

AN ALIEN ANTIDUMPING BILL

A "3 PER CENT. REMEDY" for our immigration bills, real or fancied, will restrict the admission of aliens from May of this year to June, 1922, to 3 per cent. of the total of each nationality in this country when the Federal census was taken in 1910. As passed by the House, and expected to pass the Senate, the new measure, except for the time limit, is identical with the Johnson Bill passed in the last session of Congress and killed by a pocket-veto of President Wilson. While the editor of the *Washington Herald* believes that the bill will "dispose of the Japanese immigration problem for the time being," since under it only 3,000 Japanese could be admitted, other editors see in the bill an attempt to discriminate against the Jews of Poland and other lands. Moreover, specifically notes the *Springfield Republican*, "the bill is to be passed as an emergency measure, but it has not been made clear that an emergency exists." "There is nothing alarming in the fact that American consuls viséd 606,292 passports during 1920," adds the *Brooklyn Eagle*, and the *Newark Ledger* declares that "this country has use for all worthy people who wish to make their homes here."

To the charge that the United States is threatened with a flood of immigrants, many of whom are of an undesirable character, the *Boston Globe* challenges with the question, "Who's undesirable?" "The undesirable of one generation is the desirable of the next," maintains *The Globe*, as it points to the Irish, who "were undesirable seventy years ago." On the other hand, we are told, "the Germans, who, prior to 1914, were considered a highly desirable element, came to be regarded by a part of our population as highly undesirable." So, concludes *The Globe*, "the standard of desirability is not a fixt standard in the public mind." The Johnson Bill "contributes nothing to the solution of this problem," asserts the *Newark News*, "as many desirable classes of aliens may be barred, while others who are questionable assets are allowed to enter." Continues this paper:

"How arbitrary it is is shown by the fact that only 1,482 Belgians and 3,523 natives of France may be admitted as compared with 75,040 Germans, 50,117 Austrians, and 51,974 Russians. With Italy's immigration limited, on this basis, to 40,294, that country can send us fewer than Germany, Austria, or even Russia. No thought is given in the bill to the important question of distribution of aliens or to graduated restriction according to industrial need."

At the present time, points out the *Philadelphia Bulletin*, "the preponderance of native-born population is greater than it has been for seventy years, while the foreign-born element represents only 12.97 per cent. of the entire population." The Johnson Bill would "close the haven of refuge which America

has been to the opprest," declares the *New York World*, while "it would not solve, but would dodge, the immigration problem." In the opinion of *The World*—

"That plan would be grossly unfair and impolitic and would not bar undesirables. On the 1913 figures it would shut out thousands of French, Swiss, Dutch, Spanish, and Portuguese, however intelligent and industrious. It would admit all the British, Germans, and Scandinavians likely to apply; but it would bar more than 200,000 Italians."

The bill, however, is strongly supported, and the *Brooklyn Citizen* tells us where this support comes from—

"It is supported by certain organized-labor men as a means of limiting the labor supply; it is supported generally by what remains of the old Know-Nothing element, on the ground that any pretext of keeping out the foreigner ought to be embraced; and, thirdly, it is supported by what is called the anti-Semitic element, which has begun to make a speciality of hostility to the opprest Hebrews, who may, as so many of their brethren have done in the past, seek homes in this country. It is a disgraceful bill, unworthy of America, and a reproach to the Administration."

"But the Johnson Bill does not set up a permanent restrictive policy; it is intended merely to protect this country for the next fourteen months from a horde of Europe's most objectionable classes," argues the *Baltimore Sun*; "we have troubles enough of our own, without importing new ones from Europe's slums." "It is a severe measure," admits the *Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch*, "but it commends itself to a country threatened by the influx of a swarm of undesirables." "For the most part, they come for gain only, with no thought of assuming the responsibilities of citizenship," asserts the *Buffalo News*, and for this reason, thinks the *Dayton News*, "we must watch our future more carefully than we have guarded our past." As the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* reviews the immigration situation:

"The present alien rush is almost entirely speculative. Times are hard, taxes are heavy, and food is high in Europe; Europeans want to get away to greener fields. They are leaving their native lands at a time when these lands need them most and looking for a soft berth in America. Slackers in their own lands and deserters of their homes in the hour of need, they come to America to dodge their war-debts and responsibilities and acquire fortune for themselves in the New World.

"Immigration of this character, even if we were in need of the labor, which we are not, would be a permanent damage to the nation. It is of the class that skims the cream of America and carries it back to the old country, once the supply decreases."

The selection of 355,461 immigrants, under the proposed law, would permit the larger countries to send the following percentages, we are told:

Germany	21.1	Scandinavia	10.5
Russia and Finland	14.6	France	1.0
Austria-Hungary	14.1	Greece9
United Kingdom	21.7	Spain2
Italy	11.3	Other	4.6

Probably 1,000,000 immigrants will have arrived during the year ending June 30, estimates Representative Johnson, of

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Washington, who sponsored the bill. "Of these hordes of newcomers, but 2.8 per cent. intend or intended going to farms," avers the *Seattle Times*, while the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* tells us that immigrants "are coming more rapidly than employment can be found for them, thus accentuating an unemployment problem, already serious enough." As the *Washington Post* puts the case of those who favor the bill:

"There are two sound reasons why immigration should be checked at this time. The first is that there is coming into this country now a flood of undesirables inoculated with the virus of Bolshevism and Communism. The second is that measures should be taken to prevent further overcrowding of the labor market. As to the first, there should be established at foreign ports a system of inspection and selection, so that only those who are in sympathy with the American Government and American institutions would be permitted to land upon these shores. Those who seek to incite revolution should not be allowed to sail for the United States.

"Referring to the second reason, it is well known that some 4,000,000 persons are out of employment in the United States at present, and that the number is increasing each month. Every immigrant arriving here becomes a potential competitor of these 4,000,000 individuals. Until the expected resumption of business arrives, the number of idle persons will continue to increase, so that immigration merely adds to the unfavorable conditions which prevail and makes work scarcer. Congress now is engaged in the enactment of emergency legislation to protect commerce and industry by preventing the dumping of foreign goods upon the American market, but the opponents of the immigration bill would deny like protection to the working-people and would permit the dumping of foreign labor in unlimited quantities upon the American market.

"Certain European countries are encouraging the departure of undesirables to America. Those countries are taking advantage of the neglect of the United States to guard its people from a stream of impurity. Why should this nation become a dumping-ground of human material any more than a dumping-ground of cheap-labor goods?"

ITALY

1,607,458



MEXICO

476,676

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GERMANY
1,683,298



As a permanent solution of our immigration problems, the restrictive measures now contemplated are "utterly inadequate," thinks the *Baltimore News*, "but fourteen months will at least afford time to observe the working of the principle involved." "When the situation changes, as it is expected to change in no great while, the law can be changed to suit," we are told by the *Washington Star*. But, warns the *Boston Herald*:

"The duty of the hour is to keep out whatever would tend to degrade the character of our national life or impair the strength of our republican institutions. America must not be made a lazaretto, either physical or moral. Americanism must not be

either adulterated or diluted by admixture with ingredients whose very nature it is to irritate the body politic and cause at least its deterioration, if not its ultimate destruction. The principle of self-preservation protests. That is not selfishness. It is the guarding of that which is good against the assault of that which would injure it. Judicious restriction of immigration is simply American self-protection."



THE ONLY WAY TO HANDLE IT.

—Hallahan in the *Providence Evening Bulletin*.