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Unfair Hardships to Immigrants

REPEATED complaints of hardships suffered by immigrants, or would-be immigrants, under the new restrictive law, have been brought to the attention of the President, and have evoked from him a vigorous letter on the subject. It had been represented that many would-be immigrants arriving at the port of New York had been refused admission and been sent home again, because they had happened to arrive a few hours after their country's legal quota for the month, under the new law, had been filled; and thus after parents had been admitted to the United States their children were sent back, or children were admitted and their parents sent back.

Commenting upon this, in his letter to Representative Siegel, of New York, made public on September 12, President Harding said:

The difficulty must be charged to the dishonest steamship agents, who have brought to this country innocent immigrants in spite of our continued warnings during a period of very great leniency. I know how very persistent have been the impositions which have been made on the Government agents, who have been disposed to be sympathetic and generous in carrying out the law.

President Harding's letter brought to a head the growing dissatisfaction with our new immigration law, which has been the cause of numerous complaints from all sides. With so much evidence accumulated to show the unnecessary cruelty and injustice which the present system allows there is a strong movement under way for a radical revision of the immigrant system, so as to have the work of examination, and also the stoppage of immigration when the legal quota is filled, done at the European port of embarkation instead of at the port of entrance to this country.

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