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THE STATUS OF IMMIGRANTS IN INDUSTRIES

Radical changes have come about within recent years in the racial make-up of the operating forces of American mines and manufacturing establishments. Native Americans and immigrant employees from Great Britain and northern Europe have, to a large extent, especially in the unskilled occupations, been displaced by recent immigrants from southern and eastern Europe and the Orient. The employment of recent immigrant races has been rendered possible by the development of new processes and mechanical inventions which, in a large measure, have eliminated the elements of skill formerly required of American wage-earners.

Racial Classification of Industrial Workers

An investigation by the Federal Government, including within its scope about three-fourths of a million industrial workers, has disclosed the extent to which the different races are employed in American mines and factories.*

* See Report of the United States Immigration Commission (18 volumes), entitled, "Immigrants in Industries." The investigation upon which this report is based was conducted during the last half of 1908, and the first half of the year 1909. The results of the investigation were not affected by the industrial depression which followed the financial breakdown of November, 1907. In the case of the study of families or individuals whose incomes had been impaired by the depression, an allowance was made, and normal earnings and incomes secured. The same method was followed in making inquiries as to housing and living conditions. In this connection, if the investigation were influenced by the industrial depression, the result would be a more favorable showing for the recent immigrant, for the reason that a large proportion had returned to their native countries, and thus lessened the degree of congestion which would normally obtain. The data received from 700,000 employees were practically all obtained during the first half of 1909, and are representative of normal conditions. For a full account of the history and scope of the investigation, see "The Industrial Investigations of the United States Immigration Commission," *Journal of Political Economy*, July, 1910.