
Review: Immigration into the United States

Author(s): B. C. W.

Review by: B. C. W.

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agreed with that of the recent Boundary Commission. Incidentally we learn that the author regards the Lualaba, and not the Luapula, as the true "infant Congo." As the Boundary Commission found that the Luapula did not issue from Bangweulu, but is a continuation of the Chambezi, that stream would appear the most imposing of the headwaters of the Congo. For a keen geographer Mr. Thornhill makes one curious mistake. References to Uganda as a white man's country are puzzling until, near the end of the book, we find he locates Nairobi in Uganda.

We have dealt with the book from the African standpoint, but its value transcends locality. Consciously or unconsciously the author reveals himself to the reader—and his is a vivid and arresting personality. Mr. Thornhill goes straight to the heart of things, and many besides those interested in South Central Africa will find delight in his pages.

F. R. C.

AMERICA.

IMMIGRATION INTO THE UNITED STATES.

'The Old World in the New.' The significance of past and present immigration to the American people. By E. A. Ross. Pp. 327. *Many Photographs*. T. Fisher Unwin. 10s.

Mr. Ross, who is professor of sociology in the University of Wisconsin, provides the key to his book in the preface by his comment on the words of a large-hearted American woman engaged in settlement work. "Think what American chances mean to these poor people! Thousands make shipwreck, . . . but tens of thousands do realize something of the better, larger life they had dreamed of." This sentiment forced the reply, "Her sympathy with the visible alien at the gate was so keen that she had no feeling for the invisible children of *our* poor, who will find the chances gone, nor for those at the gate of the To-be, who might have been born, but will not be. I am not of those who consider humanity and forget the nation, who pity the living but not the unborn."

Through many pages Mr. Ross deals with the immigrants both as regards chronological order and place of origin, and shows that the character of the invaders has steadily changed from the "choice grain sifted from a whole nation," who were the pioneers, to the backward races from Central and Southern Europe, who are tempted to the new world at the present time by the envoy of the steamship company which is eager for dividends, who serves as a man-catcher for the basic industries of America, in order that the "bosses" may make millions.

The descriptions of the several races of immigrants depict the situation of each with force and thoroughness, and the general view is enforced by distribution maps, photographs, and chronological diagrams. The Italians, for example, are incapable of ordinary extensive American farming; they consequently engage in market gardening, and "drift round and round in a 'Little Italy' eddy." The superfecund Central Europeans push out the descendants of previous emigrants, and Mr. Ross suggests that only "the invasion of the labor market by hordes of still cheaper Asiatics" will cause the Slavs and Italians to lose interest in America.

Peonage is Mr. Ross's name for the economic slavery of the American mines. American miners earning \$2.75 a day are abruptly displaced by raw Italians from the steerage who earn \$1.50 to \$2 a day; these become more decent in their habits, ask for more wages, and in turn follow the American miners "down the road." The estimate of the number of floating casual labourers ranges up to five millions.

After pointing out other results of the immigration of low-pressure peoples
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into a high-pressure state, such as the failure of wages to advance at the same rate as the cost of living, Mr. Ross refers in scathing terms to the ideas which underlie the sterility of the native-born Americans. This book will be useful to all students of economic geography, as it supplies a view of the results upon the human race of one phase of man's conquest of nature.

B. C. W.

EARLY ENTERPRISE IN GUIANA.

'A Walloon Family in America. Lockwood de Forest and his Forbears, 1500-1848. Together with a Voyage to Guiana, being the Journal of Jesse de Forest and his Colonists, 1623-1625.' By Mrs. Robert W. de Forest. *Illustrations, Maps, Index.* 2 vols. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1914.

This is mainly the chronicle, interesting enough in its way, of a Walloon family, which towards the middle of the seventeenth century migrated to the then New World of America, where from time to time one De Forest or another did excellent pioneer service; but by far the most interesting and valuable part of the book, at least to British geographers, is the journal, here printed practically for the first time, of one of the earliest attempts to settle in Guiana, in which a member of this family, Jesse de Forest, took a prominent part.

Jesse de Forest, born in 1576 at Avesnes, in the Walloon province of Hainaut, had removed in 1615 to Leyden, where he became a burgher and a dyer by trade. Before long, partly because more children were born to him than he could support, and partly because he was of the unpopular reformed religion, he became anxious to lead a party of his fellow-burghers and co-religionists to a new and freer home in the "West Indies," which to him meant any of the then known parts of America. After several abortive attempts to carry out this scheme, Jesse in 1623 persuaded the Directors of the then newly-formed Dutch West India Company to give him, and ten other "fathers of families," passage in the company's 90-ton trading ship *Pigeon* to the "Wild Coast," i.e. to Guiana, where they were to select a place suitable for settlement to which their families might follow.

The *Pigeon*, with Pieter Fredericksz of Harlem as master, left Amsterdam on July 2, 1623, and after fifty days reached the mouth of the Amazon river, where some six weeks were spent by the master of the *Pigeon* in trading with the few English and Irish who were already settled thereabout, while the fathers of families, under Captain Jesse, looked for a site proper for the intended colony. But, partly for fear of the Spaniards, who were reported to be not far off, no suitable site was there found.

Then the *Pigeon* followed the coast upwards, calling in at the many river mouths, to trade with the Indians or with the few settlers from Europe, the Walloon passengers meanwhile using every opportunity to look about for a site.

At last, near the mouth of the Wyapoko river, at a place called Commaribo, they found a place to which, as they told the master, they wished to bring their families. Thereupon the master disclosed that he had orders from his Directors to leave all but two of the fathers at the chosen spot, to which their families would be sent from Holland. "This astonished several of them, who began in divers ways to excuse themselves"; but Jesse de Forest was willing to remain if he might have "in place of the heads of the families who wished to return (to Holland) the same number of sailors." Accordingly Jesse de Forest, Louis le Maire (a near relation, perhaps a brother, of the discoverer of the Straits of Le Maire), and a third Walloon father remained, together with the gunner, four sailors, and the surgeon's mate—nine persons in all. This was arranged on December 27, and on January 1, 1624, the *Pigeon* sailed for Holland.