

Képviselő, szenátor, a bevándorlás,  
szabályozás törvényhozás egyik utolsó

**DILLINGHAM, WILLIAM PAUL** (Dec. 12, 1843—July 12, 1923), lawyer and statesman, was the son of Paul Dillingham, a lawyer by profession and prominent in the politics of the state, and his second wife, Julia Carpenter. He was born at Waterbury, Vt., whither his grandfather had moved from Massachusetts in 1805, attended the local common schools, Newbury Seminary, and Kimball Union Academy, and then moved to Milwaukee, Wis., where he studied law in the office of his brother-in-law, Matthew H. Carpenter [*q.v.*]. Two years later he returned to Vermont and completed his legal studies under his father, then governor of the state. This circumstance favored young Dillingham's entrance into political life. His first public office was that of secretary of civil and military affairs, to which he was appointed in 1866. In 1872 he was elected state's attorney of Washington County, and was reelected for a second term. During the period from 1876 to 1884 he served four terms in the state legislature. In 1888 he received the Republican nomination for governor and was elected by the largest plurality ever given to a candidate for that office up to that time. On Oct. 18, 1900, he was elected to the United States Senate to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Justin S. Morrill [*q.v.*], being reelected by the legislature in 1902 and 1908, and by popular vote in 1914 and 1920.

The phase of Dillingham's career of most historical interest is his long service on the Senate Committee on Immigration and his espousal of the quota principle of immigration restriction. He was elected to this Committee shortly after taking his seat in the Senate, in the place of his colleague, Senator Proctor, who asked to be relieved of his duties on it. At the next session of Congress Dillingham became chairman of the Committee, a position which he held from 1903 to 1911, though he continued to be a member till the time of his death. In 1907 Congress authorized the appointment of a special immigration commission, composed of three members from the Senate, three from the House, and three to be appointed by the President, to make a study of the problem and to submit recommendations concerning it. Dillingham was appointed one of the

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three members from the Senate, and, when the commission effected its organization, was chosen as its chairman. The commission devoted over two years to a thorough investigation of foreign immigration in all its aspects, and its report extending through forty-one volumes is the most complete and exhaustive survey of the subject ever made.

In June 1913 Dillingham introduced a bill proposing that the annual amount of immigration for each nationality be limited to ten per cent of those of that nationality already in the United States. The adoption of the measure would have marked a departure from the immigration policy of the past. The outbreak of the World War, however, and the almost complete suspension of foreign immigration removed the need of immediate legislation upon the subject. At the end of the war the country was in a mood of international nationalism and Congress was more favorably inclined toward the restriction of immigration. A bill introduced by Senator Dillingham in December 1920, embodying the quota principle of restriction, passed Congress but was killed by a pocket veto of President Wilson. At the next session the Senate repassed the bill, but the House, while favoring a policy of immigration restriction, had passed another measure for the total suspension of foreign immigration for one year pending a more thorough study of the problem. The main features of the Dillingham measure were accepted in conference between the two houses, then enacted into law. This act, approved May 19, 1921, and commonly referred to in contemporary discussion as the "Dillingham Bill," limited the amount of annual immigration to three per cent of those of that nationality already in the country. It was avowedly a temporary measure, but its essential features were incorporated into subsequent legislation upon the subject, and it remains the basis of the national immigration policy to the present time (1930). Dillingham was married on Dec. 24, 1874, to Mary Ellen Shipman. He died at Montpelier, Vt., from complications following an operation.

*The Vermonter* published articles relating to the life and career of Dillingham in the following issues: vol. VI, pp. 51-53 (Nov. 1900), vol. VIII, p. 132 (Nov. 1902), vol. XXIX, pp. 20-23 (Feb. 1924). Considerable material relating to his public career and his candidacy for office is scattered through the files of the *Burlington Free Press*, and the several issues following his death on July 12, 1923, contain considerable biographical material and personal reminiscences. A report of the Senate Committee on Immigration, printed as *Senate Report No. 17, 67 Cong., 1 Sess.*, gives a full account of the history of the Dillingham immigration bill and the evolution of the policy of immigration restriction which he championed. A speech of Dillingham's published in the *Cong. Record*, 64 Cong., 1 Sess., pp. 12,769-77 is a good source of information for his

*views regarding immigration.*

