

DOOR CLOSED TO IMMIGRANTS FROM EUROPE

Unemployment Conditions in Canada Make Strict Re- gulations Necessary

BLAME BOOKING AGENTS

Department Says Influx Not Authorized—Foreign- ers Exploited

(Canadian Press Despatch.)

Ottawa, Dec. 12.—A difficult immigration situation has resulted from the attempted invasion of Canada and the United States by thousands of refugees from Central and Eastern Europe. In the United States the movement has become so alarming that Congress has taken it up. Some action on the part of the Canadian Parliament may be found necessary at the coming session unless it is found that the present law and regulations are sufficient to control the situation.

Jews Go Bond.

During the past few days the Minister of Immigration has received a number of telegrams from many parts of Canada, most of which are in the following terms:

"Jewish citizens of ——— strongly urge that Jewish immigrants now in port be allowed to remain in Canada. Jews of means will deliver to Government bonds covering any required amount guaranteeing that no Jews permitted to enter Canada within specified time will become public charges during any specified period. To deport these immigrants back to the horrors from which they escaped would be a crime against humanity."

Officials of the Immigration Department state that people from Central and Eastern Europe are arriving at Canadian ports despite repeated warnings and advice given to all parties concerned. Since the outbreak of the war all publicity in continental European countries has ceased, and every effort has been made to discourage the movement in question.

Booking Agents Blamed.

Booking agents and steamship companies know the law, but they persist in sending these people forward, knowing that in a great many instances they are not entitled to land in Canada. When these people are debarred entry the steamship companies must defray their living expenses and carry them to the port from which they sailed free of charge.

In administering the law the department is treating all alike, regardless of race or creed, and to permit these people to land, contrary to regulations, would, the officials feel, simply encourage others to come at a time when the Federal, Provincial and municipal Governments here are already facing a serious unemployment situation.

"While refusal to permit these people to land may cause hardship and inconvenience," says a statement issued to-day, "the department holds the view that any criticism to be made in this connection should be directed against those responsible for creating the hardship resulting. The department has ample evidence to the effect that interested parties, without the authority of the department or the transportation companies, are carrying on an active propaganda in certain European countries with a view to making money out of these distressed people."

Must Have \$250.

"During recent months, owing to approaching labor conditions in Canada, every effort has been made to discourage emigration from the British Isles, except in the case of persons going to relatives, or unless they have ample means to tide them over a considerable period of time. Quite recently the money qualification had been raised to \$250 per head. In the face of this restriction the department cannot see its way clear to relax its regulation in favor of emigrants from Europe, many of whom are without means and would be seeking immediate employment, thus aggravating a situation that is daily growing worse. The offer of employment to these people is not considered sufficient in view of the fact that there are now thousands of people in Canada, including returned soldiers, who are seeking employment."