

Brooklyn Standard Union



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BUREAU OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

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SAYS THE FOREIGNER IS NOT APPRECIATED

Immigration Not a Menace to Nation, Says Commissioner Wallis.

TALKS AT UNIVERSITY CLUB.

Thinks U. S. Agents Should Select Immigrants Abroad.

Commissioner of Immigration Frederick A. Wallis told the members and guests of the University Club, Lafayette avenue, last night that the solution of the immigration problem lay, not in such tests as the literary test, which he said was not worth a snap, but in the selection of the immigrant on the other side by American inspectors and the scientific distribution and sensible amalgamation of the new citizen on this side of the water.

"I have never thought of immigration as a national menace," the Commissioner said. "I believe the problem can best be met by scientific selection of the immigrant on the other side and the safe and sensible distribution here.

"We don't appreciate the foreigner—that's the trouble with us. We look upon him as a foreigner. Well, he is; we all are, no matter how far back we trace our blood, unless you happen to be an Indian.

"One thing the war has brought to us on Ellis Island is that we don't see much difference between the immigrant of to-day and the early immigrants whom we call Pilgrims. You look upon the incoming foreigner as a common mechanic, as a laborer, an artisan. Yet he has risen to the positions of preacher, doctor, officer, and even member of the Cabinet. The immigrant, if well selected, will bring to the country strong arms, a keen eye, balanced brain and an almost superhuman ability to work."

What the Immigrant Does.

The immigrant, according to the Commissioner, contributes 85 per cent, of all labor in the meat-packing industries; nine-tenths in the cotton mills, nine-twentieths in the clothing, one-half in the shoes, one-half in the collars, four-fifths in the leather, one-half in the gloves, nine-twentieths in the refining of sugar and one-half in the tobacco and cigarette industries. "And yet they call the immigrant the 'great American problem!'"

"I believe in a certain kind of immigration. The immigrant is indispensable to our industries. However, we do not care for the foreigner who thinks his first task here is to get up on a soapbox or up in a public school and preach the overthrow of the Government."

Speaking on the Americanization of the newcomer to this country, he thought Americanization could no longer be "shoved and crammed down the throats of the foreigner any more than a preacher can shove religion down anyone's throat."

The Way to Americanization.

"The way to Americanization is through patience, not pressure," he warned. "It must come by environment, by better home and living conditions. In this respect the first impression is an important one. Conditions at Ellis Island should be made as comfortable and pleasing as possible. For that reason we are trying to humanize the island, trying to put more sunlight there."

Commissioner Wallis surprised his audience when he informed them that there is a well-established stowaway system in operation from Greek and other Mediterranean ports to Liverpool, thence to America.

"I believe the medical examinations of to-day are farces," Commissioner Wallis continued. "The examination is superficial. Many pass through with governmental permission who are diseased inwardly with no ap-

3/26 To Com. Gen. Immigration

KHZ

FILE

O. B. Dry Goods Store

MRS. H. LIPSETT
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A. M.
DIVISION
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Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Do you encourage Bolshevism in this country?
Do you tolerate Bolshevism in the United States?

If you do then I am awfully sorry to waste my time in writing and your time in reading these few lines.

But if you do not (and I am sure that you do not) then the address which I am enclosing will stand a little investigation and a great deal of your attention, I presume.

This man has been a stark raving socialist, social democrat, and at the present time he is a bolshevik.

He is a born Russian, a Canadian subject, and for the last seven years he has been living in Los Angeles.

I do not believe that at the present time he is taking an active part in any bolshevik movement, but he has recently made a will leaving his property to the Communist party.

Any questions that you care to ask me I will be glad to answer.

Respectfully yours,

Mrs. H. Lipsett

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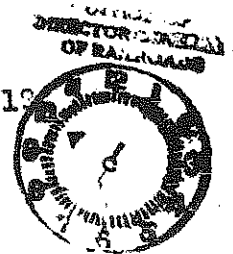
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Walker D. Hines, Director General of Railroads,
United States Railroad Administration,
Washington, D. C.

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Dear Sir:

The writer just returned from Elmira, N. Y. on Michigan Central Train No. 17 and was very much surprised to find that it is now becoming necessary to associate with negro passengers on a so called high grade, excess fare train.

I am sure you can appreciate the unpleasantness of being compelled to share dressing rooms with the negroes.

Yours very truly,

M. W. Briggs

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