

# Immigrants Which Uncle Sam is Adopting Into Our National Family



ONE EMIGRANT FAMILY RECENTLY LANDED



TWO LITTLE HOLLANDELS

(Copyright, 1906, by Frank G. Carpenter.)  
 WASHINGTON, Nov. 29.—(Special Correspondence of The Bee.)—The invasion of Goths and Vandals destroyed the Roman empire. Will the invasion of the hordes of ignorant Europeans destroy our republic? This question is beginning to stir the minds of our sociologists. Our immigration is increasing by gigantic leaps. From the beginning of our government until now just 3,000,000 foreigners have come into this country. The time covered is about 140 years. During the last twelve months the immigrants numbered more than 1,000,000, which was 20 per cent more than we have had in any year before. We have now in round numbers 30,000,000 people, and last year we added one million to our every eighty souls.

FROM SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE.

large number of these immigrants." "But you must not think that all of these immigrants are laborers," Mr. Sargent went on. "There are many who engage in other businesses. The Hebrews, for instance, often go into merchandising. They are small shopkeepers and also tailors and members of the clothing trades. The northern Italians are usually better off than those from about Naples, and many of them become farmers. The Germans and British go into all sorts of trades and enterprises."

Yes, the majority had little or nothing. Nevertheless the total sum brought in by them in 1905 amounted to more than \$5,000,000.

"I suppose the most of that sum came from the English and Germans, did it not?"

Yes, proportionately so. There were 30,000 English and they brought about \$2,000,000, whereas nearly as many Germans brought less than \$2,000,000. The 50,000 Irish had almost a million and a half, while the more than double as many Jews had only about \$300,000 more. The 80,000 Germans brought in \$3,000,000, and more than double as many southern Italians had not as much. Altogether there were less than 12,000 immigrants who had \$50 or more each, and about 860,000 who had less than that amount. The balance were children who had none at all."

Brought Twenty-Five Million Dollars.

"What is the cause of this great increase in our immigration, Mr. Commissioner General?"

"It is largely due to the era of prosperity which this country is now having and the great demand for labor arising therefrom. If you will look over a table showing the rise and fall of our immigration since our beginning as an independent government you will see that we have a big influx of foreigners when times are good, but that the flow stops when they become bad. Indeed, immigration is one of the best of thermometers to test our financial condition. From the beginning up to 1855 the rise was comparatively steady. Then came the panic of 1857 and the civil war, and the number of immigrants fell from over 400,000 to less than 100,000 per annum. As the war closed the streets rose and gradually approached 300,000, when the panic of 1873 sent it down again. It rose to almost 500,000 in 1882, and then because of another hard time season, again dropped, to fall to just over 200,000. The immigrants we admitted in 1905 were 1,926,198. If we should have a season of financial troubles I have no doubt our immigration would at once fall off and that we should lose many of the men who are coming now."

Immigrants Should Be Scattered.

"Would it not be far better for the country, Mr. Sargent, if these people could be scattered throughout the United States?"

"Very much so, and I am doing all I can toward that end. Indeed, I think it would pay the national government and the individual states to institute measures whereby the immigrants might be induced to go where they will do the most good for themselves and the country. This work should begin in the localities from which the immigrants come. As it is now the immigrants who congest our big cities have gone there because their friends who are laboring in America have written them. They go where their friends are and do not know that there are better locations elsewhere. They expect to find good jobs and big pay waiting for them the moment they

same time from one small community in Europe for the same part of the United States, and upon landing all make their way to one locality, where they go to work for one factory or railroad—would you not think that those men were imported under contract? We do, but we find it almost impossible to prevent it. Indeed, I have little doubt but that much labor is imported that way. This may be the case with the southern Italians, who are largely worked here by contract after they land, with padrones in charge."

land in New York. They often fall into the hands of employment agencies and are misled.

"The national government might prevent the opportunities offered by different sections of the United States to would-be immigrants abroad and also have bureaus of information at our chief ports to show them where to go upon landing. The states which so much need immigrants should send agents to foreign countries to drum up the best classes of settlers, and they might publish their inducements in the language of the countries from where the immigrants come. Each such state should have a representative at New York to meet immigrants as they land at Ellis Island

and he could if he would take them to see a exhibition of the products of his state or show nearby. Such men as were especially desirable as settlers might be helped on their way."

"Today the south is suffering from a labor famine," continued Mr. Sargent. "Seventy-five of the million who comes in last year only 45 per cent went south of Mason and Dixon's line. Maryland, West Virginia and Florida each received only about 5000 and Louisiana 5,000. Texas could use hundreds of thousands of settlers, but it got only 4,000 out of that million. Tennessee did not get 500 and Kentucky still less. What should be done is to divert the streams of immigration, if possible, to different ports. Why should not Louisiana and Texas have immigrants landing at New Orleans and Galveston instead of New York?"

Uncle Sam's Big Bite.

I asked Mr. Sargent: "Don't you think Uncle Sam is biting off more than he can chew? A million in the raw is a big mouthful. Can the country masticate and digest it?"

"Yes," replied the commissioner general of immigration. "The leech of our nation are strong and the stomach capacious. If the immigrants are of the right character and they can be carried to the right localities, we shall have no trouble whatever. The chief difficulty is that many of them are ignorant and that they show a tendency to congest our big cities. They are not like the immigrants of the first three-quarters of our century, who came with the ambition to be farm owners. They settled upon our homesteads and other cheap lands and scattered themselves out over the United States. Such foreigners changed and were transformed into Americans. Their children learned our language and quickly absorbed into the body politic. Those immigrants came from northern Europe, and especially from Germany and the United Kingdom. They formed the bulk of our immigration until well up into the eighties. Most of our immigrants are now coming from Austria-Hungary, Italy and Russia, and they are day laborers rather than farm settlers."

## Million Dollar Home for American Art Collections

BOSTON, Dec. 1.—With thousands of American going abroad every year to visit the art galleries of the old world, it is interesting to note that Europeans who come to this country often express surprise at the excellence of our art collections, of which nearly all of any consequence have been gathered within a generation. The great galleries of Europe represent in many instances the growth of centuries, while the really important permanent exhibitions of works of painting, sculpture and the applied arts in this country have been made since 1870. In that time so rapid has been the advance that predictions are already heard of a day when European students will visit American galleries for the purpose of becoming acquainted with some of the most important of the world's masterpieces. Such institutions as the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Pollock Museum of Art in New York, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Corcoran Art gallery in Washington and the Museum of Fine Arts in this city have already gained international reputation, while Philadelphia, through the consolidation of the John G. Johnson, William L. Elkins and P. A. B. Widener collections, is destined very shortly to have one of the most notable museums of the country. At the same time, in smaller cities, there has been a similar awakening, so that the place of art collection open to the public is exceptional.

The modern art museum is much more than a collection of painting and sculpture gathered at random. It covers so wide a range, both in time and place, that its collections become an epitome of ancient and modern civilization as revealed in art. There are objects, for example, in the Boston museum which were fashioned when the ancient civilization in the valley of the Nile was still at its dawn. Visitors see statues in limestone and wood which were carved and painted nearly 3,000 years before the birth of Christ. Of later date is a recent accession, the sarcophagus of King Thothmes I, who lived from 1549 to 1515 B. C. The great stone, one of the first to be so used, which was hollowed out to receive his remains and was covered with quaint carvings, was found in the tomb of his daughter, Queen Hatsheput, in the valley of the Kings at Thebes.

Nearly everybody is, in a way, familiar with Egyptian art as seen in the architecture of temples and burial places. Less familiar are other evidences of the skill of the Egyptians. Included in the Boston collection is a galleon skin robe, mysteriously and wonderfully wrought, that has been surmised to be an earlier form of the ephod of the Bible, a garment which has heretofore puzzled the learned. At first glance the robe seems to be made of woven meshes, but closer inspection shows its main portion to consist of a single galleon skin, the effect of the meshes being obtained by piercing the interior with minute cuts, about forty to the inch and perhaps a hundred thousand in total number. Nearly 3,500 years have come and gone since an Egyptian artisan made from this skin a fabric almost as delicate as lace work, yet the fragile hair still clings to several spots missed by the workman's knife and very few of the meshes are broken.

The Egyptian department of the museum had its beginnings in 1872, when Mr. C. Grenville Way presented a number of interesting antiquities, and since that time has been in steady process of development until it has become so large that in the present building only a limited number of the possessions can be shown. Many of the objects, such as two great mastabas of stone tombs, have necessarily been stored outside the building. Ample provision for the proper display of such works

for the new home of the institution, and one of these, known as the Keion, has come into the keeping of the Museum of Fine Arts, the other two being owned respectively by the nikado and by Baron Iwasaki of Tokio. In Buddhist sculpture the museum is rich, and out of many examples one may especially be selected, a beautiful example of Japanese art dating back to the eighth century, a bronze statuette of Kwannon, angel of mercy.

Dealings in Immigrants.

"I suppose one of the great forces causing emigration from Europe is the steamship?"

"Yes. They make from \$20 to \$25 out of each man they bring across the Atlantic, and some single steamers carry 1,000 or more at a time. This means revenue from \$30,000 to \$40,000 from that source for a single voyage. Every steamship company has its agents scattered throughout Europe drumming up such custom. School teachers and local preachers may receive a small per cent of the passage money for each person they induce to go abroad, and there are also runners in eastern and southern Europe who go from city to city and from village to village with a purpose. They tell fairy tales about the prosperity of the many immigrants now in America and of the opportunities we offer to aliens. It is by such means that paupers and diseased persons are induced to make the journey, only to find that they are shipped back upon landing."

"As to the importation of undesirable characters," the commissioner general continued, "that is largely prevented now by our law. We make each steamer pay \$100 fine for every person brought to our shores who does not correspond with the regulations of admission, and at the same time we force the companies to carry persons back free of charge. The result is a steamship company will sometimes refuse to take an immigrant without he deposits \$100 with it to cover the danger of his fine."

**Our Pauper Immigrants.**

"But do we not admit many paupers into this country?"

"We try to prevent it," said Mr. Sargent. "And we do send many such back to Europe. Last year just about 1,000 were refused admission and more than 2,000 were kept out because they had contagious diseases. As it is now a large proportion of the inmates of our penal and charitable institutions are foreigners. We have more than 40,000 aliens in such places, and of these about 40,000 are over 21 years old. The most of them came in through New York, although they are scattered all over the country. As it is now more than 25 per cent of all the members of such institutions are of foreign birth, more than 11 per cent have never been naturalized."

Hundreds of Thousands Can't Write.

"How do these immigrants compare with those of the past as to literacy?" I asked.

"They contain the many more who cannot read or write. The immigration from northern Europe from 1880 to 1890 was extraordinarily well educated. Of those from Denmark, Norway and Sweden we rarely found one who could not read and write; only about 5 per cent of the Scotch, Irish and English were illiterates and only 5 per cent of the Germans. In contrast take our immigrants from 1900 to 1905. Of the Russians and Austro-Hungarians, one man in every four or more was illiterate, and of the Italians 50 per cent could not read or write. During that time over 150,000 Italians landed here and more than 500,000 of them were totally uneducated. Our Scandinavian immigrants are on the whole the best educated."

All Americans are called the nephews and nieces of Uncle Sam. Tell me something about this new million of raw immigrants who have become our cousins in 1906?"

"Most of those immigrants are not bad and they will make good members of our national family," replied the commissioner general of immigration. "But there are rare birds among them and some are so bad that we have shipped 10,000 or so back to the countries whence they came. Take the Italians. There were more of them than there are people in the city of Genoa and 38,000 of them came from southern Italy. There were about 120,000 Hebrews, 300,000 Poles and a large number of other Russians and Austro-Hungarians. We admitted over 80,000 Germans and something like 150,000 English, Irish and Scotch. As to our people from southeastern Europe, we brought in 12,000 Slovaks, 4,000 Magyars, 35,000 Croats and Slavonians, 10,000 Bohemians and Moravians and 12,000 Greeks."

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Russians Coming to America.

"Are the Russian troubles affecting our immigration?"

"Yes. We have had a big increase from that part of the world, and if the troubles continue we will have more. We got 16,000 from Russia and Finland in 1904 and about 18,000 last year, showing an increase of just about 6,000. The increase in our number of Hebrews is largely due to the troubles in Russia. We got 120,000 of them last year."

**Chinese Cheap Labor.**

"How about the Chinese, Mr. Sargent? Are not they unjustly kept out?"

"I think not. They are admitted according to law and the laws are fairly enforced. Both our government and that of the empire of China want to keep these laborers out of the United States. Nonetheless, the conditions are such that it is difficult to do so. It costs us more to guard the close of improper immigrants than almost any other. The Chinese who wish to come here are usually able to command the best legal advice to help him, his case secure witnesses to testify to anything and can tempt smugglers by the payment of large sums of money. He is backed by organizations which are ready to help him to almost any extent, and it is difficult to keep him out. It is not true that the Chinese have been insulted by our immigration officers, and it is not true that we treat them unfairly in any way. We merely carry out the law."

"How many Chinese came in last year?"

"Less than 2,000, and we sent back 234 under the Chinese exclusion act."

"What kind of Chinese can come into the United States?"

"The treaty provides for the admission of merchants, teachers, students and travelers, and the courts have said that the wives and children of merchants may also be admitted. We had more than 500 Chinese who asked permission as merchants last year and about 250 were admitted." FRANK G. CARPENTIER.



UNFINISHED PORTRAIT OF GEORGE WASHINGTON, BY GILBERT STUART. WASHINGTONS ARE COPIES OF THIS.



THE BOSTON MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS.