THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND AFFAIRS OF INTEREST TO THE JEWS

1910.

5. Rep. Clarence B. Miller (Minn.), introduces bill (H. R. 27,271) providing that the widows and minor children of aliens who make an entry under homestead or land laws of United States and who have declared their intention to become citizens, but who become insane before they are actually naturalized, may become naturalized without making declaration of intention.

6. President Taft, in annual message to Congress, deprecates enlargement of buildings and force at Ellis Island to permit examination of more immigrants each day, and adds: "If it is understood that no more immigrants can be taken in at New York than are now taken in, and the steamship companies thus are given a reason and a motive for transferring immigrants to other ports, we can be confident that they will be better distributed through the country and that there will not be that congestion in the city of New York, which does not make for the better condition of the immigrant or increase his usefulness as a new member of this community. Everything which tends to send the immigrants West and South into rural life helps the country."

6. Rep. Edward T. Taylor (Colo.), introduces bill (H. R. 27,840) providing that the wife and minor children of an alien who has declared his intention to become a citizen but who dies before becoming naturalized, may become naturalized without declaring intention.

7. U. S. Immigration Commission submits abstracts of reports to Congress. Full report will be in forty volumes. "Conclusions and Recommendations" include statements that there is no evidence that criminality among foreign born increases volume of crime in proportion to total population; that number of admitted receiving assistance from organized charity is relatively small; average conditions in large cities are materially better than had been anticipated and average conditions respecting overcrowding are materially worse in some small industrial towns than in large cities; that many of the more recent immigrants are backward in assimilating, while some
others have made excellent progress. Commission recommends that further general legislation concerning the admission of aliens be based primarily upon economic or business considerations, recites various methods of restriction, and concludes "A majority of the Commission favor the reading and writing test as the most feasible single method of restricting undesirable immigration. . . . . The Commission as a whole recommends restriction as demanded by economic, moral, and social considerations."

Rep. William S. Bennet (N. Y.), files a brief minority report opposing the literacy test.


13. Sen. Knute Nelson (Minn.) introduces bill (S. 9443), providing that wife and minor children of alien who declares his intention to become a citizen and dies or becomes insane before he is actually naturalized, may be naturalized without making declaration of intention.


1911.

Jan. 6. Rep. Frederick H. Gillett (Mass.) introduces bill (H. R. 30,576) authorizing Secretary of Commerce and Labor to cancel bonds conditioned against an alien becoming a public charge, when conditions of obligation have been met.

12. Rep. Henry McMorran (Mich.) introduces bill (H. R. 31,241) providing that aliens who enlist in organized militia of any State on being honorably discharged after three years service may be naturalized, without declaration of intention.


vote upon bill (H. R. 15,413), providing for educational test for immigrants, introduced by him, December 15, 1909.


10. Rep. Herbert Parsons (N. Y.) introduces joint resolution (H. J. Res. 284) providing for the termination of the Treaty of 1832 with Russia, on account of Russia's refusal to honor the passports of American citizens of the Jewish faith. (See p. 55.)

14. Sen. Boles Penrose (Pa.) introduces bill (S. 10,793), providing that the Secretary of Commerce and Labor may admit a wife or dependent son or daughter of an admissible alien, though either a person likely to become a public charge or having a physical defect which may affect ability of alien to earn a living.

15. Upon invitation of President, Louis Marshall and Jacob H. Schiff, representing the American Jewish Committee; J. Walter Freiberg, Bernhard Bettmann, and Simon Wolf, for the Union of American Hebrew Congregations; and Adolf Kraus, Philip Stein, and Jacob Furth for the Independent Order B'nai B'rith, confer with President Taft respecting Passport Question.


22. Rep. Herbert Parsons (N. Y.) makes speech in behalf of resolution (H. J. Res. 284), introduced by him on February 10, for the termination of the Treaty of 1832 with Russia.
Feb. 26. Sen. Charles A. Culberson (Tex.) introduces resolution:  
"That it is the sense of the Senate that the Treaty of 1832 between the United States and Russia should be abrogated because of the discrimination by Russia between American citizens in the administration of the treaty."


28. The Vice-President presents to Senate resolutions adopted at the second annual convention of the Jewish Community of New York City, favoring the termination of the Treaty of 1832 with Russia.


April 4. Representatives Francis Burton Harrison and Henry M. Goldfogle (N. Y.) introduce joint resolution (H. J. Res. 5), providing for termination of the Treaty of 1832 with Russia. (Same as resolution introduced by Rep. Parsons, February 10, see p. 55.)


4. Rep. Richard W. Austin (Tenn.) introduces bill (H. R. 737), providing for exclusion of "European adults, who cannot read and write and who are not industrious, and with criminal records."


April 10. Senator Charles A. Culberson reintroduces resolution (S. Res. 13) favoring the abrogation of the Treaty of 1832 between the United States and Russia, introduced by him on February 26, 1911.


10. Sen. Lee S. Overman (N. C.) introduces bill (S. 385) providing for a ten dollar head-tax, an educational test, the production of certificate of good character, the possession of twenty-five dollars, and other restrictive features.

12. Rep. Everis A. Hayes (Calif.) introduces bill (H. R. 4429), providing that Section 2169 of the Revised Statutes, which accords the right of naturalization to "free white persons and Africans," shall not be construed so as to prevent "Asiatics who are Armenians, Syrians, or Jews from becoming naturalized citizens."

13. Rep. Everis A. Hayes (Calif.) introduces bill (H. R. 4669) providing that the naturalization laws shall apply only to "white persons of the Caucasian race."

13. Rep. Everis A. Hayes introduces bill (H. R. 4670), providing that for purposes of administration of immigration laws, "alien or immigrant alien shall be understood to mean any person who is not a citizen of the United States."

13. Rep. Everis A. Hayes introduces bill (H. R. 4673), providing for a head-tax of ten dollars, an educational test, the exclusion of aliens not having twenty-five dollars, the registration of aliens, the abolition of the Division of Information of the Immigration Bureau, the repeal of the bonding provision, and other restrictive measures.


29. Rep. John L. Burnett (Ala.) introduces bill (H. R. 8154), providing for increase of fees in connection with naturalization proceedings from five dollars to ten dollars.

29. Rep. Burnett introduces bill (H. R. 8155), providing for a five dollar head-tax, an educational test, the exclusion of aliens not having twenty-five dollars and those of "poor physique."
May

5. Rep. George Konig (Md.) introduces bill (H. R. 8775), amending naturalization law by removing limit of seven years within which alien may become naturalized after declaring his intention; providing that alien need not answer questions regarding constitution or government of United States; that aliens who have lived continuously in United States from and after age of sixteen years may become naturalized at age of twenty-one years without making declaration of intention; and repealing law requiring that alien have knowledge of English language.

8. Sen. Jacob H. Gallinger (N. H.), introduces bill (S. 26) authorizing acceptance by United States of the gift of the Nathan Straus Pasteurized Milk Laboratory, established and maintained by Nathan Straus in Washington, D. C.

12. Rep. E. E. Holland (Va.) introduces bill (H. R. 9326) providing that aliens who have served for one enlistment of four years in army or navy may become naturalized without declaring intention.


30. Rep. Francis B. Harrison (N. Y.) introduces resolution (H. Res. 181), directing Secretary of State to inform House whether Russia has within the last year made any communications to our government looking to modification of existing discrimination by Russia against American passport in hands of American Jews.

June

6. President directs Secretary of War to reprimand Col. Joseph Garrard, commanding Fort Myer, Va., for objecting to promotion of Private Frank Bloom on ground that he is a son of a Jewish tailor at post. Col. Garrard stated in endorsement of Bloom's application that he would not desire Bloom in his command as "an officer and social and personal associate," and that he has found "few communities where Jews are received as desirable social associates." President disapproves of Col. Garrard's attitude as "contrary to the ideals and
principles of this country.” Matter was brought to President’s attention by Hon. Simon Wolf.

June 7. Rep. Charles G. Edwards (Ga.) introduces resolution (H. Res. 196), authorizing and directing Secretary of War to investigate discrimination against Jews in United States Army and Military Academy and to correct and punish offenders in this regard.


29. Sen. Culberson (Tex.) asks Committee on Foreign Relations for explanation of delay in considering his resolution to abrogate Treaty of 1832 with Russia. Sen. Culom (Ind.), chairman of Committee, replies that matter is receiving serious attention of Committee. Sen. Bacon, member of Committee, states that “great interests are involved.”

PASSPORT QUESTION, STATE RESOLUTIONS, ETC.

1910.

Aug. 26. Despatch to New York newspapers from St. Petersburg states that Russian Minister of Interior publishes an order giving Oscar S. Straus, American Ambassador to Turkey, permission to visit St. Petersburg, though he “belongs to the Jewish persuasion.”

1911.


[Similar resolutions have been adopted by lodges and conventions of the Order B’rith Abraham, Independent Order B’rith Abraham, Independent Order B’nai B’rith, Order B’rith Sholem, The Jewish Community of New York City and many other Jewish organizations.]

27. Bernard Bettman, Cincinnati, O., presents to President Taft resolutions passed by Union of American Hebrew Congregations on Passport Question.

Feb. 10. Committee of Unitarian and Jewish Ministers of New York City appointed to draw up petition to be signed by church members and sent to President and Secretary of State asking United States to enforce recognition of American passport by Russia.

21. Resolution introduced in New York Legislature by Assemblyman Max Shlivek urging Congress to adopt Parsons resolution to terminate the Treaty of 1832 with Russia.
Feb. 21. Resolution introduced in Wisconsin Legislature memorializing Congress to take steps to compel Russia to recognize passports issued by this government. (Passed May 26.)

22. Resolution introduced in New Jersey Legislature urging Congress, the President and Secretary of State to take action on the Passport Question.

24. Republican Committee of New York County adopts resolution on Passport Question advocating abrogation of Treaty of 1832 with Russia if necessary.

28. New York Legislature adopts resolution on the Passport Question calling upon the United States Government to secure uniform treatment and protection to American citizens traveling or sojourning in all countries in friendly relations with the United States.


2. Connecticut Legislature adopts resolution on the Passport Question requesting the abrogation of the Treaty of 1832 with Russia if necessary.

2. Leading citizens of St. Louis, Mo., petition Senator Wm. J. Stone, of Missouri, to support Senator Culberson's resolution providing for abrogation of Treaty of 1832 with Russia.

3. California Legislature adopts resolution on the Passport Question advocating abrogation of the Treaty of 1832 with Russia.


April 5. Judge Rufus B. Smith, Cincinnati, O., in address before the Temple Club, advocates termination of Treaty of 1832 with Russia.

7. Alabama Senate adopts resolutions on the Passport Question advocating abrogation of Treaty of 1832 with Russia.


April 21. Judge J. A. Plummer, Stockton, California, delivers address protesting against Russia's discrimination against American Jews.


May 3. Ohio Senate adopts resolution advocating abrogation of Treaty of 1832 with Russia.

5. Resolutions adopted by Central Republican Club of 31st Assembly District, New York City, calling upon Congress to abrogate Treaty of 1832 with Russia.

11. Resolution adopted by Florida House of Representatives advocating the abrogation of the Treaty of 1832 with Russia. (Passed Senate May 19.)


17. Resolution introduced in Massachusetts House of Representatives advocating the abrogation of the Treaty of 1832 with Russia.


June 1. Committee on Federal Relations give hearing at State House, Massachusetts, on resolution introduced by Representative Lomasney, advocating abrogation of Treaty of 1832 with Russia.

2. American Hebrew, New York City, publishes letters from prominent men stating that reported concessions from Russia on Passport Question are meaningless.


5. Herman Bernstein, correspondent of New York Times, states, after interviews with United States Ambassador Rockhill, Count Witte and Finance Minister Kokovtzoff,
that there is absolutely no truth in report that Russian Government has made concessions to United States concerning Passport Question.


27. Massachusetts Legislature adopted resolutions on Passport Question, urging the government to exert all possible means to amend present or procure new treaty with Russia, ending discrimination against classes of American citizens.

July 17. New York Legislature adopts resolution advocating the abrogation of the Treaty of 1832 with Russia.
LIST OF JEWISH MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS
OF THE UNITED STATES

PAST

Benjamin, Judah Philip, 1812-1884. Sen. from La., 1853-1861.
Emerich, Martin, 1847-. Rep. from Ill., 1903-1907.
Fischer, Israel F., 1858-. Rep. from N. Y., 1895-1899.
Frank, Nathan, 1852-. Rep. from Mo., 1889-1891.
Goldziier, Julius, 1854-. Rep. from Ill., 1893-1895.
Jonas, Benjamin Franklin, 1834-. Sen. from La., 1879-1885.
Lessler, Montague, 1869-. Rep. from N. Y., 1902-1903.
Levy, David. See Yulee, David Levy.
Littauer, Lucius Nathan, 1859-. Rep. from N. Y., 1897-1907.
May, Mitchell, 1871-. Rep. from N. Y., 1899-1901.
Simon, Joseph, 1851-. Sen. from Ore., 1898-1903.
Straus, Isidor, 1845-. Rep. from N. Y., 1894-1895.
Yulee, David Levy, 1811-1886. Del. from Fla., 1841-1845; Sen. from Fla., 1845-1851; 1855-1861.

PRESENT

(Members of the Sixty-Second Congress)
Goldfogle, Henry M., Democrat, Representative, New York City, 1901-
Guggenheim, Simon, Republican, Senator, Colorado, 1907-
Kahn, Julius, Republican, Representative, San Francisco, 1889-1902; 1905-
Levy, Jefferson Monroe, Democrat, Representative, New York City, 1899-1901; 1911-
Rayner, Isidor, Democrat, Representative, 1887-1889; 1891-1895; Senator, Maryland, 1905-
Sabath, Adolph J., Democrat, Representative, Chicago, 1907-