

terfere with men entering into enterprises of any kind or description, and letting contracts to whom they please. Even this is a privilege which is not extended to us by the people of the United States. It does not interfere with immigration, nor deprive foreigners from getting employment in Canada. Any person coming into our country is treated with a consideration, which is not extended to the people of Canada in the United States. In every advertisement of a contract to be let by the Government of the United States, the attention of tenderers is drawn to the Acts of Congress depriving aliens from getting employment or labour in that country. It is true, perhaps, that the Government have not legislated against an alien getting a contract in the United States, but they have placed conditions in their statutes, specifications and forms of contract, and the securities necessary to be furnished are such that it is impossible for a Canadian to carry out such stipulations, and the consequence is that it practically means "No Canadians need apply." If a Canadian does apply, it is with the distinct understanding that if he comes to the United States, he must leave his staff and men behind him, including the foreman, superintendents and men who helped him to carry on his former work. This denial to him of the privilege of taking his staff with him to engage in a contract is a very serious loss, as I know from personal experience that one of the greatest difficulties a man has to contend with is the getting up of a thorough organization in the commencement of the work. Canadian contractors have had to provide expensive plant and material to be prepared to take the Government contracts, and the Dominion of Canada is spending a good deal of money in improvements for the sake of these improvements themselves, and also for the purpose of giving our men employment in the country, so as to prevent them from leaving and seeking it elsewhere, and we should certainly have the privilege of earning and retaining the money expended by our Government in the country. With Canadians carrying on the work, they would, no doubt, employ their staff, superintendents, foremen, horses, plant and machinery which is manufactured in Canada, instead of allowing American contractors to come here and take the profits of their contracts away with them as well as their staff, and the savings of the men employed, depriving our people of employment and reducing the wages of our labouring men. They refuse us the privilege of being employed upon their works and we should not continue to allow them to take the money contributed by our people from Canada. There are certain restrictions in the contract law by the Government of the United States, that where plant can be purchased as well and as cheaply in the United States, they are bound by contract to do so. In Canada, I understand, the plant and machinery of

alien contractors has been allowed to be brought in under bond, and if charged any duty, it was but a nominal sum. However, I am told by the Controller of Customs that such is not the case now, and I am glad to know it. But in the case of a Canadian contractor going to the United States, if he has plant in this country, the terms of the contract and the law governing contracts sets forth, that "United States plant is preferable." If a Canadian did get a contract in the United States, he would be expected to leave his machinery in Canada and purchase that of the United States with which to carry on the work. Canadian contractors bringing machinery into the United States have to pay the United States with which to carry on the work. Canadian contractors bringing machinery into the United States have to pay 40 or 50 per cent duty thereon; while the American contractors were allowed to bring their plant and machinery in here in bond, and take it back with them. The Canadian Government received no duty on the material brought over to perform the work of the contract let to such Americans, and in any case we would have to pay a higher duty than they would. This might amount to more than the difference in the price for the contract, even though the Americans were the lowest tenderer. The savings of the contractor, the earnings of the men invested in the country, and the labour employed in manufacturing the plant in Canada would certainly more than balance any loss that might be sustained in any other way in regard to contracts. The following sections are from the Acts of Congress of 1884-85, "Alien Contract Labour":

Section 3. Any person, partnership or company knowingly assisting, encouraging or soliciting the migration or importation of any alien or aliens, foreigner or foreigners into the United States, its territories or the District of Columbia, to perform labour or service of any kind under contract or agreement, express or implied, parol or special, with such alien or aliens, foreigner or foreigners previous to becoming residents or citizens of the United States, shall forfeit and pay for every such offence the sum of one thousand dollars, which may be sued for and recovered by the United States or by any person who shall first bring his action therefor, including any such alien or foreigner who may be a party to any such contract or agreement, as debts of like amount are now recovered in the circuit courts of the United States.

Section 4. The master of any vessel who shall knowingly bring within the United States on any such vessel, and land or permit to be landed, from any foreign port or place, any alien labourer, mechanic or artisan, who, previous to embarkation on such vessel, had entered into contract or agreement, parol or special, express or implied, to perform labour or service in the United States, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanour, and on conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars for each and every such alien labourer, mechanic or artisan so brought as aforesaid, and may also be imprisoned for a term not exceeding six months.