

## BIG BOOST IN PRICE OF TICKETS TO UNITED STATES

Aliens Must Pay \$8 to Go to U. S. After May 1st—Old Price \$4—May Discourage Vacationists—Other Important Changes in Immigration Laws.

(Special to The Bangor Daily News.)

Vancouver, April 15.—New regulations of the Bureau of Immigration regarding the admission of aliens into the United States, which go into effect May 1 in accordance with the act of Congress passed in January of this year, appear to be more far reaching in their scope than even the most bitter opponents of the literacy test embodied in the new law ever dreamed. In fact it appears, at least so far as immigration through the port of Vancouver is concerned, that the literacy test will prove to be a far less important factor in the new regulations than was at first believed and that the increased head tax will have a much greater influence on immigration from New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and the Canadian Provinces to the north and east of Maine.

The literacy test, the fight for the incorporation of which is the immigration laws was carried through several administrations, will apply to but a small proportion of the aliens who enter this country through Vancouver. By far the greater part of these immigrants are from New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland, and as a rule there is very little literacy throughout these sections. The greatest literacy is found among the non-English speaking aliens from countries across the Atlantic and there are comparatively few of this class who enter the United States through Canada. There have been a great many of these people pass through Vancouver in years past but as a rule they were not destined to take up their residence in this country but were bound to the great agricultural regions of the Canadian Northwest as colonists. It is probable that 95 per cent. of the immigrants who enter through Vancouver can pass the literacy test without difficulty.

The head tax on immigrants, however, applies to all, literate and illiterate alike. In the widespread discussion and protracted fight over the incorporation of the literacy test in the new law the increase of this head tax from four dollars to eight dollars was lost sight of, but it promises to have a great influence on future immigration, both as a bar to the entrance of those aliens who have not the price and as a source of revenue to Uncle Sam from those who are able to pay it. Also it undoubtedly will be found that it will greatly decrease the passenger revenues of the transportation companies running into Canada from this country because it is likely to prevent many thousands of former residents of Canada and her provinces from taking their usual summer vacation trips back to the old home.

This head tax has been existent for many years, but only to the extent of four dollars. Now it is not only doubled but the regulations governing its application doubtless will prove doubly restrictive. Heretofore the tax has been applied to all aliens, male and female, sixteen years of age or over, but those who have resided in Canada, Newfoundland, Mexico or Cuba for one year previous to entrance to this country have been admitted without payment of the head tax if coming into the United States only for a temporary stay. It has been left largely to the judgment of the immigration officers to determine whether immigrants were coming in for a temporary stay or permanent residence and the same applies under the new law—that immigration officers may admit aliens from the countries before mentioned without payment of the head tax if they believe their stay here is to be only temporary—but they do this on their own responsibility, and are liable for the head tax if it should develop that the alien so admitted remained in the country permanently. Experience in studying immigrants generally guides the officers right in judging whether an alien intends to make a temporary visit here, but with the prospect of being liable for \$8 a head for aliens who may change their minds, it is unlikely that any aliens will get by without payment of the head tax unless they are personally known to the officers.

This matter of temporary or permanent stay might have been easily adjusted and much responsibility taken off the shoulders of the immigration officers if a clause had been incorporated in the new law which would allow aliens to enter for a temporary stay without payment of the head tax and making it a misdemeanor, punishable by fine or deportation, for those aliens to remain in the country beyond the time allowed without reporting to the nearest immigration officer and paying the head tax as required for a permanent stay. However, the new law has not been tried out yet and it is possible the Bureau of Immigration may make some regulation to this effect.

Vancouver, ordinarily, is not considered a great port of entry for immigrants coming into this country, and of course it is not as compared with such ports as New York and Boston. However, the number of aliens who first tread United States soil at Vancouver is generally underestimated. The fact that most of these immigrants are of the English race and differ little in appearance from the great body of the American people has not made their entry conspicuous. It is a fact, nevertheless, that 10,000 or more immigrants enter this country through Vancouver every year. This immigration was large during the first year of the European war, for, as it may be, it appeared that more of the youth of Canada came to this country to work in the lumber woods and at other vocations during that year than for many years previous. Many families also came into the United States during the first year of the war to join fathers or brothers, who were already established here, leaving their old homes, with the prospect of war and hardships, for the peace and plenty promised them here.

There have been many other residents of Canada who have entered this country during the past two years without the formality of such restrictions. Among the poorer classes there has been a belief that restrictions had been placed upon their leaving Canada and because of this many of them have left the train at a station near the border on the Canadian side and walked across the line during the night.

It is believed that the new law providing for the literacy test and the increase of the head tax to eight dollars, with the prospect that this head tax will be levied by the immigration officers without discrimination, will prevent many hundreds of former residents of Canada from making their usual vacation trips back home this coming summer. There are many thousands of former residents of New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland who have lived in this country for many years, who have never been naturalized, and who make it a point to go back to their old homes for a month or more every few years—some of them every year. This great tide of travel sets east in June and turns back westward the latter part of August. During the month of September and early October from 100 to 300 of these returning Canadians pass through Vancouver every day. This travel means a great deal to the passenger revenue of the railroads which carry these people. Some of the older of these, particularly women, who have lived in this country for many years, never had the advantages of education in their youth and would be unable to pass the literacy test which they will be required to do unless the regulations provide otherwise.

Every spring, generally the latter part of May and in June, many fishermen from Newfoundland and Nova Scotia pass through Vancouver on their way to Boston and Gloucester to join the fishing fleets out of those ports. There is more or less literacy among these men, though they are the best of fishermen, and the new immigration laws will keep a great many of them from coming in this year, even if the eight dollar head tax does not. Maine lumbermen, also, doubtless will find it more difficult to get good men for their crews than ever before, because of the new laws, for some of the best woodmen to be had late years have come from Canada and a great many of them will not come hereafter because of the high head tax. Possibly because of this the drain on Canada caused by the war will be relieved by these men remaining to work at home.

The new immigration laws were designed to bring about an equalization between immigration and emigration. The European war has been the cause of a great emigration of foreign-born citizens and unnaturalized aliens who have returned to their native countries to join their military forces. Some 50,000 and more Americans have also left the country to join the Allies. The restrictions placed upon immigration are expected to maintain an equilibrium in

which there will be no great excess of either immigrants or emigrants, while such immigration as there is will be largely of the English speaking nationalities. The cessation of hostilities across the water will bring many problems to the immigration officials. Many of those unnaturalized aliens who left this country to participate in the great war have been badly wounded in action, as a result of which they may be denied admission to this country again because of physical disability. Even native born Americans and naturalized foreign born citizens may be denied admission to the United States after the war because by joining the military forces of a foreign country they have forfeited their American citizenship. Already several prominent Americans in this country on furlough have been given their choice of returning to the countries for which they are fighting or being interned here until after the war.

At present there are two immigration officers on duty at Vancouver but it is believed that this force will be entirely inadequate to cope with volume of business they will be required to handle under the new regulations. In addition to the application of the literacy test and the collection of the head tax it is expected that under the new regulations these officers will be required to investigate how many of those leaving the country are leaving it for a permanent stay. This will necessitate one of the officers examining passengers on trains between Bangor and Vancouver while the other is working between St. John and Vancouver. At some seasons of the year when travel is light two men might be able to do

this, but when travel is heavy, as during the fall months, it would be practically impossible.

The work these two men would be required to do at the height of travel is as great as the entire force at the port of Boston has to handle, and at Boston the immigration officers have the assistance of a physician and the passenger manifests are prepared for them by the steamer captains and purser. The men who look after Uncle Sam's immigration matters at Vancouver have proven themselves both able and courteous in the performance of their duties, but it is evident to even a casual observer that their job is no sinecure. The regulations of the Bureau of Immigration which will go into effect with the new immigration laws have not been issued yet, and it is possible that they will give the officers some local jurisdiction on certain matters which will materially assist them in their work.

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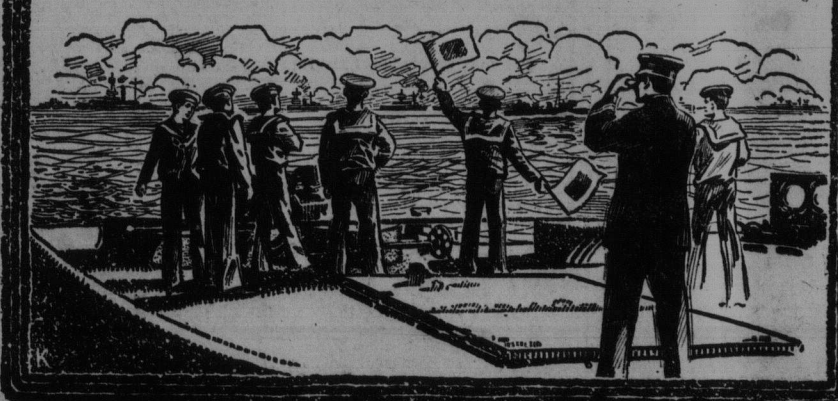
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