

Wages of Aliens and Others

The danger from alien immigration, as it was conceived before the war, was that the alien would work for low wages, be satisfied with a low standard of living, and thus tend to depress wages and the standard of living for others. Hence labor organizations in British Columbia, in Australia, and in California strongly opposed any large influx of Chinamen, and laws discouraging Oriental immigration were enacted.

The war has made a new point of view, and to-day there is a prejudice against aliens, not because they work for low wages, but because their wages are high. We understand the viewpoint of returned soldiers who resent the contrast between their own condition and that of aliens who have taken no part in the struggle for the security and liberty which we enjoy. But soldiers, who belong mainly to the wage-earning classes, should be careful not to allow themselves to be drawn into advocating any measure for lowering wages. It is in their interest that the rate of wages should be high, and that nothing should be done now which will prejudicially affect wage-earners after the war.