

U.S. IMMIGRANTS.

Alleged Illegal Immigration From Canada.

American Service in Canada to be Reorganized—Impressions of the Commissioner-General.

(Special Despatch to The Globe.)

Washington, Jan. 2.—Measures are being taken by the Treasury Department calculated to carry out the proposed plan of abolishing United States immigrant stations in Canada. Assistant Secretary Taylor of the Treasury Department under whose jurisdiction immigration matters are assigned, and Commissioner-General of Immigration Powderly are in New York for the purpose of examining immigrant conditions at that port. This marks the beginning of steps to introduce new rules and regulations to meet the changed conditions affecting the immigration service, and this visit will be followed probably by an effort to correct abuses said to exist on the northern border. The numbers of immigrants arriving in the United States has increased so rapidly within the last year that the Government appreciates the necessity of providing a larger force of immigration inspectors, examining surgeons and other officers.

Moreover, the treasury officials have been aroused to fresh vigilance by somewhat startling discoveries regarding the existence of the padrone system, in violation of the alien contract labor law. The official reports of a case in Avon, N. Y., in which 270 Italians were found to be in a state of virtual slavery, under the dominance of a scoundrel of their own nationality, has led to the belief that these foreigners may have entered the State from Canada, where they were landed from a transatlantic steamship. This suspicion is enhanced by the failure of the Government during the last few days to find that the Italians were entered at the port of New York. The theory is that many of the laborers of this class who are found at points not far from the northern border have been sojourners in the Province of Ontario long enough to avert the suspicions of United States officials stationed in the Dominion for the purpose of detaining violators of the immigration laws.

The belief in the prevalence of illegal immigration across the Canadian border is supported by some more or less satisfactory statistics in the possession of the Treasury Department, and by such instances as that of a few weeks ago, when several immigrants from Toronto were arrested in the vicinity of Buffalo and deported.

Assistant Secretary Taylor has been impressed with the necessity of reorganizing the service in Canada and on the border ever since he visited Montreal, Quebec and other points in the Dominion last summer. The matter has been taken up by Commissioner-General Powderly under Mr. Taylor's direction, and it is believed that Congress will enact the legislation which they recommend at the present session.

In discussing the matter officially the Commissioner-General says:—The Commissioner of Immigration at the port of New York reports as a frequent occurrence the recognition of aliens on the streets of that city by the officials who had assisted in their deportation. Repeated instances have occurred of deportation of aliens who, after rejection at a port in this country, had secured entrance by returning through Canada; and, becoming public charges after such entrance, have been returned to their own country at the expense of the immigrant fund.

"There are practically no rejections of diseased persons at Canadian ports, and entirely trustworthy information comes to the bureau from time to time through official sources that both immigrants and agents of transportation companies regard the route via the Dominion ports as devoid of every obstruction to the easy entry of the United States by even the most diseased, pauperized or otherwise objectionable immigrants. The above figures demonstrate the correctness of that view. The bureau, therefore, cannot too strongly reiterate its recommendations of a year ago, and urge that the immigration officials now stationed at Canadian ports be withdrawn and located at certain designated points on our northern boundary, through which alone should aliens be admitted. This would concentrate the available officers now distributed at the ports of our northern neighbor and scattered along the border, and, without causing an unreasonable delay of travel, enable the bureau to establish border stations which would be as efficient as those at our principal seaports."

In his recent annual report Mr. Powderly says further:—"Perhaps the ease with which our Canadian boundary line is crossed is due in part to this amalgamation, for the policy of assigning immigration officials to the supervision and control of collectors of customs prevails most extensively along that border, and elsewhere inspectors of immigration are rarely required to act as customs officers.

"Evidence too voluminous to reproduce here accumulates from day to day to confirm the views expressed in the last report, and no room remains for reasonable doubt that under the present system efforts to enforce the laws and regulations are in a great measure nullified by the open door through the Dominion and across the northern boundary lines.

"Contract laborers have passed in at American ports, travelled to Canada, their alleged destination, and immediately returned to the United States without difficulty. Croatian immigrants in one case, who were captured and returned to Europe for violating the provisions of the alien contract

labor laws, alleged that they had adopted this plan to avoid rigid examination, having been informed of the absence of impediments to entry through Canada." Walter E. Clark.