

# CANADIANS PASS FREELY ACROSS NIAGARA BORDER

No Interference in Their Passing Under the New American Head Tax.

## OFFICERS HAD A VERY BUSY DAY

At the Footbridges, Where Border Workers Go to and Fro in Large Numbers.

Special to The Star.

Niagara Falls, Ont., May 1.—The new United States immigration regulations which involve the imposing of an \$8 head tax upon aliens, which includes Canadians, who enter that country to reside there permanently, went into force to-day, but so far as can yet be observed have caused no serious obstacle to travel between the two countries.

Up to 10 a.m. four trains had passed from Canada into the United States at this point, and not a single passenger was incommoded in the slightest degree. Beyond questioning entrants a little more closely than formerly as to the place of their birth, place and length of residence in Canada, their occupation, and the object and period of their stay in the United States, immigration officers showed no disposition to be severe in their examination.

"There need be no fear whatever on the part of any Canadian entering the United States for a temporary stay that the Head Tax will be collected, providing he can prove stable residence and answer clearly such questions as we may be obliged to ask him to satisfy ourselves that he is on a bona fide tour," said an American immigration officer this morning. "But in every case where we have cause to believe that the passenger is concealing the truth the tax will be imposed."

### At the Foot Bridges.

At the Grand Trunk lower steel arch foot bridge, the new regulations were the cause of some trouble this morning when five or six hundred workmen began crossing from one side of the river to the other to begin their day's work in the industries on either side of the river. Canadians and Americans known to the officers at the bridge were allowed to pass without notice, but with others, especially foreigners, it was different.

If a foreigner were crossing from Niagara Falls, Ont., to work in an industry in Niagara Falls, N.Y., he had to prove that he had been previously registered on the American side as a day transient before allowed to pass on.

Canadian immigration officers were on the alert to void workmen domiciled in Niagara Falls, N.Y., but employed in Canadian factories from possibly finding themselves unable to return home at night without paying the head tax and topped all at the Canadian end of the bridge who were not possessed of identification cards which would ensure their passing the U. S. officers when they recrossed home this evening. These were sent back to the American side to get the necessary identification papers.

As a consequence, many workmen reported late for duty, but felt they had escaped further trouble.

### Forty Foreigners Had to Wait.

At the upper steel arch bridge about fifty foreigners desiring to cross from the Canadian side were turned back by the United States immigration authorities until they could secure new identification cards.

As a result of these refusals there was a rush all forenoon at the Suspension Bridge offices of R. Baldwin, chief United States immigration officer of the district, who for two hours held a board of examination and gave permits to cross and recross to those who were known to be bona fide residents of Canada. One of those who was turned back at the upper bridge was Joseph Critelli, a well-known grocer of Niagara Falls and a leader in the Italian colony. For a time he was very indignant, but like the rest appeared before Inspector Baldwin and matters were speedily adjusted.