

ALIEN FELONS ARE MENACE TO LAND

Commissioner of Immigration Urges Drastic Changes in the Present Law

Would Have Foreign Nations Certify to the Character of Their Citizens Who Seek New Homes in United States

NEW YORK.—Crimes of the Black Hand, the murders of the Mafia and the Camorra, the assassination at the altar of a priest by an anarchist are events of a few days which point to the need of more drastic methods in keeping away from these shores the horde of alien felons, says the New York Herald.

Robert Watchorn, commissioner of immigration at the port of New York, proposes a novel plan by which wherever it is feasible—and it could be so in the case of Italy—foreign governments would be required to vouch for the good character of every immigrant leaving their dominions.

Police Commissioner Bingham, indignant over the present conditions with regard to the admission of foreign criminals to this country, inveighs against the immigration authorities, who, in his opinion, did not deport the wrongdoers as frequently as they should when attention was called to them.

Mr. Watchorn makes an equally emphatic denial that the charge of Gen. Bingham had any substantial basis, so far as the administration of affairs at Ellis Island is concerned.

It is a fact, aside from the controversy that the depredations of desperate criminals from abroad, the majority of whom are Italians, has become a menace to the state. Even admitting that the present immigration laws were enforced at every port with the utmost efficiency the whole system of dealing with the foreign criminal seems weak and ineffective.

It is a habit of first-class passengers to inveigh against the "offensive idiosyncrasy" of the questions propounded to them by the immigration inspectors, such as "Have you ever been in prison?" "Have you ever been an inmate of an almshouse?" and the like. The objection on their part is based on personal grounds because they consider the questions unnecessary.

Such questions propounded to the steerage passenger bent on evading the law border on the futile. The only punishment that can be meted out to the person who perjures himself is exclusion from the country. He rarely returns to his own land to make another attempt to gain the coveted domain. He knows that the inspector is charged with finding out the very thing which he wishes to conceal and exerts all the ingenuity within his power to checkmate the attempt to delve into the past.

On Their Own Testimony.

Yet the main dependence of the authorities is the hope that the inspectors will be able to establish by the testimony of men suspected of being felons the facts which would result in their own exclusion.

Practically no effort was made ten years ago to find out whether a man had a criminal record, and it has only been within the last two or three years that the authorities have seriously addressed themselves to the task of excluding the criminal classes that come to this country.

Inspectors in using their principal lever to pry into records can wield it with more or less skill. They can with modulation and with diplomatic evasion frame their inquiry, but in the last analysis they say, in effect, to every immigrant, "Are you a criminal?" and trust to their knowledge of human nature to tell whether he may be or not. Applying the idea to everyday life, the policeman might under the same analogy ask men entering a house with force and arms: "Are you burglars?" and then to permit them to enter if they assured him his suspicions were unfounded.

Observations made at Ellis Island show that the immigration laws, such as they are, with regard to criminals from other lands seem to be enforced with painstaking fidelity. The inspectors are laboriously conscientious, as a whole, in their duties and seem to do all they can within the narrow limitation of the statute to detect criminals. For practical purposes, however, the whole attitude of the present law is against them, to say

nothing of the specific provisions which are greatly in favor of the immigrant.

All Supposed Innocent.

"All immigrants in coming to this country," said Mr. Watchorn, "are supposed to be innocent, and it is something opposed to the genius of American institutions to suppose that every man is guilty and that he must prove that he is innocent. So the immigrant is welcomed here and the opportunity of citizenship is offered to him. He is supposed to be a man of good character until something develops which proves the contrary."

Altruistic as is this attitude toward the immigrant, as interpreted by the commissioner, the inspectors within the little latitude which is given to them seek to find out as much as they can. On each sheet of the manifest of the steamship are 30 names, and their owners have answered every inquiry propounded to them. Age, sex, calling and the like are duly set forth and the immigrant is required to state whether or not he is a polygamist, an anarchist, a contract laborer and whether or not he has ever been in prison or been an inmate of an almshouse.

Inspectors, by speaking the language of the candidates for admission or by availing themselves of the services of an interpreter, are supposed to be able to determine whether or not the person who presents himself is a criminal. After he has passed upon the 30 names and made notes of his opinions he signs his name to the sheet. Immigrants who either by their direct admissions or by suspicious conduct are detained for investigation have hearings before a board of inquiry, which then takes much of the responsibility.

May Make Few Mistakes.

If within three years to come immigrants who have been admitted are found to have been criminals before they came to this country there is a long black mark made against the record of the inspector concerned, and if his errors accumulate he is likely to be dismissed from the service.

Under the present law the inspectors who chance their positions on their judgment proceed to a large extent by dead reckoning. Sometimes American consuls on the other side or the foreign consuls at this port send information which is of the greatest value. An alleged embezzler, Schouaue, was apprehended on the complaint of the Russian consul general, whose description and that which the man gave of himself tallied so exactly that he admitted his identity to the immigration authorities. Owing to the representations of Commissioner Watchorn a year ago not only immigrants who have been convicted of a crime and have served terms in prison may be deported, but those who admit having committed a felony or other crime or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.

This is especially effective where immigrants are fugitives from justice. Without friendly suggestions the inspector must depend upon his knowledge of human nature, his study of physiognomy and other qualities of a Sherlock Holmes, and even then he may go sadly astray.

By dint of prolonged cross-examination, if the intuition be keen, he may be able to establish a criminal record for the suspected alien out of his own admissions; but frequently the candidate has been so well coached that he is able to baffle the inspector at every turn. If he is tripped up he can return to the land whence he came and try again for admission through some port which is less closely guarded.

Dread Foes Here.

The thing which the habitual criminal from outre mer dreads most, especially if he be a Sicilian or of a race which long nourishes feuds, is that some favorite enemy has warned the authorities about him in order to even up old scores. It is nothing unusual for the enemy to take his revenge in this way.

"Can it possibly be," an inspector will ask suavely "that you have an

enemy in this country who would say that you have been in prison six times?"

"It is a great lie," the response may be. "I swear, crossing my heart, that it has been but twice."

That is enough to bar the candidate. Toye, a Scotch criminal, who landed here early last month, had found no difficulty, according to the story, in coming and going between this country and England several times. He was at last marked for deportation, when a false friend who desired to see him out of the country for reasons of his own dropped a line to the department of commerce and labor, in Washington, concerning him. Toye was captured and deported.

It is not unusual for the noted criminals to cross the ocean ferry two or three times before their identity is noted. The law provides that any alien felon may be returned to the place whence he came if complaint is made within three years of his landing in the United States. After three years he is beyond the power of the law, and no matter if his record outruns Herod he cannot be disturbed.

Italians predominate among the criminal occupants of the detention pen, and most of these are from the south of Italy or from Sicily. Swarthy, dark browed, with faces furrowed by the records of evil lives, they are closely watched on the island, although no special prison is provided for them. They are carefully searched for knives and stiletos. The turning over of many of them to the immigration authorities comes through their arrest by the police for some deed of violence.

Hard to Make Case.

In order to make a case against them it is necessary to have accurate information as to when they came to this country and on what ship. Frequently for lack of definite information and evidence of previous guilt it is impossible to deport criminals against whom the police believe there is a strong case. The differences between the local and the federal views of the matter led recently to the criti-

foundation for the stories that other governments turned them loose upon the United States.

"It is unfair that the 26,000,000 of immigrants who have come to this country should suffer on account of the ill-doing of a few hundred thousands. The crimes which have recently been laid at the doors of the Italians are committed by only a handful of that race, perhaps not more than 500 in all."

Mr. Watchorn declared in favor of the utmost vigilance in watching for alien felons, no matter whether they were supposed to be in the steerage or the first cabins of the liners. He declared gifted swindlers and embezzlers and persons of immoral character were as likely to be found in the saloon as in the steerage.

During the administration of Commissioner Watchorn the number of foreign felons returned in a year has increased from 34 a year to nearly ten times that number and extraordinary vigilance has been exercised, yet there are many who are able to run the blockade with success for all that.

Suggests Change in Law.

The commissioner of immigration has suggested that the law be so modified as to make it possible to deport aliens who commit crimes within three years after their landing in this country irrespective of any prison sentence they may have served in their native land. This would rid the United States of many who are unfit for citizenship. He thinks also that the co-operation of the foreign governments might be obtained.

"There are some nations which issue what are called penal passports," said he. "Italy has two kinds of passports—one which states that the person bearing it is a subject of the king and yet another which states if the bearer has ever been in prison, and if so the offenses of which he was convicted and the terms are specified."

"Since certain nations, among which are Italy, Russia, Germany and France, issue such passports it would be feasible to pass a law requiring that immigrants from those countries



claims made by Col. Bingham against the immigration authorities.

Among the occupants of the detention pen recently were several immigrants with long records of crime.

There was Benedetto Tordini, for instance, who had stabbed a man in San Francisco six months ago, and in the course of his trial a prison record in Italy had been discovered. He landed originally at this port. Many a man who by hook or by crook has entered the country and has taken up his abode in the Italian quarter, there to prey on the respectable members of his own race by threats of violence, is returned by Ellis Island to his native land. The finding of so many criminals of this class indicates there are many who get through the meshes of the immigration service net.

Always Source of Danger.

"Criminals such as these are like the foxes with the brands tied to their tails which caused the burning of the corn. No matter where they are at large they are the cause of damage and trouble, and I never found any

bring penal passports with them. These would have to be well authenticated and they would serve as complete records. Any person who had a prison record would thus be barred from coming to the United States and none with such a passport would come here.

"It would be just as well to make the law far reaching and to permit no one to land here who had ever been in prison. There are a few cases, I admit, where a man by years of correct living may have completely reformed, but it would be just as well for him to remain in his own country. I believe that the various governments would willingly co-operate in this, for criminals are the foes of all humanity. The foreign nations are not anxious that criminals should flee from justice in order to come here to ply their calling."

A Man's Opinion.

A persistent bachelor informs us that women would stubbornly refuse to vote if the men wanted to establish woman suffrage.

FRENCH MEAT ROLLS

ECONOMICAL USE OF ROUND OF BEEFSTEAK.

Cooked with Bacon and a Slice of Onion They Afford Welcome Change in the Menu—To Smoke Meat.

Economical Roast.—Put meat in the roaster with water in the pan; let simmer on top of stove until tender, then put in the oven for a half hour or three-quarters to brown. Just as good as cooking in the oven all the time.

To Cook Steak.—Beefsteak should not be salted till done and when ready to take from the skillet. It never should be pounded nor prodded with a fork in turning, as that allows the juices to escape. A round steak, spread over with a dressing the same as used to stuff a fowl, then rolled and tied with a cord and baked for an hour is a nice meat service.

French Meat Rolls.—Take a choice round of beefsteak cut thin. Cut in six-inch squares. Place a slice of bacon on each square, add one slice of onion, salt and pepper. Roll and tie or sew them up. Lay them in flat-bottomed kettle, add half a cup of water, butter the size of an egg, two bay leaves and four cloves. Simmer slowly for one hour.

To Smoke Meat.—Ham or other meat treated according to the following plan will be perfectly cured for smoking without first having stood in pickling fluid or brine. Take ten quarts of salt, one pound of pepper, one pound of saltpeter and three pounds of sugar. Dissolve saltpeter in a little hot water, and then mix all the ingredients thoroughly together and rub this mixture into the meat or hams with the hand until every part is well covered. The mixture must be worked in around and under the center bone, pushing well in with a knife. Then lay in a cool place for about two weeks, but do not let it freeze. The meat then is ready to smoke, and will prove of excellent quality.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

To clean a copper kettle rub the kettle with powdered bath brick and paraffin and then polish it with dry brick dust or whiting.

When pouring out tea one sometimes is annoyed to find the tea will run down the spout. To prevent this rub a little butter round the outside of the spout.

When thin tumblers stick together, and there is danger of breaking them, do not try to pull them apart, but put them into a pan of warm suds. In a short time they can be easily separated.

If housewives who dislike to find worms when cutting apples would first put the fruit in cold water they would find that the worms would leave the apples and come to the surface of the water.

A wire basket, known as a salad shaker, or drainer, is used to dry greens after they have been thoroughly washed. The leaves of lettuce often hold the water, even after a good shaking. Each leaf should be wiped off with a piece of cheesecloth. If not thoroughly dry the dressing will not be evenly distributed.

Sauce Coloring.

Burn sugar in a roast pan until it is black. Then pour a little water at a time on the sugar, let it boil every time till it is liquid. Pour it in a little bottle and when needed take a teaspoonful of this color and mix with the sauce.

Chicken and Celery Soup.

Take the best part of two heads of celery. Cut it up fine and add a heaping tablespoon of rice. Cook till soft. Take one quart of chicken broth, one pint of milk and cook all together and season with salt and pepper. You have a fine soup.

Making Jars Airtight.

Many housekeepers have trouble with keeping airtight anything that is put up in jars.

If, however, after a jar or bottle is corked it is sealed with a mixture of beeswax and rosin there is no danger of air getting at it.

To make this sealing mixture put two ounces of yellow beeswax and four ounces of rosin in a small tin pan, which is then set in a larger pan of hot water. Stir constantly until the wax and rosin are well blended.

Baked Mackerel.

Soak salt mackerel over night to remove brine; wash well, butter pie dish, roll mackerel in flour and put in dish, skin side down; cover with milk, add few small pieces of butter and bake 45 minutes.

Turnip Salad.

Pare and cut in dice four medium sized turnips; boil in salted water until tender, changing the water several times. Drain in colander and when cool add one cupful of rich mayonnaise. Serve on lettuce leaves.