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Immigration through the lens of Newspapers.

Norwegian-American Newspapers and the
immigrant communities, from 1903 to 1907.

Master's thesis in History

Supervisor: Tore Tingvold Petersen

November 2022



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Science and Technology

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ABSTRACT:

This is a thesis looking at the Norwegian-American immigrant communities through the lens of Norwegian newspapers in America. It focuses on the years between 1903 and 1907, and the way the newspapers *Decorah-Posten og Ved Arnen* and *Minneapolis Tidende* portray immigration. This thesis also goes through the systematic implementation of the Immigration Acts of 1903 and 1907, as well as the Naturalization Act of 1906, and the Expatriation Act of 1907.

SAMMENDRAG:

Dette er en masteroppgave som tar for seg de Norsk-Amerikanske immigrant samfunnene gjennom linsen av norske aviser i Amerika. Oppgaven setter søkelys på årene mellom 1903 og 1907, og hvordan avisene *Decorah-Posten* og *Ved Arnen* og *Minneapolis Tidene* portretterer immigrasjon. Oppgaven går systematisk igjennom implementeringen av de amerikanske Immigrasjonslovene fra 1903 og 1907, samt Naturaliserings Loven fra 1906, og Ekspatrierings Loven fra 1907.

FOREWORD:

... “Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”

- Emma Lazarus, *The New Colossus*, 1883.

This thesis is dedicated to my mom, Marie Kristine Aagård, and my grandfather, Erik Magnus Aagård, who started the family journey of genealogy over 20 years ago. Though we never found answers to our many questions, it sparked something in me and inspired the basis of this thesis. I am forever grateful. Thank you to my father, Tor Neset, for the many hours of consoling, not understanding, reading, and questioning. The amount of support I have had from my family, young and old, has been invaluable. Thank you all so very much.

A massive thanks is owed my advisor, Tore Tingvold Petersen. For the support, the countless stories, and fantastic advice. Without it this would not have been possible.

Wordlist:

- **Emigrate vs. immigrate vs. migrate:** Definition difference. **Emigrate** means to leave one's home country to live somewhere else, **immigrate** means to enter another country and live there, **migrate** means to move, usually used in context of moving within one's own country. In the context of this thesis, if talking about Norway and the population leaving for another country I will use **emigrate**, however when I'm discussing people who have arrived in the United States, I will be using the term **immigrate**.¹
- **Nativism:** Noun, defined as; "a policy favoring *Native* inhabitants as opposed to immigrants." By Merriam-Webster.² Differently stated in *The Huddled Masses* by Alan M. Kraut, *Nativists* were Americans that specifically felt that immigration was a threat to their way of life and were particularly outspoken on the subject.³
- **Naturalization:** Cambridge Dictionary states that this is "the act of making someone a legal citizen of a country that they were not born in."⁴ In short, depending on which country you want to settle in, there is a certain legal process to naturalization and becoming a citizen. This is usually done by denouncing the citizenship one is born with or currently holds. In the Naturalization Act of 1906, it is stated that naturalization can only happen when the person wanting naturalization will "renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity (...) by name, to the prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty if which the alien may be at the time a citizen or subject."⁵
- **Progressivism:** Progressivism is a social and political reform movement that brought significant changes to American politics and government between the 1890's and the 1920's.⁶ **The Progressive Era** sought to harness the power of the

¹ Store Norske Leksikon, *Migrant*, <https://snl.no/migrant>, translated by me.

² Merriam-Webster. *Nativism* <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/nativism#other-words>

³ Kraut, Alan M., *The Huddled Masses. The Immigrant in American Society, 1880-1921*. 2nd ed, Harlan Davidson, Inc. 2001. p. 173.

⁴ Cambridge Dictionary, Naturalization. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/naturalization>

⁵ U.S. Statutes at Large, Volume 34 -1907, 59th Congress. United States, 1905- 1907. Periodical. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/lsl-v34/>

⁶ Britannica, *Progressivism*. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/progressivism>

federal government to reduce corruption, eliminate unethical business practices, and work on the negative impact of industrialization.⁷

- **Americanization:** In the early 20th century, activities set to prepare residents of the US, that were foreign born, to become full citizens. As it aimed for full naturalization, it had a focus of understanding the American way and focusing on what could be considered “American” culture or way of life. The activities would include lessons in the English language, American government structure, and American history.⁸
- **Anglo-Saxon Race:** New terminology in the 1800’s to specify the top of the white hierarchy of immigrants in America. Largely due to the influx of Irish immigrants to America in the 19th century.⁹
- **Anti-Orientalism:** Derived from **Orientalism**, which is in norm used to describe something perceived as Asian, being **Anti-Orientalism** would mean to be against anything connected or perceived to be connected to Asia. In this matter the definition connected to the anti-immigration groups, particularly located in California.¹⁰
- **Hyphenated Americans:** Defined as: “of, relating to, or being an individual or unit of mixed or diverse background or composition.” In this thesis it is used to describe one’s ethnicity connected to America, as in Irish-American, Italian-American, Norwegian-American, etc. Can be traced back to the late 19th century and was commonly used in a derogatory manner implying divided allegiance to America. Also used to dismiss foreign-born citizens, deeming them “less than” and not fully American because of the hyphen.¹¹

⁷ Khan Academy, *The Progressive Era*. <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/us-history/rise-to-world-power/age-of-empire/a/the-progressive-era>

⁸ Britannica, *Americanization*. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Americanization>

⁹ Overland, Orm. *Immigrant Minds, American Identities*.

¹⁰ Merriam-Webster, *Orientalism*, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/Orientalism#other-words>

¹¹ Merriam-Webster, *Hyphenated*, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/hyphenated>

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Introduction.

“Much of history becomes a record of humanity’s struggle for survival and search for happiness; indeed, this might be the theme for any historical work.”¹²

The topic of emigration has for a long time been limited to stories about the experience of leaving a person’s home country, and the social issues that were brought about because of the mass exodus. Current research focuses on what lies behind as reasons for migration, looking at both internal and external factors for said mass exodus. On the topic of Norwegian migration history, the focus has been directed at the social issues at home and the wish for a better life elsewhere. What I find is missing of literature and research is a focused look on what happened to the people after they migrated, and particularly how the small Norwegian-American communities developed. In this thesis I look at how Norwegian newspapers in America dealt with the topic of immigration and particularly what they say about the legislation regarding immigration introduced in congress from 1903 to 1907. By using two of the biggest and longest publishing Norwegian newspapers in America, *Decorah-Posten og Ved Arnen* and *Minneapolis Tidene*, as primary sources I have taken a deep dive in the role of media, and the understanding of the Norwegian immigrant society. This thesis also deals with the nuanced perspective of race, ethnicity, and immigration, as it is presented through newspapers and legislation. My thesis uses a descriptive format, where I spend time chronologically laying out the events in each chapter, before I conclude each chapter with an analysis and summary.

The topic of immigration to the US starts with the questions of *who* these immigrants were, *what* they did for a living, *where* they ended up, *when* they left and arrived, and *why* they moved. Through the existing research, we are given vague and general information about immigration and the situation regarding the Norwegian immigrants. The theories regarding immigration from Norway to the US then bases itself on events and social developments that establish America as the place with best opportunities for a prosperous and good life.

¹² Lovoll, Odd S. *Across the Deep Blue Sea. The Saga of Early Norwegian Immigrants*. Minnesota Historical Society Press, Minnesota, 2015. P. 3

We often talk about the idea of America being a country for all, and that equal opportunities for all, is a pulling factor for the constant stream of immigrants to America. *The Declaration of Independence*, states that “... all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”¹³ It is the most well-known statement that further pushes the idea of a free, prosperous, and great America, accessible for all. Statements like the one in the *Declaration of Independence* helped people to start dreaming of a life in a new world, giving them more courage to leave their comforts behind.

Whether they were struggling to make ends meet, not being accepted for their race, religion, or political affiliation, this new and open world would welcome them. Conditionally, of course. Not everybody was greatly accepted in this new world, and the building of a new society. Native Americans, People of Color, Asians, and Eastern Europeans were excluded. The developing idea of “land of the free and home of the brave”¹⁴ during the late 19th and early 20th century would essentially only apply to certain white Europeans, and mostly to the classes of white people bringing riches, trade or work, or culture to a country still developing their idea of basic human rights. During the 21st century, a new line of discourse on this topic has appeared. Shifting the focus to bringing the “correct type” of immigrant into the country, it has later established a new argument that America is a country made possible by immigrants, for immigrants. Now the interpretation of the US as a country built by immigrants is flourishing, despite the ever-growing discussion of illegal immigrants. The rich history of immigration gives the country a unique perspective and culture, however it is still a very sore and tense topic of conversation.

¹³ The Declaration of Independence, U.S. Congress, July 4th, 1776. Transcribed and derived from this website; <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-transcript>

¹⁴ Last line in “The Star-Spangled Banner”, written as a poem in 1814 by Francis Scott Key, and officially recognized as the National Anthem in 1931.

Personal interest.

In 2019, my mother and I made the trip to St. Paul, Minnesota, to see if we could find more information on my great-great grandfather Karl Anton Kristiansen. On May 3rd, 1907, Karl Anton boarded the ship *S.S. Hellig Olav* traveling from Kristiania, to New York City. He was 33 years old at the time. In the ships manifest it is written that he is a farmer and that his destination is St. Paul, Minnesota. It is stated that he had all of 10 dollars with him upon arrival. *S.S. Hellig Olav* arrives at Ellis Island, on May 15th, 1907. This is the last trace that we have of Karl Anton Kristiansen. The topic of Norwegian immigration to the US is generally fascinating to me, however this family mystery has furthered the interest I have. This thesis exists mostly due to my mother who suggested that I make this the topic, and her secretly hoping that I find him. And in truth, I was also hoping that I would find something but sadly I did not.¹⁵

¹⁵ The information about Karl Anton Kristiansen was first retrieved by my mother and grandfather around 2002, and the old documents were later handed over to me. As the years passed, and technology advanced, I was able to access most of the digitalized records before Karl Anton left Norway. The digital scans of the Ships Manifest from 1907, has been retrieved from the Ellis Island and Statue of Liberty website, and most of their documents are available either for viewing digitally or for purchase.

Theme, Method, and Structure.

This thesis started as a wish to analyze smaller Norwegian settlements in Minnesota. I wanted to research the development of Norwegian-American culture and look at the way Norwegian immigrants settled themselves. As this thesis was planned and started, the Covid-19 global pandemic put a pin in my plans. I realized late in the planning, that to be able to research this topic I would most likely have to be in Minnesota in person, which was not an option. So, changes needed to be made to fully be able to research and write about the desired topic, and whilst Norway was slowly coming out of lockdown, America was not. In late fall of 2021, a new realization began to settle in. I would have to find a topic that could be researched remotely, with available sources online. I began to research Norwegian newspapers in America, their publishing history, and the relationship Norwegian immigrants had with their new country.

I found that there had been several newspapers that published in Norwegian, aiming for the audience of Scandinavian immigrants in the US. Further, I found that as immigration increased, the issues concerning identity started gaining importance. During this research phase I was seeing terms like “hyphenated Americans” and “Americanization”, which I was unfamiliar with. During the early 20th century these terms were used in conversations regarding immigration and identity. Finding that the question of hyphenated Americans and their identities was taking up more and more space in society, my interest in the experience of immigrants and identity grew. What events in America during the early 20th century would have affected Norwegian immigrants and their communities? Here newspapers became key to further research and develop my thesis. As I started reading and researching with the idea of newspapers in my mind, I started to see what extent the immigrant media reached people. I realized then that those newspapers needed to be used as my primary source. If I were to keep my hypothesis focused on immigrants, I would need to specify and narrow down how I was going to relate the two together.

Further research about immigration in the early 20th century showed me that Congress pushed through several Immigration policies aimed at limiting the access of America to certain classes of people. The discovery of this made me want to do more research on the effects of the policies, and if they affected Norwegians in America. I found that during the first decade of the 20th century Congress made several legislation changes that affected immigration. To

further research the legislations I went on the Library of Congress's website, where I was able to find the records of the congressional sessions. I found that the changes impacting immigration during this first decade happened between 1903 and 1907. The legislations that were introduced are known as follows; The Immigration Act of 1903, The Naturalization Act of 1906, The Immigration Act of 1907, and The Expatriation Act of 1907.¹⁶

Working my way through the Acts I found mentions of previously enacted legislation, which in turn helped me understand the development of immigration legislation that occurs in later decades. Now that I had found an angle on immigration and legislation, I returned my focus to the newspapers. I chose to use the newspapers *Decorah-Posten* and *Minneapolis Tidende*. Both of which have long publishing histories and have from my research the best availability for my chosen period. The newspapers that I have chosen to use as my primary sources both publish weekly, with *Decorah-Posten* publishing twice a week, and *Minneapolis Tidende* publishing once a week. By taking the dates given in the Immigration Acts, such as when they were introduced and accepted by Congress and when they were to be enacted, I ended up narrowing my research window down to six months of each relevant year. I was aiming for material that was published before the Acts were presented in Congress, throughout the discussion and amending phases, to shortly after the enactment of the Acts. Had these early limitations any effect on the flow of Norwegian immigrants to the US? And how did the newspapers write about the new legislations? I wanted to know what the response was from Norwegians in the United States, to see if there was any pushback or reactions. I also wanted to see if Norwegians as immigrants and their place in the American society was changed after the implementation of these policies or if it remained unchanged. My thesis question therefore developed into; *How did Norwegian Newspapers in America interpret and write about the new immigration legislations made by Congress between 1903 and 1907?*

What favored my use of these newspapers were their availability particularly due to my limited traveling options for the research. I used *Minnesota Digital Newspaper Hub* and the *Library of Congress: Chronicling America Newspaper Hub* to access my chosen newspapers. Both web hubs allow for saving and printing the excerpts that you might need, and my time was spent sorting and reading through the papers for all and any relevant information I might

¹⁶ The records are a part of the collection *United States Statutes at Large*, where Volume 32 and Volume 34 contain the relevant legislation from 1903 to 1907 used for this thesis. They are available through the Library of Congress website. <https://www.loc.gov/collections/united-states-statutes-at-large/>

need. *Chronicling America* states that “The Library of Congress believes that the newspapers in *Chronicling America* are in the public domain or have no known copyright restrictions. Newspapers published in the United States more than 95 years ago are in the public domain in their entirety”, and that anybody using digitized records should none the less be aware and cautious of copyright and privacy.¹⁷ I will also admit that some of the digital scans are not pristine, and few times they were completely illegible. With that being said, I did find it quite easy to read and understand the source material after spending time reading and processing them.¹⁸

My thesis is structured as follows; In the first chapter I will be looking at topics that serve as background for my thesis. Starting with Americas relationship with immigration, laws and restrictions, and race, ethnicity, and identity. Then going into the Norwegian aspect of this topic. Then ending the first chapter with a contextualization of the time between 1900 and 1910. The following chapters will deal with my chosen Acts and contain analysis of the material in the newspapers. The second chapter looks at the year 1903, and the introduction of the Immigration Act of 1903. The third chapter follows the Naturalization Act of 1906, whilst the fourth chapter looks at the Immigration Act and the Expatriation Act of 1907. In these three chapters I will work to contextualize and interpret the newspaper articles, with the restrictions and limitations introduced by the Act’s. I will be reciting the information found, and then spend time discussing and concluding in median. And for the final chapter, I will be summarizing my findings and concluding the thesis with any eventual added information.

¹⁷ Information from *Chronicling America* <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/about/>

¹⁸ *Decorah-Posten*, and what would later be *Deorah-Posten og Ved Arnen*, are available through *Library of Congress: Chronicling America Newspaper Hub*. Whilst *Minneapolis Tidende* can be accessed through *Minnesota Digital Newspaper Hub*.

Historiography.

For my historiography I have chosen to use literature that focus on the broader perspective of my topic. I have divided the literature into three sections focusing on different aspects of my thesis. Starting with immigration to America, where I found that most literature focuses on the mass waves of immigration from countries in Europe or Asia. This literature mostly looks at the changes in America relating to demographics or economy. The next aspect of the literature is about America and identity, particularly the relationship with race and ethnicity regarding immigration. The last section of the historiography deals with the Norwegian aspect of my topic, which mostly focuses on literature written about the process of immigration to America and the immigrant experience. At the end of this chapter, I also give my interpretation of the historiography and make a conscious effort to place myself amongst my chosen literature.

Immigration to America:

The general history of immigration to America has been the focus of massive research efforts, mainly focusing on immigration from countries such as Ireland, Italy, Germany, China, and Japan, but also immigration because of issues such as religion, conflict, industrialization, economy, and trade. Most literature that deals with immigration to America addresses these issues broadly. Through books like *The Huddled Masses* by Alan M. Kraut¹⁹, and *American Immigration* by David A. Gerber²⁰, we get a brief but direct look into the topic of immigration to America. Both books point out the obvious reason why America and its history with migration and people is so different from other countries.

American Immigration points out that America is a special case because the people are not necessarily connected by common genealogy, but their beliefs in the constitution and values of America. *The Huddled Masses*, named in reference to Emma Lazarus' poem *The New Colossus*, strongly also points out how the United States presents as the land of opportunity and allowing for the different values and beliefs. Both books also point to the statistics and numbers behind the mass immigration. Whilst *American Immigration* takes a broader surface

¹⁹ Kraut, Alan M., *The Huddled Masses. The Immigrant in American Society, 1880-1921*. 2nd ed., Harlan Davidson, Inc. Illinois. 2001.

²⁰ Gerber, David A., *American Immigration: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press, 2011.

view of the history, *The Huddled Masses* focuses on the mass immigration period of 1880 to 1921. Both books also look at the focus of “race” when it comes to immigration. *American Immigration* states that at the turn of the 20th century the notion of “race” started to also include “nationality”, making even the people who, color wise, look “white” be defined as less than the accepted “white”. Because of the focused timeline in *The Huddled Masses*, this book takes a closer look at the aspect of immigrants and their identity in connection to the changing perception of immigrants in America. In my opinion both books provide general knowledge about the topic, but also give an important overview of the transitioning phases of American immigration in the specific period in this thesis.

Further on the topic, Roger Daniels has written several books that looks at immigration to America in different contexts. Two of the books I have looked at for this thesis is *Coming to America*²¹ and *Guarding the Golden Door*²². The first book, *Coming to America*, also discusses the different phases in immigration to America though in greater detail than *American Immigration: A Very Short Introduction*. The first part of this book details early settlement and colonization and mentions the topic of the Vikings reaching America. The topic of the Vikings is something that I am not personally going to go in depth on, however it is seemingly an important part of what is going to be known as the common Norwegian-American identity. I will however be talking about the topic of Norwegian-American identity later in this chapter. Further this book does also address the topic of “race” and “ethnicity”, and it does so by dedicating a chapter to dive into the complicated relationship and history it has. *Guarding the golden door* looks at the relationship between America and immigration. Particularly in relation to the Asian immigrants and their history in America. This book lays good groundwork for the topic of immigration and immigration restriction.

²¹ Daniels, Roger, *Coming to America. A History of Immigration and Ethnicity in American Life*, 2nd ed., Harper Collins, 2019. E-book, purchased through Google Books.

²² *Guarding the Golden Door. American Immigration Policy and Immigrant since 1882*, Hill and Wang, New York, 2005. E-book, purchased through Google Books.

America and Race/ethnicity:

As mentioned previously in this chapter the topic of “race” and “ethnicity” is quite big and polarizing in America. I also deem it an important subject for the thesis and the background because of the implication “race” and “ethnicity” in relations to immigration.

Coming to America addresses the topic of “race” in a very systematic order. Detailing Race in a separate chapter, which allows for a deeper look into the complicated relationship of the topic. Chapter 5: Ethnicity and Race in American Life, points out the large differences between the notion of ethnicity and race during colonial times, stating that there usually was not a big separation of ethnicity amongst the white colonies, however they tended to group together based on their origins. It was not until the colonies started forming collective identities and started to separate themselves from the British Empire, that this seemed to be a focal point for people.

Whiteness of a Different Color, European Immigrants and the Alchemy of Race is a book written by Matthew Frye Jacobson. This book does, in my opinion give a great background into the creation of race in America and the weight it gave race in creating their country. And whilst this book does not go particularly into the issues Norwegian immigrants faced, it does mention the *Nordic Race*. This book does concern itself more with the way race in general is used as a defining term for people who are immigrating and trying to create a new life for themselves in America. I particularly found this book useful to get insight into the way Nordic immigrants were treated in America, because of the way that it explains the complicated relationship America has with identity and race. Pointing to the different issues that helped redefine the term “white”, particularly pointing to nativism and the issue of mass immigration to the US. Jacobson also uses this book to address different social and political issues that are usually connected to the emphasis on Race and Ethnicity in America. Originally, I used a physical copy of this book from the University Library, but I did end up investing in an E-book version of it.²³

Orm Øverland is the author of the book *Immigrant Minds, American Identities, Making the United States Home, 1870-1930*. In this book Øverland uses the focus of Norwegian-

²³ Jacobson, Matthew Frye, *Whiteness of a different color, European Immigrants and the Alchemy of Race*. Harvard University Press, 1998.

American homemaking myths to show how Norwegians had a special connection with the American society, in a time where they were deemed less than because of their lack of Anglo-Saxon heritage. It is important to point out that Scandinavian or Nordic Raced people did rank higher in the hierarchy of white race than many other white Europeans, though they were still not apex white. The homemaking myths consisted of beliefs surrounding the origin of Anglo-Saxon, and English society. Using the Viking culture of early democracy, their settlements in early England, and how descendants of Vikings in Normandie (Norman) took part in creating the Magna Carta. Further using the Viking discovery of North America as a baseline for where Norwegians then would settle in Canada and America. Further using the descendants of Vikings and Norse people to prove Norwegian existence in America, by stating that parts of the original settlements in America consisted of Puritans that hailed from the parts of England that had previously been settled by the Vikings, therefore proving that Norwegians were a critical part in the creation of America. Stating that Norwegians also helped the Union win the Civil War helps push the narrative that immigrants, specifically Norwegians, have been imperative in the furthering of America as a united country and therefore should be deemed as a high class of white people. This to me signifies that Norwegian-Americans whilst being “Othered” as Americans, were also looked upon as a good class of people to immigrate.²⁴

The Norwegian aspect:

Across the deep blue sea. Odd S. Lovoll is the author of *Across The Deep Blue Sea*²⁵ a book that chronicles the early emigration of Norwegians, giving a historical and narrative view of where the emigrants hailed from in Norway, why they emigrated, and where they ended up. In the book he places details the era of Norwegian emigration to America, through Canada. The Canadian ports became gateways for Norwegians going to America, and even today, many Canadians as well as Americans describe themselves as having ethnic Norwegian roots. This book gives great background for the first large wave of Norwegian emigration, and places numbers into context by affirming the number of emigrants compared to numbers of local habitants or the general number of populations in Norway at the time. He has divided the book into sections based on the Norwegian locations that experienced emigration, and then further looks at said places decade by decade, in sum totaling the numbers and placing them

²⁴ Øverland, Orm. *Immigrant minds, American Identities*, Chapter 5 Norwegian Americans Are Americans.

²⁵ Lovoll, Odd S., *Across the deep blue sea. The Saga of Early Norwegian Immigrants*. Minnesota Historical Society Press, Minnesota, 2015.

into context. This book also looks at the American campaign for Norwegian Settlers. I own a physical copy of this book in English.

Lovoll also wrote the book *The promise of America*, in which he focuses on the general history of Norwegian immigration to America. Looking at the different factors for emigrating and the creation of Norwegian-American culture and values. This book takes a very particular look at the religious focus of immigration. Lovoll uses this book to talk about the experiences Norwegians had assimilating to American society, with a focus on the involvement of church, media, and politics.²⁶ For the history behind Norwegian-American press and media I have used Lovoll's book *Norwegian Newspapers in America*. It is a book that details the longstanding tradition and expansion of journalism done by Norwegian immigrants. This book was key in helping me understand how wide the reach of press was in the Norwegian-American communities and understand the deep roots of press in the immigrant experience. This book also details the demise of Norwegian language press in America, which in connection with the demise of immigration and the process of "Americanization" taking full effect. I own this book in E-book format, in English.²⁷

Jon Gjerde, born to Norwegian immigrants in Iowa, was one of the more prominent historians on immigration and ethnicity. He specifically focused his research and academics on the topic of European immigration to the US, and history of the American Midwest. Gjerde is co-author of the book *Norwegians in Minnesota* alongside Carlton C. Qualey. This book takes a specific look at the Minnesota as a steadfast place in Norwegian-American history. I own this book in physical copy, the book is written in English.

Øverland is also the author of *From America to Norway, Norwegian-American immigrant letters, 1838-1914*. This is a series of four Volumes that has collected and translated letters sent to Norway from different places in America. I have acquired the hardcopy of Volume 3 of this series, with letters dated from 1893 to 1914. The books are originally written in Norwegian and Øverland himself has translated the letters from Norwegian to English, with an extensive preface, foreword, and introduction. In these letters we find different topics

²⁶ Lovoll, Odd S., *The Promise of America: A History of the Norwegian-American People*, Rev. ed., University of Minnesota, Minnesota, 1999.

²⁷ Lovoll, Odd S., *Norwegian Newspapers in America. Connecting Norway and the New Land*. Minnesota Historical Society Press, Minnesota, 2010. E-book, purchased through Ark.no.

reigning from what life in America is like, the good, the bad and the ugly, as well as the starting point for travel plans and just plain family updates. The letters range from short to long, and some are even double letters or contain writings from more than one day. Øverland also provides some form of context for the letters if certain information is missing, and general information that is key for understanding the letters. This means that the letters themselves can be used as primary sources and can provide further context for how Norwegian immigrants in America were feeling about the changes happening in relations to immigration.²⁸

Sverre Mørkhagen has written a series of three books that looks at the Norwegian immigration across the Atlantic. His books have a focus of the early immigration stages, but also how Norwegians adapted and settled in America. It is his third instalment in this series that is particularly of use for this thesis as it focuses on Norwegians in America and Canada from the 1900's and onward. The book is called *Det Norske Amerika. Nordmenn I USA og Canada 1900-1975*.²⁹ It is the first part in this book called "Konflikter, Krig og Feiring, 1900-1925" that contains the most relevant information to my thesis. In this chapter Mørkhagen deals with the major developments of the Norwegian-American communities in the first quarter of the century. He also writes about the struggle with identity and the development of anti-immigration sentiments. He details how the Norwegian-American community socially developed with the different ideas of identity and belonging in a foreign country.

Ingrid Semmingsen and *Drøm og Dåd. Utvandringen til Amerika*.³⁰ This is the oldest book in the collection of literature I have used. Published in 1975, Semmingsen spends her time telling the story of different people, regarding their lives and journeys from Norway to America. Semmingsen uses key topics like religion, media, politics, and organization, to show the reader that these were important parts of the establishing of a Norwegian-American community. Semmingsen also looks at the specific importance of Norwegian involvement in local and state politics. Pointing to the strength of Norwegian Nationalism and the building of

²⁸ Øverland, Orm, *Immigrant Minds, American Identities. Making the United States Home, 1870-1930*. University of Illinois Press, 2000.

²⁹ Mørkhagen, Sverre, *Det Norske Amerika. Nordmenn i USA og Canada 1900-1975*, Gyldendal Norsk Forlag AS, Norge, 2012

³⁰ Semmingsen, Ingrid, *Drøm og Dåd. Utvandringen til Amerika*, H. Aschehoug & CO. (W. Nygaard), Oslo, 1975.

a group mentality. Further, she writes about the development of the Norwegian American communities and their development. Particularly mentioning the assimilation participation in politics brought, the urbanization of the community that brought the Norwegian people into universities and industries previously unobtainable for immigrants. Also discussing the turn away from a strong use of the Norwegian language to notably less use of it.

My interpretation of the Historiography.

In contrast to existing literature, my thesis explores immigrant experiences through the lens of newspapers. I have found that whilst most literature briefly mentions newspapers, it looks like they do not focus to use them as main sources. These works that I have previously mentioned are fantastic at giving a general view of the topic of Immigration to the US. However, I found that the literature mostly skimmed over Issues regarding the living experiences of Norwegian immigrants in the US.

My opinion on these works is that they provide a good general ground to look back at, but they are rather surface level. As my thesis is about looking at the experiences of Norwegian Immigrants through the media, this provides less in-depth literature than I would like. My main gripe with some of the material is the generalization of the importance of media. Whilst much of the literature points to media and newspapers as important, I think they put too little weight on the importance of them. The Newspapers were generally widespread and as Odd S. Lovoll mentions in Chapter 6 of *The Promise of America*, the press and the newspapers were critical in spreading information and tying the Scandinavian communities together.

Another thing I find to be quite puzzling is how most literature seem to not acknowledge how much of the Scandinavian communities were involved in labor and politics. Whilst the newspapers I use as sources for this thesis mention politics and the impact Norwegians had on organization and social life, so much of the literature only scratches the surface. Ingrid Semmingsen spends most of her book looking at the Norwegian immigrant life, by detailing key aspects of the new life in America.

I find that the literature I've read lacks the human aspect of immigration, and therefore loses the connection to the topic. Immigration is inherently human, and so much of the literature is lost to statistics that never really provide a deeper look into the emerging societies. I

understand that the statistics and numbers play a role in giving the full big picture of immigration and its effect, but for this thesis I wanted something that would provide a more narrow and closer look at life as a Norwegian immigrant in America. I toughly enjoyed Semmingsen and her book, as it is one of the few works that ponders the question “what if there was no mass exodus”, seeing as most literature spend their time detailing all the downsides to mass emigration, Semmingsen says that for all we know things in Norway might have taken a turn for the worse regarding mortality and economy, had it not been for the mass exodus.

I think that the literature I have selected all in some way shows how the communities suffered social decline in connection with the declining immigration. I however do not feel that there is enough focus on the direct implication of the decline. Also, something that is less prevalent in most of the books is the economic contributions Norwegians in America made to the homeland. Numbered amounts and estimates are given and provided in the Newspaper sources, however it seems to be less of a focal point in the existing literature. I find the existing literature to be vague and broad, rather than as in-depth and focused as I would like. This has made it difficult to identify what literature is relevant and befitting my thesis, and difficult to place myself.

Chapter 1: Background and context.

In this chapter I am looking at background material and to set some context for the topic of this thesis. I have divided this chapter into 5 parts, detailing different aspects that I deem important to have in mind when reading the thesis. I start with the topic of America and Immigration, here then further detailing the relationship of immigration between Norway and America. Then I move to the topic of America regarding laws and restriction towards immigration. As the third topic, I chose to look at America and its relationship with race and ethnicity. I did this because I think it provides further nuance to the subject of Norwegian immigration to America. In the fourth part-chapter I detail and look at Norwegians in America. I also here detail the background of the two newspapers I have chosen to use as primary sources. And lastly, for the fifth part of this chapter I have chosen to contextualize the decade of 1900 too 1910. I did this to place the thesis properly in context with my chosen timeframe.

1.1 America and Immigration.

Often, we can attribute migration to developments in our social circle. From the developments of colonization and discovering new parts of the world, there is a distinct pattern of settlement and social development. When we establish a timeline for migration, we often start with the European period of expansion in the 16th century, the industrial revolution in the 19th century, and then the highpoint of migration from mid 19th century up to World War 1. Transatlantic migration is typically placed between 1850 and 1914, and international migration is classified as a strong driving force of globalization. Going from internal migration with the move from rural to urban places, then factoring in the social and economic development as a result, we can also assume that the next step would be to migrate to industrialized countries. Considering the class and financial situation of migrating people, we see that migration is a privilege and that it factors in for the result of the migration.³¹

³¹ Castles, Stephen, Hein De Haas, and Mark J Miller. *The Age of Migration: International Population Movements In the Modern World*. Fifth edition. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014. P. 5-7.

Mass migration to America is described as coming in three waves; “(1) from the 1840’s to 1850’s, (2) the late 1800’s and up until World War 1, and (3) the more recent decades.”³²

Immigrants has been seen as an economic asset for a long time. We know that they provided cheap labor and aided in the development of the countries that they migrated to. During the first two waves around 70 percent of people leaving their homes in Europe left for America in hopes to better their lives. Alan M. Kraut writes in *The Huddled Masses* that “Between 1880 and 1921, over 23,500,000 people from other lands took advantage of America’s lenient immigration policies and came to the United States.”³³ Immigrants to America has for the most part of immigration history been seen as economic assets, and it is strongly related to industry and labor.

We know that the waves of immigration happened in thread with the developing industries, and the urbanization of America. The creation of larger cities and the progressive expansion of industry created a need for skilled and unskilled labor, and the development of the American “high” society created a tense atmosphere that would develop into hate and discrimination. So where does that leave the Norwegians in America? The focus on victory stories from people immigrating to America was used to push for further immigration, focusing on Homesteads and Settlers. As people in the homelands relied on positive experiences from emigrated friends and family members to even consider emigrating themselves.³⁴

1.1.1 From Norway

The sloop known as *Restauration* left Stavanger in July 1825 and arrived in New York in October 1825. The group of people emigrating from Norway became known as the Sloopers and were the first Norwegians to settle in colonies or create settlements in the American Mid-West. The first waves of emigration from Norway were colored by religious and economic motivations. The Sloopers were Quackers wanting to settle in America because of the freedom to practice religion there.³⁵ For quite some time the traveling route for most

³² Gerber, *American Immigration*, 2011, p. 2.

³³ Kraut, *The Huddled Masses*, 2011. P. 3.

³⁴ Odd S. Lovoll points to the importance of America letters in *Across the Deep Blue Sea*, and Orm Øverland talks about the importance of the Letters in the introduction of *From America to Norway. Norwegian-American Immigrant Letters 1838-1914*. Vol. 3: 1893-1914.

³⁵ Lovoll, *Across The Deep Blue Sea*, 2015, p. 19.

Norwegians immigrating to America, was through Canada and the key Canadian ports, seeing as more and more immigrants from Norway were wanting to settle in the Mid-West. All parts of Norway were affected by the mass immigration, both in decreasing of population, but also the expanded trade with the different western countries, like the timber trade with Canada. During the decades of mass immigration, there was also a big campaign to recruit settlers to the new territories and states in America. Norwegians also took part in the American Civil War and was also a part of the conflict with the Native Sioux tribe. Essentially, towards the 20th century, the focus went from settling in Canada to grab close to free land in America. However, there is also an argument to be made for the urbanization of immigration. Big cities grew, and new cities popped up. Towards the height of immigration more and more immigrants decided to settle in more urban environments.

The interesting part of the later immigration to me, is the active campaigning for settlers. As time passes and the waves of immigration increases, we know that there is a general push for limiting immigration. The limitations could not however be so obviously aimed at people from less “desirable” places, so they needed to do something with the popular perception of America. By outlawing campaigns for immigrants, making it illegal to arrive on tickets bought by companies, or making promises of jobs upon arrival. We know that between 1825 to 1925 around 850 000 Norwegians left their home country, most of them going to the United States of America.³⁶

Through the years, immigrational patterns began to emerge. Here we see that a pattern emerges, where Norwegian people settle mostly in the mid-west and that they often would settle in groups. Through this grows new traditions and a bigger community. In America we can see larger groups of Scandinavians identifying and connecting with each other. In Norwegian communities we see a need for keeping the Norwegian roots despite the push for Americanization. The previously isolated immigrant communities grew bigger and would go on to push for the keeping of Norwegian language in schools, the establishment of Norwegian churches and newspaper. In *The Promise of America*, Lovoll states that the first decade of the

³⁶ There are conflicting numbers on exactly how many Norwegians did immigrate to the United States, David A. Gerber estimates the number to be 677,000, between 1865 and 1915 in *American Immigration. A Very Short Introduction* on page 67. Jan Eivind Myhre wrote on the University of Oslo’s webpage for Norwegian History that the number of immigrants from Norway to America was 800,000 between 1830 and 1920.

20th century was one of prosperous growth in both Norway and America. After 1905 the Norwegian government asked people emigrating for their reasoning, and most people said that they could not find good employment. Lovoll states that between 1900 and 1914, 214,985 Norwegians left the country.³⁷ In 1907, 22,135 Norwegians immigrated to America.³⁸

In the period between World War 1 and World War 2, particularly the years between 1920 and 1929, around 888,520 Norwegians emigrated. The numbers peaked in 1923 with over 18,000 people emigrating. When the National Origins Quota was introduced and put in effect, Norway was granted a quota of 2,377. Lovoll proposes that the number of immigrants would have been greater had it not been for the restrictions in 1920's. Due to the Great Depression and economic decline in the 1930's immigration declined rapidly, and during World War 2 regular immigration was non-existent. Lovoll also says that the Great Depression was a catalyst for the return of around 32,000 people to Norway, stating that return migration is closely related to the cycles of business and economy. With good and bad times, creating a push and pull effect on both sides of the Atlantic.³⁹

After the end of World War 2, immigration continued to decline. Lovoll says that around "... 50,000 Norwegians have moved to the United States and around 10,000 to Canada since World War II." During the rest of the 20th century Norwegian immigration to the US is linked to skilled labor and temporary stays for school and work. Lovoll calls Norway a victim of "Brain Draining" seeing as professors and engineers would relocate to the US, and many students chose to enroll in American institutions. The dream of America lost its shine regarding permanent migration in search of a better life.⁴⁰

³⁷ Lovoll, *The Promise of America*, 1999, P. 37.

³⁸ Mørkhagen, *Det Norske Amerika*, 2012, P. 178.

³⁹ Lovoll, *The Promise of America*, 1999, P. 37-38.

⁴⁰ Lovoll, *The Promise of America*, 1999, P. 39-40.

1.2 America: Laws and Restrictions.

When America gains its Independence from Great Britain in 1776, immigration was not a legislative issue. And for the next century there would be no federal effort to restrict immigration. Whilst The Homestead Act of 1862⁴¹ is not an immigration law, it can be perceived as the initial pulling force behind mass immigration. The Homestead Act provided the first written piece of legislative incentive of immigration to inhabit and cultivate lands, and help the US grow their economy. Created with the intention to clear and cultivate land, The Homestead Act was to give willing people the option to come to the US. It opened for owning land and seeking opportunity, and in return you would have to declare intentions to stay and cultivate the land for a minimum of five years, and if you were an Alien, you could then retain naturalization. The Homestead Act is one of the main drivers for Norwegian immigration to the US, and whilst it is heavily debated whether the Act was beneficial to the economy, the Act certainly was part of making societal progress.

When we look at the topic of immigration to the US, we see that time and time again there have been discussions about who should be permitted to enter. Starting in the mid 1800's we see the opening of immigration from China when labor was needed in relation to the western railroad, work in gold mines, and other industrious work. For some time, the immigration of Chinese people benefited the expansion of the Western US, however the number of immigrants that came to the country also caused an uproar. *The Chinese Exclusion Act* from 1882, is an act that very specifically calls out the mass immigration of Chinese people and was not repealed until 1943.⁴² Further in 1885, the Foran Act was introduced. This act was put in place to prohibit the bringing of unskilled laborers to the United States. This meaning that companies or individuals could not contract people to come to America for work. This act

⁴¹ US Congress, *U.S. Statutes at Large, Volume 12 -1861, 36th and 37th Congress*. "CHAP 75. An Act to secure Homesteads to actual Settlers on the Public Domain." United States, 1880-1863. *This particular part of the document was not available through Library of Congress; it was however available through Digital Commons at https://digitalcommons.csumb.edu/hornbeck_usa_2_d/12/

⁴² U.S. Department of State, Office of the Historian, *Chinese Immigration and the Chinese Exclusion Act*, <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1866-1898/chinese-immigration>

did make exceptions for people involved in trade that was developing, people with educations or occupations such as singers, actors, educators etc.⁴³

And then sequentially afterwards more and more legislations are created in effort to deal with immigration. In 1892 the Geary Act is created; its main goal was to further the Chinese exclusion act. Then, in 1894, a treaty between America and Japan is created. It grants the Japanese people in America equal rights as citizens, without making them actual citizens. At the turn of the century, we get the Immigration Act of 1903, also known as the Anarchist Exclusion Act, having as a main goal to exclude people who would not respect the government and people who could not take care of themselves. Further in 1906, a Naturalization Act is established, creating the national organ that would take over the responsibility of making sure the “right” type of people became citizens. Moving on to 1907, when the 1903 Act is repealed and replaced with the new Act. The Expatriation Act is also introduced in 1907. In a controversy, President Roosevelt introduces on March 14th, 1907, the Presidential Executive order 589, which enables the Secretary of Commerce and Labor to restrict Japanese and Korean laborers from the US at will. This year also sees Roosevelt making what is known as the Gentleman’s agreement with Japan, making it so that immigration into both countries from one another is halted. Immigration continues to be a talking point, but there seem to be a general agreement of satisfaction of terms until the start of World War 1.

The Immigration Act of 1917 is the start of what would become a more general restrictive immigration policy. It restricted immigration from certain Asian areas, and after many tries the literacy test was finally implemented. From this point onward, the system of quotation immigration is introduced. The Emergency Quota Act, or immigration act of 1921, restricts the number of immigrants per country to the US down to 3% of the total number foreign-born in the 1910 census, limiting the total amount of immigrants to 375,000 people. Then comes the Johnson-Reed Act of 1924, beginning the National Origins quota system. Using numbers based on the 1890 census, to limit immigration down to 2% of total foreign-born people, around 150,000 people per year. The allotting a set number of immigrants based on their nationality. In the interwar period, and due to the great depression, immigration is lowered

⁴³U.S. Congress. *U.S. Statutes at Large, Volume 23 -1885, 48th Congress*. United States, 1884- 1885. Periodical. Retrieved from the Library of Congress.

drastically. In the aftermath of World War 2, we get the McCarran-Walter Act of 1952, which revises parts of Johnson-Reed Act, and repeals exclusion of Asian immigrants, however it still maintains the National Origins quota. Then in 1965 the Hart-Celler Act comes into play. It replaces Johnson-Reed completely, it eliminates national origins quota, and sets general annual numeric ceilings for immigrants to enter the country.

When the Emergency Quota act was introduced, in 1921, the awarded quota for Norwegian immigration was estimated to around 21,000 people. And when the Johnson-Reed Act came in 1924, the number was further reduced to 6453 people. Only a year after the arrival of over 18,000 Norwegians to America.⁴⁴ In *Across the Deep Blue Sea*, Lovoll states that “According to the official data, between 1886 and 1930, a total of 38,661 Norwegians had Canada as their final destination; 54 percent emigrated in the decade of the 1920’s, in part due to restrictions on immigration to the United States.”⁴⁵

America has an interesting relationship with immigration and legislation. Starting with the push for a bigger population, for it to then evolve into wanting to control who is allowed into the country and who is allowed to stay.

1.3 America’s Relationship with Race and Ethnicity.

Inherently there is a significant difference between America and the rest of the world when viewing the question of race. One can speculate as to why there is such a big difference in the perception of race, but one thing can be assured, race still plays a big role in America. Since the creation of the United States of America, there has been an inherent separation of people based on race. As the slave trade made so much money, the economic value of separating people into race was valued. The American notion of race is rooted in the idea of white supremacy. So, whilst black people were slaves and a vital part of the cheap labor force, Native Americans were viewed as savages that needed to be eradicated. What happens then to the social construct around race, when immigrants are not living up to the standards of American society? Well, the race hierarchy is further established and elaborated. White people were not just white, they were further classified. From around 1840’s, before the major waves of immigration starts to take place, to the 1920’s, white people are divided further to

⁴⁴ Mørkhagen, *Det Norske Amerika*, 2012, p. 178-179.

⁴⁵ Lovoll, *Across the Deep Blue Sea*, 2015, p. 175.

Anglo-Saxons and “others”. This practice of othering proved that the hierarchy of whiteness would essentially affect other white Europeans in different ways than before. We know further that Europeans like Irish, Italian, and German people would around the 1900’s face progressively growing discrimination and prejudice. Also rendering new subcategories such as Hebrew, Celts, Slavs, Mediterranean, and so on, making the categories of others larger.⁴⁶

In the introduction of *The Huddled Masses*, Kraut writes that “... premigration education and class positions did not matter at all to caucasian Americans, who perceived color first and prior social status a distant second, if at all.” when discussing the immigration of African people from the West-Indies, and their place in American society. No matter what their lives were like before and where they came from, they were automatically included in the African American group.⁴⁷

In *Coming to America* Roger Daniels dedicates chapter 5 to discussing the history of “race” and its evolution in American society. Starting by acknowledging that what is known as the American slave trade, started with the enslavement of Native Americans, but transitioned to the transatlantic slave trade of Africans once the “supply of Native Americans” ran out due to the different conflicts and diseases that eradicated mass amounts of people. Daniels states that reliable numbers are hard to come by, but that the number of Native slaves fell drastically after 1719 and that from this point onward African slavery would start to dominate. During this greater period of African slavery, the white-black race relations became a matter of law. The situation developed in such a manner that whilst there is a difference between the northern and southern states, slavery was common for all states before the Civil War. Keeping in mind that the common American mythos does not generally acknowledge the notion of race relations in the northern colonies. Free black people coexisted with enslaved black people, but however free they were, they were still subjected to different rules outlawing the execution of total free will. By law they could testify in court, own and transfer land, and were given general status. They also had a curfew, interracial relationships were outlawed, and they could not house or harbor enslaved people without permission from said enslaved person’s master. Daniels states that whilst there is no direct analogy between assimilation for black people and European immigrants, there is certainly a commonality between the way

⁴⁶ Jacobson, Matthew Frye, “Anglo-Saxons and Others, 1840-1924” *Whiteness of a different color. European Immigrants and the Alchemy of Race*, Harvard University Press, 1998.

⁴⁷ Kraut, *The Huddled Masses*, 2nd edit., 2011, p. 9

Asian immigrants in the west was treated to how black people were treated. This also points to the development of ethnic discrimination as becoming more natural as time passes.

The implications of race and ethnicity also affected the Norwegian-American communities. Mørkhagen depicts the development of anti-immigration and anti-hyphenated-Americans as something that created a divide in the Norwegian-American communities. Stating that the developing ideas caused the communities to lessen use of Norwegian language and fully immerse themselves in what would be defined as “fully” American. Mørkhagen also discusses how important knowing English became if the incoming immigrants wanted to prosper in America. Saying that an inferiority complex was starting to severely effect the immigrant community. This was largely due to the growth of Americanization, and lead to many of the Norwegian immigrants to find the typical Norwegian things as simple or less than.⁴⁸ Mørkhagen also points out that this feeling of inadequacy and wanting to shed the Norwegian in favor of the American exploded in the aftermath of World War 1. This phenomenon did not just affect the Norwegian communities, but most of the communities that were deemed “others”. From 1915 there is also the aspect of the Ku Klux Klan to consider as a driving force behind the shedding of the hyphen, given that they considered most northern European protestants to be “pure”. Anybody not fitting that description could be a target.⁴⁹

1.4 Norwegian Press in America.

For this thesis I am focusing my attention on to two of the biggest Norwegian newspapers in America, that were publishing in full force between 1903 and 1907. Since the Norwegian population in America was growing there existed a plethora of newspaper publishing in Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish. The goal was to bring news from near and far to the ever-growing communities. Whilst there have been several different newspapers in circulation my focus falls on *Decorah-Posten* and *Minneapolis Tidende*, known also as two of “the Big Three” of Norwegian-American press.⁵⁰ The two different newspapers were both extremely popular with the Norwegian and Scandinavian people in America. Norwegian press in America “Though severely challenged by the intolerant nativism of World War I, a

⁴⁸ Mørkhagen, *Det Norske Amerika*, 2012, P. 141-146.

⁴⁹ Mørkhagen, *Det Norske Amerika*, 2012, P. 172-177.

⁵⁰ Lovoll, *The Promise of America*, 1999, P. 181

Norwegian American community flourished from the mid-1890s until the end of the 1920s—in many respects the Golden Age of Norwegian America.”⁵¹

Decorah-Posten (og Ved Arnen).

Decorah-Posten has long been considered the biggest and longest-running foreign-language papers in the state of Iowa, and one of the biggest Norwegian newspapers in America. With a long publishing history, the newspaper was established in 1874 by Brynild Anundsen, and continued to publish for decades. Born in Skien, Norway, and with little formal education Anundsen left for North America at the age of 20. In April 1864 he arrived in Quebec. He relocated to Milwaukee before deciding to settle in La Crosse, Wisconsin. He married Mathilde Hoffstrom in 1864, and they managed to purchase a printing press in the following year. They then began publishing a Norwegian literary magazine called *Ved Arnen*. In 1867 the Synod of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church offered Anundsen a job as a printer, so they moved to Decorah, Iowa. *Decorah-Posten* launched on September 18, 1874, and Anundsen had great success with this paper. The newspaper focused on local news as well as stories from Norway and the Scandinavian communities in the United States and was strictly nonpartisan. It also stayed true to Anundsen's literary interests, and eventually reviving *Ved Arnen* as a literary supplement to the newspaper. The *Decorah-Posten's* circulation grew to over 20,000, by its second decade. Anundsen remained as publisher but passed the editorial role on to others. Johannes B. Wist served as editor from 1901 until his death in 1923. He was succeeded by co-editors Kristian Prestgard and Simon Johnson. The *Decorah-Posten* continued to prosper, absorbing the *Minneapolis Tidende* in 1935 and *Skandinaven* in 1941. *Decorah-Posten* ceased in 1972, when it was purchased by the *Western Viking*, after 98 years of publishing. In total, *Decorah-Posten* and *Decorah-Posten og Ved Arnen* published over 4000 issues in their publishing time.⁵² *Decorah-Posten* had a bigger focus on world news and the relationships of foreign affairs and news from Scandinavia, rather than restricting world news for local stories.

⁵¹ Lovoll, Odd S., *Norwegian Newspapers in America. Connecting Norway to the New Land*. Minnesota Historical Society, Minnesota, 2010. P. 212 in the E-Book.

⁵² Library of Congress, *Decorah-Posten* <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84024501/> & <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=ðnicity=&language=nor>

Minneapolis Tidende.

Minneapolis Tidende began publication in January 1895, after absorbing two local Norwegian-language weekly papers – *Budstikken* and *Fædrelandet og Emigranten* to become a weekly edition of *Minneapolis Daglig Tidende*. As a newspaper published in Norwegian, *Minneapolis Tidende* served what was at the time a large and growing population of Norwegian Americans. In 1914 the newspaper had an average circulation of 32,000. Making the newspaper one of the most widely read Norwegian-language newspapers in the United States, as it reached far beyond the twin cities and into neighboring states. In 1887, 33-year-old Thorvald Guldbrandsen, moved from North Dakota to Minneapolis. Guldbrandsen began publishing the *Minneapolis Daglig Tidende* in January 1887. Later in 1895 he debuted the weekly *Minneapolis Tidende*. It emerged as the primary paper for the Norwegian communities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, and later of greater Minnesota and the adjoining states as well. In 1907, the newspaper went on to absorb the Danish-language newspaper *Nordvesten*. Although *Minneapolis Tidende* identified itself as a Democratic newspaper, it did not regularly advocate partisan political opinions. Instead, during political campaigns, it vigorously championed what it saw as deserving candidates of Norwegian heritage - who, for the most part, also shared the paper's political opinions. Declining circulation, economic hardships brought on by the Great Depression, and the death in 1934 of owner and publisher Thorvald Guldbrandsen forced *Minneapolis Tidende* to cease publication the following year. *Minneapolis Tidende* was subsequently absorbed by one of its regional competitors, Iowa's *Decorah-Posten og Ved Arnen*.

Minneapolis Tidende has a much more local focus. This focus being on the cities Minneapolis and St. Paul, the states Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, North and South Dakota, some general and interesting news from the rest of the US, and a few events from around the world. The paper has more local information about deaths, particular of notice here is the extreme volume of suicide and murder reports, and news of marriage and divorces.

1.5 Contextualizing 1900 to 1910.

In the first decade of the 20th century the world is faced with a general globalization issue. The movement and migration of people in the millions is taking its toll on the public and the social standards of marginalized people. The political situation in different countries develops at a fast pace. The decade is famously known as the “Edwardian-era”, as Queen Victoria dies in 1901 leaving her son Edward the 7th as King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. First-wave feminism and the creation of the suffragette movement takes root.

Norway, Cuba and Bulgaria gain their independence. The commonwealth of Australia is established. Conflict wise, the decade saw the preamble of World War 1 with the rise in conflicts and revolutions. This period is colored by the acts of Genocide in Armenia, and Southwest Africa. The Russo-Japanese War, that gains Theodore Roosevelt a Nobel Peace Prize, happens. As well as the First Russian Revolution of 1905. The Assassination of Umberto I of Italy in 1900 and William McKinley in 1901, is the result of the growing anarchist ideology.

During the decade there is a string of disasters that leaves a path of wreckage, such as the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire, the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 1906, and a typhoon and tsunami in Hong Kong in 1907. You also have the Paris Metro train fire in 1903, the sinking of *SS Norge* in 1904 that kills 635 people, including 225 Norwegian immigrants, and the sinking of *SS Valencia* in 1906, that kills 136 people. Science and technology are exponentially developed during this decade. Einstein first proposes the principles of the $E=MC^2$ theory as well as his Theory of Relativity in 1905. The seismograph was first built in 1900 and the Geiger counter was developed by Hans Geiger in 1908. Thomas Edison crates the nickel-alkaline battery in 1900, and the electric typewriter is invented in 1901 by George Canfield Blickensderfer. The brownie camera was invented in 1900 and popularizes low-cost photography, this marked the beginning of the Eastman Kodak Company. Willis Carrier invented the first indoor Air-conditioning in 1902. Windshield-wipers were invented by a woman named Mary Anderson in 1903. The construction of the Panama Canal is started in 1904 and would last up until 1914, and the Ford Model T is introduced in 1908.⁵³

⁵³ This information was retrieved from ThoughtCo's rticle "Events and Inventions of the First Decade of the 20th Century" at <https://www.thoughtco.com/1900s-timeline-1779947> and the Wikipedia article "1900s (decade)" at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1900s_\(decade\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1900s_(decade))

Chapter 2: 1903.

In this chapter I will focus on the Immigration Act of 1903, and then look at the published articles from the newspapers *Decorah-Posten* and *Minneapolis Tidende*. I will be looking at the published articles between January and June, as this supports the timeframe of enactment for the Immigration Act.

“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free...”⁵⁴ is a part of the poem *The New Colossus*, written by Emma Lazarus in 1883. Originally the poem written for an auction, raising money for the creation of the pedestal that the Statue of Liberty was going to stand on. Twenty years later, in 1903, the Statue of Liberty was embellished with the poem. The poem, and particularly the sentence above is often used to symbolize how important the U.S. was to immigrants, and vice-versa. Creating an imagery of immigrants on a ship sailing into New York, wishing for a home that would allow for freedom in all aspects of life. This was not just a wish for so many people, but a must. Particularly in the case of people being displaced because of religion or political beliefs, the hope that America would be a free space to practice and live freely still lived on. 1903 is a year that is plagued by political and religious unrest in eastern Europe, which is present in the newspapers almost daily.

2.1 The Immigration Act of 1903.

The fifty seventh congress, on March 3rd, 1903, voted to enact what is known as “*An Act To Regulate the immigration of aliens into the United States*” or also known as Immigration Act of 1903. The act has 39 sections, spanning from barring contract labor immigration, to prohibiting trafficking of women for prostitution. The Act’s first section in short demands a head tax of 2 dollars upon entry for people who are not citizens of the United States, the dominion of Canada, the Republic of Cuba, or the Republic of Mexico. It further states that the United States Treasury are to gather the taxes in an “immigrant fund”. Administered by Secretary of Treasury, this fund shall be used to cover the costs associated with running the different institutions connected with immigration, such as port authority, detaining facilities, and inspection personnel. Section 1 also states that the head tax shall be voided for people

⁵⁴ Emma Lazarus, *The New Colossus*, 1883.

who are in transit and travelling through the United States, people who have already paid the head tax to be admitted into the country. ⁵⁵

In section 2, the Act establishes what type of people should not be allowed to enter the country. It says:

“All idiots, insane persons, epileptics, and persons who have been insane within five years previous; persons who have had two or more attacks of insanity at any time previously; paupers; persons likely to become a public charge; professional beggars; persons afflicted with a loathsome or with a dangerous contagious disease; persons who have been convicted of a felony or other crime or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude; polygamists, anarchists, or persons who believe in or advocate the overthrow by force or violence of the Government of the United States or of all government or of all forms of law, or the assassination of public officials; prostitutes, and persons who procure or attempt to bring in prostitutes or women for the purpose of prostitution ...”⁵⁶

The Act of 1903 takes a special position to make an all-encompassing Act specifically dealing with the question of immigration and the ever-growing issue that it is causing. There are several acts that deal with the administration of an immigration specific branch of government and the process of having checks and controls at the ports of entry. A ship manifest that falls under the 1903 immigration act would then have to include the name of the ship, port of departure, date of departure, port of arrival, and date of arrival. The passengers would have to give personal information such as; full name, age, sex, if they were married or single, their calling or occupation, whether they could read or write, nationality, race, last permanent residence; final destination, if they had a ticket for further travel, if their ticket was paid for and by who, how much money they were in possession of, if they had ever been in the US before and if so when; whether they are joining friends or family, full name of said person and their full address; whether they had ever been convicted of a crime or misdemeanor, if they were a polygamist, if they were anarchist, the condition of their mental and physical health, if they were deformed or crippled and if so when and how it happened; their height, color of

⁵⁵ The U.S. Congress, *U.S. Statutes at Large, Volume 32 -1903, 57th Congress*. “CHAP. 1012. An Act To regulate the immigration of aliens into the United States.” United States, 1902 -1903. Periodical. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/lsl-v32/> p. 1212-1213.

⁵⁶ The U.S. Congress, *U.S. Statutes at Large, Volume 32 -1903*, “CHAP. 1012. An Act To regulate the immigration of aliens into the United States.” 1902 -1903, P. 1213-1214.

their complexion, color of hair, and color of eyes, if there are any marks of identification; and finally place of birth.⁵⁷

It also in section 36, state that this Act does not interfere or amend the Chinese exclusion Act. One can further speculate that the specifics of excluding anarchists, has ties to the assassination of William McKinley. Seeing as there is specification of Anarchists, Polygamists, and prostitutes. Further, this act does go on to establish the “immigration fund”, outlawing advertising and the promising of work and land to foreigners, also establishing rules and guidelines for government officials to follow. The Act also creates penalties for the breaching of the established rules, such as fines, deportation, or the loss of a job. Also established in this Act is the divide of power to the courts, immigration service, and port authorities. Alcohol is also established as illegal to sell or provide within the limits of the capitol building. Section 39 of this Act deals with naturalization of Aliens to the United States, defining that naturalization is forbidden for anarchists or “... person who disbelieves in or who is opposed to all organized government ...”⁵⁸. The act is Approved on March 3rd and is then set to take affect 90 days after, around June 1st, 1903.

2.2 *Decorah-Posten*, January to June.

The year of 1903 is the last year *Decorah-Posten*⁵⁹ publishes under this specific name. On January 2nd, a call for people to move west is published on page 2 of the paper. Here it is written “Horace Greely gav i sin tid unge mænd, der ønskede at komme frem i verden, det gyldne raad, at de burde reise vestover og følge sin lykke der.”, or roughly translated, “Horace Greely gave in his time young men, that wanted to advance in the world, the golden advice, to travel west and follow their luck there.” This article further discusses that a Dr. Pearsons from Chicago is urging people to move out west, also saying that the success of the development in the west is because of the European immigration. Dr. Pearson insinuates that the European immigrant should be thanked for the progress that the west has made.⁶⁰

⁵⁷ The example I have used here, is a copy of *S.S. Hellig Olav*'s from the 15th of May 1907, which can be accessed through their website.

⁵⁸ The U.S. Congress, *U.S. Statutes at Large, Volume 32 -1903*, “CHAP. 1012. An Act To regulate the immigration of aliens into the United States.” 1902 -1903, P. 1222.

⁵⁹ Hereafter referred to as *DP*.

⁶⁰ *DP*, 02.03.1903, p. 2

On January 20th, there is a written piece that talks about immigration commissioner Frank B. Sargent, whom in Philadelphia had held a lecture on immigration and the country's future. By stating that there had been a lowering of criminal activity at Ellis Island, and that this was mostly due to President Roosevelt's decision to hand over responsibility over the Island to one man who brought structure and discipline to the workers at the Island. Further he states that some people will end up being sent back unjustly, but that not everything will ever be fair for all. Even though the Island is functioning, the overall state is poor. He has requested 800,000 \$ for expansion of the buildings. ⁶¹

DP writes shortly about the immigration situation for Jewish people on January 23rd. The start of this article is nearly illegible online, but from what I can make of it, it starts by relaying statistics of Jewish immigrants in the country. Pieced together, it states that of the 1.8 million immigrants that had arrived since 1899, some 11 percent were Jewish. The article gives the displacement of Jews in Russia, Romania, and Austria-Hungary, as reason for the increase in immigration. Further the article also establishes that they settle in the cities, and state that in New York City there are half a million Jews. Going as far to say that Americans generally don't have anything against the Jews immigrating. Inferring later that this is because of their willingness to work and further their lives, their values regarding family, and their willingness to stay in the country. An unexpected turn in this article, is the comparison of Jewish and Italian immigrants. I expected very much to see prejudice against these groups given the social changes of the early 1900's, I did however not expect that Jews would be looked upon as the better immigrant. The article says Jews are respectful towards law and order, compared to the Italians. It also says that the Jews immigrate with the intentions to stay, but that the Italians does not in most cases intend to stay in the country but leave as soon as they make money. ⁶²

An interesting topic is brought up on the 27th of January. An article says that President Roosevelt has nominated a black man for a position as the toll collector in Charleston, South Carolina. This is met with opposition, and a Mr. Tillman speaks that no attitudes towards black people have changed in the south and that this would go against the people of the south's will. The newspaper calls this a case of principles, and that the prejudice against a

⁶¹ *DP*, 20.01.1903, p. 3

⁶² *DP*, 23.01.1903, p. 4

person's skin color would not move the president from his decision. Noting that the President refuses to let southern hate of black people tie the hands of the government.⁶³

On the 30th of January the newspaper quotes an article from "Aftenposten" in Kristiania, where they fret over the loss of workforce due to the mass exodus. But there is a positive spin here. Due to the mass amounts of money being sent back to the families, the economy is not doing too bad after all. Money, in the sum of millions, is every year being sent back home, and it is being viewed as a debt payment for the loss of prime workforce.

On the 6th of February, *DP* writes that the growing immigration from Europe is causing worry for certain Americans. It is also discussed what would be the best plan of attack for limiting immigration. Dr. A.J. McLaughlin states that he is against the proposal for a knowledge-test because it would rule out immigrants that were able-bodied and wanted to work. It would not necessarily rule out the immigrants with diseases, who were poor or criminals. To deal with this he instead proposes to extend the government overview of immigrants, particularly by stretching authority to deport ill people and criminals, by increasing the "trial years" from one year to five years, and then imposing a higher head tax. This article mentions the discrimination against hardworking people that could be turned away because of the proposed knowledge test. The matter at hand is that the country needed people who were hardworking and intended to stay in America.⁶⁴ Also published on the 6th of February, is an article in the newspaper that mentions the Norwegian contribution to the Library of Congress and its recent yearly report. It states that most people would not know what the report is about, but that it nevertheless is a big deal and a great source of pride.

Most of the notices on immigration during this cycle is pointed to limiting immigration of certain types of unwanted immigrants. On the 24th of February, the newspaper states that a new border guard has been commissioned to reduce the number of immigrants sneaking into the country through Canada. It is noted that due to the increasing amount of immigration to Canada, and the understaffing of said border stations, some people have managed to evade

⁶³ *DP*, 27.01.1903, p. 3

⁶⁴ *DP*, 06.02.1903, p. 2

control. They are now working to make sure that people not qualified to enter the country is caught and returned to where they came from.⁶⁵

On March 3rd the newspaper writes about the congress extra session, Mr. Fairbanks introduced the Immigration Bill and proposed the removal of the knowledge-test, this was approved. Further it was proposed to have the head tax be 2\$, this was also approved. Lastly it was also proposed to strike the section about the deportation of people who go mentally ill within two years of being in the country, this was also approved.⁶⁶ Further in this edition, the newspaper goes into detail of the previous year's discussions regarding the concept of a knowledge test. Going back to the presidency of Grover Cleveland and retelling his views on knowledge tests. Stating that Cleveland was under the impression that an educated but morally deprived person posed a bigger threat than someone able and willing to work but could not read.

On the front page of the Friday edition of *DP*, on March 20th, the new immigration law is presented, and the article details the new law and its functions. Starting by stating that the new law is much stricter than other previous law, and that the clarity of the language leaves no room for misinterpretation. Seeing as the head tax was 1\$ per person in the previous law, and that provided over 600,000\$ in profit, the raise to 2\$ would be extremely profitable for the government. The money would be helpful in maintaining the borders to Canada and Mexico. The article about immigration also relays the information regarding excluded groups of people. Emphasis is made regarding the fact that Chinese people are the only ones fully excluded, going as far as to say that they are easily identified and that there would be no trouble in upkeeping this part of the act. Stating that “Det lykkes kun slet at holde kineserene ude, skjønt de er saa let kjendelige: hvor meget mere da at stænge landet for mennesker, der ser ut som vi selv og er ligesaa kloge som vi”. Another article on the frontpage does also talk about the issues regarding the Chinese immigration, looking specifically at the involvement of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company in delivering Chinese immigrants to the US. A deal to implement stricter rules is made, and as the newspaper mentions, this law “skjærer ikke alle gule over en kam ...” But that it proves difficult to separate the classes from one another.⁶⁷

⁶⁵ *DP*, 24.02.1903, p. 8

⁶⁶ *DP*, 03.03.1903, p. 1

⁶⁷ *DP*, 20.03.1903, P. 1

In the month of April, several articles regarding immigration are published. Firstly, on the 3rd of April, mentioning March 29th as a day of massive immigration to Ellis Island where 4,569 people went through the gates of arrival. Stating that the prospects for immigration will continue to rise and that they do not expect low numbers in the coming months. It is further stated by Immigration Officials that there seem to be a better quality of immigrants that are arriving at port this year. On the 10th of April, General Commissioner of Immigration Frank Sargent, states that he has worked on a set of rules that will complement the new Immigration Act. The purpose of these rules is to help protect newly entered people not be scammed or taken advantage of. On the 14th of April, a new report from Ellis Island is published. Stating that in the first 10 days of the month some 38,000 people had arrived at port. ⁶⁸

June 2nd, 1903, an article written by Maxim Gorki(?), translated for *Decorah-Posten*, about the poor treatment of Jews. A personal story that really points to the state of the world and the hate towards “others”. 9th of June 1903, Russian laws revised for Jewish people. Letter to the newspaper from Russia, calling for help for Jews.

12th of June, Roosevelt speaks at the inauguration of a Dutch reform church in Washington. The newspaper connects with a statement made saying “This church is built for service, but we cannot serve God better than by helping other human beings”⁶⁹ He also states that there is “a particular responsibility placed on us that are here and safe, to support our brothers that come here from the other side of the ocean. That uproots themselves, and leave their previous communities, putting themselves in danger until they place roots in a new community.” Further also stating that the people coming over to this country now is “repeating our own history”. Compassionately Roosevelt speaks of bringing warmth to people who are experiencing something new and traumatizing, and that the American people owe it to the people struggling to be charitable towards the less fortunate. ⁷⁰

⁶⁸ *DP*, 03.04.1903, p. 1, 10.04.1903, p.1, & 14.03.1903

⁶⁹ *DP*, 12.06.1903, p. 1. Translated by me.

⁷⁰ *DP*, 12.06.1903, p. 1

2.3 *Minneapolis Tidende*, January to June.

Minneapolis Tidende publishes once a week. Again, to be able to compare the newspapers, I have chosen the same timeframe.⁷¹

This newspaper differs from *DP* as it contains more of an entertainment aspect, and the heavy aspect of advertisement. With pages on pages of advertisement for the up-and-coming territories in the West, such as North Dakota, South Dakota, and Canada. Containing small synopsis about the land areas and imploring the histories of settlers to pitch and sell the west. The main difference is the significant increase of advertisement in *MT*, and the addition of novellas published in several parts. There is a difference in what news are shared in *MT*, for example it seems to not be as big of a focus to this newspaper that the immigration laws changes, neither have they made a priority to report in depth what has been happening in Congress. The reporting in this newspaper is focusing on short and concise stories, without any necessity for abundance. There are still a few reports on the 1903 changes in immigration.

Starting with the piece titled “Indvandringen i 1902”, this article shortly talks about the amount of immigration coming through to New York in 1902. The number of immigrants is stated to be 545,751 according to the newspaper. The nationalities of the immigrants are given based on number of immigrants, most being Italian, then Austria-Hungarian, Russian, German, Norwegian, Sweden, Greece, and the UK. Further they state the settlement pattern of said groups of immigrants. Noting that Italians and Germans are branching out more and more of their old settlement patterns, by going west and to other parts of the country. Noted here is that they mention Jews and their pattern of settling in the New York Area, and that this is a continued trend.⁷²

On the 30th of January, a small note is made of the previous year’s immigration. 26,000 people is stated to have immigrated from Norway, and 11,200 of said people were supposedly from Kristiania. There is no statistic in this article to indicate how many traveled to the United States, though I assume the number would be very high seeing that immigrants from Norway were mentioned as one of the larger groups of nationality to immigrate into the US. On the 13th of March, an article writing about the hardships in Norway, has estimated the

⁷¹ Hereafter referred to as *MT*

⁷² *MT*, 09.01.1903, page 5.

immigration number of 1902 to be at 28,000, and further states that the extreme levels of immigration will continue to grow, and possibly be devastating for Norway. Further on the 27th of March, a new article is written that the number of arrived immigrants has risen in the last 12 months, including February. The new number of immigrants is a whopping 758,418 people.⁷³

On March 6th, three days after the immigration act is enacted, it is briefly mentioned in an article recounting the events of Congress that the act is approved. It states in the article that the section demanding a knowledge-test is stricken, and that the head-tax would be set to 2\$ and not 3\$. Further on March 20th, a more in-depth piece about the new immigration law is published. The article further specifies what classes of people are excluded, repeating the wording of the Immigration act. The newspaper also reports on the inclusion of the class of people who have adhere to dangerous teachings, stating that they are unsure of what this means, but assume that it will become clear as soon as the Act is put in motion. The author of this article also states that deciding what is a “dangerous teaching” should not be left for one singular person to decide.⁷⁴

In the two following weeks, on the 27th of March and the 3rd of April, it is reported on the immigration statistics and numbers. Looking at the immigration numbers, and particularly the rise in immigrants from January to February, the numbers are staggering. With a growth of almost 16,000 people from one month to another, it is no surprise that the newspaper reports on the new record set in March a few days later. The number of immigrants arriving to the US in March is at 64,000 people, and with two full days left of March at the time of reporting another 10,000 is expected to arrive at port.⁷⁵

On the 24th of April, some statistic about the emigration from Norway is published in the newspaper. In the first three months of the year, it is reported that around 7,700 Norwegians emigrated from the country. *MT* is reiterating the statistics from the Norwegian Newspaper “Verdens Gang” who did extensive research on the emigration in Norway for the year of 1902. They had made some calculations in 1902 about the total amount of emigrated Norwegians for that year and estimated around 30,000 people would emigrate, and whilst thy

⁷³ *MT*, 30.01.1903, p. 3, 13.03.1903, p. 2, 27.03.1903, p. 4

⁷⁴ *MT*, 06.03.1903, p. 1, & 20.03.1903, p. 4

⁷⁵ *MT*, 27.03.1903, p. 4, & 03.04.1903, p. 6

were old that they grossly overestimated the numbers, reports came back to a total of 28,000 emigrants. Being so close by calculations, *MT* writes that there is no reason not to estimate an exodus of over 40,000 people for the coming year.⁷⁶

A report is made on May 1st about the statistics of immigration for the fiscal year of 1903. Here it is clearly stated that the financial year is counted from July 1st, 1902, to June 30th, 1903. Now with two months left of the fiscal year, the Immigration Bureau reports that compared to the same months of the previous year, the number of immigrated people for 1903 is at 494,425, compared to 1902 with 370,575 people. Looking at the projection for the next two months they state that there will likely be one of the biggest years of immigration since 1882. This article also looks at the statistics of nationalities immigrating to the country. Italy is at the top of the list providing 129,800 immigrants, with Austria-Hungary as a close second with 123,234 immigrants, and Russia with the inclusion of Finland comes in third with 81,731. Norway has an estimate of 11,316 immigrants coming into America. Further this article provides two tables to give an overview of the countries providing immigrants and the number of people that come to the US. The first table looks at the "most important" countries and their contribution of people for the fiscal years of 1872, 1882, 1892, and 1902. For Norway those numbers are as follows, 11,421 in 1872, 29,101 in 1882, 14,325 in 1892, and 17,484 in 1902. The second table looks at the 9-month counting from July 1st to March 31st for the financial years of 1902 and 1903.⁷⁷

On May 25th the newspaper states that in New York on the 18th of May, it is reported that in the first 17 days of the month the number of immigrants arriving at Ellis Island has passed 50,000 people. Further they estimate that by the end of the month, that number would exceed 100,000 people compared to the 84,000 people from May month the year before. A month later, on June 26th the newspaper writes that Washington, on June 22nd, reports the number of immigrants for the month of May. The number is at a whopping 140,000 immigrants.⁷⁸

⁷⁶ *MT*, 24.04.1903, p. 4.

⁷⁷ *MT*, 01.05.1903, p. 4

⁷⁸ *MT*, 25.05.1903, p. 4, & 26.06.1903, p. 1.

2.4 Analysis and chapter conclusion.

During this news cycle, both newspapers were acutely aware of world news. And whilst there are differences in what news are in focus, the general similarity is that both newspapers find it important to re-tell events that would be deemed important in connection to world peace and crisis. Examples of this is the concern of Russia, more specifically the issues between Finland and Russia, and the general displacement of Jews in eastern Europe. Russia is also mentioned in connection to the troubles in Balkan, and the ever-growing tense relationship with other heads of state in Europe.

There is a continued discussion in the newspapers about the financial support being sent back to Norway. I find it interesting that it is being talked about in such a positive way. To see that the newspapers have published statements of support, where others might look at the act of sending money back to their native countries with disapproval, as a sign that the Norwegian-American community still values their homeland. I think that this makes a valid argument for the strong Norwegian nationalism that was flourishing in the Norwegian-American communities. This leads me to also question if maybe the Norwegian communities saw themselves as an exception to the rules and discrimination that others were facing during this time.

Reviewing the findings from these newspapers I see that there is focus and understanding in what is being done in congress at the time of the publications. The different newspapers however focus their efforts on reporting the issues that have bigger consequences for the residents of the US, such as the anti-trust laws and the territorial to state questions that appeared. The evidence then tells me that whilst immigration was an important topic because of the reports pertaining to the congress vote, and because there were reports being made about the general state of immigration and immigrants at the time. If we follow the consensus of what made a good immigrant at the time, being hardworking, willing to assimilate, well-behaved, and God fearing. Norwegian immigrants would be falling in a category of well-behaved and hardworking immigrants, but most likely not a part of the top class of immigrants. Norwegian immigrants were more likely to be working people and take jobs and land as farmers but were less willing to fully shed their Norwegian-ness and fully immerse themselves in the American way of life. On the topic of the knowledge-test, both newspapers never really take an official stance on what they think. Without really professing their own

view on the matter, a test like this would not be beneficial for incoming Norwegians as it required a certain knowledge of English and that would be a privilege that not many of the immigrating Norwegians would know.

A rather interesting topic that often is mentioned in the newspapers is the Norwegian contribution to different aspects of the American society. The papers often mention the exceptional contribution of the European immigrants and their hard work, such as mentioning the Norwegian or Scandinavian heritage of politicians and other high-ranking members of society. Using most opportunities to show pride in the achievements of others, probably to create a sense of community and pride amongst the readers across the nation.

In conclusion to this chapter, I find that the Immigration Act of 1903 did not have any effect on restricting Norwegian Immigration to America. The newspapers focus was to make the information about the Act accessible and understandable, so that Norwegian-Americans could forward the information about changes back to Norway. From there they could either encourage or deter people from making the journey across the Atlantic.

Chapter 3: 1906

In this chapter I will be looking at the year 1906 and see how the newspapers reacted to the Naturalization Act of 1906. I decided to look at the publishing's between April and September. This chapter explores how the newspapers start to differ in priorities and

Between 1903 and 1906, events unfold back home in Norway. On the 7th of June 1905, the Union between Sweden and Norway is dissolved by the Norwegian Parliament, and in October of 1905 the dissolution is accepted by Sweden. As Norway celebrates the freedom, so does Norwegian-Americans in the US. In 1906, one of the biggest news to report on is the coronation of the royal couple. Another big story to brandish the pages of the newspapers is the San Francisco Earthquake and massive destruction that unfolds in April. Another major topic in the newspapers this year is the unrest and turbulent situation in Russia.

3.1: The Naturalization Act of 1906.

The Act of 1906 was created with the purpose of establishing a common bureau of immigration and naturalization. Originally this government entity was called Bureau of Immigration, and the first section in this act establishes a name change to Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization. Their main goal was to provide a registry of aliens in the United States. The act consists of 31 sections and was put forth on the 29th of June 1906, set to be in full effect within 90 days after the passage of the Act.

In short, the act deals with the process of naturalization to the United States. The act declares that the jurisdiction to naturalize is to be given to courts established by congress and it should only be applicable to alien residents within said district. The Act states that anybody wanting to be naturalized, can do so if they follow a set of requirements. A person wanting to naturalize would have to go through a process that included a declaration of intention, filing petitions and meeting in open court. Through all this the person seeking naturalization would have to fill out forms and file documents that supported any requirement of naturalization, as well as have character witnesses in court. Amongst the requirements are denouncing all noble titles connected to former citizenships and declaring any ties to polygamy and anarchism. There was also a requirement of knowing the English language, and this requirement exempted men who naturalized via homestead entry. The Act also repeals section 39 of the

1903 immigration act that deals with naturalization, seeing as this Act then further establishes a new process of naturalizing to the United States.⁷⁹

3.2: *Decorah-Posten og Ved Arnen*, April to September.

From November of 1903, *Decorah-Posten* is merged with *Ved Arnen*, creating the newspaper *Decorah-Posten og Ved Arnen*.⁸⁰ The newspaper is still publishing twice a week, giving us around 50 published issues in the months between April and September in 1906.

On the 3rd of April *DP/VA* writes that March 2nd had the biggest influx of immigrants to Ellis Island, having around 11,000 people arrive at port, but with only being able to house 5,000 people at once many people had to stay on their arriving ships. The days later, on the 6th of April, they include a bigger piece about the outlook of the 1906 immigration. Looking at the statistics of immigration, the newspaper states that the US population is estimated to rise with 1.25 million because of the mass immigration. The number of immigrants arriving in the US in 1905 was just over one million people. Further they also give settlement details like 31% settled in the state of New York, and that 24% went further west than Illinois. Looking at where the immigrants were coming from, most hailed from middle and eastern Europe, with Austria, Russia, and Poland being the homelands for around 450,000 of the people immigrating. Italy alone had over 200,000 people immigrate to the US.

On the 20th of April, they depict a busy day at Ellis Island. Noting that this day is stated just as being Easter day, in which a quick google search revealed that Catholic Easter day in 1906 would be Sunday the 15th, five days prior to the publishing of this newspaper. Stating that 9 steamships entered port with over 11,000 immigrants from Europe, making that week's total amount of arrivals over 33,000 people. Further it is depicted the arrival of different passengers, two professors from Germany on visit to honor Benjamin Franklin in Philadelphia, and the homecoming of Mrs. Chauncey and Mr. Depew. On the 27th of April, *DP/VA* gives some numbers and information regarding March months immigration numbers, stating a significant growth of immigrants. The total number of immigrants that month being

⁷⁹ U.S. Congress "CHAP. 3592. An Act To establish a Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, and to provide for a uniform rule for the naturalization of aliens throughout the United States.", *U.S. Statutes at Large, Volume 34 -1907, 59th Congress*. United States, 1905- 1907. Periodical. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/lsl-v34/>

⁸⁰ Hereafter referred to as *DP/VA*.

133,245 people, an increase of over 6,000 people compared to last year's immigration. Further they also note that January and February months both had record numbers of immigrants.

On the 15th of May, a longer piece is published that details a report made to the Norwegian Foreign Ministry, by the General Consul Chr. Ravn in New York. They state that the report details the state of the immigration process, such as authorities being against the immigration of lonesome children under 14 years. It is stated that many people think that money will give automatic permission to immigrate, however that is not the case, and the "Board of Enquiry" would have the authority to send people back if it proved by questioning that said person could not further provide for themselves. Whilst the article states that 1905 was a good year for people to find work, and that the coming year is set to not be any different, it is not recommended for people with "office work" qualifications to immigrate to America yet. The article cites the original report "... som derfor ikke kan tilraades at 'forsøge sin lykke i America, da det er høist vanskeligt for fremmede af denne klasse uden indflydelsesrige bekjendskaper at erholde beskjæftigelse, hvilken desuden er forholdsvis mindre godt betalt.'" Translated to English, meaning that it could not be recommended that people who had office experience were recommended to wait to immigrate, unless they had influential connections seeing as there was a lack in opportunities and the pay was not great. This further works the angle that America wanted immigrants that they knew would be able to provide for themselves.⁸¹

On the 22nd of May, a column under the title of "Indvandringen" details the different experiences of immigration from east and west US. The article states that whilst the eastern parts of the US wonders if maybe it's time to limit immigration extensively, the western parts of the US see immigration as a blessing. Using this as an opportunity to shed a positive light on immigrants, the newspaper states that very often the native people (read white people born in America) were seemingly more reluctant to do strenuous physical labor, and that people needed to remember that immigrants were the ones to clear and cultivate the greater parts of the land in America. Going as far as to state that the "... country's so called Anglo-Saxon race plays the Lord role and is responsible for the governing"⁸²

⁸¹ *DP/VA*, 15.05.1906, page 4.

⁸² *DP/VA*, 22.05.1906, page 8. Translated by me.

On the 29th of May, the newspaper reports that Congress has spent the entirety of Wednesday the 23rd, discussing the immigration bill, which essentially is amendments of the 1903 Immigration Act. The head tax is increased to 5\$, and it is established that stricter routines for who and what shall be allowed into the country is needed.⁸³

Another lengthy piece is written and published on the 5th of June, criticizing a proposal from a Pennsylvania Congressman, stating that any immigrant should be forced to give up their foreign birthnames in favor of American names. The author of this piece describes the idea as foolery and states that it would be selling American citizenship as a reward. The author then states that it would for obvious reasons never become law, but that the proposal was even allowed to be entered in such an “honorable gathering”, points to the spiritual development of a certain “native”⁸⁴ class of people are having in the early 20th century. The author also wishes that the Norwegian and Nordic people would limit the changing of their names to the bare necessity, and to not dismiss their original farming names or translate them to English as many were quick to do. Also in the same issue, it is noted that senate in the new immigration bill has put that people above the ages of 15 must be able to read English or another language of his wish, the bill would allow for said person to bring spouse or children under the age of 18, or parents above the age of 50, regardless of their ability to read so long as they fulfill the other requirements for access to the country. The bill has not been accepted by the House of Representatives and is therefore not yet applicable.⁸⁵

It is written an article in the paper on the 12th of June that, on the 5th of June, the House of Representatives approves without opposition the Naturalization Act. The report states that there was an amendment added to the act stating it shall not apply to the people seeking to enter via the Homestead Act. The report also gives details of the establishment of the Naturalization bureau, as well as shortly stating the naturalization process.⁸⁶

⁸³ *DP/VA*, 29.05.1906, page 1.

⁸⁴ When referring to “Native” or “Native Born”, it is interpreted as American born or Anglo-Saxon.

⁸⁵ *DP/VA*, 05.06.1906, p. 4.

⁸⁶ *DP/VA*, 12.06.1906, p. 1.

During the reoccurring column named “Indvandringen”, on the 19th of June, the report states that between the 1st of July 1905 and 31st of May 1906 some 870,000 people arrived at Ellis Island, and that during May an unusual number of immigrants were sent back to where they came from. The number of returned was 1,753 immigrants.⁸⁷

On the 25th of June, the House of Representatives treated the question of the immigration bill, wherein they decided against the proposed language demand, and the 5\$ Head Tax was reduced back to 2\$. During the debate New York representatives, Littauer and Goldfogle, were re-telling the horror stories about Jews from Russia. After this it was proposed by Rep. Littauer to add an amendment to the Act that would let anyone proving religious or political persecution into the country. This was approved. Further, it was debated about the use of a knowledge test upon entry. Backed up by the wish for workers that are more educated, and the limitation eastern and southern European workers that keep wages down, it was concluded that the question would be handed down to a commission for further debate. Mr. Michalek from Illinois held his first speech to the House and commented that the people wanting to limit immigration were under the impression that they were of “a better race” and that there is no truth to the allegations of a distorted and dirty Caucasian race.⁸⁸

It is written and published on July 6th, that a further debate of the amendment proposal of the Immigration Act had taken place. It had been argued and debated that the only way to stagnate the amount of immigrants arriving to the US would be to close the ports for people who are not able to read or write, as well as a new proposal for the head tax to be raised even further to 25\$. Neither of these proposals were accepted by the house, and the Immigration Act stood as before. The Naturalization Act was written and signed, demanding a reasonable knowledge of the English language. Further, the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization was created, and new routines were put in place to hopefully limit fraud.⁸⁹

A new update on the number of immigrants is made on the 10th of July. It is announced that Immigration in the previous fiscal year reached a new record, coming in at 1,112,000 people arriving to the US. The situation of the mass immigration has opened for discussions about

⁸⁷ *DP/VA*, 19.06.1906, p. 8

⁸⁸ *DP/VA*, 29.06.1906, p. 1

⁸⁹ *DP/VA*, 06.07.1906, p. 1

limiting the access to immigration, however Immigration Commissioner Sargent states that immigration has not reached its height yet. He also states that it will most likely not halt unless a specific law is created for the purpose of limiting immigration. Further this column addresses that the growth in immigration is largely due to the persecution of Jews in Russia, stating that "... in the last six months from Russia there arrived 120,000 people to the US, and over 9/10 of people were Jewish."⁹⁰ On the 17th of July there is an update of emigrating numbers from Norway. According to numbers from Kristiania, in the first six months of this year the emigration numbers from Norway is 6,239. Of this number 588 traveled to South America, Africa, and Australia. Compared to 1905, the number of people emigration out of Norway is showing a decreasing trend.⁹¹

An excerpt of Judge Richard R. Campbell's review of the Naturalization Act is published on the 20th of July. This is published due to public interest, and it states amongst other things that the process of naturalization will entail declarations of intentions and petitions for naturalization. When declaring intentions for naturalization, a payment of 1\$ is required, another 2\$ is to be paid when petitioning for citizenship, and a final 2\$ is to be paid when the final citizenship paper is being issued. All records created and received by the district courts are to be copied and sent to Washington. The possession of false documents is illegal and issuing false documents can result in punishment. Due to mistakes and neglect that were made after 1903 where invalid documents were issued, it is estimated that time will be needed to correct the issues with invalid documents to bring it up to speed with the new law. It is stated that over 30,000 invalid documents have been issued in Cook County, Illinois, alone.⁹²

On the 3rd of August a small advice for Immigrants is posted in the newspaper. A man named S. Peterson, who works for Chicago Great Western, states that in his experience immigrants tend to not know the name of their end destinations. Noting that presently he finds it odd that immigrants start their journey aboard and have no idea the name of their chosen destinations. He states that he has been able to help a few people because of his job and hopes to help more

⁹⁰ *DP/VA*, 10.07.1906, p.1, direct quote is translated by me.

⁹¹ *DP/VA*, 17.07.1906, p.7.

⁹² *DP/VA*, 20.07.1906, p.4.

by giving a small piece of advice. This advice being, that immigrants should have the name of their destination written on a piece of paper folded in their pockets.⁹³

“A Homesteadquestion” is the title of a column published on the 18th of September. In this column it is detailed that Ole Serumgaard has turned to Senator Hansbrough with a question regarding the new Naturalization Act and the Homestead Act. Asking what parts of the new law would affect the Homestead Act, and if it did have an effect what would that be. Because of the different interpretations of the homestead Act, many immigrants were unaware of the residing requirement and therefore many people were originally denied their claim on lands. It is with intention that this is to be brought to the attention of Congress, so that some relief might be brought to the unlucky homesteaders.⁹⁴

On the 25th of September, a story is written to give example and present the new rules for Naturalization. The newspaper has created an example that depicts the fictional story of Josef Spagetti, from Rome, arriving on the 28th of September. This short depiction of process of Naturalization details what will happen, when it will happen, and how it will happen. The fictional story ends with Josef Spagetti receiving his citizenship in 1911, after the courts and the Bureau of Naturalization has verified everything presented in court, and all payments have been made. This is a simple but effective way of relaying important information and is like the way Norwegians today will use stories of Ola Nordmann for the same purpose. What is interesting about this example though is the particular use of an Italian, with a stereotypical Italian name. The way Italians have been portrayed in the media previously, regarding immigration, does make it seem like maybe using Ola Nordmann would have been a more effective tool. Particularly seeing as Scandinavians were considered more attractive as immigrants.⁹⁵

Also on the 25th of September, there is a written piece that talks about the question of naturalization and the history of naturalization in America. It gives background to the original Naturalization Act that has for most of America’s history up until that point remained unchanged. Already at the beginning of Americas independence, there were people criticizing

⁹³ *DP/VA*, 03.08.1906, p.3

⁹⁴ *DP/VA*, 18.09.1906, p.3

⁹⁵ *DP/VA*, 25.09.1906, p. 8

the want for a liberal immigration politics. Further wanting the right kind of immigrant, and particularly when it was realized that America had an abundance of uncultivated and uninhabited land. This article brings up the creation of know-nothing party, and the efforts made to limit immigration without luck. At the end, the article states that “neither in the future will such views win any advancement; because there are other and bigger factors than nativistic sensitivity, that is at play in such cases and that determines the path and character of a migration group.”⁹⁶

I must also note that much of this year’s news cycle for *DP/VA* talks about the revolution happening in Russia, and that from the end of May, these updates are more present in the newspaper.

3.3: *Minneapolis Tidende*, April to September.

As mentioned earlier, I decided to focus on the months of April to September for the year of 1906. *Minneapolis Tidene* still publishes once a week, and during these months the newspaper has a very particular focus on Norwegian news.⁹⁷ Taking away from the news from other places, the news of Norwegian full independence was very important for the Norwegian people in America. Whilst there are minimal updates on immigration compared to the year of 1903, there are still smaller updates made regarding the immigration of people to the United States.

On the 13th of April, Congressman Steenerson has asked the House Immigration Committee for a revision of the new Naturalization law. Seeing as this law is of great significance to the people who are doing Homestead entries, he wishes for there to be exceptions. He specifically wants to amend the section of law regarding language seeing as the requirements would halt homestead settlers who did not know English in their process of obtaining full ownership of the land. He proposes that the requirement stands but has an exception for people who have taken homesteads before the Act is passed and sanctioned. If this is passed, that would mean that anybody taking homesteads after the Act is enacted would have to pass the language test.⁹⁸

⁹⁶ *DP/VA*, 25.09.1906, p.4

⁹⁷ Hereafter referred to as *MT*

⁹⁸ *MT*, 13.04.1906, p.4

The newspaper does write a lengthier piece on immigration on the 20th of April, in which they detail that a new record of immigration is set in New York when over 11.000 passengers arrived in one day. They further detail how many immigrants were traveling with the different steamships, there were 8 of them heading to port that day.⁹⁹

On May 4th, it is reported that around 200 immigrants have been turned away at the border and sent back to where they came from. They were from countries such as Greece, Montenegro, and Hungary, and had come to the United States because of advertisement of work in Madison, Wisconsin, and therefore were unknowingly breaking the Immigration Act of 1903.¹⁰⁰ When the immigration law is amended, the newspaper details on the 18th of May that the interest in restricting the access to the country increasing. The way they have decided to restrict immigration is by adding a restriction that anybody above the age of 15 must be able to read English or another language. There is an exception of this for spouses, children under the age of 18, and parents above the age of 50. The newspaper states that they are sure that people from countries with general reading skills will make better citizens in the long haul.¹⁰¹

On the 8th of June it is reported in the newspaper that the new Naturalization law has been approved with two amendments unanimously approved. One of the amendments is the one referring language and reading, concluding that the requirement for reading English does not entail people taking up homesteads. The report also states that the Act establishes the Bureau of Naturalization, and it establishes rules regarding timespans for granting citizenships, such as no naturalization can happen within 30 days of a general election and that there needs to be a 90-day period after petitioning the court for citizenship.¹⁰² Further on June 8th, the newspaper looks at the amendments that are proposed by the House Committee on Immigration for the Immigration Act. The changes wanted include the raising of head tax, that any person entering should be in possession of a certain amount of money upon entry; 25\$ for men and 15\$ for women. The requirement of knowing how to read English or any

⁹⁹ *MT*, 20.04.1906, p. 1

¹⁰⁰ *MT*, 04.05.1906, p. 2

¹⁰¹ *MT*, 18.05.1906, p. 4

¹⁰² *MT*, 08.06.1906, p. 1

language is still present, and further this does not apply to spouses, betrothed people, or parents above the age of 55 years old, of the person that sent for them. The amendments will likely still undergo changes to be accepted by both houses and enacted accordingly.¹⁰³

The Naturalization Act is the topic of a column on the 15th of June. Discussing the final revision of the Act, the House has reached consensus on what should be done to secure the process of Naturalization in the country. By initialing the creation of the Bureau of Naturalization, the House hopes to control more who gets their citizenships and to avoid fraud. The newspaper also states that a decision regarding the knowledge a foreign-born need to possess to Naturalize, is writing in their own language, read, and speak English. They further say that schooling is not a requirement of entering the country, but if a person should want to Naturalize it should not be too much of a requirement to understand the country's language. The House also approved that Homesteaders are exempt from the language requirement. Giving the reason that many Homesteaders come when they are older and with their families, and whilst spending their time working and providing for their families might not be able to actively learn to read and speak English. It is laid to reason that in the process of retaining the claims on their land, by cultivating and clearing the lands, they contribute enough to the development of the country. This section was fought for by Congressman Steenerson from Minnesota, as he has had the opportunity to get to know the communities of Homesteaders in the Mid-West.¹⁰⁴

The next update on the state of immigration is made on the 22nd of June, stating that the number of immigrants to arrive this year is estimated to surpass one million people. The recorded total as of June 1st was 870,000 immigrants, and that if the trend continued by end of year, further records will be broken. A new record was also broken in the month of May, with the highest number of deported immigrants. This number being 1,753 people.¹⁰⁵

Already on the 13th of July, is it reported that in the last financial year over 1 million immigrants arrived, making it the biggest year of immigration in American history. It is further reported that the new records have had huge impact on the workers, and the push for

¹⁰³ *MT*, 08.06.1906, p.5

¹⁰⁴ *MT*, 15.06.1906, p.5

¹⁰⁵ *MT*, 22.06.1906, p.4

stricter immigration laws reemerge. Commissioner Sargent is under the impression that America has yet to reach the height of immigration and states that "... as long as America is having good times, we can estimate receiving over 1 million immigrants each year...". Further, the concerns that Jewish people have, is being addressed. Because of the persecution and murder of Jewish people in Eastern Europe, many Jewish people might be concerned about America closing the borders towards them. Commissioner Sargent has been made aware of the struggles that Jewish people are having with accessing the steamers that cross from Europe to America. ¹⁰⁶

On the 31st of August, a longer piece titled "Borgerskab og Homesteads" is published. This piece talks shortly about the meaning of the Homestead Act for the northern mid-west. This piece is later corrected on the 14th of September, as it contains misinformation regarding some key information in the new law text. ¹⁰⁷ From July 1906, there is a larger focus on the events taking place in Russia. Almost once every week there are updates in the reports of events, and this leads to lengthier pieces detailing the gruesome things that has happened. On several occasions it is mentioned that most attacks and violence is directed towards Jews, Polish people, and active opponents of the Russian government. It is stated on the 14th of September that the Jewish population is living in fear having heard several dark and worrisome rumors. ¹⁰⁸

3.4: Analysis and chapter conclusion.

As time goes on there are different types of advertisement for immigration, one of them being bigger written pieces about the development of Canada and the wish for settlers in western parts of Canada. From May and onward Immigration is mentioned in correlation to Congress and the passing of bills in relation to people coming into the country

This year marks a clear division in focus for both newspapers, compared to 1903, there are significantly less updates or reports on the status of immigration this year. In *DP/VA* there is a bigger focus on the reporting on the crowning of the new Norwegian King and Queen, the state of Russia and its people, as well as the upcoming election in Norway. The newspaper

¹⁰⁶ *MT*, 13.07.1906, p.4

¹⁰⁷ *MT*, 31.08.1906, P. 4, and *MT*, 14.09.1906, P. 4

¹⁰⁸ *MT*, 14.09.1906, P.1

has also added a significant larger amount of advertisement compared to 1903, and less focus on local news from Norway. *MT*, in contrast, spends more time on reporting events unfolding in America locally, and keep focus on Scandinavian news. Both newspapers give much space to the reporting of the Russian Revolution, detailing what can only be described as true terror. Still keeping with the neutral way of reporting news, no public statements are made regarding denouncement of the way Russia is seemingly targeting Jews.

Even though there is a bigger focus on immigration and Naturalization practices in the news this year, there is less news on the impact of the Naturalization Act of 1906. I would speculate that this is due to the efforts made to give exemptions to Homesteaders, and that many Norwegian immigrants did take advantage of the Homestead Act. The newspapers also have a developed habit of explaining the Acts in depth, and this year is no different. I conclude that they do this to spread the information, which in this case could be vital for anyone seeking to naturalize. I also think that it was done to help people who struggle with language or might have less education, to understand what is happening within the government. It is in ways like this that the press really solidifies as an important educational tool. Because there is such a big focus on education and adapting to a new society for other immigrants, I think that the newspapers utilize the tool of over explaining and repetition to educate all readers.

Chapter 4: 1907

This chapter will look at one of the busiest years for America regarding immigration. In 1907 there is a significant change in the atmosphere of the writing in the newspapers. To get a good picture of what the newspapers are reporting I have chosen to look at the publishing's from January to July in 1907. In the first half of this year the newspapers focus on the different discussions taking place regarding the immigration situation of Japanese people, and the different implications of a strong Asian presence on the West Coast. 1907 is a year where the immigration wave is at a top. The Ellis Island Website states that "In fact, 1907 marked the busiest year at Ellis Island with approximately 1.25 million immigrants processed."¹⁰⁹

4.1 The Immigration Act and The Expat act of 1907.

The Immigration Act of 1907

On February 20th, 1907, The Immigration Act of 1907 was approved by the Senate and the House of Representatives. The act increases head tax at entry to four dollars, exemptions for people in transit, people who have uninterruptedly resided for at least one year in the Dominion of Canada, the Republic of Cuba, Newfoundland, the Republic of Mexico, or aliens who have previously been allowed into the United States. If any of said head tax collection exceed 2.5 million dollars in one fiscal year it shall not be added to the "immigrant fund". Upon suspicion of aliens detrimental to labor conditions, the President is allowed to exclude such aliens. The classes of excluded immigrants are expanded. It now states:

"All idiots, imbeciles, feeble-minded persons, epileptics, insane persons, ...; persons afflicted with tuberculosis or with a loathsome or dangerous contagious disease; persons not comprehended within any of the foregoing excluded classes who are found to be and are certified by the examining surgeon as being mentally or physically defective, such mental or physical defect being of a nature which may affect the ability of such alien to earn a living; ...; polygamists, or persons who admit their belief in the practice of polygamy, anarchists, ...; prostitutes, or women or girls coming into the United States for the purpose of prostitution or for any other immoral purpose; ...; persons hereinafter called contract laborers, who have been induced or solicited to migrate to this country by offers or promises of employment, or in consequence of agreements, oral, written or printed, express or implied, to perform labor in this country of any kind, skilled or unskilled; ...; any person whose ticket or passage is paid for with the money of another, or who is assisted by others to come, unless it is affirmatively and satisfactory shown that such person does not belong to one of the

¹⁰⁹ Found at the Statue of Liberty & Ellis Island Website, under Ellis Island Overview+History, "Laws and Regulations Evolve". <https://www.statueofliberty.org/ellis-island/overview-history/>

foregoing excluded classes, ...; all children under sixteen years of age, unaccompanied by one or both of their parents, ...”¹¹⁰

Exceptions to this section includes people convicted of purely political crimes, aliens in transit that have tickets paid by other people or corporations, and skilled labor may be imported if labor of same kind cannot be found in the country. The part about contract labor is to exclude certain types of labor, such as actors, singers, ministers of any religion, professors, persons belonging to any recognized learned professions, or persons employed strictly as domestic or personal servants. Further the act has its own sections for prostitution, exclusion of disabled, illegal aliens and what happens if they are found out, and anarchists. This act shall not be applicable to foreign officials, their suits, families, or guests.

All immigrants arriving in the United States by steamship would have to be registered at port of arrival by an immigration officer. Information required is the same as from 1903, however there is another added element, which is the name and address of nearest relative in the country said person is coming from. There is also a slight change in language for this particular section, where they use the term “he/she” and “his/hers” showing inclusivity.

This act also refers to the Passenger Act of 1882 in section 42. It is referenced in regards of the travel conditions on steamships for passengers, and the section further goes into detail of required space and documents. This section of the act was set to take affect January 1st, 1909. Further the act repeals the immigration act of 1903, except the section about the selling of spirits around the capitol building, and its amendment to exempt head tax for residents of Newfoundland. The act does not affect the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. The Immigration Act of 1907 is to take affect July 1st, 1907, except for section 39 and the last proviso of section 1 which are to take effect as soon as the Act is passed, and that the repeal of the Passenger Act of 1882 is to take effect on January 1st, 1909.

¹¹⁰ US Congress; “CHAP. 1134. An Act To regulate the immigration of aliens into the United States.” *U.S. Statutes at Large, Volume 34 -1907, 59th Congress*. United States, 1905- 1907. Periodical. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/lsl-v34/> P. 898-911.

The Expat Act of 1907.

The expatriation act of 1907 states that the Secretary of State can issue passports to any person residing in the United States so long as they have made a declaration of intention to become a citizen and has resided in the United States longer than three years. Said passport can provide protection in other countries, but it cannot be valid for longer than 6 months, it cannot be renewed, and it will not give the person protection by the U.S. government in the country of their previous citizenship. Further the act states that any American shall be considered an expat once naturalized in any foreign country. Any naturalized citizen that has resided in their former country for more than two years, or another foreign country for more than five years is presumed to be an expat, unless they are attached to diplomatic or consular offices of the United States. No American Citizen can expat themselves if the country is at war.

American women will have to take their foreign husbands nationality, however if they divorce the woman can regain her citizenship. If residing abroad, they will have to register as an American citizen with a consul of the United States within a year or move back to the United States. If residing in the United States when divorcing they would have to continue residing in the US. Foreign women who gain citizenship by marrying an American man, will presume to keep their citizenship after the divorce if she resides in the United States, unless she before an official court denounces her citizenship. If residing in a foreign country, she can keep her citizenship if she within a year after the divorce registers as an American citizen through a United States consul. Children of alien parents born in the US shall be given citizenship once parents are naturalized or restored their citizenships, barred that the child is a minor and permanently residing in the US. Children born outside of the United States that are citizens in accordance with section 1993 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, who continue to reside outside of the US, is required upon reaching 18 years old to record an intention to become residents and remain a citizen of the United States, at an American consulate, to receive protection from the American Government. Duplicates of any documents, registrations, and evidence shall be filed with the Department of State for the record. The act is approved on March 2nd, 1907, and seemingly enacted effective immediately. ¹¹¹

¹¹¹ US Congress: "CHAP. 2534. An Act In reference to the expatriation of citizens and their protection abroad." *U.S. Statutes at Large, Volume 34 -1907, 59th Congress.* United States, 1905- 1907. Periodical. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, P. 1228-1229.

4.2: *Decorah-Posten* og ved *Arnen*, January to July.

On January 1. *DP/VA* has two cases on their front page of interest. The first of them titled “Mod Japaneserne” and talks about the founding of a Japanese Exclusion League supported by workers and the city council spearheaded by the San Francisco mayor. The league is hard at work to propose legislation that would demand all counties to segregate Japanese school children into schools with Chinese children. The article also says that many labor unions in the area agree with this proposal, and further quotes a secretary of the San Francisco Labor Union in which he says “Vore børn maa beskyttes, og ikke skjæmmes bort ved at gaa sammen med børn af de fæle Orientaler”. The other case of interest is the discussion of imported labor. Oscar Straus, Secretary of Commerce and Labor, was quoted saying that official states of the Union are exempted from the sections about importing work, seeing as the law was created to stop private corporations from importing labor. This statement was met with protest from labor unions, saying that there should be no differentiation of state and private in these cases. The state of South Carolina, having sent agents across the Atlantic to engage in the process of importing contract labor, was then not breaking any laws as it was done in the name of the state.¹¹²

An article is published on the 4th of January describing an event in New York City entailing the Liberal Immigration League, and the upcoming proposal of a new Immigration Act. Specifically, they state that the inclusion of a knowledge test is despicable. The event comprised of speeches and various discussions and was guested by several of the city’s congressmen.¹¹³ Further on the 8th of January, the newspaper reports the sidestepping of the Immigration Act when a Jewish woman is granted entry into America despite her being sick. The illness she was suffering from was curable, and her husband had secured a job in which he was able to provide for the family further. The paper states that this is the first evidence of clear violation of the law, but that this was none the less an important event showcasing that there are competent people with hearts making these decisions and that they weren’t robots.

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¹¹² *DP/VA*, 01.01.1907, P.1

¹¹³ *DP/VA*, 04.01.1907, P1.

¹¹⁴ *DP/VA*, 08.01.1907, p. 8

DP/VA writes on the 11th of January about Immigration Commissioner Sargent's newly published report about last year's immigration numbers. Stating that the 1906 fiscal year brought over 1.1 million immigrants, and that most of these people had north Atlantic states and northern mid-west states as their destination to settle in. Austria-Hungary and Russia continued to top the list of nations to provide immigrants, with a combined number of over 480,000 people. Sargent states that the eastern and southern Europe are the ones who provide the main influx of immigrants. The newspaper also states that during the first half of the fiscal year, many "white slaves" were brought to the country. The first update of Norwegian emigration is also made on the 11th of January. Around 29,000 Norwegians left Norway in 1906 and comparing that to 27,000 people in 1905.¹¹⁵

A comment about the confusion surrounding the Homestead Act is published on the 11th of January as well. Here the author states that at *DP/VA* they are asked questions about it so many times. They address that the different answers given to people from place to place is because of the differences in interpretation. They stated that confusion also was more apparent due to the different ways of obtaining land. There were different requirements for the people taking land via the Homestead Act, or the "Commutation clause". Depending on how one is planning to achieve land, there are different requirements in relation to living and cultivation the land. Essentially the comment is made to clarify that there is a difference in Homesteading and "Commutation Cluse" land achievement.¹¹⁶

On the 25th of January, the newspaper writes that a resolution has been approved by the House and signed by the President. The resolution would allow anyone who is a Homesteader in the northwestern states to be absent from their lands in the three toughest winter months. Senator Hansbrough from North Dakota, and President of the Senate Committee for Public Land, has informed the different land offices that the resolution is active, but that it excludes the people who have signed claims but not yet taken residence on said land claim. Sen. Hansbrough is under the impression that these people should also be included and is therefore proposing a new resolution that will include them.¹¹⁷

¹¹⁵ *DP/VA*, 11.01.1907, p.1 and 7

¹¹⁶ *DP/VA*, 11.01.1907, p. 4

¹¹⁷ *DP/VA* 25.01.1907, p. 4

“Senator Heyburn og Senator Carter paa krigsstien” is the subtitle of the report from Congress published on the 5th of February. Both senators are criticizing the Home Secretary Hitchcock for issuing an order that says no patents will be issued for public lands until after a Special Agent has visited and inspected the land. This comes after the discovery of different fraud cases, however Senator Carter states that according to court records less than one percent of Final Homestead Entries is fraudulent and thinks that the issue of fraud is in Home Secretary Hitchcock’s imagination.¹¹⁸

On the 15th of February, it is reported a change in wording from the executive order given by Home Secretary Hitchcock. It will now be a possibility to give patent claims to Homesteaders without the inspection of a Special Agent. However, it is demanded that Homesteaders that have taken claims on Indian reservations have lived there for five years or more. People who, by the provision of the Homestead Act, pay for their claim after 14 months will have to have an inspection done by a Special Agent.¹¹⁹

Further on the 15th of February, it is questioned if Congress will be able to get to the question of immigration before they part ways on March 4th. The divide between the House and the Senate on the question of a knowledge or skill test, is one of the reasons that it is taking longer to get an agreement. Congressman Littauer’s proposal to drop the requirement of money for entries made by people being religiously persecuted in their home countries, is also holding up the decision making. Senator Littauer is proposing this amendment because of the increased displacement and murder of Jews in Eastern Europe. There is a common concern that by doing this, America would once again attract the “wrong” kind of immigrant. The report also states that many western newspapers are under the impression that there is no value in discussing the limitation of immigration in every Congress Session anymore. The perception of many people is that there will be advantages and disadvantages to the limitation and widening of the immigration law. At this point it is being stated that nothing horrible would happen if they just left the immigration bill alone.¹²⁰

¹¹⁸ *DP/VA* 05.02.1907, p. 1

¹¹⁹ *DP/VA*, 15.02.1907, P.1

¹²⁰ *DP/VA*, 15.02.1907, p.4

On the 19th and the 22nd of February, the newspaper reports on the discussion and approval of a new amendment to the Immigration Act relating to the mass influx of Japanese people to the West coast. The new amendment would give the President power to exclude classes of people, and whilst the amendment does not outright state that Japanese people is excluded from the country it is heavily implied in its wording. It states that children of foreigners shall have access to certain white schools in San Francisco, but that skilled and unskilled laborers from Japan does not have access to mainland America. The same thing is said to apply to Americans in Japan. Further it is discussed how this will affect Naturalization and Mr. Williams, a democratic House Rep., made it clear that whilst President Roosevelt had endorsed the naturalization of Japanese people, it could only end up in a new race discussion. With a full chest he said that “Vi har nok med vort gamle racespørgsmaal, og jeg vil faa lov til at sige, enhver ulykke og sorg som dette land har lidt, har sin oprindelse fra det første slaveskib, som landed i Jamestown.”¹²¹

News from Norway on the 1st of March, states that during the last 30 years 425,000 people have emigrated from the country. Then, on March 12th, it is stated that Statistisk Sentralbyrå in Norway had collected the number of Emigrants for the year of 1906. That number was 22,239. It is important to note that this number differs from the number given on January 11th, likely because of a difference in counting the year. Neither articles state which months they are counting for the emigration estimate.¹²²

Also published on the 12th of March, is a piece commenting on the southern state's disapproval of the immigration law. Southern states in America are at the time reliant on contract worker and seeing as the new Law would strictly forbid the use of contract labor. The author of this column states that it is only right and just to outlaw labor slavery, but that this would come as a blow to the gut for the southern states. Further, on the 26th of March, it is established that it is unions and associations that are not allowed to bring contract laborers into the country. It is clarified that the rules are different for states and private persons. Establishing that the southern states can in fact bring contract labor into the country, but on very specific terms.¹²³

¹²¹ *DP/VA*, 19.02.1907, p.1, & 22.02.1907, p. 1

¹²² *DP/VA*, 12.03.1907, p.7, & 11.01.1907, p. 7

¹²³ *DP/VA*, 12.03.1907, p. 1, & 26.03.1907, p.1

On April 2nd, it is reported a new record day of immigration to Ellis Island, with 16,503 people arriving at port. Many people would end up waiting for a long time to be processed through the arrival hall, and the Officers working were said to have their hands full events happening. In the same newspaper, Immigrant Commissioner Sargent states that the southern states need a wakeup call if they want immigrants to settle in their states. He says that they pay poor wages, and that no one could expect people to come work in the south for half of what you could get working in the north. ¹²⁴ A rapport is made on April 19th, that according to numbers collected by the Bureau of Immigration, in the six months prior, the immigration numbers were as high as 539,137 people. Making it an increase of over 75,000 people compared to the year before. The report comments that from Russia alone there were 103,364 people who immigrated.

In May, three lengthier pieces are published in the paper. The first of them being on the 17th of May, and it discusses the state of immigration. Sating that there in April month arrived over 130,000 people to New York, and that the immigrants mostly are from Italy, Russia, and Austria. Further the article describes that the threat of fines for the steamers that bring unfit people to the US, has had a positive effect. Immigration Commissioner Watchorn states that it seems the quality of immigrants is at an all-time high, and that deportation of immigrants at port was at an all-time low. Further he also states that the immigrants gravitate towards industry, and the general big cities. On the 21st of May, the newspaper reports that more land for the purpose of Homesteads will be available in Minnesota from the 1st of July. Opening for new settlers such as to accommodate the growing numbers of Immigrants that wishes to have farmland. The applicants for taking land still must meet all the qualifications established by the Homestead Act. The third lengthier piece is from the 28th of May, and it describes a situation of discrimination against two Jewish girls in Atlantic City. This event leads to the creation of an association to protect people of Jewish decent against other such events in the future. The Author also states that whilst Jewish people are able to hold office and higher positions, hate and discrimination cannot be avoided. The author also points out that the East still has high levels of discrimination and hate against Jews, compared to the west. ¹²⁵

¹²⁴ *DP/VA*, 02.04.1907, p. 1 & 4.

¹²⁵ *DP/VA*, 17.05.1907, p.1, 21.05.1097, p.1, & 28.05.1907, p. 1.

Jumping to the 2nd of July, an article about Homesteads is published on the front page of the Newspaper. Stating that there is a new protocol regarding 2nd homestead entries. The full instructions have been provided to the land offices, and this should be an available alternative to people who for certain reasons lost their opportunities to achieve patent on their land claims.¹²⁶

It is written on July 5th that the new immigration law took effect on July 1st, and it states that the most important sections of this law includes the heightened head tax to 4\$, the limit of 2,000,000\$ to help maintain the Immigration Bureau, the ability to fine steamships a 100\$ per unfit immigrants they bring, and that women who end up in prostitution within three years after their arrival can be deported back to where they come from. Lastly, on the 19th of July, we have an immigration update that states the record of immigration made in the last fiscal year which ended on June 30th. The number of immigrants arriving to the country was 1,285,349 people. The highest number of arrivals to date.¹²⁷

4.3 *Minneapolis Tidende*, January to July.

A major topic of conversation in *MT* this year is what this new Immigration Act will do to the immigrants taking advantage of the Homestead Act. On the 25th of January, they report that President Roosevelt has signed a resolution to extend the “leave of absence” afforded homestead takers, as the winter months had been particularly hard. This is done so that Homestead takers who have not been able to fully inhabit their chosen land area will not risk losing their land. Senator Hansbrough of North Dakota also brings forth a question, and an intention to bring forth a secondary resolution, asking to extend the absence law to homestead settlers as well. Stating that there is little difference in the definition of people if the weather makes the lands inhabitable. This extended resolution is then accepted by the house, and involves settlers and takers in the states Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming and Washington. This resolution gives an extension until the 15th of March for people to settle and inhabit their lands.¹²⁸

¹²⁶ *DP/VA*, 02.07.1907, p. 1

¹²⁷ *DP/VA*, 05.07.1907, p. 1, & 19.07.1907, p. 8

¹²⁸ *MT*, 25.01.1907, P. 4.

On the 15th of February, an in-depth piece is written about the situation of immigrants and the Homestead-settlers. Here it is revealed that due to fraud regarding land taking, action was taken by the Department of Interior on order from President Roosevelt, to halt the issuing of deeds and papers for homesteading until the local government could verify and survey the land in question. The senators from Minnesota and North Dakota asked the president to void this for settlers that could by paper prove their cultivating of land for harvest, stating that there was no way that said land could be part of fraudulent agreements with corporations dealing with mining or deforesting. The President agreed to give the Ministry of Lands authority to grant deeds and papers for lands without the inspections by special agents, to Homestead-settlers who have inhabited their lands for over five years, and to settlers on Indian reservation land. Anybody that gains land via “commutation”, or what would be known and purchasing their homestead lands, would not be affected by this order and would subsequently need a survey by a Special agent deployed by the Ministry. ¹²⁹

On this day the newspaper points to a discussion in congress as well. The reports state that there is a possibility that congress will not amend the current immigration law, citing disagreements between the House and the Senate. Their disagreement is connected to the proposed amendment regarding the money requirement, and the proposal to drop this requirement for the immigrants fleeing religious persecution. The Senate is against this amendment because it will be opening the doors for immigration of a “certain class” of people. There is no mention specifically about which classes of people they mean, however given the timing of this report I will speculate that they are pointing to the class of Jewish or, as they are called in the immigration protocols, Hebrew people. I state this because the amendment brings up religious persecution, and that at this time Jews were being persecuted in Russia and other parts of eastern Europe. ¹³⁰

A case that *MT* is particularly interested in reporting on is what they call “Japan-Sagen”, focusing on the issues regarding Japanese immigration. The Newspaper writes a lengthy piece on the 22nd of February, detailing the discussions in congress and the proposed resolutions. The case is also referred to as the “Japanesiske Spørgsmaal” further in the article. In 1906 the San Francisco Board of Education established what is known as the “Oriental Schools” and

¹²⁹ *MT*, 15.02.1907, P.4

¹³⁰ *MT*, 15.02.1907, P. 4

ordered the segregation of Chinese, Korean, and Japanese schoolchildren. This caused reactions from Japanese people both in America and in Japan, and put pressure on President Roosevelt, whom had recently been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his help negotiating peace between Russia and Japan in 1905. The president and several different representatives reach a conclusion and agreement to let foreign-born children have access to white schools if they are under the age of 16 and have sufficient English skills. Roosevelt reaches a gentleman's agreement with Japan where workers from Japan to America, and vice versa, are barred from entering the respective countries.¹³¹

In the same edition of the newspaper, there is an update of what amendments the immigration act will have. The agreement of giving Japanese children access to white schools ends with a compromise, where an amendment to the immigration law is proposed. Stating that the president can bar people with passports from any country at will, if he thinks their entry will harm work relations or industry. The proposal of a knowledge test, and the proposal of not deporting religious and political immigrants based on not having enough means to get by on, were both stricken from the bill. The head tax was compromised on to the amount of 4\$, and the bill decided to start a commission to discuss the question of Immigration. Lastly the decision is made that grants the president authority to negotiate regulation of immigration between any other nation and the United States. This last part really opens the possibility for restricting unwanted immigration, without inherently and directly discriminating towards certain groups of people.

On the 8th of March, a short notice of the Expatriation Bill is published. As with the other articles detailing Acts and Bills, being short and precise, it gives only the most relevant information to their readers.

On the 15th and the 22nd of March, the newspaper reports the discussions appearing in Congress regarding the issue of contract labor. Both articles are mainly focused on the southern states operation of bringing contract labor into the country to be able to keep up with the supply and demand of work. On the 15th, the article details that an agent for the state of South Carolina traveling overseas in search of contract labor, making verbal agreements with willing participants, and purchasing their tickets. It further discusses that because the

¹³¹ *MT*, 22.02.1907, P. 1

agreement was verbal, and non-committal in the sense that the Immigrants were free to make different choices when arrived at America, it would not be considered contract labor and any immigrant would not be turned away at this point. On the 22nd, the article discusses the southern states disapproval of the Immigration Act stating that it would hinder the souths routines regarding encouragement of immigration. The Southern states are at this point reliant on immigrant workers because there is a shortage in black labor force.¹³²

Continuing from here, immigration and the Immigration Act takes a back seat in *MT*, it is in fact barely mentioned again. The newspaper focuses more on the events unfolding in Russia, and other home cases such as the issues regarding corruption in several states. For example, the Mayor of San Francisco admits guilt in a case of bribery and is sentenced to prison. Further in this period, *MT* spends quite the amount of time detailing the issues behind the Japanese case and explaining the complex relationship between Japan and America. From what I have managed to find, the newspaper seemed increasingly interested in keeping up with the bigger national and international cases and because of that, immigration ended up not being a prioritized subject.

On April 12th the newspaper publishes an article that addresses a letter written by one Herbert Spencer in 1892. The letter in question details Mr. Spencer's opinions on the Japanese question, and he states his opinion on the mixing of races. He states that the mixing of races should be outlawed and that there is a biological reason for his opinions. Nature would not agree with the mixing of races. Mr. Spencer further states his approval of the exclusion of the Chinese, and that if Chinese were to be allowed to settle down, they would need to be reduced to a race equated with slaves. Further he says that any massive immigration and mixing of races would be social destructive, and that this would also apply to the Japanese. It is made clear by the newspaper that this letter was only released to the public in Japan and California after the death of Mr. Spencer, and that it has caused a just uproar considering the efforts being made to negotiate a treaty with Japan.¹³³

In May, the paper reports that the Japanese representative in America has the understanding that anti-Japanese sentiments currently only exists in San Francisco and is assured that

¹³² *MT*, 15.03.1907, P.4, and 22.03.1907, P. 4

¹³³ *MT*, 12.04.1907, P. 4

Japanese people in other places are not experiencing the same level of discrimination. He seems positive that the countries will reach a solution that keeps them at comfortable levels of friendships.¹³⁴ However, from the beginning of June the paper reports a difference in the tune between Japan and America. The paper reports on the 7th of June that leading members of Japanese society is growing increasingly worried about the tension in the relationship between America and Japan. The report from Japan in turn surprises people in Washington D.C., reporting that due to the pleasant interactions with General Kuroki during his visit. Further the report states that the federal government were under the impression that the Japanese government was aware of the limited power the federal government have over the states. It is also stated that they were under the impression that Japan was pleased with the outcome of the school issue, seeing as it was unprecedented that the President himself had intervened in such level as he had.¹³⁵

On the 21st of June, the paper reports that journalists in Tokyo have been advised by the Japanese ministry of interior to cease reporting on the situation between Japan and America. It is not stated what was the reasoning for this advice, but I assume that it is because of the increasing media attention and public uproar in Japan at the time. Also, on the 21st, the newspaper publishes a lengthy article detailing the current state of the relationship with Japan. Both Japan and America are actively trying to shut down rumors about an impending war, stating that when given the opportunity the issues can be resolved by proper and fair negotiations. Dr. Masuji Miyakawa is quoted saying that this is not an international issue, but rather a local issue where Japanese people were to blame for the uncomfortable experiences they had. He states that this would continue to happen if his fellow countrymen continued to rely on their government to intervene when they were not treated right. He also stated that it is because those who live in San Francisco continue to speak, write, and think in their language, and continue to behave in their usual way, disregarding the American way, that these things happen.¹³⁶

¹³⁴ *MT*, 24.05.1907, P.4

¹³⁵ *MT*, 07.06.1907, P. 8

¹³⁶ *MT*, 21.06.1907, P. 4 and 10.

4.4 Analysis and chapter conclusion.

The newspapers seem to have different focus areas this year, *DP/VA* seem much more interested in the reporting of the immigration legislation and dedicating less time for the Japanese case than *MT* does. *MT* also dedicates little to none of the space in the paper to report on the general progress of immigration this year.

When going through the articles on the Japanese school case, I have a sense that they are mostly written with the intentions of being neutral in reporting. I do however react strongly to the fact that none of the articles mention that some of the main advocates for school segregation is Norwegian labors in San Francisco. I could probably assume that they were not aware of the Norwegian ties, though judging by the names I would strongly assume they were aware. Why would they choose to not name these Norwegians, in a Norwegian language newspaper? To answer this, I can only make assumptions and I will do so. I think that this was an active choice made by the editors at the time, to continue their neutrality as journalists. Seeing as the Norwegian media is characterized by their efforts to not come across as political or belonging to any form of ideology, this seems on brand for them. I however also think that the locations of the newspapers make a huge difference. I can only assume that newspapers on the West coast had a different opinion, largely due to the impact Asian immigration had on the western states. Seeing as my chosen newspapers are in the upper Midwest states of Minnesota and Iowa, they probably felt indifferent to the topic compared to other newspapers. As we have seen in the previous chapters, both newspapers focus much more on regional news including important cases from the neighboring states. My inkling is that this is a case of importance to these newspapers because of the media attention it was getting from other places in the country, and in the world.

Reading a case study made by Aimee Eng, under supervision by Professor Daniel McFarland at Stanford University, called "*The Japanese Question: San Francisco Education in 1906*", I find that there is more to the story than is reported by the newspapers. What is interesting to me here is that there is a deeper history to consider in this instance. The case study gives a quick look into the background of the immigration restriction of Chinese, and then further dives into certain aspects that differentiate the Chinese from the Japanese. As seen previously in this thesis, with the differentiating between the Italian and Jewish immigrants, there is a focus on assimilating and the adaptability of people. It is pointed out that The Japanese, like

the Jewish, were more likely to bring their entire families to start new lives. Unlike the Chinese, Japanese families were more likely to settle in other places than concentrated boroughs like Chinatown. At a time when Japan was developing as a military force and being considered the winner of the Russo-Japanese War, one might say that the issue of discrimination in such a way as in San Francisco is cause for extreme tension. As the case study vividly depicts, there was extreme media involvement, both in America and in Japan. And rightfully many Japanese people felt like their pride and hard work was being diminished and disrespected, and therefore called upon representatives to criticize the decisions to segregate school children. Now people not only feared labor shortage, but also the possibility of war. Which, in hindsight should probably have been a bigger concern.

It is at the time, and in the future, that the mutual gentleman's agreement really starts the spark that is excluding all Asians. Eng mentions that the creation of the Japanese and Korean Exclusion League works hard to promote legislation that is clearly anti-Orientalist. Ironically what is now known as the Asiatic Exclusion League (AEL), is created by immigrants, and above that several founding and important members are Norwegian. One of them being Olaf Tveitmoe, a Norwegian-born American editor and labor leader who was a founding member and president of AEL. I will also have to mention that, ironically, Tveitmoe is wrongly attributed to being a Swedish immigrant in Eng's case study. What is puzzling to me is that there is in none of the articles that talk about the segregation of school children, or the issue of Japanese immigration, talk about the efforts of the Norwegian labor unionists in California. I could speculate that they did not know, though I highly doubt that would be the case when there was such media attention on this topic. The names alone would peek anyone of Scandinavian descents interest.

Overall, I think that as the newspapers continue to grow, the interest shifts. In the newspapers this year a lessened focus on immigration does not mean that immigration was less frequent. As mentioned earlier, 1907 was one of the biggest years for immigration, but this falls short of being reported as heavily as earlier years. I do also think that the newspapers are developing their own techniques to report on cases by carefully choosing their words. That way they cannot be seen as skewering one way or another, but still make an impact on the reader. This becomes apparent in the case regarding the Japanese school case, as well as the article detailing the Jewish woman in *DP/VA*.

Chapter 5: Summary, Conclusion, Epilogue.

This thesis uses Norwegian newspapers in America as a basis for exploring the immigrant experience between 1903 and 1907. During my time reading these newspapers I have found that the newspapers spent their time focusing on issues or cases that seem to take up media and public interest on a bigger level. In 1903 there is a significant focus on the Jewish displacement in Eastern Europe, and the state of emergency happening in Sweden, Finland, and Norway. In 1906 the focus shifted to the independence of Norway, and particularly the monarchy and coronation of the royal couple. Further, in 1907, the media focus is on the case of Japanese school segregation. Whilst the topic of immigration is of public interest, throughout the period this thesis focuses on, the statistics and numbers behind the immigration is less and less present in the media.

In the first chapter I lay the groundwork for the thesis, by discussing different aspects of the topic that I deemed important. Through discussing the U.S.'s history with immigration, I contextualize a pattern of push and pull immigration. It stands to reason that when times are good in America immigration is on the rise, and when times are bad immigration is declining. Now this is not saying that immigration halted to a full stop during the bad times, but it shows that for many people good times in America was a prerequisite of immigrating. This is true for Norwegians as well, but as established in chapter 1, for most people during this period immigration is heightened because there is a severe lack in stable employment. Further in chapter 1, I discuss the timeline of legislation and lawmaking regarding immigration in America. Beginning with a look at the Homestead Act of 1862, I establish the importance it had in helping America develop the west, but also how it opens for immigration and permanent settlement of foreigners. The next piece of legislation, and probably the most vital, in the efforts to control immigration is the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. This act sets the tone in which the topic of restriction is discussed for the next century. The first half of the 20th century is plagued with the constant efforts of halting immigration as much as possible, with the first general restrictions coming in 1903, and further developing to stricter restrictions in 1917, to the full National Origins quota being officially introduced in 1924.

Continuing in chapter 1 I further discuss the relationship and development of the American ideas and attitudes toward race and ethnicity. What is very evident through this part of the chapter is that it is a key component in American society. Throughout the history of America

as a nation, race is heavily debated and focused on. Starting with the definitions of race, and the development of societal systems based around the idea of race. In the late 19th and early 20th century, due to the mass immigration happening, the idea of race develops to further include ethnicity. Switching the focus from mainly white and black as races, to further establish a hierarchy within the white race. This allows to further separate out what would be good immigrants and bad immigrants, essentially establishing preconceived notions of people based on the countries they arrive from. Further in chapter 1, I look at the Norwegian-American press. As I have chosen two of the biggest Norwegian-American newspapers at the time, I look at their general history and development, whilst also giving a short description of how the papers present in the respective years.

The next part of my thesis deals with the Immigration Acts individually. Respectively, in chapter 2 I focus on the year of 1903. It is the year where the first effort to establish legislation that encompasses all immigration. As legislators' debate and discuss what should be restricted and how, consensus is that restriction should be made. What is finally introduced is a compromise in restriction, landing on vague language such as idiots, but also establishing clear restrictions such as anarchists. The newspapers seem to be pretty interested in the development and argument of the Act in congress, and they are also going through much effort to detail the statistics of immigration by reporting on updated numbers on emigration from Norway and general immigration to America. Overall, in 1903 there seems to be a bigger general interest in the question of immigration.

In chapter 3 I continue onto the year 1906. In the three-year span between chapter 2 and 3, there are several big events and changes. Amongst the things deemed important in the newspapers are the dissolution of the Swedish-Norwegian union, the event of the Russo-Japanese war, and the turbulent situation in Russia. In 1906, Congress introduces what is known as the Naturalization Act. With this legislation power of naturalization is attributed to special courts, and the process of becoming a naturalized citizen is standardized. This does not happen without debate, and most discussions about the act happen to revolve around what a person must go through in the process of naturalization. Discussions in the newspapers this year revolve around the Homestead Act and the way to naturalization through being a homesteader. Continuously through this year the discussion of legislation in terms of knowledge-tests pertains both to immigration and naturalization. Regarding the newspapers

discussing immigration, both papers decline the occurrence of updates regarding statistics and numbers.

Chapter 4 of this thesis looks at the year of 1907, and the Immigration and Expatriation Act of 1907. The Immigration Act replaces the act from 1903 and introduces further developed language regarding the excluded classes. The Expatriation Act details the process of retaining citizenship when living abroad, and the gaining and relinquishing of citizenship via marriage or divorce. The newspapers have changed their approach to reporting news, and many larger national and international cases take the front row of focus. Immigration and congress are less reported on, given the world events that are unfolding. In this chapter I focus particularly on the media coverage of the Japanese school case and the issue of Japanese immigration. I consider this case to be a catalyst for the immigration restrictions that are coming in the period after the events detailed in this thesis.

Now, to answer my thesis question: *How did Norwegian Newspapers in America interpret and write about the new immigration legislations made by Congress between 1903 and 1907?*

The newspapers spend quite a lot of time reporting on the discussions in congress. They make conscious efforts to report accurate information and both newspapers issue corrections when they discover reporting mistakes. By going in depth in the discussions happening in congress and the different attempts to propose changes to the Acts, the newspapers help solidify the different viewpoints to the Acts. From the way the papers focus on immigration, I get the sense that the topic starts out as an important and representative topic for the Norwegian-American communities. The development of immigration and the Norwegian-American community creates developments in the way of reporting. What seemed to be interesting in 1903 regarding the number of immigrants, does not seem to be as important to be reported about in 1907.

So, whilst I don't think that Norwegian immigration to America was particularly halted due to implementation of the Immigration Acts, I think that the development of immigration restriction that started at this point started fundamental changes in the Norwegian-American communities. By considering the different background literature I have used I feel confident in saying that the Immigration Acts did affect the Norwegian-American communities, it just wasn't in the way I expected it. Going into the research for this thesis, I assumed that I would

see more of the specific and personal aspects of how immigration may have been affected. What I had not expected was to see that such a small start of restriction planted seeds of doubt and started the process of change in a community where there was no direct effect of restriction.

A common theme in both newspapers is the effort to maintain journalistic neutrality. Whilst never outright advocating for specific people, parties, or sides in particular matters, they are ruthless in judging what they think is poor behavior or decision making. I think that it's reflective of Scandinavian media and journalism at the time to focus on reporting events with neutrality. This does make it difficult to assert what the opinions of the newspapers are, but also if their opinions are a true reflection of the communities they serve.

In my introduction I stated that this thesis also explores the topic of race and ethnicity, in connection to the topic of Norwegian immigration. It is a particular American thing to connect everything back to race, and during the period this thesis addresses race is a prominent issue. During the previous chapters I have shown that the media and legislators closely link immigration with race, and then use what is common practice or understanding to further their views. So how do Norwegian immigrants fit into this narrative? Firstly, I recognize that as immigrants Norwegians faced discrimination, but their fair complexion and religious denomination reduced the intensity. Norwegian-Americans were comparable to Anglo-Saxons in a way that not many other immigrants were at the time.

Secondly, I also want to acknowledge the number of immigrants from Norway. Something that might have favored Norwegian immigrants were their willingness to work hard and be farmers in a time where industry work was crowded and low waged, but I also think that there is something to be said about the percent of people immigrated compared to other nationalities. Yes, the number of Norwegian immigrants compared to Norway's population is of a larger caliber but compared to Irish or Italian immigration it was less overwhelming. This might have worked in favor for the acceptance of Norwegian immigration until the 1920's when the overarching theme of restriction applies to all immigration.

My final remarks are that I interpret the newspapers as a vital part of the communities, and that they were instrumental in relaying the most important news that would be of interest to the communities. I would also like to say that whilst the newspapers themselves are somewhat

lacking in the ways of personal statements and where they place themselves regarding topics and cases, I think that their usage of language is indicative of changes that are incoming to the communities. So, whilst the immigration acts themselves may not have put official restrictions on immigration from Norway, the changes in tone and behavior throughout the community and the press is indicative that the general process of immigration was affected by the ideas to restrict.

End Statement.

I find it important to note that this thesis was started in the first year of the global pandemic, making it impossible to travel and seek out archives in person. Ultimately, this made it impossible to follow through on my original thesis that was based on traveling through Minnesota, visiting areas that were originally Norwegian settlements, looking through records and possibly doing in-person interviews. Late fall 2021, I ended up changing my thesis and angle, settling on using online resources to follow through on handing in my thesis.

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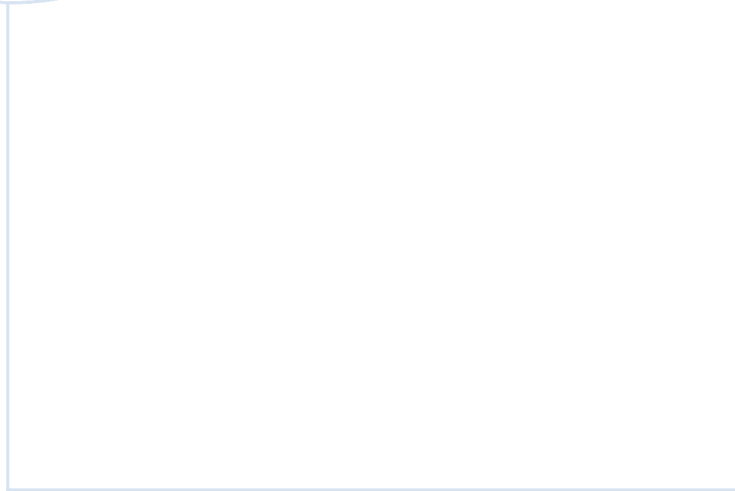
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