

Copy..

To

The Honorable

Thomas Fitchie,

U. S. Commissioner of Immigration,

Ellis Island, N.Y.

Sir:-

Your letter dated <sup>(May)</sup> ~~May~~ 18th, a.c.. I received and took due notice of the contents, but the answer has been delayed on account of lack of time, as you know, having to work every day, Sundays included. -

You demand an ample explanation in the matter of the landing of aliens, which I registered and admitted on manifest sheets G and I of the steamer 'La Lorraine'.. I count 15 aliens going to Hotel Bertini, 10 aliens going to 34 Mulberry Street, both N.Y. City. - If you look at the manifest sheet G and I, you may notice that G.4. had been 7 years in the U.S. before, G.18..3 years, having with him his brothers, G..19..G 20 and G..28 had been 7 years in the U.S. having G 29 G 30 his relatives with him..- Further I 24. had been 3 years in the U. S. - I 1..had a brother Lorenzo in Providence, I 19..brother Antonio in N.Y. City, I 22..23 brothers Domenico and Panfilio in Providence; I 25..brothers Luigi and Guiseppe in N.Y. City, I 26. son Luigi in Montville.. There were also many U.S. citizens from the same provinces in Italy on sheets G and I..-

The Italians as a rule, meet their relatives and friends at an Italian Hotel, Restaurant or a Banker's office and so

do other nationalities and 10s of thousands are yearly admitted to this country by U.S. Inspectors and Boards of Special Inquiry. - Any registering Inspector or member of the Board of Special Inquiry must admit this and if he does not, I can easily prove it from the manifests and minutes. -

Who of the Inspectors with some experience does not know Bankers' and Hotel addresses, as follows ?

40 and 92 Union Street, Brooklyn, N.Y.C..

34, 20 and 60 Mulberry St., Manhattan, N.Y.C..

4 Garside St., Newark, N.J..

1 and 3 North Square & 210 North St., Boston, Mass..

76 and 97 Spruce St., Providence, R.I..

821-23 Webster Ave., Pittsburg, Pa., & Penn. Ave..

821 Christian St. & 731-733 Fitzwater St. and 7 & 8 St.,  
S. Philadelphia, Pa..

Hotels Bertini, Caprera, Garibaldi, Hotel Grutly, N.Y.C..

and a couple of dozens of other Italian Bankers' and Hotel addresses..

An Italian laborer has not a permanent residence, nor a flat or apartment rented; he works to-day in one, to-morrow in another place or State, therefore he directs his relatives or friends, arriving in this country, to call at the address of his Banker or Hotel, for his proper address and leaves his address or other communications, with such Banker or Hotel.-

In registering immigrants, I usually classify them as follows, according to the Immigration Laws :

I Class. The immigrant who can be admitted to land, "on his own merits",-that is, who has a little bag,with gold filled, who has a good physique, shows intelligence, who is a common laborer or farmer, with no labor contract closed, previous to his landing here and who is not a criminal nor swindler..

II..Class. The immigrant with smaller means, but who has close relatives and good friends in this country,, who may prevent him from becoming a public charge, who has no contract closed, nor is a criminal or swindler..

III.. Class. Immigrants who arrive as paupers, have poor physique and rejected by the Medical Department, or have contracts for labor, or are criminals and swindlers,etc..

All the immigrants which you mention in your letter were Immigrants of the first class and belong to the most desirable aliens, arriving in this country possessing all qualifications of the I Class..-

I admitted them to land, as they appeared to me, after full inspection, clearly and beyond any doubt, as most desirable immigrants. - They had declared before embarkation, before the ship's officers, who on their part had sworn to it, that New York City was their destination and they confirmed this before me ..-

Give me permission and time to inspect the manifests of the arriving ships and the minutes of the Boards of Special

Inquiry and I will show you hundreds and ten of hundreds cases, admitted on similar conditions, and many more, admitted under widely different unfavorable conditions, -that is, without a cent of money. -

On May 25th a.c.. at 10<sup>20</sup> A.M. the Assistant Commissioner passed the desk of Inspector Marks and was asked by Marks whether he could admit immigrants, just arrived per s s Phoenicia and standing before his desk, without money, to which Mr McSweeney replied that if the agent Mr. Taussig would assist the immigrants with a Dollar, he could admit them.- As witnesses to this conversation I mention Inspector Marks, Agent Taussig, Gateman Falter and myself. You told me some time ago, that under no circumstances, immigrants without money should be admitted, even if brother going to brother, or sister going to sister, and now, as above stated, the Assistant Commissioner gives an Inspector a permit to land practically paupers, who, with their first step in landing are thrown on the Charity and Mercy of a steamship agent..- How does anybody in the Immigration Department know whether the people whom these paupers are to join are financially able to properly assist them? - How about the manifest? Did Inspector Marks in these cases, enter the Dollar on the manifest, though the Dollars were not actually in the possession of the immigrants? - Or did he according to the manifest, actually pass the immigrants without filling the amount of money in the columns? - I only quote this case for your instruction. -

You may observe the contrast is quite drastic !- You blame me for admitting immigrants in possession of money,- whereas Assistant Commissioner McSweeney gives permission to land paupers ! Who is right, and who is wrong, according to the rules and regulations of the Immigration Service ? -

You mentioned to me, that some of the immigrants, admitted by me, ex..s s. "La Lorraine", who went to Hotel Bertini, had there only a meal and then left, buying R. tickets from Mr Bertini, whom you called a "ticket scalper" and "Padrone". I called on Mr Bertini and he denied such accusations, that he sold R. Tickets to these immigrants, who actually had called at his Hotel, according to my remarks on the manifest, but left his Hotel afterwards and that it was impossible for him to trace the steps of a customer, who visits his restaurant or Hotel..- He also said that a Mr Lederhilger from Ellis Island had been in his house, also inquiring about these immigrants and that he told him the same. -

If an immigrant declares to me, that his destination is outside of New York City, I do not admit him to New York City, and he has to buy his R. Ticket at the Railroad pool at Ellis Island; but if an immigrant declares to me, and has declared so before embarkation in France, that New York City is his destination, I admit him to New York City, to look for work, having sufficient means and health..-

Imagination has nothing to do with registering immigrants, as only facts count..-

If imagination had its way, registering would be useless as ~~one~~ one could suspect every immigrant to be a criminal or swindler or God knows what else..

According to the U.S. Laws, immigration to this country is permitted, barring undesirable immigrants as specified by the Immigration Laws and Regulations.. -

I understand from your remarks to me, previous to your letter, that I had been at fault in registering and admitting these immigrants, because I failed to discover that they intended to buy R R Tickets in New York City from R R ticket scalpers, instead from the R R pool on Ellis Island . - How can I, as a sworn inspecting officer of the U.S., -force a man, who declares and has declared before, his desire to go to New York City, compel ~~him~~ to change his address and give me another unknown destination, against his will ? - Or, how could I force him to buy a ticket to a destination, unknown to him ? - Any force I may use against an immigrant, quoting him wrong, contrary to his declarations, on the manifests, would be unlawful and I surely would have to suffer for such high-handed action.

But if you think it lawful that we Inspectors should act so, please issue your orders and you will find me in the foremost <sup>rank</sup> to obey. -

You said also, that in seeing such a number of Immigrants going to the same Hotel or Banker, I should have called the superior's attention to it, or brought the matter before you. - If I have any doubts as to landing immigrants,

I know from experience of 8 years' standing, that I have to hold them for a Special Inquiry.- You forget entirely, that these immigrants came not in a bunch to me, but first came only a few, then other ships delivered their cargoes between, then again some "La Lorraine" immigrants and in such a way often repeated and later, the doctors' cases passed, thus results could only be known, after all immigrants were landed.- You must have often observed that when I register, I have no time to look somewhere else, but on the line, <sup>where</sup> the immigrants' name is marked on the manifest, look and count the money and have a sharp look at the immigrants appearance.

Why did the Chief Inspector not detect the intention of the immigrants on manifest G and I, marked going to New York City to buy only R.. Tickets there and he could have marked them "hold" as he has often done before, for his private examinations ? He is examining all manifests, before any Inspector has a right to take them, just, I believe, for that purpose..

I cannot read the minds, nor decipher or predestine the future acts of any immigrants before me !- No man can do that !

I cannot forget the day, some months ago, when you accused me ,for letting a Finnish girl go to Quincy, Mass.. in charge of a U.S.. Citizen, native of Finland and from the same village as the girl; you reproached me in the presence of Miss Matthew and two strangers, as having acted wrongly and that the girl should have been detained for the missionary

ordered me to find the girl.- My correspondence with the Quincy Postmaster and Salomon Niemi, the U.S. Citizen, are known to you.- Now, suppose I would have detained that Finnish girl and parted her by force from her guardian, what would any judge decide in such a case? - He simply would have found me guilty of an unlawful act. -

From the men who had been in the U.S. before, from the U.S. Citizens, all on G and I manifest noted, doubtless the immigrants were well posted as to buying R.R. Tickets, in case of necessity; they knew very likely that for instance R.R. Tickets to San Francisco, Calif., were sold, some time ago, by the Ellis Island R.R. pool, ~~with~~ \$30.- later \$12.- and at present ~~with~~ \$5.00 dearer, as in New York City or elsewhere.- I have discovered that Finlanders go to Boston, Mass. chiefly to buy their R.R. Tickets to go out West, cheaper than the R.R. pool on Ellis Island *sells*. -

No wonder, the immigrant, like any simple animal, when persecuted, calculates and acts to avoid being hurt.--

But all these R.R. complications are not my affair at all, I am only trying to show you "the cause and the effect", why immigrants may try to avoid buying their R.R. Tickets in Ellis Island, supposed to be an institution to sell the cheapest R.R. Tickets to immigrants. -

If you think that I am not fully capable to do my work, kindly recommend me to Washington, D.C., for a transfer and I will be forever thankful to you for such an action. -

The manifests which I work, I am not afraid to declare, are the best worked; I do not make mistakes in checking off



wrong persons and thus bring to light such gross mistakes of others ( I had lately a dozen of such cases) of which Mr Lederhilger is fully aware, but does not report to you; very likely because I am not "in it"; my judgment during 8 years' work has fully proven to be sound, as I have not a single case of "public charge" coming back on me.. -

Any impartial employee of the Government , any outsider connected with Ellis Island, will surely testify, that, though 64 years old, I am one of the best workers in your Department

I implore you, to rest assured, that I am constantly on the "qui/vive" to protect the interests of the people of the U.S..of America, according to the Laws and Regulations of the land..

In regard to searching for:

---"Kos - Heles Adam - " as per original telegram in your possession, I have to state that I called this name at least three times in the New York detention pen, also as many times in the "S. J." pens, without receiving any reply. I also went over the Index books, up and down stairs, without finding the family name of "Kos" and by-names -Heles - Adam.- The name of "Koshelis - Adam " as given on the detention card I never called out, as such a name was not given to me.. I called Mr Lederhilger's (Chief Inspector) attention to that funny name of : "Kos - Heles -Adam"; and he said he would bet on it, that the immigrant's name was, -"Koteles Adam" - and I should go for that name. I responded promptly, as usual, to his order, calling and searching the books for "Koteles Adam"

and pinned it to the telegram and letter, the words:

"No person by the name of:

Kos Heles Adam

Has been detained, according to Record

Division Index book 5.15.01. 3<sup>00</sup> Aug. Bos."

The detention card of Koshelis Adam in your possession does not agree with manifest 11.6 per as Pennsylvania, which quotes "Kesheles Adam." -

In regard to searching for the immigrants, namely:-  
"Mihaly Kopasz and Mihaly Muzik" as per letter of Mr Hugo Lederer, I have to state I called these out in all the pens and searched all Index books.. -

On my notice, pinned to Mr Lederer's letter I wrote :

"No such persons held, according to

Record Div. Index book 5.15.01 3<sup>00</sup> Aug. Bos."

I find with pencil written:

"Admitted 5/483 L.

Mrazik Michal

4/27 Konigin Luise 13. -

I have not called, nor searched for Mrazik Michal, but for the names as stated in the letter of Mr Lederer. - You quote  
(*mihaly*)  
in your letter already another name, "Mihaly Mrzik."

All U.S..employees of this Immigration Department are paid by checks from the U.S..Treasury Department and each of them knows that if he does not write his name, corresponding to his name on the check, payment is refused. If Banker

Lederer quotes in his letter that he has money received payable to "<sup>(Michal)</sup>Michal Muzik", he surely never will pay that money to Michal Mrazik" or Michal Mrzik.<sup>(Michal)</sup> If the Department will inform Mr Lederer of the detention of "Michal Mrazik" instead of "<sup>(Michal)</sup>Michal Muzik" he surely will form a very queer opinion about the business and intellectual capacity of the employees in this Department.-

I am accustomed to work on facts given and it is not given to me to make of "Kos Heles Adam" -- "<sup>(Kosheles)</sup>Kosheles Adam" or "Kos<sup>h</sup>helis Adam, or Keshelles Adam".- Please take notice, that, "Koshelis Adam" or Keshelles Adam as per manifest, is supposed to be a Lithuanian name, though Inspector Jaukowsky an expert on the Lithuanian language, does not think it to be a proper Lithuanian name; "<sup>(Kosheles)</sup>Kosheles Adam" sounds like a Hungarian name, as also "Kos Heles Adam." The immigrants as a rule are not over bright in their actions and it is a fact that the respective names must be called exactly the way they are accustomed to be called, <sup>and</sup> properly pronounced; they will not answer otherwise. - Any U.S. Officer distributing letters, telegrams, etc. will confirm this, my statement.

This statement covers my calling "<sup>(Michal)</sup>Michal Muzik" and I do not blame "Mrazik Michal", if he does not reply to "<sup>(Michal)</sup>Michal Muzik" a difference in names as per example between:

"Gordon" and "Grady" ..-

Before closing my letter, I herewith call your attention to the fact that your letter contains wrong statements from beginning to the end. -

Wrong is the date of the arrival of the ship, "LaLorraine"

as it did not arrive on the 14th of May, but on the 12th of May a.e. (on a Sunday).

Wrong is the number of Immigrants going to Bertini Hotel and 34 Mulberry Street, New York City, as I count only on manifest G and I 15 aliens to Hotel Bertini and 10 aliens to 34 Mulberry Street; not as you quote - 22 to Bertini, 14 to Mulberry Street.

Wrong the names of "Kos Heles Adam" whom your letter transfigures to "Koshelis Adam".

*(mihal)*  
Wrong the name of "~~Michal~~ Muzik" as per original letter of Mr Lederer in your hands, which is transfigured to "Mrazik *(mihaly)* Michal" and "Mi~~hal~~ly Mrzik". Whoever composed or dictated this letter and offered it to you for signature, with all the correct documents in his hands and before him, is surely my enemy and boundless hate gave him not time enough to make correct statements.-

There is another statement which is the worst of all:-  
I state on the detention card:-

"No person by the name of "Kos Heles Adam" has been detained according to Record Div. Index book 5.15..01.3<sup>00</sup> Aug. Bos." and you quote in your letter as follows:

"To which you made memorandum in reply",

Under date of the 15th inst. "no person by this name has been detained."

referring to the name of "Koshelis Adam".

I hesitate to find a name for such an action. But hate covers all ! Hate makes also blind, as it is so clearly shown in these statements.-

I accuse the Composer of your letter, dated May 18. a.c. and addressed to me, an official letter, to be a murderer a la Molineux, in the Adams case, as he in making purposely wrong statements, has intentionally destroyed my health, as I am since the receipt of that letter, unable to sleep and eat properly, thus diminishing the remaining years of my life, as I am 64 years old and much less able to fight my battles with my enemies, as in former days.

Is this the treatment for 8 years' faithful service in the Bureau of Immigration, that I deserve ?-

I have written to you fearlessly and I am sure that I will not earn your, nor Mr McSweeney's, nor Mr Lederhilger's love, but so help me God, I could not do otherwise, but tell the truth and my opinion.

Very respectfully,  
*(signed) August W. Bostraem*  
U.S. Inspector of Immigration

Class I, N. 8, Ellis Island Station.