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Chapter 20

The restrictions of immigration [Henry Cabot Lodge, 1891 to 1924]

Henry Cabot Lodge was a prominent American politician and historian who lived from 1850 to 1924. He served as a U.S. Senator from Massachusetts from 1893 to 1924, and during his time in office, he was a strong advocate for restricting immigration to the United States.

In 1891, Lodge wrote an essay titled "The Restriction of Immigration," which argued that the United States needed to limit the number of immigrants entering the country. He believed that the United States was being overwhelmed by a flood of immigrants, many of whom he considered undesirable and unassimilable.

Lodge argued that unrestricted immigration threatened American society, as it brought in people with different cultures and values that could potentially undermine American institutions and traditions. He also believed that many immigrants were a burden on American society, as they were poor, uneducated, and often relied on government assistance.

To address these concerns, Lodge proposed several measures to restrict immigration, including literacy tests and quotas based on nationality. He believed that these measures would help ensure that only desirable immigrants were allowed to enter the United States.

Lodge's views on immigration were controversial and faced opposition from many quarters. However, his ideas helped shape the debate on immigration in the United States in the early 20th century, and many of the policies he advocated for, such as quotas and literacy tests, were eventually implemented.