

tected during the voyage against any infringement of the contract made between the immigrant and the master or owners of the vessel, respecting food, water, air, space, etc. Strict regulations were laid down against any acts of immorality on the part of officers or crew or any other person on board toward any woman immigrant. It will be recalled that prior to Confederation the practice of immorality among immigrant passengers was a source of constant complaint, and regulations against it were being made more and more rigid. These regulations were expressly laid down in the United States' Immigration Law of 1882. But legal enactments printed on paper and posted in conspicuous places on board ship were not very efficacious unless rigidly enforced by constant and careful inspection. A series of investigations had been carried on during 1908 by the United States Immigration Commission regarding steerage conditions, when a number of special agents of the commission travelled as steerage passengers on twelve different trans-Atlantic steamers, and on ships of every coastwise line carrying immigrants from one United States port to another. The report was published in 1909, and though it stated that the investigation was carried on when, owing to industrial depression, immigration was very light, and the steerage was seen practically at its best, the facts disclosed were so revolting that one had better imagine than describe the conditions under which immigrants got their first impressions of the ways of the western world. But the provisions of the Act of 1910—in this respect reiterating older regulations—clearly set forth the fact that immigrants, especially women, had moral rights which must be safeguarded, though the fine in each case for the violation of such rights did not exceed \$25. The Act further provided for the personal and pecuniary safety of the immigrant passenger who might become the prey of those who possessed more cunning than conscience. There must not be more than one adult passenger for every fifteen clear superficial feet on each deck of a vessel carrying immigrants. There must be no bar or other place for the sale of intoxicating liquors on any vessel in the quarters assigned to third-class or steerage passengers, or to which third-class or steerage passengers are permitted to have access at any time during the voyage of such vessel to Canada, and any officer or member of the crew of such vessel who sells or gives intoxicating liquor to any third-class or steerage passenger, during the voyage of such vessel to Canada, without the consent of the master or ship surgeon or other qualified medical practitioner on board thereof is guilty of an offence against the Act and liable to a fine not exceeding \$50 and not less than \$10 for each such offence. Precautions were further made against any immigrant being victimized after landing by prohibiting any person from soliciting the patronage of immigrants unless such person had obtained a license therefor from the Superintendent of Immigration.