

Hillary Escandon

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HIS114: World History II

Professor Lyndell O'Hara

(8) 22.6: The Restriction of Immigration – Primary Source

Task: What economic arguments does Lodge make in favor of immigration restrictions? What do you think his real reasons are for restricting immigration? What frame values lie behind his views?

Lodge's economic arguments lie on the idea that immigration causes or leads to downfalls on USA's economy. Lodge's first states of the Chinese immigrant growth that occurred once the doors were open to them. American people felt threatened by these group of people that came is as stated by Lodge " .. the American people, first on the western coast and then elsewhere, suddenly were roused to the fact that they were threatened with a flood of low-class labor ..." (146) which according to him stated that it caused a destruction to the good rates of wages among the American workers. Not only that but to his perspective, it led to a lower quality of American citizenship. Due to these ideas and views, it was eventually passed the Chinese-Exclusion act that prohibited any more Chinese people from coming in. The next issue that arose was upon the discovery that employers of labor were being engaged in making contracts with large bodies of working people from other countries which led to importation. To resolve this, the Alien Contract-Labor law was passed as a way to stop the importation of very low-priced labors. It is very obvious by these few points that the entrance of immigration to his view is not very much helpful to the growth in economy in the USA but rather the contrary. Though, it can also be stated that the real reason behind for wanting the restrictions of

immigration is due to the fact that he worries about the future of America. He questions “what shall be done to protect our labor against this undue competition, and to guard our citizenship against an infusion which seems to threaten deterioration?” (146)