

# CANADA'S DOOR CLOSED TO THEM

## Two Copper Country Finns, One U. S. Citizen, Refused Entrance to Country.

Marquette, May 12.—Peter Niemi, a citizen of the United States, though a native of Finland, a dweller in the copper country for twenty-seven years, and Eli Nikkala, an unnaturalized Finn, were barred from entrance to Canada at the Canadian Soo Friday and compelled to return to the copper country.

The men were going to Sudbury, Ont., to take jobs, and they had money in their pockets, \$60 in one case and \$67 in another. They are in excellent health, and, as far as anyone can see, there is no reason why they should be barred from any country.

The reason given on the certificate given them by E. Hollingsworth, Canadian immigration agent, is "indirect passage." Niemi says that as far as he could tell from the explanation made by the immigration agent there are too many men in Canada now, and no immigrants are wanted.

C. W. Marquardt, general passenger agent of the Copper Range railroad, was approached with the problem and he offered an explanation that might apply to Nikkala, who is not a citizen of the United States, but should not apply to Niemi, who is a citizen. Mr. Marquardt's theory is based on experiences with Italians turned back at Niagara Falls.

The presumption is that the Canadian government does not want immigrants to enter excepting directly from their native lands. In this case it would mean that Nikkala and Niemi would be admitted to Canada if they returned to Finland and entered Canada as original immigrants. Niemi says that he exhibited his citizenship papers, but they had no influence with the immigration officials.

These men have been put to the expense of buying transportation to and from the Canadian Soo, and they are not satisfied with the explanation. They would submit to being barred if they were not in perfect health or if they were paupers, but none of the ordinary reasons for exclusion seems to apply to them. Friends of the men have written the Canadian immigration bureau at the Canadian Soo in an effort to clear up the mystery.