

find the bars up. Already Canada has made immigration difficult by raising the amount of money each adult male is required to have in his possession from \$50 to \$250. When this regulation comes into force it will provide a barrier that few of the immigrants from Italy and the Balkan States, and still fewer from Poland, will be able to surmount.

The United States talks of barring the door entirely for a year until the serious unemployment now experienced all over the Union ends, and business enterprise is re-established on a post-war basis. There are political as well as economic reasons for the proposed closing of the doors now under consideration by Congress. It is feared that many of the manual workers now swarming into the country have been infected with revolutionary ideas, and that if they continue coming, at the present rate, only to discover that no work of any sort is to be had on their arrival, a difficult situation will be created for those charged with the administration of the law and the safeguarding of public order.

It would seem almost certain that this combination of economic and political necessity will bring Congress to the point of exclusion rather than the selection at ports of departure of preferred classes of immigrants. That the barriers will remain up very long either in Canada or the United States is not at all likely. Canada still welcomes the farm worker. The United States needs under normal conditions several million unskilled laborers for railway renewals, paving and sewer construction, and great public and private projects of betterment requiring much pick and shovel work which the native-born American will not do. For a time, however, there is need to make haste slowly. Two million immigrants in 1921 would be quite a possibility were the ports of North America left wide open. The United States and Canada assuredly could not digest half that number under existing conditions. The only alternative to serious economic disturbance and political unrest is the partial closing of the door of hope.

IMMIGRATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

The prediction that the removal of wartime restrictions on the movement of European population would result in the greatest emigration from the Old World to the New that has yet been witnessed proves true. Immediately after the Armistice there was a strong eastward movement to Italy, and the countries of Southeastern Europe. Many of the manual workers who crossed the Atlantic at that time had been cut off from communication with their relatives in Europe for a very considerable period because of the war. They had made a good deal of money in war work on this continent, and hoped to be able to invest it profitably and settle down comfortably in the old home under the improved conditions they believed would follow the conclusion of peace.

This outward movement of population continued during the greater part of 1919, and was still in evidence in the early spring of the present year. The tide turned when the returning Italians, Serbs, Bulgars, Poles, and Ukrainians discovered that the war had left deep scars on the body politic of all the great and little nations of Europe, and that in the United States and Canada taxes were lighter, and wages higher, and the prospect of making a good living better than in the homelands to which they had returned.

When that conviction sank in, there began a tidal wave of emigration that is now breaking on the shores of this continent with unprecedented force. From Italy alone over half a million emigrants have been transported during the present year, chiefly to ports in North and South America. The Milan correspondent of The Chicago Tribune and The Globe, cabling on Friday, stated that three million Italians have expressed their intention of emigrating to America. The steamship companies will not be able to transport a third of them during 1921, and all space on steamships has been reserved until the late spring.

Italy is but one of the countries from which men are fleeing to escape the grievous burden of post-war taxation and the handicap of existing conditions. From the Baltic Republics, from Poland, from Germany and Austria, and from all the countries of the Balkan region the discontented are swarming back to America. They expect to find again the good jobs and the big wages of their wartime occupations, and to make another "stake" to replace the savings lost in their impetuous rush back to Europe at the close of hostilities.

They will be shocked inexpressibly to