

ZION LACE EXPERTS IN CHICAGO

Detained in Philadelphia Through the Enmity of Labor Unions. They are Finally Admitted by the Treasury Department. Great Victory For Zion

DEACON SAMUEL STEVENSON, General Manager of Zion Lace Industries, and a party of Lace Experts, with their wives and families, making in all a party of twenty-six, arrive in Chicago from Beeston, Notts, England, on the evening of Wednesday, November 28, 190, the day before Thanksgiving Day.

It was an occasion of great thanksgiving in Zion, for their coming was the result of a great and notable victory which God had given Zion over determined and powerful enemies.

The following are the names of the Lace Experts and their occupation and families:

Henry Stevenson, Manager; wife and eight children.

Henry Norwebb, Expert Levers Draftsman; wife and two children.

George Middleton, Expert Levers Draftsman; wife and one child.

George Wilkinson, Lace Curtain Expert; wife and four children.

These pioneer members of the little band of Lace Experts who will instruct Zion workers in the making of lace in Zion Lace Industries, Zion City, were the cause of a legal contest which engaged the attention and interest of both England and America.

They arrived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on the steamer *Waesland*, on November 12, 1900.

The press of both England and America had been boasting for months that these Lace Experts would not be admitted to the Untied States because their coming would be in violation of the alien contract labor law.

The Amalgamated Association of

Laceworkers of America had also boasted that they would not be admitted.

But Zion knew that she was right in bringing them in and that Got was with her, so that she could not be defeated.

The Labor Unions won the first battle.

The Board of Inquiry of Immigration at Philadelphia acceded to the Union's demands and decided that the Zion Lace Experts must return to England on the *Waesland*. Attorney Samuel W. Packard proceeded to Philadelphia and the Board gave the matter a rehearing to admit additional evidence. The case was again decided against Zion.

The case was immediately appealed to Commissioner of Immigration T. V. Powderly, of the Treasury Department of the United States. In the meantime the Lace Experts were permitted to leave the ship under police surveillance, and were finely released on \$8,000 bonds.

When the case was argued before Commissioner Powderly and Secretary of the Treasury Lyman J. Gage, the Labor Unions held that the Zion Lace Experts should not be admitted because of an act of Congress passed in 1885, which forbids the importation of labor from other countries under contract.

The law, however, make the following exceptions:

Nothing in this act shall be so construed as to prevent any person, etc. from engaging under contract on agreement skilled workmen in foreign counties to perform labor in the Untied States in or upon any new industry not *at present* established in the United States; provided, that skilled labor for that purpose cannot be otherwise obtained.

In reference to this exception, the labor unions said that lacemaking was not a new industry and that lacemakers could be found in this country to do the work in Zion Lace Industries.

In his answer, Attorney Samuel W. Packard made the following points:

First. That the law did not apply to skilled labor, but to common labor. He cited a

decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in substantiation of this point.

Second. These people were not under contract. They were simply given transportation money and allowed to choose, after arriving in America, whether or not they would enter the employ of Zion Lace Industries.

Third. The industry contemplated had not been established in the United States at the time of the passage of the law, nor indeed, was it established at the present time.

Furthermore, Attorney Packard produced affidavits to prove that lace such as Zion Lace Industries proposed to manufacture was not made in this country, and, hence, those who knew how to make it could not be employed here.

The Treasury Department, after carefully considering the matter, decided that the law did not apply to these experts, hence they were admissible.

Great was the rejoicing in Zion when the decision was made public.

So widely spread was the account of the detention of these Lace Experts that Zion's great victory, through the power of God, was also very widely heralded.

The effect on the world everywhere was immediately manifest. The tone of newspaper utterances betrayed increase respect for Zion and renewed confidence that Zion City and Zion Lace Industry were not only certainties, but certain successes.

Zion has never doubted that for a single second.

Zion believes that God is building Zion City.

God wonderfully helped Attorney Packard in his presentation of Zion's case at Washington, so that this argument was not only widely commented upon as one of remarkable ability, clearness and force, but was acknowledged, by the Union Labor party, to have completely changed the effect of their

law.

Notes from Zion Harvest Field
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