

Rigid Immigration Laws in the Making

THERE IS little doubt that before long the present provisions in the federal law pertaining to alien deportation will be materially changed. Government and state officials have found it almost impossible under the statute of "moral turpitude" to secure convictions of aliens who are inveterate violators of our narcotic and prohibition laws, as well as of our laws against immorality and vice. Their ability to engage the best of legal talent, and fight their cases for years in the courts, render them almost immune against deportation, except in the most rare cases when they have plied their trade too much out in the open.

Since this statute was enacted, many years ago, public conscience has changed mightily in America. Practices which were at that time commonly unnoticed have been put under the ban. The licenced houses of ill fame have passed out as well as their cousins, the saloons. Moral turpitude has come to have a new meaning in public opinion, and the old statutes are getting somewhat obsolete.

The crime of moral turpitude under the old statute was largely limited to a specific wrong, that of inducing a chaste woman into a life of shame and living on the earnings of such women.

Under the old statute, however, it was possible to deport any alien having been convicted of a crime for which he had served time in an American prison, provided he had not acquired legal residence, or been in America over five years. In other words, an alien was not an alien if he had been in the United States over five years, even though he had not become naturalized. Previous to 1917, when the deportation law was amended, little or no attention was given the commission of crimes by aliens as distinguished from crimes committed by native or naturalized Americans. America's crime calendar of the past, if carefully scrutinized, would reveal some startling figures both in number of convicted persons and cost of apprehension, conviction and detention in jails and prisons.

America has too long been a rendezvous for foreign criminals. We have too long been footing the bill, looking after this class of immigrants. We have criminals enough of our own making. Let the foreign countries take care of their own criminally minded people.

The United American will fight for a square deal for the alien who is asking for only a fair chance, who is willing to do the right thing, and no one should try to place him in an awkward position or give him a wrong steer, but the plotting, scheming, immoral and licentious alien can expect no quarter from this source. America will be a better country for the decent alien, the man who contemplates and diligently tries to become a citizen, a better country for him in which to have his home and to rear his children, when the undesirable and criminal element from every country that has been coming through our gates, has been returned whence they came.

The only regret we have is that Americans, in high and low places, who are guilty of contributing to such misconduct on the part of the alien who is willing to take a chance with the law, are secure in their

birthright against deportation. Inasmuch as the former had a part in the consummation of the unlawful act charged against the alien, he stands morally convicted as an unpardonable accomplice.

These statements are tersely put, but we defy anyone to challenge them.

A square deal is the right of the alien, under any and all circumstances, and it is a mighty cheap sport to try to get "the alien's goat," which altogether too many anti-alien minded officers have been indulging in. It should be discouraged in the name of a fair, square and just America.

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During the later years many new vices have been invented, vices that have taken the places of the house of ill fame and the saloon. These later vices are as profitable as those that passed out. The type of people that followed the vice traffic in the past are generally those who engage in and promote the newer vices. The perfection of a system of trade in these unlawful practices has opened up channels of huge profit, and rendered the unscrupulous illicit trade expert a far greater menace to the public at large, and particularly to the womanhood of America, than he ever was in any previous period of time in this fair land.

Chief among the newer vices, is the traffic in narcotics, the greatest curse that ever hit America. The continuous craving for dope, where addiction has developed, often furnishes these reprehensible and

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