

Aliens Act, 1905.

[5 EDW. 7. CH. 13.]

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ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS.

A.D. 1905.

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*Regulation of Alien Immigration.*

Section

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### CHAPTER 13.

An Act to amend the Law with regard to Aliens.

A.D. 1905.

[11th August 1905.]

**B**E it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :

#### *Regulation of Alien Immigration.*

1.—(1) An immigrant shall not be landed in the United Kingdom from an immigrant ship except at a port at which there is an immigration officer appointed under this Act, and shall not be landed at any such port without the leave of that officer given after an inspection of the immigrants made by him on the ship, or elsewhere if the immigrants are conditionally disembarked for the purpose, in company with a medical inspector, such inspection to be made as soon as practicable, and the immigration officer shall withhold leave in the case of any immigrant who appears to him to be an undesirable immigrant within the meaning of this section.

Power to prevent the landing of undesirable immigrants.

(2) Where leave to land is so withheld in the case of any immigrant, the master, owner, or agent of the ship, or the immigrant, may appeal to the immigration board of the port, and that board shall, if they are satisfied that leave to land should not be withheld under this Act, give leave to land, and leave so given shall operate as the leave of the immigration officer.

(3) For the purposes of this section an immigrant shall be considered an undesirable immigrant—

- (a) if he cannot show that he has in his possession or is in a position to obtain the means of decently supporting himself and his dependents (if any); or
- (b) if he is a lunatic or an idiot, or owing to any disease or infirmity appears likely to become a charge upon the rates or otherwise a detriment to the public; or
- (c) if he has been sentenced in a foreign country with which there is an extradition treaty for a crime, not being an

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33 & 34 Vict.  
c. 52.

offence of a political character, which is, as respects that country, an extradition crime within the meaning of the Extradition Act, 1870; or

(d) if an expulsion order under this Act has been made in his case;

but, in the case of an immigrant who proves that he is seeking admission to this country solely to avoid prosecution or punishment on religious or political grounds or for an offence of a political character, or persecution, involving danger of imprisonment or danger to life or limb, on account of religious belief, leave to land shall not be refused on the ground merely of want of means, or the probability of his becoming a charge on the rates, nor shall leave to land be withheld in the case of an immigrant who shows to the satisfaction of the immigration officer or board concerned with the case that, having taken his ticket in the United Kingdom and embarked direct therefrom for some other country immediately after a period of residence in the United Kingdom of not less than six months, he has been refused admission in that country and returned direct therefrom to a port in the United Kingdom, and leave to land shall not be refused merely on the ground of want of means to any immigrant who satisfies the immigration officer or board concerned with the case that he was born in the United Kingdom, his father being a British subject.

(4) The Secretary of State may, subject to such conditions as he thinks fit to impose, by order exempt any immigrant ships from the provisions of this section if he is satisfied that a proper system is being maintained for preventing the embarkation of undesirable immigrants on those ships, or if security is given to his satisfaction that undesirable immigrants will not be landed in the United Kingdom from those ships except for the purpose of transit.

Any such order of exemption may be withdrawn at any time at the discretion of the Secretary of State.

(5) Any immigrant who lands, and any master of a ship who allows an immigrant to be landed, in contravention of this section shall be guilty of an offence under this Act, but an immigrant conditionally disembarked shall not be deemed to have landed so long as the conditions are complied with.

Immigration  
board and  
rules.

2.—(1) The immigration board for a port shall consist of three persons summoned in accordance with rules made by the Secretary of State under this Act out of a list approved by him for the port comprising fit persons having magisterial, business, or administrative experience.

(2) A Secretary of State may make rules generally with respect to immigration boards and their officers, and with respect to appeals to those boards, and with respect to the conditional disembarkation of immigrants for the purpose of inspection, appeals, or otherwise, and may by those rules amongst other things provide for the summoning and procedure of the board, and for the place of meeting of the board, and for the security

to be given by the master of the ship in the case of immigrants conditionally disembarked. Rules made under this section shall provide for notice being given to masters of immigrant ships and immigrants informing them of their right of appeal, and also, where leave to land is withheld in the case of any immigrant by the immigration officer, for notice being given to the immigrant and the master of the immigrant ship of the grounds on which leave has been withheld.

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*Expulsion of Undesirable Aliens.*

3.—(1) The Secretary of State may, if he thinks fit, make an order (in this Act referred to as an expulsion order) requiring an alien to leave the United Kingdom within a time fixed by the order, and thereafter to remain out of the United Kingdom—

Power of Secretary of State to make an expulsion order.

- (a) if it is certified to him by any court (including a court of summary jurisdiction) that the alien has been convicted by that court of any felony, or misdemeanour, or other offence for which the court has power to impose imprisonment without the option of a fine, or of an offence under paragraph twenty-two or twenty-three of section three hundred and eighty-one of the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892, or of an offence as a prostitute under section seventy-two of the Towns Improvement (Ireland) Act, 1854, or paragraph eleven of section fifty-four of the Metropolitan Police Act, 1839, and that the court recommend that an expulsion order should be made in his case, either in addition to or in lieu of his sentence; and
- (b) if it is certified to him by a court of summary jurisdiction after proceedings taken for the purpose within twelve months after the alien has last entered the United Kingdom, in accordance with rules of court made under section twenty-nine of the Summary Jurisdiction Act, 1879, that the alien—

55 & 56 Vict. c. 55.  
17 & 18 Vict. c. 103.  
2 & 3 Vict. c. 47.

42 & 43 Vict. c. 49.

(i) has within three months from the time at which proceedings for the certificate are commenced been in receipt of any such parochial relief as disqualifies a person for the parliamentary franchise, or been found wandering without ostensible means of subsistence, or been living under insanitary conditions due to overcrowding; or

(ii) has entered the United Kingdom after the passing of this Act, and has been sentenced in a foreign country with which there is an extradition treaty for a crime not being an offence of a political character which is as respects that country an extradition crime within the meaning of the Extradition Act, 1870.

(2) If any alien in whose case an expulsion order has been made is at any time found within the United Kingdom in contravention of the order, he shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.

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Expenses of  
return of  
alien, &c.

4.—(1) Where an expulsion order is made in the case of any alien, the Secretary of State may, if he thinks fit, pay the whole or any part of the expenses of or incidental to the departure from the United Kingdom and maintenance until departure of the alien and his dependents (if any).

(2) If an expulsion order is made in the case of any alien (not being an alien who last entered the United Kingdom before the commencement of this Act, or an immigrant in whose case leave to land has been given under this Act) on a certificate given within six months after he has last entered the United Kingdom, the master of the ship in which he has been brought to the United Kingdom and also the master of any ship belonging to the same owner shall be liable to pay to the Secretary of State as a debt due to the Crown any sums paid by the Secretary of State under this section in connexion with the alien, and shall, if required by the Secretary of State, receive the alien and his dependents (if any) on board his ship, and afford them free of charge a passage to the port of embarkation and proper accommodation and maintenance during the passage.

(3) If the master of a ship fails to comply with the provisions of this section as to giving a passage to an alien or his dependents, he shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.

*General.*Returns as to  
aliens.

5.—(1) The master of any ship landing or embarking passengers at any port in the United Kingdom shall furnish to such person and in such manner as the Secretary of State directs a return giving such particulars with respect to any such passengers who are aliens as may be required for the time being by order of the Secretary of State, and any such passenger shall furnish the master of the ship with any information required by him for the purpose of the return.

(2) If the master of a ship fails to make the return required by this section, or makes a false return, he shall be guilty of an offence under this Act, and if any alien refuses to give information required by the master of the ship for the purpose of the return under this section, or gives any false information for the purpose, he shall be liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months with hard labour.

(3) The Secretary of State may by order exempt from the provisions of this section any special class of passengers or voyages, or any special ships or ports, but any such order may be withdrawn at any time at his discretion.

Appointment  
of officers, and  
expenses.

6.—(1) The Secretary of State shall appoint, at such ports in the United Kingdom as he thinks necessary for the time being, immigration officers and medical inspectors, and may appoint or employ such other officers or persons as may be required for the purposes of immigration boards, or for the purpose of the returns to be given under this Act, or otherwise for carrying this Act into effect, and the salary and remuneration of any officers, inspectors, or persons so appointed or employed, and any expenses otherwise

incurred in carrying this Act into effect (including such payment as may be sanctioned by the Treasury for the attendance of any person as a member of an immigration board to hear appeals), shall, up to an amount approved by the Treasury, be paid out of moneys provided by Parliament. A.D. 1905.

(2) The Secretary of State may arrange with the Commissioners of Customs or any other Government department or any port sanitary authority for the appointment or employment of officers of Customs or officers of that department or authority as officers under this Act.

(3) The Secretary of State shall make known, in such manner as he thinks best suited for the purpose, the ports at which immigration officers are for the time being appointed under this Act.

**7.**—(1) Any person guilty of an offence under this Act shall, if the offence is committed by him as the master of a ship, be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds, and, if the offence is committed by him as an immigrant or alien, be deemed a rogue and vagabond within the meaning of the Vagrancy Act, 1824, and be liable to be dealt with accordingly as if the offence were an offence under section four of that Act. Supplemental provisions.  
5 Geo. 4.  
c. 83.

(2) Sections six hundred and eighty-four, six hundred and eighty-five, and six hundred and eighty-six of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894 (which relate to the jurisdiction of courts and justices), shall apply with respect to jurisdiction under this Act as they apply with respect to jurisdiction under that Act, and section six hundred and ninety-three of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894 (which relates to the levying of sums ordered to be paid by distress on a ship), shall apply with respect to any fines or other sums of money to be paid under this Act by the master of a ship as it applies with respect to fines and other sums of money to be paid under that Act. 57 & 58 Vict.  
c. 60.

(3) Any immigrant who is conditionally disembarked, and any alien in whose case an expulsion order is made, while awaiting the departure of his ship, and whilst being conveyed to the ship, and whilst on board the ship until the ship finally leaves the United Kingdom, and any alien in whose case a certificate has been given by a court, with a view to the making of an expulsion order under this Act, until the Secretary of State has decided upon his case, shall be liable to be kept in custody in such manner as the Secretary of State directs, and whilst in that custody shall be deemed to be in legal custody.

(4) If any immigrant, master of a ship, or other person, for the purposes of this Act, makes any false statement or false representation to an immigration officer, medical inspector, immigration board, or to the Secretary of State, he shall be liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months with hard labour.

(5) If any question arises on any proceedings under this Act, or with reference to anything done or proposed to be done under this Act, whether any person is an alien or not, the onus of proving that that person is not an alien shall lie on that person.

A.D. 1905. (6) In carrying out the provisions of this Act, due regard shall be had to any treaty, convention, arrangement, or engagement with any foreign country.

Definitions. 8.—(1) The expression “immigrant” in this Act means an alien steerage passenger who is to be landed in the United Kingdom, but does not include—

(a) Any passenger who shows to the satisfaction of the immigration officer or board concerned with the case that he desires to land in the United Kingdom only for the purpose of proceeding within a reasonable time to some destination out of the United Kingdom; or

(b) Any passengers holding prepaid through tickets to some such destination, if the master or owner of the ship by which they are brought to the United Kingdom, or by which they are to be taken away from the United Kingdom, gives security to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State that, except for the purposes of transit or under other circumstances approved by the Secretary of State, they will not remain in the United Kingdom, or, having been rejected in another country re-enter the United Kingdom, and that they will be properly maintained and controlled during their transit.

(2) The expression “immigrant ship” in this Act means a ship which brings to the United Kingdom more than twenty alien steerage passengers, who are to be landed in the United Kingdom, whether at the same or different ports, or such number of those passengers as may be for the time being fixed by order of the Secretary of State, either generally or as regards any special ships or ports.

(3) The expression “passenger” in this Act includes any person carried on the ship other than the master and persons employed in the working, or service, of the ship, and the expression “steerage passenger” in this Act includes all passengers except such persons as may be declared by the Secretary of State to be cabin passengers by order made either generally or as regards any special ships or ports.

(4) If any question arises under this Act on an appeal to an immigration board whether any ship is an immigrant ship within the meaning of this Act, or whether any person is an immigrant, a passenger, or a steerage passenger, within the meaning of this Act, or whether any offence is an offence of a political character, or whether a crime is an extradition crime, that question shall be referred to the Secretary of State in accordance with rules made under this Act, and the board shall act in accordance with his decision.

(5) The Secretary of State may withdraw or vary any order made by him under this section.

Application  
of Act to  
Scotland and  
Ireland.

9.—(1) In the application of this Act to Scotland and Ireland the words “be liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months with hard labour” shall be



substituted for the words "be deemed a rogue and vagabond within A.D. 1905.  
 " the meaning of the Vagrancy Act, 1824, and be liable to be dealt —  
 " with accordingly as if the offence were an offence under section  
 " four of that Act."

(2) Section thirty-three of the Summary Procedure (Scotland) 27 & 28 Vict.  
 Act, 1864, shall be substituted as respects Scotland for section c. 53.  
 twenty-nine of the Summary Jurisdiction Act, 1879; and the  
 Lord Chancellor of Ireland may, as respects Ireland, make rules  
 for the purposes of this Act for which rules may be made under  
 section twenty-nine of the Summary Jurisdiction Act, 1879; and  
 all rules so made shall be laid, as soon as may be, before both  
 Houses of Parliament.

**10.**—(1) This Act may be cited as the Aliens Act, 1905, and Short title and  
 shall come into operation on the first day of January nineteen commence-  
 hundred and six. ment, and  
 repeal.

(2) The Registration of Aliens Act, 1836, is hereby repealed. 6 & 7 Will. 4.  
 c. 11.

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