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

[For items relating to the Passport Question see pp. 196-210.]

1911

July 1. Immigration Commissioner William Williams, New York, in annual report to Commissioner General, traduces immigration from Southern and Eastern Europe, and shows his animus by characterizing the residents of Elizabeth, Rivington, Orchard, and East Houston Streets as follows: [They] "possess filthy habits and are of an ignorance that passes belief."

Aug. 7. Rep. Seaborn A. Roddenbery (Ga.), introduces Bill (H. R. 13,368) providing for exclusion of aliens over fourteen years of age unable to read and write, those not possessing one hundred dollars in cash, those not having certificates of good moral character, those not passing physical test equal to that of United States Army, those judged to be "physically, mentally, or morally unfit to be American citizens," and a head-tax of $50.

7. Sen. William P. Dillingham (Vt.), introduces Bill (S. 3175) providing for an educational test for immigrants, the exclusion of those not eligible for naturalization, the consolidation of the Chinese exclusion law with the general immigration statutes, the procuring by each immigrant of a "certificate of admission and identity," and other restrictive features.


1912

Jan. 10. Rep. Martin Dies (Tex.), introduces Bill (H. R. 17,601) excluding all aliens over sixteen years of age unable to read.

11-12. Hearings before House Committee on Immigration in opposition to restrictive Bills. Statements by Louis W. Hammerling, John Vicarlo, A. G. Johnson, S. J. Vlasto, L. E. Miller, L. C. Frank, Fred. A. Larson, Charles K. Johansen, Rev. C. L. Orbach, all representing American Association of Foreign Language Newspapers; Max J. Kohler and Simon Wolf, representing Board of Delegates of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations; Miss Grace Abbott, Director Immigrants' Protective League, Chicago; Judge Leon Sanders, President Hebrew Shelter-

Jan. 13. Rep. Adolph J. Sabath (Ill.), introduces Bill (H. R. 17,827) providing that no alien shall be debarred from admission to United States, if thereby children are separated from parents, or vice versa, if parent or parents or majority of family are admissible.

18. Senate Committee on Immigration reports Dillingham Immigration Bill (S. 3175; see Aug. 7) amended by striking out the educational test provision.

19. Rep. Benjamin K. Focht (Pa.), introduces Bill (H. R. 18,342) providing for the exclusion of persons not eligible to naturalization, the consolidation of the Chinese exclusion laws with the general immigration statutes, and the procuring by all aliens of "certificates of admission and identity, and other restrictive features."

27. Rep. Adolph J. Sabath (Ill.), introduces Bill (H. R. 18,851) to increase the scope of the work of the Division of Information of the Immigration Bureau.


14. Dillingham Immigration Bill (S. 3175) recommitted to the Senate Committee on Immigration, amended, and reported back to Senate.

17. Rep. Francis Burton Harrison (N. Y.), appears before House Committee on Immigration in opposition to restriction of immigration.


29. Hearing before House Committee on Immigration in favor of restriction of immigration. Statements by Samuel Gompers, President American Federation of Labor, and H. E. Wills, representing various railroad employees' organizations.

Mch. 1. Rep. John L. Burnett (Ala.), introduces Bill (H. R. 21,175) providing for the exclusion of aliens over sixteen years of age unable to read.
Mch. 2. Rep. Sabath (Ill.), introduces Bill (H. R. 21,220) providing for the supervision and protection of immigrants en route to their destinations; for the establishment of stations for this purpose; and the erection and maintenance of such a station in Chicago.

18. Sen. Frank M. Simmons (N. C.) makes speech favoring restriction of immigration and announces intention to offer amendment embodying an educational test to the Dillingham Bill (S. 3175).


Apl. 16. House Committee on Immigration reports favorably Burnett Bill (H. R. 22,527).

17. Sen. William P. Dillingham (Vt.), makes speech in favor of Bill (S. 3175) introduced by him, providing for restriction of immigration.

18. Senate considers Dillingham Immigration Bill (S. 3175) as reported by the Committee on Immigration. Speeches in favor of an educational test by Senators Borah and Heyburn (Idaho), Root (N. Y.), and Williams (Miss.); in opposition, by Senators Martine (N. J.) and O'Gorman (N. Y.).


25. Hearing before House Committee on Military Affairs to delegation favoring appointment of Jewish chaplain in Army. Statements by Nissim Behar, Nathan Krass, Aaron D. Levy, and others representing Federation of Jewish Organizations of New York.


May 1. Rep. Burnett (Ala.), introduces resolution (H. Res. 518) fixing May 14 for consideration of and vote on Bill (H. R. 22,527) providing an educational test for immigrants.

2. Rep. James Young (Tex.), speaking to legislative, executive, and judicial appropriation Bill, makes speech favoring the imposition of an educational test for immigrants.
May 7-8. Hearing before House Committee on Immigration to opponents of restriction of immigration consisting of delegates from Philadelphia (Louis E. Levy, Solomon Solis Cohen, Maurice J. Speiser, Joseph Gross, and Jacob Ginsburg); Boston (Julius Friedenberg and Joseph Simon); Pittsburg (A. M. Ashinsky); Baltimore (Adolph Kress, Israel Silberstein, M. E. Selenkow, Louis H. Levin); New York (Wm. S. Bennett, Herbert Parsons, Stephen S. Wise, Joseph Barondess, Miss Lillian D. Wald, John J. Ohsol, Edward Sanford, Aaron D. Levy, Frank L. Frugone, Nissim Behar, and Mark J. Katz).

21. House Committee on Immigration, by vote of 7 to 5, decide to table the Dillingham Bill (S. 3175).


June 7. House Committee on Immigration votes to substitute the Burnett Bill (see Mch. 28) for the Dillingham Bill and report it to the House.

8. House Committee on Immigration reports favorably on Sabath Bill (H. R. 2122). See Mch. 2.

10. Senator O'Gorman (N. Y.), has printed as a Senate document (S. Doc. 785) a statement, signed by Moe Leukowsky and Anton Kaufman, Chairman and Secretary of the Citizens' Committee of Orchard, Rivington, and East Houston Streets, New York City, refuting calumnies contained in the annual report of the Commissioner of Immigration Williams. (See July 1, 1911.)


19. Representatives Mann (Ill.), Lobeck (Neb.), and Campbell (Kans.), deliver speeches in Congress in opposition to, and Burnett (Ala.), in favor of, an educational test for immigrants.

Petitions opposing the passage of the Dillingham and Burnett Immigration Bills, providing for the restriction of immigration by a literacy test, were presented in Congress on various dates by the following organizations:

Anderson, S. C.: Cong. B'nai Israel.—Baltimore, Md.: Chamber of Commerce.—Bingham Canon, Utah: Bingham Miners' Union.—Boston, Mass.: Boston Lettish Workmen's Ass'n.—Brooklyn, N. Y.: Lithuanian Workers, United Polish Society.—Buffalo, N. Y.:

¹The references to petitions given above have been taken from the Congressional Record.
LIST OF JEWISH MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS
OF THE UNITED STATES

PAST

BENJAMIN, JUDAH PHILIP, 1812-1884. Sen. from La., 1853-1861.
JONAS, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, 1834-1911. Sen. from La., 1879-1885.
LEVY, DAVID. See YULEE, DAVID LEVY.
SIMON, JOSEPH, 1851- . Sen. from Ore., 1898-1903.
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, Baltimore, 1887-1889, 1891-1895; Senator, Maryland, 1905-
SABATH, ADOLPH J., Democrat, Representative, Chicago, 1907-