

190. Now will you give us what you know of your own knowledge of the effect of the operations of the Alien Act in your locality?—I heard a statement made here by Mr. Ormiston and another by Mr. Dixon. Of course, I can corroborate these statements, but there was one little omission that Mr. Dixon did make, and that is with reference to the interpretation placed upon the American Alien Law by Mr. Thompson, the American Customs officer at Alexandria Bay.

Mr. DIXON—I had no conversation with Mr. Thompson.

WITNESS—I was in company with Mr. Ormiston—I should have said Ormiston—when he visited Alexandria Bay at that time. At that time there were two or three different interpretations put upon the American Alien Act. First was the definition that was given by the Customs officers on the other side as to apply to the case of Bouche. Then again, Thompson, as Mr. Ormiston has stated, was personally politically opposed to the Alien Labor Act, but he has no other alternative only to enforce the Act. The matter is out of his reach. It is within the power of any laborer at Alexandria men Bay to instruct Mr. Thompson to notify Mr. Wilbert Hayden or any other of these who have Canadians in their employment that they have such men there and enforce the Act. It does not matter as to what his feelings are. The instruction of the Act is of course, that if they come over there they might signify their intention of becoming American citizens, but they have to board in that country. I think that is the way that Mr. Ormiston put it. They must board in that country. Of course, they claim that the board of a man in that country is considerable, and that as they were working there and their money was coming back to Canada, and they were leaving nothing in the place therefor, their board should be left in that country. Some of the parties hired their board at Alexandria Bay. I know some of my neighbors worked there, and they found it pretty expensive to board on that side; but they put up camps on Sport Island and boarded themselves. Parties there are in a very peculiar position. Probably there is not such a place from one end of the line to the other situated the same as that. I can give you a description of it, and you can form your own opinion as to the difficulties our people have to meet. As a farmer, nothing would be more to my advantage than to see the most friendly feeling existing at that particular spot, between ourselves and the Americans. There is a large market established there in the summer season that requires about all the produce we can raise, and it would be a damage to us as farmers if anything was done that would create a feeling of revenge on the part of the American people. We must, however, protect our labor and we are satisfied the best thing you can do is to pass a similar Act. I can understand something of their position over there. They say “we have not enough of work to employ all our own labor.” They say: “it is not that we want to injure Canada. We know nothing about Canada,” Laborers here re-echo the same thing; that this Act is not to injure the American people, but as a similar Act is in force on the other side, with the prospect of the International Park that will grow up in time, it would be a serious loss to our people to be excluded from going over there. There are from 25,000 to 35,000 people come there every summer and it would not be fair if their people could come over here while ours have been shut off there. That would be an injustice. Probably many of you have been at the Thousand Island Park. Take from Clayton, or St. John Island on the Canadian side and Grindstone Island on the American side, down to two or three miles below Rockport, and according to the best writers on the other side, in giving a description of the locality, there are 1,200 islands there. I have it from the best authority that by an actual count there are only seventy-two of those islands on the American side, so that the others are all in Canadian waters. I do not know whether these statements are true or not. They would know in the Indian Department here. You will see, however, that the volume of water going down past Well's Island is nearly two miles wide, while the water that passes south of that is only half a mile wide, and the islands two miles below are nearly on the Canadian side. These people have enjoyed undisputed right of these islands—these 25,000 or 30,000 people—because very few Canadians go there. I have not seen fifty Canadians fishing in those waters, and I have seen 20,000 Americans. It is not