

AT THE OUTER GATE

[Special Correspondence.] NEW YORK, Sept. 27.—Ellis Island, the chief gateway to Uncle Sam's dominions, is a little spot of dry land that peeps above the waves of New York harbor not more than 300 yards from the New Jersey shore.



ELLIS ISLAND.

his men. I paid a visit to this little spot of land today to see how the tens of thousands who come knocking at Uncle Sam's door every month are received and how those who are not thought desirable are prevented from entering, and a most interesting visit it was.

Only those who come to this side in the cheapest part of the ship, the steerage, pass through this gateway, for it is assumed that those who have money enough to pay their way in either the first or second cabin are likely to be desirable, the only questions raised by the gatekeeper being as to the ability of the immigrant to be self supporting, whether or not he comes in fulfillment of a contract regarding employment, and as to their record as law abiding citizens in the lands from which they come.

Dr. Senner, an energetic, earnest, scholarly man, is commissioner at present, and he has the assistance of about 90 persons, including heads of departments, clerks, matrons, doctors, laborers, etc. About as many more persons who are employed by the railroads, the various societies, etc., also find occupation on the island, so that its regular day population, exclusive of immigrants and visitors, is about 180.

Immigration is light at present, but it would not be possible to pass one-half of the number received even now without an almost perfect executive system. Accordingly Dr. Senner's staff is thoroughly organized and includes inspectors, interpreters, matrons, doctors, clerks and miscellaneous employees, to each of whom is assigned some particular work, and all of whom perform their duties with the utmost harmony day after day.

According to the present law, steamship companies are required to furnish the commissioner of immigration with a manifest containing the names of all steerage passengers with each shipload of immigrants. This manifest must state in addition to the names the age, sex, nativity, occupation and destination of each person, besides a lot of other details for the commissioner's guidance. For convenience the steerage passengers are divided into blocks of 30, each passenger being numbered, and his number being set opposite his name upon the manifest.

Commissioner Senner's advance guard, the boarding officers, are the first United States officials with whom the immigrants come in contact. They go on board the ship at quarantine and there begin the work of investigation, removing from the ship such passengers as are suffering from malignant diseases, and sometimes working in conjunction with the New York health officer, Dr. Jenkins, causing the detention of the ship upon which the disease exists with its entire quota of immigrants.

Once quarantine is safely passed, the ship proceeds to its dock, the cabin passengers and citizens who are steerage passengers disembark and go their way unimpeded by any restrictions other than those imposed by Uncle Sam's custom house officers, but alien steerage passengers must all enter through Dr. Senner's gate and are conveyed thither upon United States barges. Before leaving the ship, a card bearing a number and a letter, the latter to show the division to which the passenger belongs, is pinned upon the breast of each individual. Ten minutes before a large load of immigrants arrives at the island the loud sound of a gong echoes through the immense main building of the bureau. When the barge has been made fast to the dock, the gong is again sounded, and by this time every official is at his post.

As soon as the gangplank had been put in place, the passengers string ashore, and a more motley crowd was never seen under the sky of heaven than that made by the steerage passengers of a ship from Rotterdam or from one of the Mediterranean ports. The shipload which arrived this morning during my presence was from Rotterdam, and its passengers included Germans and Poles and Hungarians and Slovaks and Bohemians and Russian Jews.

Guided by the proper officials, they climbed the stairs to the second story and through what must have been to them most devious passages to the great hall where the inspection was performed. They first entered a space about 30 feet square, separated from the rest of the floor by wire gratings in such a way as to form an immense cage. There each division was passed in single file between gas pipe railings in front of the inspectors' desks, and there each individual was questioned and cross questioned until the inspectors were satisfied either that he or she should be allowed to proceed without further examination or that the case needed such other investigation as could be obtained only by detention.

The inspectors are a patient, intelligent, courteous lot of men. From long experience they can tell at a glance the nationality of the immigrant, and so do not need to wait for spoken words to know in what language to make the inquiry. Sometimes, of course, an inspect-

or will be at fault, but one syllable from the questioned individual will set the official mind right, and then the questioning proceeds rapidly, but skillfully, until it has been determined how the immigrant shall be disposed of.

One of the most important questions relates to the amount of money in possession of the individual, but contrary to an impression which seems general it is not required that an immigrant shall be possessed of any specified sum. If the doctors pass favorably as to the health of the person examined and he or she have enough money or a ticket for transportation to the ultimate destination, release comes at once, providing the immigrant's answers agree with the particulars set down in the ship's manifest. This is the general rule. The exceptions I have before alluded to. A woman with children, unaccompanied by a husband or other male relative, a minor without money or a person who is suspected of being a contract laborer is at once sent to the detention pen, as the officials speak of the large cage in which those whom it is thought desirable to further examine are placed.

The detention pen is rarely empty, although once or twice a shipload of immigrants has been received among whom there was not one candidate for this cage. Almost all women accompanied only by their children pass some time in this compartment, for it rarely happens that the woman's husband is at hand to receive her at the moment of her arrival at Ellis Island, and the authorities will not allow her to land unless her husband comes for her. This ruling may at first thought appear to be unnecessarily severe, and it certainly does so appear to most of the detained wives, but as explained to me by the authorities it seems a very necessary regulation.

The great aim of inspection and examination is to prevent the landing of individuals likely sooner or later to become a charge upon the charitable societies or the state authorities. A woman with a family of small children, without a husband to provide for her support, if without money will probably need aid very soon after arriving here, and the experience of the authorities has been such to render it necessary in their eyes that the existence of the husband shall be proved by his personal appearance to receive his family.

Offentimes wives come to America bringing their children with them in search of husbands who have been guilty of desertion, and such families are almost certain to be incapable of self support. Sometimes widows come with the expectation of living with relatives. In such instances if the relatives can show beyond reasonable shadow of doubt that they will be able to support the detained immigrants the latter are allowed to land.

The ideas of the immigration bureau regarding the landing of families not met by the husband and father are well



TYPES OF IMMIGRANTS.

understood among the immigrants and their friends, and as a consequence men go to the bureau every day claiming to be the husbands of newly arrived women who do not in fact sustain that relation toward them.

The board of contract labor inspectors, Mr. John J. Quinn chief, has to do with quite another sort of detention. The work of this department of the bureau is important, and under all the circumstances very effective, a little less than 1 per cent of the total number of alien immigrants being detained and sent back by this board at present. This is much in excess of the number formerly sent back. From July, 1892, to July, 1893, only 438 all told were sent back under the contract labor law. During July of this year 240 went back, and during August 335. Most contract laborers come very well posted as to what they shall answer when questioned by the inspectors, and when a block of, say, 10 or 15 men all answer the contract labor inspectors in practically the same words the whole block is reinspected. But it is not claimed that a very large percentage of those who are really here under contract are detected.

Those immigrants who are fortunate enough to be passed without any detention at all are without unnecessary delay put aboard the bureau's ferryboat and sent to New York, or turned over to the railroad pool for transportation to such interior places as they are bound for. Those whom it is finally decided must be returned to Europe are marched to the return pen. They are a most dejected, woebegone lot, and their looks and bearing are in strong contrast to the bright faces and buoyant mien of the others. To these it seems no doubt that they have now reached the land of milk and honey, a happy country where plenty and comfort will surely follow honest exertion. Most of them have yet to learn that in America, as in the rest of the world, Dame Fortune distributes her rewards with a partial hand, and that to many life in America is a life of privation, and to all who would win one of constant struggle and toil.

I. D. MARSHALL.

Fair Enough. Custodian—How is this? You have charged me twice the usual price for shaving. Barber—My razor was dull, and it took me twice as long.—New York Weekly.

MARVELS OF MINING

WORLD'S FAIR GROUND, Sept. 28.—[Special Courier Correspondence.]—I have been all over the Mining building three times, and still I hesitate to attempt a description—first, because I am in this case unusually anxious to do full justice, and, secondly, because in mining matters all errors are serious. Even an omission may prove a serious error, for there are a thousand little variations in the chemistry of minerals, and quite as many little technicalities in the terms to describe them, and as a very minute variation in the constituents of an ore may and often does make all the difference between profit and loss, so a similar variation in terms may turn important truth into nonsense. There are many grades in other kinds of reporting.

A Mine Connoisseur. If I knew as little of mining as I do (or recently did) of art, I should tackle the subject with the same confidence—the sublime self confidence, as it were, shown by the monkey of the fable who wound the watch with a corkscrew. But as I was for many years a student of mines and a writer thereon in Utah and Colorado, the case is different. In the coal mines of Indiana, Ohio and Nova Scotia, I have often had occasion to notice how completely nature reverses herself, and that familiarity with that kind of mining rather disqualifies one for understanding a silver mine. Coal and iron are in beds, so to speak. They tend toward the horizontal. Silver and gold lodes are in fissures (not quite always) and tend to the perpendicular. Hence, the longer a true fissure vein is worked, the more difficult its working becomes, by reason of heat and water, hoisting the greater distance and the accumulation of such waste matter as is left in the vein.

And here we have the mining engineer gets in his science, and it is in this line that this building is indeed full of marvels. There is the great model section shown by the Calumet and Hecla Mining companies of Michigan, and though their output is copper the system of timbering is the same as for silver. A large space upon the wall represents the mine—the opposite wall is supposed to be removed and the spectator to have his position in its place. Then he has before him the long timbered shaft or incline, running to the greatest depth worked, the chamber which has been worked out and timbered up, and all the slopes, drifts and winzes for opening new ore ground and taking out the ore by "back stopping." Here, too, are the great fans, which drive a regular little tornado of cold fresh air to the bottom of the deepest shaft, and the great suction funnels, which in turn draw up the foul air.

In Subterranean Depths. All these are running at lightning speed, as everything does in a mining country, and if you think such tremendous drafts unnecessary consider that at the 1,000 feet level in the great Comstock lode the thermometer in the side drifts stood the year round at 132 degrees, and the men could work only by half hour shifts, resting between shifts in the main passages, where connection had been established, the air rushing down one shaft and up another and sweeping all the intermediate sections. Here, too, are the monster pumps which pour out those great streams one may see flowing down the mountainside, and here are the monster hoisting engines and all the latest appliances for crushing, sorting, roasting, concentrating, separating, chlorinating, washing, desulphurizing, melting and finally refining, for even the rich and comparatively clean sulphuret ores of Colorado must go through elaborate processes after leaving the mine, and every process demands the highest kind of engineering skill. Don't tell me that silver will cease to be a precious metal; it takes too much labor and skill to get it.

Ada Rehan's Statue. In view of all these things, it almost aggravates an old miner to see so few people in this building and to note that the crowds are about two or three particular sights. One is the diamond washing and polishing. I have not yet been able to get near enough to watch the process, for it draws the people in mass. By the way, another thing I have not been able to see is the scenic theater in the Electricity building, for there the hundreds waiting and finally never it is open. Montana's silver crowd, and so do the wonderful copper exhibits. It is indeed a pleasure to look at the great masses, 6,000 and 8,000 pounds each, of this metal almost pure in its native state from the mines of Michigan. In the cases, too, are hundreds of specimens of the "flowered" ore, its surface shining in brilliant green. Gold is the only metal, I believe, which "flowers" or gives a stain of its own color. Copper stain is green, iron stain is red, lead stain is silvery gray, and the sulphurets, generally in combination with other minerals, flower out on the surface in all the gorgeous disorder of the so called "copper ores."

Another crowd is generally found about the petrified woods, of which Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona have sent some truly wonderful specimens. Imagine a cross section sawed out of a freshly fallen oak and then suddenly turned to the hardest agate—all the veins and annual rings, and even the minute variations just under the bark, fixed in the eternal statuary of nature. Some of these slabs are two feet across, and while the vim is left in the "natural wood," so to speak, the face is polished to a mirror-like smoothness. These called moss agates, water agates and ribbon agates attract much less attention, as, though pretty, they are not specially curious.

Other Mineral Curiosities. The strange forms which silver assumes are more interesting. When there is more of the pure metal in a mass of ore than the quartz or mechanical union, can hold in chemical or mechanical union, the excess forms upon the face of the ore mass—sometimes in fine spun threads of silver hair, sometimes in wire silver and again in ruby silver, horn silver or silver glance. In rare instances the excess coats the ore mass in slimy folds like what butchers call "leaf lard." All these interest the people—as curiosities merely.

Under the Kentucky pavilion is a reproduction of one chamber of the Mammoth cave. In the Washington building is the mammoth block of coal—41,000 pounds. The famous A. E. Foote collection of 150 tons of rare minerals, which was shown at the Centennial and at Paris, is also here. The Greeks have sent many things of interest as antiquities. The statue of Liberty in salt, 5 feet 8 inches high, was cut from a single block taken from a depth of 250 feet. All these and a few more interest the people for a few minutes each; but, alas! they care nothing for all the science embodied in these wonderful machines and mining models.

Gertie—How old is Maud? Ethel—She has been 23 ever since a fire in her house burned up the family Bible six years ago.—Chicago Record.

"HORSE HEAD COPPERS."

New Jersey's Issue of Curious Coins Many Years Ago. [Special Correspondence.] TRENTON, Sept. 27.—Although the several states are authorized by the organic law of the land to coin money, it has been many years since the privilege has been taken advantage of. New Jersey's legislature in 1796 authorized the issuing of copper coin "in the sum of £10,000." The coining was done under this act by private parties on a contract with the state, three citizens named Walter Mould, Thomas Goudsley and Allen Cox being the contractors.



HORSE HEAD COINS.

The terms of the agreement were as follows: The coins were each to weigh six pennyweights and six grains, 15 were to equal a shilling, and they were to be made in this state, and they were to bear "such marks and inscriptions" as should be "directed by the justices of the supreme court or any one of them." Before proceeding to the work of coining the contractors were to "enter into bonds to the governor, to the use of the state, in the sum of £10,000, with at least two sufficient sureties, that they would within two years from the publication of the act coin the full sum of £10,000 in copper and faithfully and honestly perform their contract." One-tenth of the full sum coined was to be delivered to the state treasurer in quarterly payments as recompense to the state for the privilege of coining.

The work seems to have been done to the satisfaction of the officials. At least I have failed to find any record of failure to carry out the contract, but there must have been some friction, for two acts supplemental to the one I have mentioned above were passed later. One of these authorized the coining of one-third of the amount of £10,000 by Walter Mould, while the other two contractors were authorized to coin the remaining two-thirds. If any of the parties failed to carry out the terms of the contract, the others were at liberty to assume the whole. The other supplemental act was for the protection of the contractors, and provided penalties for 10 times the amount offered for offering any copper coins made by any but the authorized contractors.

The coining was all accomplished in three years, and several varieties were issued. All bore on the obverse an American shield and the motto "E Pluribus Unum," the obverse bore the legend "Nova Caesarea" and a plow surmounted by a horse's head. They were known as "horse head coppers" from this design.

They varied considerably in weight, the heaviest being 6 pennyweights and 17 grains, while the lightest were 4 pennyweights and 19 grains. They went out of circulation many years ago, but are to be found in the cabinets of numismatists. Most of them were coined at Morristown.

H. G. ANDERSON.

CHOLERA FORTY YEARS AGO.

Facts in the Memory of the Passing Generation Only. [Special Correspondence.] ROCHESTER, Sept. 26.—The precautions taken in New York to prevent a visitation of the cholera have set some of the older inhabitants of this city to talking of the disease in 1832-4.

"I was a hack driver then," said one old man today who has since got rich and retired, "and I was kept busy all the time during the first summer the cholera was here attending funerals. I was not sick a day all the season except for a plague of boils which came to me and made my life a burden."

"Some of the victims were taken away very suddenly. I remember a doctor who was very successful in his treatment of cholera. There were very few cholera patients in the families he attended regularly, because he made it a point to admonish them as to how they should live in order to prevent the disease. He urged them to be careful and drink only boiled water and to avoid eating uncooked fruit."

"One afternoon I saw him eating a muskmelon, and I told him it didn't look well for him to be breaking the rule he had laid down so stringently. He colored up and threw the melon away. Before sundown he was dead of the cholera. I don't know, of course, whether the melon did it or not, but you may be sure I was careful not to eat any fruit during the rest of that season."

"You have heard no doubt of the occasional cases of cholera patients reviving after death was supposed to have come. Well, I remember a case that gave me a great start. A woman who lived in a very tough part of the town was found lying in her rooms, as was supposed, dead from cholera. She was put into a coffin and taken to the burying ground. When the box was lifted out of the wagon, one of the men let go, and one end dropped to the ground. The lid burst, and the woman was revived by the shock. She jumped out as lively as you please and expressed her opinion of the men who were about to put her under ground in language more forcible than choice. She hadn't had cholera at all, but had been dead drunk when she was found on the floor in her house. She lived to be 'sent up' for drunkenness many times after that."

CHARLES HENDEL.

Rubber Velvet. A new material called rubber velvet is made by sprinkling powdered felt of any color over rubber cloth while the latter is hot and soft. The result looks like felt cloth, but is elastic, waterproof and exceedingly light.

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