

American Public Problems

EDITED BY

RALPH CURTIS RINGWALT

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American Public Problems

IMMIGRATION

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AND ITS EFFECTS UPON
THE UNITED STATES

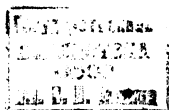
BY
PRESCOTT F. HALL, A.B., LL.B.



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EDITOR'S PREFACE

Mr. Hall's *Immigration* is the first of a series which the publishers plan gradually to augment until it covers the field of controverted topics in American political, economic and social affairs, in which there is any widespread public interest. Each of the volumes will be devoted to a single and to a definite question; and all, it is hoped, will possess certain desirable characteristics in common. Thus, a history will be given of each question in its political and legislative aspects; all the facts that are available and pertinent in respect to it; and a careful and impartial discussion of the policies that have been advocated for the future. But authors will, of course, be free to adopt any method of treatment that they please, and to uphold or to condemn as they may see fit.

So far as possible, the editor wishes to make the series one of genuine weight and consequence,—not only as books and literature, but as a contribution to national life and welfare. The problems with which the Series will deal are all important; those on the right solution of which much of the nation's greatness and prosperity, and even its existence, may well be said to depend. But such a solution, it is believed, can only be achieved in one way,—by thorough understanding, and by intelligent, thoughtful discussion. And it is to such understanding and discussion that the Series will seek, in as weighty a measure as possible, to contribute.

R. C. R.

NEW YORK CITY
December, 1905

AUTHOR'S PREFACE

THE great interest now shown by the American people in the immigration question, and the very general lack of information as to the conditions and effects of immigration, seem to call for a new handbook on the subject. Since the publication of the late Professor Mayo-Smith's book, in 1890, important changes have taken place in immigration itself; and many valuable reports and articles have been published, the most comprehensive of which is, perhaps, the *Report of the Industrial Commission* made in 1902.

The extent and importance of these changes have naturally resulted in considerable attention being given, in the present volume, to the most recent period, and less to the historical survey of immigration in the earlier part of the country's existence; for, however interesting the history of the matter may be, the problems which confront the American people to-day, with regard to immigration, are of comparatively recent origin.

The limits of the present volume forbid any elaborate treatment of the various races of our immigrants, either statistical or descriptive. For the benefit of those who wish to study this phase of the subject further, the author has made a free use of footnotes, and has appended a list of the more important authorities.

The plan of the book is to present first the facts in regard to immigration—its history, causes and conditions. In Part II. the effects of immigration are discussed. In