien Must Do.

An alien coming to this country now must first declare his intention of becoming a citizen. He is permitted to do so immediately on establishing his residence. He must file a petition for naturalization. Before full citizenship is granted he must reside in this country for five years. If there is no reason why he should not be admitted to citizenship he is permitted to take the oath of allegiance and is given a certificate of citizenship.

During the fiscal year ending in June last 170,477 aliens renounced allegiance to the lands of their nativity and were admitted to full citizenship. During the same period more than 29,000 petitions were denied.

Before the war there came to this country annually between 900,000 and 1,000,000 aliens. During the fiscal year 1922 only 309,558 aliens were admitted, or about one-third of the pre-war figure. Before the war three-fourths of the immigrants were from southern and eastern Europe and the remainder from northwestern Europe. During 1922 about 95 per cent. of the quota of southern and eastern Europe and Turkey was exhausted by admission, but northwestern Europe sent only 47 per cent. of the permissible number.

Immigrants from northwestern Europe are considered to be more desirable for citizens of the United States because they are more like Americans in general characteristics than those of Latin blood. One of the objects of the present law was to encourage immigration from northwestern Europe and discourage it from southern and eastern Europe.

Fear of an acute labor shortage in the near future is accentuated by the fact that for every three immigrants who come to this country at least one and possibly two leave. In addition at least one-half of those admitted are women, while only about one-third of those who leave are of the same sex.
Alien Quota Cut To 2 Per Cent

Senate Committee Also Adopts 1910 Census as Immigration Basis.

The census of 1910 was definitely adopted today by the Senate immigration committee as the basis for immigration quotas under the new immigration law.

The committee also decided by a close vote to reduce the quota percentage from 3 per cent to 2 per cent. A subcommittee was appointed to confer with the State Department on proposed selective provisions under which American consulates abroad would weed out undesirables. A public hearing on the bill will be given March 8.

Colt Statement Heard

A statement by Senator Colt of Rhode Island, chairman of the committee, vigorously opposing the proposed census change on the ground that the resulting decrease in the quotas for nationals of southern and eastern Europe and the increase for those of northern and central Europe would be a discrimination against the former, was before the committee today, and copies also have been sent to Secretary Hughes and members of the House committee.

"The grave objection to the 1890 census as a quota basis," said Chairman Colt, "is due to the fact that the great volume of immigrants from northern and western Europe came to this country before 1890, and the great volume of immigrants from southern and eastern Europe came to this country after 1890, and hence a quota immigration percentage law based on the number of each racial group in the country according to the census of 1890 will necessarily result in a wide discrimination, approaching in some instances almost to exclusion, against the racial groups from southern and eastern Europe.

Figures Show Fluctuation.

"There were only 182,580 foreign-born from Italy in this country in 1890, as compared with 1,343,125 in 1910. There were only 182,644 foreign-born from Russia in this country in 1890, as compared with 1,184,412 in 1910. On the other hand, the foreign-born from Ireland decreased 518,258 in number between 1890 and 1910, and the foreign-born from Germany decreased 473,657 between 1890 and 1910.

"These figures simply illustrate the fact that by adopting the census of 1890 as a quota basis we are going back to the time when there was the maximum number of immigrants from northern and western Europe and the minimum number of immigrants from southern and eastern Europe.

"The present quota law adopted a different principle and under it sought to base the quota on the number of each racial group now in the country. The census of 1920 was not complete and therefore was not available, so the census of 1910 was taken as the nearest date for carrying out this principle; and the quota was fixed at 3 per cent of each racial group."

Purpose Achieved.

"The present quota law has achieved its purpose. It positively regulates the number of aliens admitted. It can increase or decrease the number at any time by simply changing the percentage. It has reduced the immigration from Europe from more than a million a year, in 1913-14, to 357,201, and it has reduced the immigration from southern and eastern Europe and Turkey from 915,974 in 1913-14, to 159,646.

"We must not forget that an immigrant is an international as well as a national unit, and that foreign governments view this change with deep concern. Nor should we forget that nothing so arouses feelings of resentment and intensifies racial unity as racial discrimination, and that we have millions of these racial groups in this country whom we want to assimilate and make patriotic American citizens."