

One Year's Story of Uncle Sam's Immigration Bureau



THE latest report of the United States bureau of immigration, which includes the fiscal year ended June 30, 1905, is both interesting and instructive. At first glance the more than a hundred pages of tabulated statistics and numerous maps seem rather formidable, but the facts set forth concerning the annual additions to America's composite population provide one of the most engrossing features of the yearly record.

No one who reads the report even superficially can fail to realize the magnitude and gravity of the problems suggested by the rapid increase of America's alien population. These knotty questions have assumed such a prominence in the consideration of the future of the country that all other matters relating to public economy, especially those involving abstract things rather than human beings, fade into comparative insignificance.

During 1905—which embraced the immigration season of the previous year, but is classed thus for convenience—758,219 foreigners landed at New York. Only 238,280 came in at thirty-three other points of entrance—65,107 at Boston, 62,314 at Baltimore, 23,824 at Philadelphia and smaller numbers at thirty other places. Wilmington, Del., had the distinction of being the port of entry of a single venturesome new-comer, whose nationality is not given. This total incoming tide, amounting to 1,026,499 persons, was an increase of 213,629 over the preceding year. This increase was almost entirely at the four great eastern ports of New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore. There was a very observable decrease on the Pacific coast. This may be accounted for in some measure by the war in the east and the lack of welcome which is manifested toward the orientals on the Pacific coast.

In 1904 Italy contributed the largest number of prospective American citizens, furnishing 193,296, mostly Sicilians and Sardinians. Last year this was increased to 221,473, but it was exceeded by Austria-Hungary, with 275,418. The previous year only 177,166 of Kaiser Franz Joseph's subjects forsook their allegiance and came to see America. For several years the influx from the Austrian empire has been on the increase, and the cause appears to be found in industrial depression at home. The constant and voracious demand for domestic servants which arises from American households has made its way to the most remote corner of the empire, with the result that thousands of the nondescript dwellers in the Danubian provinces are preparing to move westward in quest of the golden harvest.

The Russian empire lost 184,622 persons who were convinced that America would prove to be a cure for many evils imposed by the czar's high-handed government. That was a gain of 29,756 over the previous year. The majority of these immigrants were Finns and Jews, both races having just cause to turn their backs on Russia. Italy's increase last year was 25,183, but it is believed at the immigration bureau that the outpour from that country has reached its high water mark, since two years ago her contribution was 230,622. The United Kingdom also took a decided step toward recovering its former prestige as a base of supply for the immigration bureau, its increase amounting to 45,544. This is somewhat

offset by a decrease of 5,506 from Germany, 754 from Switzerland and 1,172 from Sweden.

The inference to be drawn from these figures is that the two chief sources of future increases in immigration will be Russia and Austria-Hungary, both of which have abundant resources in that line. This makes it possible to

Another interesting question concerns the ages of the newcomers. Of persons forty-five and over the south Italians furnished the greatest number, 19,451 out of a total immigration of 156,390. There were 16,813 children under fourteen in this group. The Hebrews, with a total of 129,910, brought 28,552 children under fourteen.

were 6,460 persons of forty-five and over. The English, with a total of 50,985, had 6,956 children under fourteen and 7,183 adults over forty-five. The Irish, 54,266, mustered only 2,580 youngsters of the age already prescribed and 3,124 adults of the class referred to. Perhaps the most instructive feature

did not know the alphabet and 60 could read a little. Among the 129,910 Hebrews 23,770 could read no language and 507 could read Hebrew, but not write. The Irish, numbering 54,266 were not as illiterate as in some former years, only 1,445 being unable to read and write. The Finns were most intelligent of all. Among the 17,012

Chinese who could not read and only three who could not write. The Japanese were far less intelligent. About half of the 11,021 who landed in the United States could neither read nor write.

From a financial point of view the Germans were in the lead, bringing with them an aggregate of \$3,609,816.

Still another important phase of the immigration question is the destination of the newcomers. Of the 8,598 Africans who came under the observation of the bureau 1,532 settled in Florida and 1,040 concluded to try their fortunes in New York. Only 1,873 Armenians came last year and 925 of them went to Massachusetts and 569 joined the colony in New York. There were 11,767 Bohemians and Moravians and 11,767 Slovaks and 11,767 Lithuanians secured the lion's share of them. New York coming next in favor. Of the 5,823 persons who hailed from Bulgaria, Serbia and Montenegro, Pennsylvania attracted 1,463 and Ohio 1,258.

California, of course, obtained a majority of the Celestials without the asking. Of the 1,973 who managed to land in the country 1,616 did not go farther than San Francisco. China, town, Pennsylvania was the promised land that drew about half of the Croats and Slovenians, 15,505 of them settling in that state. A total of 7,259 Cubans came over to the mainland to reside and 4,691 of them got no farther than Florida. Of the 8,498 Dutch and Flemish homeseekers who hailed from that number went to Illinois, Michigan and New York. Most of these immigrants settle in large cities and become small merchants soon after landing.

As for the Hebrews, some of whom came from nearly every European state, 82,724 out of the total of 129,910 joined their three-quarters of a million of coreligionists in New York city. The next largest detachment, 13,477, went to Pennsylvania. The Irish also showed a decided preference for New York, 19,585 of the 54,266 who came proceeding to that state. Massachusetts and New Jersey attracted about 11,000 of these dark skinned little people and Massachusetts an equal number. Of the 11,021 Japanese who landed on American soil as immigrants more than half went to Hawaii.

A canvass of occupations showed the greatest variety. Among those classes as professional were 3,269 English, 1,063 Hebrews, 1,033 French, 2413 Germans, 511 Irish, 676 south Italians, 1,033 north Italians and 289 Japanese. There were more teachers than members of any other profession, 333 English, 26 French, 474 German, 322 Hebrew, 14 Irish and so on. Among the Hebrew musicians predominated, there being 347. Physicians were the most plentiful professional men among the Croats, 99 being provided with diplomas from medical schools. Twenty-one of the Armenians were teachers and only 8 were clergymen. Musicians also be among the Bohemians and south Italians. England contributed 847 engineers, Germany 186, Ireland 59. England led in the item of clergymen, sending 355. Ireland furnished 177, Germany 153, France 118, Italy 121, Scandinavia 81, Scotland 65. China, Roumania and Turkey are accredited with one each. There were 144 English lawyers, 78 Cubans, 61 Germans, 40 French, 37 Italians, 27 Irish. England was also far in the lead in the matter of editors, 111 having come over last year with the intention of remaining. England and Germany sent the largest crop of actors, the former 446 and the latter 189. Italy also did fairly well in this regard, furnishing 116. These examples are food for thought.

ADOLPHUS J. STONE

