

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

tors 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.

Observations made at Ellis island show that the immigration laws, such as they are, with regard to criminals from other lands seems 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

consuls on the other side or the foreign consuls at this port send information which is of the greatest value. An alleged embezzler, Schouawe, 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 outer 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.

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 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



WRAPS FOR SPRING

DESIGNS THAT ARE BECOMING TO ELDERLY WOMEN.

Models Suitable to Tall, Slender Figures Are Many—For Short, Stout Women the Question is More of a Problem.

What up-to-date wraps in becoming designs elderly women will wear this spring is a difficult problem for those past their first youth to decide, says a fashion writer in the Philadelphia Ledger.

Of course, if all women were built alike there would be little difficulty in suggesting suitable modes; as it is, each type must be planned for separately.

As usual, the tall, slender figure has it all her own way, for there are very few models now worn that she will not find becoming. I saw one among the advanced styles the other day that I thought especially good for this type. It was of heavy black silk three-quarter length and fitted the shoulders smoothly. At about four inches below the collar in the back the material began to flare with much the effect of the Watteau, brought about by a seam down center back cut on the bias. The closing was slightly double-breasted and braid formed the trimming. This was set on to suggest a yoke in the back.

The sleeves were on the baggy or

der, but not too much so; they allowed, however, of being gathered into loose cuffs.

This should not be a difficult model to make at home, if due care is given to the bias seam. To support a tape or firm ribbon should be used when stitching.

The empire models, too, are all becoming to this type of women; in fact, the only designs this class need eschew will be the short, close-fitting Etons, short coats generally, and anything too youthful in the way of style, color or trimming.

The stout and short woman cannot dispose of the wrap question so easily, if they would be smartly gowned.

To my thinking, the stout, middle-aged woman of average height looks her best in coats modeled after the Louis periods—with certain modifications—whether of silk, velvet or cloth. For instance, wraps should end midway between knees and waist line. The back should be tight fitting and the fronts curved under the arms, but straight and loose at front edges. A waistcoat, tight fitting, coming from the underarm seams and of a contrasting fabric, is a necessity. The collar should be long and narrow, rather than in broad pointed rever effect and preferably darker than the coat.

For this decoration black panne velvet looks well on black silk and black satin is smart on colored cloths. The hip pieces should never be light. Some, I know, match them with the vest material. This is a mistake, as attention is then drawn to the size of the hips, something to be avoided.

HOSIERY TO MATCH SHOE TOPS.

Mirror in Dressing Room Should Be Placed to Give a View of the Feet.

"An idea of the season is to have the shoe tops and the stockings match. It is quite the thing to take one's shoe tops along when getting hose. There should not be any dividing line between the tops of the boots and the beginning of the stockings.

"And the shoes should always look new. New strings make a boot look new. They are like new ribbons on a hat or new ties in a low shoe.

"I regard a boot looking glass as an absolute essential where good looking feet are concerned. Few women have a mirror low enough to see a boot right from the sole up, and I advise the woman who wants nice looking feet to have a bit of glass or mirror set into the wall right next to the floor.

"It can be panel shaped and tall enough to take in the whole figure, or it can be merely a couple of feet in height. But a long, slender panel mirror reaching from the floor up to a height of six feet will prove immensely convenient to a woman who values her good looks."

Spring Coat for Child.

A decidedly smart little model in a spring coat for small girls that could be fashioned at home is of navy blue mohair, made in box style, closing double breasted by means of large smoked pearl buttons.

A shawl collar finishes the neck, and turnback cuffs complete the coat sleeves.

The distinguishing feature is an added set—collar and cuffs—of white percale with the finest of black hair-line stripes edged with embroidery set on without any fullness.

Style in the Back.

It is the style to pay special attention to the back and the prettiest of gowns have backs that exactly match the front and are even more elaborately trimmed. A little embroidered vest or point is set in the back of the gown and finished with a flat applique of lace while a handsome buckle completes the picture, with big sash ends falling from the buckle to make a charming finish to the back of the gown.

LATEST IN HANDBAGS.



Gold bag worth \$12,000, with swinging festoon of Mexican fire opals.

Fashionable Spring Wraps.

Some of the most costly wraps for day use show a tendency toward dark

GOWN OF BLUE VOILE.

One of the Prettiest of the Recent Afternoon Costumes.

The afternoon gown here displayed is of fine voile in a lovely shade of wedgewood blue, with a rather wide satin stripe. The skirt is slightly draped on the left hip, where the folds are held in place by two large enamel buttons. When the drapery is lifted at the bottom of the skirt the underskirt shows the satin stripes



disposed horizontally. On the bodice the satin stripes are arranged to form box-plaits both back and front, which are adorned with silk-embroidered rings. These plaits continue the shoulder line a little way down the arm with something of the kimono effect, this short outer sleeve being edged with a band of rose and gold silk embroidery and left open to show the puffed undersleeve of Alencon lace. The bodice is cut out in a round décolletage over a vest of Alencon and filet lace, and is edged with the rose and gold embroidery. The same beautiful embroidery is introduced in the folded waistband, which rises high at the back and is there finished with a big buckle covered with the voile.

shades. The new tones in velvets, which, in them, take on a lovely silvery sheen that is highly effective in drapery, are rosewood and mahogany, garnet, old maroon and odd blues which seem to hint of purple. There is an incomparable richness showing of black wraps. Those in liberty silk are the newest. They are usually picture coats, the Dalmatian or split armhole being the most novel. They are combined with rich embroideries, with fine lace and with heavy guipures, but invariably are lined with light silk. Mole, mauve, silver gray and violet are among the shades I have personally noted in these wraps, some of which have an interlining of the thinnest veiling.—Harper's Bazar.

An Inexpensive Fabric.

Among the inexpensive fabrics is an imitation of satin charmeuse that is lovely. It comes in a variety of delicate colorings, and can be bought for much less than one dollar a yard. It is reasonably wide, too, not requiring an undue quantity of material. In the matter of trimming one can exercise one's own taste, and sometimes the best ensembles are the result of the simplest combinations.



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 delude into the past.

On Their Own Testimony.
Yet the main dependence of the authorities is the hope that the inspec-

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.

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

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 stilettoes. 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 criticisms 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

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 cooperation 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 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."