

# IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION LEAGUE.

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SECRETARY AND TREASURER: PRESCOTT F. HALL, 60 State St., Boston, Mass.

Room 621, 60 State St.,  
Boston, Mass. June 7, 1905.

Dear Sir:

Indications are that immigration for the fiscal year of 1905, ending June 30th., will be about one million, or considerably more than one per cent. of the total population of the United States. Such a number exceeds the population of any southern city and is greater than the population of any one of eighteen of the United States.

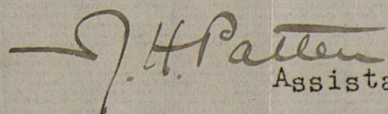
Of this multitude, the larger part will come from southern and eastern Europe, and will be composed of the Slavic and Iberic races, far less capable of being absorbed and assimilated than those from northern Europe. Three-fifths will settle in four eastern states. Less than one-tenth will go to the South and West. One-fourth of this million will be absolutely unable to read or write a single word of any language. It is the coming and competition of undesirable southern Europeans, with their low standards of living, that have caused a decline in the number of assimilative immigrants from the north of Europe. Slight judicious discrimination would counteract the artificial stimulation, by the steamship companies, of the less desirable part of this south-European immigration, and would allow the better classes of aliens to come and get a foothold in our industrial regime.

In as much as a scheme for distributing the aliens now

landing, as well as the aliens in the slum districts of our eastern cities, into the country districts of the various States is under consideration, and is being advocated chiefly by transportation agencies, we feel that it would be of great value to learn what are the wishes of your State at the present time in regard to the kinds and nationalities of immigrants desired. By far the greater part of recent immigration has settled in the large cities of three or four eastern States, increasing the congestion, sickness, poverty and misery there. It is now proposed to distribute thousands of just such people throughout the South and West. Are they the kind of immigrant labor you want? Most of them have an inherent aversion to country life and are likely to give rise to another difficult race problem.

This League is not an "Anti" immigration society. It was formed in 1894 by a voluntary group of business and professional men to make a study of immigration. Investigation revealed a startling change in the nature and character of immigrants; that they were beginning to come in large numbers from Southern Europe; and that there were among these newcomers many undesirable; such as paupers, ex-convicts, persons defective physically, mentally and morally, the selection of whom was left to the profit-making choice of the steamship companies, and to foreign nations anxious to get rid of their social refuse. The bulk of this new Slavic and Iberic immigration is averse to country life, has an indeflectible tendency to congregate in the cities, and is unfit to take part in enlightened democratic government.

It will be a great favor if you will kindly answer the enclosed questions.

  
Assistant Secretary.

June 7, 1905

Wishes in respect to immigration of the State of \_\_\_\_\_

Is any further immigration needed or desired ?

If further immigration is desired, please check the classes of persons mentioned below which are desired, in the order of preference.

1. American, native born.
2. Persons from northern Europe
3. Skilled persons
4. Families with some money, intending to settle in the country
5. British
6. Scandinavians
7. Germans
8. Any other nationalities desired.

Please check below classes of persons not desired in your State.

1. Foreign born
2. Southern and eastern Europeans
3. Asiatics
4. Illiterates
5. Those settling in the cities and averse to country life.
6. Immigrants distributed from eastern cities

Have you a surplus of labor in your State ?

Do you favor the exclusion of immigrants of poor physique ?

Do you favor an increased head tax of say \$25, in order to improve the quality ?

Do you think the United States should exclude "assisted" immigrants, i.e. persons who have been unable to pay their own passage ?

Would you be in favor of restricting immigration so as to get the better classes of immigrants ?