

EDITORIAL

FOR THE BENEFIT OF COMPLAINING ALIENS

THOSE ALIENS who are complaining so bitterly over the limitations of personal liberty in America, who are so loud in their praise of the liberty they enjoyed in the old country, the country each of them didn't like any better than to leave it behind, just a few short years ago, might be interested in the inducements to return to the old homeland which are now being offered by most of the Atlantic steamship companies who are announcing a cut-rate Third Class privilege to many European ports and return for \$175.00. That means \$87.50 Each way, from New York to Europe, or visa versa.

The "cure" for many of those who complain so bitterly lies in a trip to the old country. Too bad that it is a necessary expense for many immigrants to incur in order to convince themselves of the existence of some preferable conditions in America. But then, it helps the steamship agents and the steamship companies who would not make so much profit from tourist travel were it not for the disgruntled elements here, there and everywhere.

The American government is issuing re-entry permits even to those aliens who are not satisfied, and openly say so, giving them the chance of returning without going to Ellis Island, except in special cases.

Uncle Sam has always been fair. Again he is demonstrating his fairness even to those who enjoy his hospitality without any signs of reciprocation. The proud sons of the old country, whatever its name, who have so little regard for American citizenship and membership in the great American family that regulates its own affairs without consulting its itinerants of the "I'll-stay-if-I-like-it" kind, should make haste to depart now that the exit-price is reasonably low and help to make room for the many anxious and worthy would-be emigrants on the other side who have been on the quota list a long time waiting for an opportunity to emigrate to America.

SAMUEL GOMPERS

ONE OF THE most illustrious names attached to the modern era of America's progress is that of this humble immigrant boy who became one of the foremost citizens of the country of his adoption.

Samuel Gompers, diminutive of physical stature but a giant of spiritual power and intellectual greatness, rose from the humble position of a cigar-maker to an acknowledged position of leadership of which there probably is no parallel.

American labor is more than indebted to Samuel Gompers; it owes him a debt that can never be measured in a material sense. Although his physical body for some time showed unmistakable signs that he was losing out in the uneven struggle with the advancing years, he remained at his post as the high commander, the preceptor of the higher ideals in the American Federation of Labor, until he closed his eyes in eternal sleep. One may quote from a thousand

of Gompers' speeches on American labor and its aims, but the purpose for which he had dedicated his life might be best understood by quoting the following language from one of his sayings:

Our policy, our work, our method, our ideals, are to build to construct, to grow, to help in the development of the highest and best in the human family; to make today a better day than yesterday, to make tomorrow a better day than today, to make tomorrow and tomorrow's tomorrow each a better day than the one that has gone before. This evolutionary process of progress and improvement is the basis for the opportunity for freedom, justice, and democracy.

This is the creed of a statesman, and the passing of the man who uttered and professed it, and strove with honest conviction for its fulfillment, is a matter for sincere regret among all the people of our land.

PASSING OF AN HONORED CITIZEN OF FOREIGN BIRTH

A CONSPICUOUS figure in the national Congress passed away at his home in San Francisco on December eighteenth. This man of high attainments was Julius Kahn, for more than twenty years a member of Congress from the Fourth California Congressional District, which is the city of San Francisco. He was Chairman of the House Committee on Military Affairs, and held that position during the World War. This brought him into great prominence and put much labor and responsibility upon him, which he bore with marked fidelity. Throughout his long career in public service the congressman from California was held in the highest esteem for his unflinching loyalty to the country of his choice and the fidelity he bore to his fellow citizens and his constituents, who valued his qualities in citizenship sufficiently to retain him at his post for more than two score years.

A CENTENNIAL OF IMMIGRATION

THE CENTENNIAL of the coming of the first emigrant ship "Restaurationen" from Norway will be celebrated this year in America on the initiative of Norwegian immigrants and their descendants. Representation to the Postmaster General at Washington, D. C., by Congressman Quale of Minnesota, to have the American government print an issue of Centennial postage stamps bearing an imprint of the little Norwegian emigrant ship is said to have met favorable consideration by that official. Minneapolis will be the headquarters for the contemplated celebration which is being generally supported by the Norwegian language newspapers, and the Norwegian societies in America.

This centennial should furnish the occasion for a candid review of past nationality practices in America, if anything constructive and worth-while is to remain when it is over.

There are two results that may be achieved through this celebration.

One may be beneficial to America and the Norwegian immigrant; the other may be detrimental to both.

If the celebration is aimed to remind America and the Norwegian immigrant in particular of the passing of a century, since the first immigrant body from Norway entered this country, for the purpose of taking stock and checking up on whether or not the Nor-