

IMMIGRATION TO THE SOUTH

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Report of P. H. Gadsden, Vice-President Charleston Chamber of Commerce, to the Mayor of Charleston.

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Published Under Resolution of Charleston Chamber of Commerce.

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The mayor stated that he had the full report of Mr. P. H. Gadsden regarding his visit to Bremen as to immigration. On motion this report was ordered to be published in the Year Book.

The Hon. R. G. Rhett, Mayor, Charleston, S. C.:

Dear Sir:—As one of a committee of three appointed by the South Carolina Branch of the Southern Industrial and Immigration Association, and as the special representative of the City of Charleston, I left Charleston on March 8th, for Bremen. Before sailing on the 12th, I had a very satisfactory interview with both Mr. Colp, vice-president of the Southern Railway, and Mr. Walters, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Atlantic Coast Line. I was very much impressed with the interest shown by both these corporations in the result of the trip. I was assured by both the Southern Railway and the Atlantic Coast Line that they would use every effort to secure return cargoes for the "Wittkind" in case a permanent line could be established.

At New York I met Mr. Watson and we sailed on the "Kaiser Wilhelm II," on the 12th. On arriving at Bremerhaven, on Tuesday, the 19th, we were met at the landing by Capt. Von Bardenheben, of the "Wittkind," who immediately advised us that, owing to the very great congestion of immigrants at Bremen the "Wittkind," which had arrived on Saturday, the 17th, was ordered to sail for Baltimore on Thursday, the 21st, with 1,500 immigrants. So great was the demand for a speedy departure he had been forced to work all of Sunday and every night. He also advised us that the Lloyds had received a number of letters from the "Wittkind" immigrants, showing great dissatisfaction as to conditions in South Carolina, and strongly intimated that the situation, so far as the Lloyds were concerned, had materially changed for the worse since his last trip to Charleston.

This was fully confirmed the next morning on our first interview with Mr. Von Pils and his assistant, Mr. Flammenberg. Mr. Von Pils being the director in charge of the stevedore department. In addition to the letters from immigrants, which the Lloyds had received, they