

## PROSPERITY BRINGS THEM

The immigration statistics for May show a large increase of alien arrivals, 63,000 having landed at the various ports as compared with 31,000 for the same month in 1896. Since March the volume of immigration has been steadily increasing. It has jumped from 10,000 to 41,000 in April and 63,000 in May.

This heavy increase is due to the great prosperity of the United States of which the people in Europe have full knowledge. If Bryan and his pessimistic crowd have not, as they profess. When business was dull and labor opportunities got down to the minimum, European immigration dropped off. The present increase is one of the infallible signs of great prosperity here. If the increase is maintained through this month, the close of the fiscal

year will show an aggregate of immigrants landed during the year of 325,000, included in this army of aliens are elements which we do not want.

In 1897 an attempt was made in congress to exclude undesirable immigrants by the educational test. The bill would have kept out thousands from Russia, Austria-Hungary, Italy, Greece and Portugal who have an average illiteracy of 47.9 per cent. The steamship companies contributed largely to the defeat of the measure referred to. They get \$20 a head for steerage passengers, and it makes no difference to them whether the immigrants are literate or illiterate. Most of the immigrants referred to locate in the big cities as far west as Chicago, or work in the coal mines of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois. Southeastern European immigrants, to a large extent, locate in the slums of large cities. They do not locate on farms and develop the country and identify themselves with it. The restriction bill would not have deprived the west of agricultural immigration—the kind it wants—from Germany, Great Britain and the Scandinavian countries.

This nation has the right to exclude a bad quality of immigrants to protect itself. We are perfectly willing for immigrants of a constructive kind, whom we can readily assimilate, to come and reap all the advantages they can from our prosperity. The class of immigrants objected to have a very low standard of living and they do not seem able to get away from it. They herd by themselves, moreover, and, as far as possible, keep themselves and their children from a proper acquaintance with our laws and customs and higher standard of living. The next congress should enact an immigration restriction bill with an illiteracy test. That is only a national duty.