



MEMBERS OF THE IMMIGRATION COMMISSION, MOST OF WHOM WILL SAIL FOR EUROPE THIS MONTH.

was authorized by Congress last session to aid in the efforts to restrict further the arrival of undesirable immigrants on these shores. The members are: Front row, from left to right—Senator A. C. Latimer, S. C.; Senator H. C. Lodge, Mass.; Senator W. B. Dillingham, Vt., chairman; Representative B. F. Howell, N. J.; Charles P. Neill, Commissioner of Labor. Back row, left to right—W. R. Wheeler, Cal.; Professor J. W. Jenks, Cornell University; Morton R. Crane, Mass., Secretary; Representative W. S. Bennet, N. Y.; Walter W. Husband, clerk to the commission; Representative J. L. Burnett, Ala.

(From The Tribune Bureau.)

AN IMPORTANT TASK.

Immigration Commission to Ascertain Conditions in Europe.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, May 4.—The President was authorized by the immigration bill passed at the last session of Congress to enter into agreements with foreign nations for the purpose of preventing immigration into the United States of aliens who are not entitled, under the restrictions imposed by the laws of this country, to enter our ports. Congress also provided for the creation of an immigration commission with authority to visit foreign countries, there to ascertain the conditions affecting emigration. The scope of the inquiry which this commission has undertaken is exceedingly broad, but the most important responsibility which rests upon it will be the preparation of a report which will serve as a guide to the President in perfecting the agreements contemplated.

Most foreign countries are willing and ready to co-operate with the United States to prevent bringing to the ports of this country immigrants who are ineligible to entry and who are liable to be returned at once or subsequently deported. A few are believed to be adverse to such a course. But to verify these beliefs and to devise methods whereby they can be enforced with the greatest convenience to both countries and the least possible hardship to would-be immigrants will be the first work of the Immigration Commission.

The members of the commission, with the exception of Senator Lodge, Professor Jenks and Mr. Neill, will sail for Europe the latter part of this month, or earlier if steamship accommodations can be secured. Senator Lodge's movements are uncertain, although he will join the other members of the commission abroad if his domestic affairs will permit. Messrs. Neill and Jenks will remain here, and will devote themselves to the assembling and preparation of statistics regarding immigration, the disposition of immigrants, etc., which it is desired to make a part of the final report.

Among the questions which Messrs. Jenks and Neill will take up will be the character of immigrants from various European countries, the degree of success and thrift which attend their efforts here, their distribution, the alleged congestion in the principal cities, the possibility of their more general distribution, their availability as agricultural laborers, the demand for labor in the Southern and Far Western states, etc. As has been demonstrated by the diversity of opinions expressed by various writers on the subject of immigration, there exists a wide latitude of views on the desirability of immigrants of the various nationalities, and an effort will be made to ascertain the facts in this respect, and to substantiate them with an amount of evidence which must be accepted as indubitable.

The members of the commission who will go abroad will take with them the secretary and other attaches, and will go directly to Italy, from which country a large number of immigrants now come. The itinerary, which is largely tentative and subject to change as closer contact with foreign conditions may seem to warrant, includes an inspection of conditions at Genoa, Naples, Palermo and Messina. From Italy the commission will go to Fiume, in Austria-Hungary, where the government is understood practically to have subsidized a steamship line to bring immigrants to this country. Trieste will also be visited, and it is probable that a visit will be paid to Odessa, in Southern Russia, from which point a line of steamers to New York has recently been established. The commission will then go north to Riga and Libau, from which points the Russian government is understood to be promoting emigration to the United States. Hango, the port from which emigrants from St. Petersburg embark, will also be visited, and it is entirely probable

that the inspection will include Kishinev, Kief and Tchernigo, from which points come most of the Russian Jews.

A visit to Poland and to Lodz and Warsaw, in Russian Poland, is under contemplation. Along the German frontier are several "control stations," where emigrants desiring to sail from German ports are subjected to an examination by German officials. These will doubtless be inspected. Other points to be visited in Northern Europe are Rotterdam, in the Netherlands, and Antwerp, in Belgium. The immigration

purpose of slipping over the boundary. By agreement with the Canadian officials, United States inspectors examine immigrants landing at Montreal with a view to determining their eligibility to entry into the United States, and it is regarded as probable that some similar arrangement can be made with Mexico.

The commission will also make an earnest effort to devise some method whereby the history of would-be immigrants from foreign countries may be ascertained, as the administration is determined that persons with criminal records in

certain every fact and to present the information they secure without fear or favor. Of course, it is appreciated that differences of opinion may occur when it comes to making recommendations for legislative action, but complete harmony up to that time will go far to promote the value of the commission's work.

It is generally agreed, therefore, that the commission undertakes its labors under the most favorable conditions; that it has ample authority to go to the bottom of all questions, as well as a disposition to do so, and it is declared that everything augurs well for the accomplishment of a work which will prove invaluable both to the Executive and to the Congress in their future dealings with immigration problems.

NOT VERY PLAUSIBLE.

J. G. Phelps Stokes has withdrawn his support from the Young Men's Christian Association because in some of its classes business methods of a worldly description are taught.

"The association," said Mr. Phelps Stokes recently, "attempts to give good reasons for teaching the tactics of Wall Street. It attempts to reconcile such teachings with its Christian character. On the whole, it fails in this.

"It fails like the huckster who attempted to account for the miserable condition of his horse. 'Why,' said a woman to the man, 'your horse is a living skeleton. Don't you ever feed him?'"

"Feed him?" said the huckster. "Well, that's a good one, that is. Why, he's got two bushels of oats and a ton of hay at home now, only he ain't got time to eat 'em."

THEY WERE PROPERLY WORN.

Mrs. Hwfa Williams talked at a dance in New York about the fashion of riding astride that has taken hold of English equestriennes.

"Some of our young English women," said Mrs. Hwfa Williams, "dress out-and-out like men. They wear a long coat cut like a hunting coat, a cap, riding breeches and top boots. It is a handsome costume, and it is not immodest, but undoubtedly it attracts a good deal of attention.

"They have been telling in London lately a story about an English girl who has adopted this riding rig. Pulling up her horse one afternoon, she said to an artisan who was passing: 'Can you tell me if this is the way to Wareham?'"

"The man looked her over carefully. Then he touched his cap in a respectful manner and replied:

"Yes, miss, yes—you seem to 'ave got 'em on all right.'"

LOOSE FASTING.

Dr. Edward Everett Hale at the divorce reform congress in Washington said of certain divorce laws:

"The apologies put forward for these laws remind me of the apology that a gourmet Bishop once made during Lent.

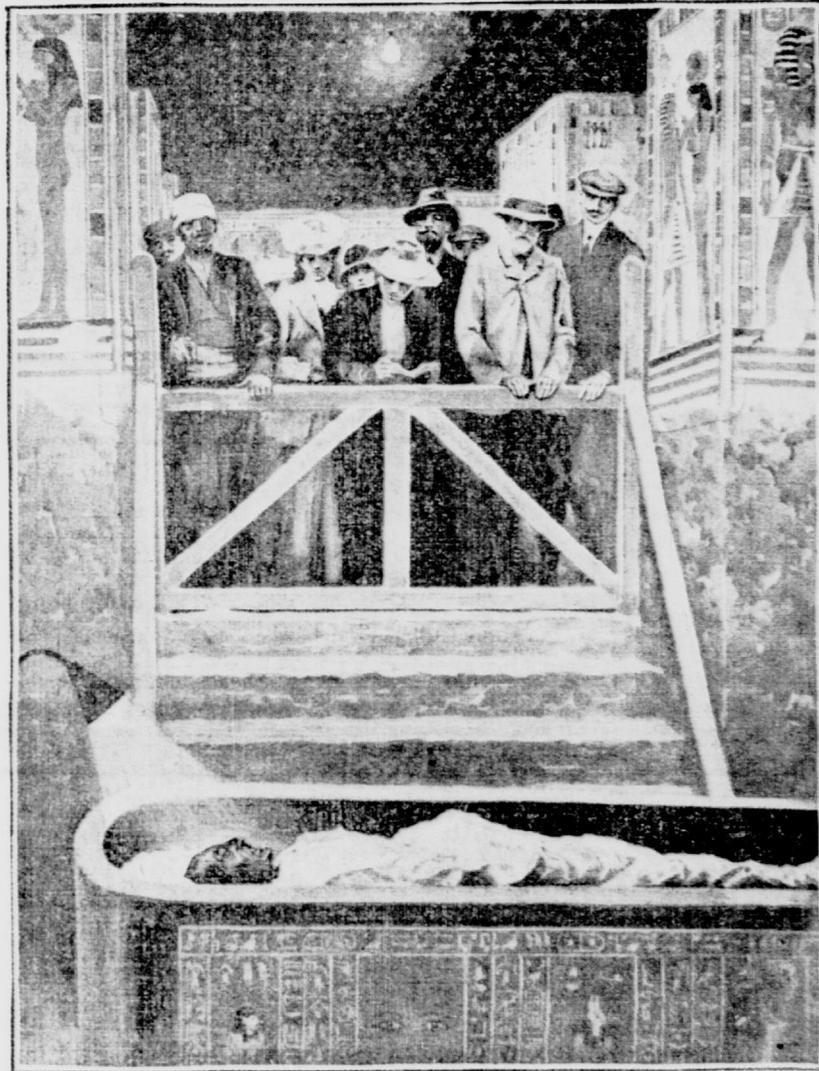
"The Bishop happened to sit at dinner beside an irreverent young woman. He ate his oysters, and then, with flashing eyes, a heightened color and every indication of enjoyment, he fell to upon a plate of rich turtle soup.

"The young woman, watching the Bishop swallow this costly food, could not restrain a sneer.

"'I thought,' she said, 'that you fasted during Lent, Bishop?'"

"The Bishop put down his spoon and allowed his face to become pensive.

"'Ah, I do fast in Lent,' he said. 'I subsist chiefly on fish.' He swallowed a lump of meat worth about half a dollar. 'Turtle,' he added, 'is a kind of fish.'"



ELECTRIC LIGHT IN THE TOMBS OF THE KINGS OF THEBES.

One of the picturesque results of Lord Cromer's work in Egypt. This mummy, representing Amenophis II of the 18th dynasty, is in a sarcophagus. The chamber is a considerable depth under ground and is richly decorated with paintings on wall, pillars and ceiling. In a side chamber are three other mummies representing a man, a woman and a child.

—The Sphere.

from the Scandinavian countries is so generally satisfactory that it is unlikely their ports will be inspected. The commission will then proceed to France, visiting Havre, Marseilles and possibly other points. If time permits visits will also be paid to London, Liverpool, Hull, Southampton, Edinburgh and Dublin.

The questions which will be taken up in this country, probably by the whole commission, are those affecting the entrance over the Canadian and Mexican boundaries of immigrants who have been rejected at the regular ports of entry. Some difficulty in this respect is being experienced with Japanese and Chinamen, and it has recently come to the knowledge of the immigration officials that many persons who have been rejected by American consuls abroad have sailed for Vera Cruz, Mexico, presumably with the

their own countries shall not land in the United States. The propositions before the commission are extensive, some of them difficult, and it is regarded as doubtful if it can complete its work for several years, but it is intended that when it shall have been completed it will have compiled a report which shall serve for years as a complete and accurate encyclopædia of immigration information.

Members of the commission who have long given much time and study to immigration problems express themselves as greatly pleased with the personnel of the commission. They say that there is no member of the commission who is "afraid of a fact," a condition which they declare to be rather unusual. The utmost harmony has prevailed in the deliberations thus far, and all are unanimous in their desire to as-

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