No. 57411

Powderly report

European Investigation

as per 57411 = 1

SCREENED

DATE: 7/23/80
Oct 3d, 1806.

My dear Mr. Sergeant:—

Yours of Oct 3, No. 56, 724-2, and subsequent letters, with cablegrams, directing me to continue with instructions contained in letter of Oct 11th, No. 11-610-0-2, await my arrival in this city. It was my intention to go on to Sicily, proceeding inquiries along the route, until the 10th of next month, when I had arranged to start for home on the White-Naples line. In compliance with your directions I shall at once proceed to England and take up the work assigned to me in your letter No. 56, 724-2.

I have succeeded in changing my transportation from the Republic to the Cunard, which sails from Liverpool on Nov. 14th.

My term of service expires on Nov. 2d, but I shall not regard it as ending until Nov. 14th. When, I hope, I shall be able to determine what conditions are like in Ireland and Manchester, England.

I thought I knew something of conditions in Italy, but Hungary last have had occasion to revise opinions and shed some light.
I do not know why there are not more of them, all of them who can get away, leave both countries forever. I believe I have learned why the people cherish these countries and before submitting my report in writing I shall discuss it with you. I have lived deep in my investigations and those who do not expect to disturb deposits below the surface, that possible, might better remain untouched. However we shall counsel on that when I see you.

During my travels I met a member of the B. C. F. who knew by his old chief and I was gratified to know that they want you to return to your old place at the head of the Brotherhood.

I do not say "satisfied" but sincerely hope you will VARY WHERE YOU ARE. There are too few real labor men in high in important places. You may find it unpleasant at times, being the holder of Conventions it cannot be otherwise, but stay where you are... Get closer to the sympathizers and the other active workers in the labor movement and endeavor to have them see the necessity and importance of sustaining you. Try not to leave your post.

I wish I could say my trip agreed with me but I do not deem it my weight back. It has rained everywhere I have been. I have not seen blue sky today. They all about feel cloud to expect to see a real blue sky until I pass the "banks" in my way home. With kind regards to all in the F.I. and yourself particularly. Truly yours,

[Signature]
Department of Commerce and Labor
BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION
Washington

September 23, 1906.

Mr. T. V. Powderly,

Sir:

Acknowledgment is made of the receipt of your letter under date of September 7th.

I am particularly pleased to learn of the subject which you have taken up for investigation and I am sure that your report thereon will be most valuable to the Bureau. I had no doubt as to the final results after you had been selected for this work.

I have noted your reference to the white slave traffic and I shall await your report thereon with interest.

With regard to further instructions, I have nothing to add in addition to those given at the time of your departure. If necessary your detail will be extended to cover all the time you need to complete your investigations. We anticipate receiving from you a most complete report and every assistance will be given to you in that direction.

All are well pleased to learn that you are again in the service and join in sending best wishes.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Commissioner-General.
In London, I sought the officials of the
Railway
Servants and among them was
permitted to occupy a seat on the
platform of the Trade Union Agents
Meeting held this week. I have visited
Ireland and questioned workmen,
Employers and loafers for you
and the latter in numbers.
Have noted down all they told
me for your information. Once
again I found the fact very
conclusively that I have arrived at
conclusions that will appeal
to you as conservative estimates
of what I heard and the value
attached there.
Everywhere the impression prevails
that if Britain's 8 million to raise 800 to
return to the U.S. and I did not
seek to discourage their minds of
the idea.
I expect to have something of
value to report to you of that
Congress. I am to meet a
delegation of them to night
at 10. After their deliberation
for I leave here at 6:30 the
morning.

North Western Hotel
Liverpool

Sept 7

Hon F. C. Sargent,
Commissioner General
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Sargent,

I am very glad I do not
have to write my report here for it is
difficult to obtain the services of a
Typist who can take rapid dictation, or find a typewriter on which
to write with satisfaction.

Mindful of your instructions I
probed into the question of importing
women for immoral purposes. First
began with the London policeman, then
then came in touch with officials
of Scotland Yard. Was fortunate
enough to have one of the police
men accompany me in search
I am an American procureer. She was located after much difficulty and when I convinced her that I was not an official and that I really wished to facilitate the early capture of prostitutes to the United States, she talked. Her revelations were startling and I shall not attempt reproduction of her statement. Much of what she said I doubt, but I remain, however, I think she adhered to fact. It is easy to surmise or conjecture but it is quite another thing to hunt up and pin down a fact. I feel confident that when I report to you you will find that you will be in a better position to deal with this phase of the question. Mr. Whitford, the procurer, has been 15 years in the business and he thoroughly understands it. The different routes of travel, the methods employed, the nationalities involved, the classes of men from the United States who have aided and sheltered her and others, to bring these dissolute creatures and other matters of detail, the develop to me and the Scotland yard man tells me he has no reason to doubt his statements. This was all obtained for me in confidence but I am at liberty to give it you verbatim and shall do so on my return. The two men are addressing or two in Austria and France "when you can get good looking, willing girls." I quote his language. I confess I did not expect to find this branch of trade so well developed.

I visited the Board of Trade in London, obtained information and written backing on the administration of the new Alien's law, or rather the non enforcement of it. This was given me all in confidence but I obtained permission to give it to you. I managed to procure enough data of those not extracted with the enforcement of the law to corroborate what the officials told me.
It is my opinion that you should come over here yourself in the spring. So through a city in one day or one week, gives you but a superficial view. One must stop in one place long enough to acquaint oneself with the different shades of opinion before forming judgment. I wish to compliment you and the Bureau under you on one particular phase of its activity. Mrs. Whiteford, "Holford of the Dr. Walker, the Ritchie, the Williams and Wrights administrations at Barge Office and Ellis Island. She referred to Mr. D'argent as being obliviously active in frustrating her bureau's intentions. I do not quote her literally for I am not sure.
...sent it to the postal authorities—might want to expurgate a triple. Anyway, the trade against your administration of the lab is greatly to your credit.

I must through the Boarding Houses of the White Star line in this city last night having permission to do so. This morning I witnessed the deputation of the Third cabin passengers of the Carin. Visited the theatre of examination etc. The Russian Jews cross over from Siberia to Grunewald and there travel across Engadine to Liverpool for United States. I shall witness their landing at these places and then trace them to their homes.

I cannot save apportioning all I have seen and noted for you. To do so would occupy whole pages.

I wish to present to you a report that you may desire by and that will aid you in your arduous work. To do so may, undoubtedly, will it is to be properly done, occupy more time than I shall be in the Service and it is to allow me to labors a time I ask that you give me another appointment dating from the expiration of the present one. Mail it to me care Consul General Paris, France, where I shall spend a day or two and I can take the oath before a U.S. Consul General at expiration of present appointment. I should dreadfully hate to get back with my work half done and for that reason make the above request.

I am over and not as well yet all the facts obtainable.

Are awfully tired, have slept no now
Washington, D.C. January 9, 1907.

My dear Mr. Sargent:-

I have delayed acknowledging receipt of yours of the 4th until I had completed my accounts and had the same ready for your approval.

In your letter you say: "words are sometimes a very poor means with which to recompense one for faithful services." They are more often a very poor means to express one's appreciation of a word of commendation. I was about to say- such as yours- but such commendation is not often given and I feel much more than I can tell, how grateful I am for the eulogistic terms you employ in speaking of my work abroad.

When I set out on my mission I did so with the determination to leave nothing undone, that I was able to do, to cause you to feel that your confidence in me was not misplaced. Having given some twenty-five years to a study of immigration matters I found it easier than many others to get at such facts as I presented to you.

I should have had my accounts in your hand ere this but the illness of a dear friend, followed by his death last evening, placed a burden on me that I had no thought of when I saw you last. Our mutual friend, Ed. Jordan, Editor of the Plate Printer, was taken sir Christmas Eve. He asked me to look after his paper and when I did I found that nothing had been done to get the last issue out to attend to it for him and shall do so for the coming i

I shall always prize that letter of yours, I know not have written it did you not mean every word of it day to earn another just like it.
I believe that from the Turkish and Russian Empires will come our most troublesome immigrants in the future. All that come from these countries will not be undesirable but a great many will not measure up to our standard. To know how to deal with them, to be prepared to meet them with a knowledge of their physical, mental and moral worth, they should be studied at home by a student who is qualified to impartially sift and weigh the elements that enter into the character of the Russian or Turkish subject. With the experience that I have had I believe I can perform good service for you and I know you want the truth. I have an ambition to do this needed work and will gladly respond to your call when the time arrives.

Again assuring you that what you said in your letter gave me the greatest pleasure I am,

Very truly yours,
Mr. T. V. Powerly,
603 Quincy Street,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

It has been my good fortune to review the most concise, interesting, and illuminating report which you have submitted as Special Immigrant Inspector in connection with your special detail for service in Europe. While I gave myself no concern as to the nature of the report which you would submit, I assure you that it far exceeds my expectations in view of the short time you had to devote to the work. The report is to the point and the information it conveys is of the greatest value, while its effect will be far-reaching. As soon as Mr. Neill of the Bureau of Labor can complete our joint work, a joint report will be made to the President.

I should be very glad to publish your report but as it is confidential and by order of the President, it will have to be submitted direct to him by Mr. Neill and myself. For this reason you will understand why I am not permitted to use it in a public way. However, I am sure that in due time the public will be given the benefit of the facts collected by you.

It is a great satisfaction to have one detailed who has the right idea as to what is wanted and how to get it. You have done your work well and
ably. Words are sometimes a very poor means with which to recompense one for faithful services. I can only say that I hope it will be my good fortune to take advantage of your timely suggestion and recommend your detail in another direction. I shall appreciate very much any information which you may give to me, either orally or by letter. I also appreciate your willingness to serve your country in undertaking the task which you did.

Wishing for you the largest measure of success and believing the result of your observations while in Europe when submitted to the people, will be an education to all,

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Commissioner-General.
My dear Mr. Sargent:—

In presenting my report I am aware of its many imperfections, but feel that when you consider them you will appreciate the difficulties under which I labored while gathering the material of which it is composed.

In the first place I desired to cover as much territory as possible in order to familiarize myself with conditions in the principal seaports from which our immigrants come. To do this in the allotted time demanded unceasing attention and left no time for leisure or sight seeing. I confess that at times the temptation was strong to turn aside for a moment to visit some spot I had read about and, since I can resist everything but temptation, you may know how difficult it was for me to pass the historic and classic to pursue the prosaic and elusive emigrant.

To me it seemed essential that I should be present at, and examine, the methods employed at the places where emigrants embark. One can form no adequate idea of these places until he has seen them in operation. In away I knew of them all but even that I tried to forget. You remember that when I parted from you last summer I said that I intended acting on Huxley’s advice to:

"Sit down before the fact as a little child, be prepared to give up every preconceived notion, follow humbly wherever and to whatever abysses nature leads etc."

And that’s just what I tried to do. Having seen them I shall hold myself ready at all times to give you the benefit of the experience gained while inspecting them.

If I were asked what legislation should be enacted to regulate immigration I should emphasize what I have suggested in my report
and advise that you be given free hand in administering the present laws. If you were not hampered by meddling lawyers, who don't care a cent for the immigrant, or for our own people either, so long as a fee is forthcoming, you could enforce the existing laws impartially and humanely. I have been asked what should be done but shall answer no questions until I shall have counselled with you.

I ask you to give thought to the matter of investigating the Japanese question in Japan and if you can see your way clear to send me over there I shall do my best to get at the truth for you. I have a suspicion that Americans, not so patriotic as they might be, are moving in this matter.

I have an ambition to pursue my investigations in Russia and Turkey, two countries I intended going to had I the time when away. If during the coming year you should assign to me the duty of investigating matters in these two countries I shall be glad to do so and you may rest assured that the Administration will not be embarrassed by any act of mine.

Many things came under my observation while abroad that I did not deem it prudent to incorporate in a report. They might be misunderstood and prove embarrassing. These I shall be glad to discuss with you when we can sit down for a time together.

Assuring you that I fully appreciate the confidence you reposed in me and with earnest thanks for the opportunity you gave me to view the emigrant before he becomes an immigrant, I am,

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
PASS.

When presented, this card will pass bearer through the works of the British Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

Upon leaving the works, this pass is to be returned to the watchman at the gate.

SUPERINTENDENT
General Manager
THE great number of visitors makes it necessary in order that we may give you prompt attention to ask you to state on this slip your name, the name of the person wanted, and the object of your call.

The British Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Company Limited.

Name...........................................................................................................

Person Wanted...............................................................................................

Object of Call..................................................................................................

Colonel E. T. Parman
12 Pearson Ave
South Hackensack
Hon. Frank P. Sargent,
Commissioner General of Immigration,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

Your letter No. 50, 724-2, dated October 3, 1906, a copy of which is hereunto attached— and made a part of this report— was received by me at Naples, Italy.

Pursuant to instructions contained in said letter I proceeded to London direct. I could find no map, guide or other document containing information as to where Erith was situated until I reached London. Erith is on the Thames some twenty miles south of London. I went there Sunday afternoon, November 4, and intended remaining there over night. The only hotel in the place was so crowded that no accommodations could be had and after looking up the locality in which the "Frazer and Chalmers Co. Limited" is located I returned to London. I mention this circumstance in order to add that it was providential that I did not stop at the Prince of Wales hotel in Erith. I would have had to register there. Every one who registers at that hotel either calls on one of the overseers or superintendents of the Frazer and Chalmers company, or is called on by one of these officials. Such was my information next day. I therefore conducted my operations from London.

On Monday I went to Reith early and mingled with a number of idle men who were strolling about the streets. Their information was that quite a few machinists and some molders were out of work in that neighborhood. This opened a way for me to pose as a manufacturer who desired the services of men to go to the United States and that
evening I met with six men, four machinists and two molders, in a public house. From them I learned that a few men had gone to the United States, from that locality, to work there. It appears that the men who went to the United States went out after assurances that they could obtain employment but none of my informants could say who had given the assurances. The best they could do was to assert that some friends had written from the States and that the Erith mechanics had gone in response to such letters.

Inquiry led to the fact that none of those who emigrated had left families after them. There were no relatives from information as to whereabouts, conditions of employment etc., could be had.

Leading to the question at issue, whether the Frazer and Chalmers Company had been interested in the sending out of men I could get nothing from these men. All they knew was that neighbors had gone out after having assurances from some one that they would be employed on arrival in the United States. Those who emigrated went direct to New York.

The next afternoon I went through the shops of the Frazer and Chalmers company. That concern is engaged in the manufacture of pumps, compressors, gold and silver mine machinery and small engines for use around mines.

Mr. Nichols, the General Manager, whom I managed to avoid, had resided for thirty years in Chicago and had been sent to Erith to manage the Frazer and Chalmers company works. I got a side view of him as he was leaving his office and recognized him. Did not care to recognize him just at that time for reasons which I will explain to you when I discuss this matter with you.

One of the workmen employed by the Frazer and Chalmers company,
whom I met that night, knew of two men who had been sent to America, to a place near Chicago, to work. He appeared positive that the place was near, and not in, Chicago. I asked him if he thought the company would object to my hiring some of its employees and his answer was: "Not unless they go out to work for one of their companies. They won't let any of their good men go and the two who did go out were experts in their line."

The following night I met five of the employees of the "Vicker's Sons and Maxim Company." This is the firm that manufacturers the Maxim gun. From what they said it appears that several gun men went to the United States from Erith and that they had assurances of work before they went. One of the men thought they were employed in a government gun shop but had no knowledge that could be called evidence to prove his statement.

A Notary Public, whom I met said that he had taken an acknowledgment of a contract entered into between a workman and an agent of an American firm but that it only called for the safe "transfer of the workman to America, there was nothing in it to show what he was going to do or receive."

When I was in Erith on Monday I reposed sufficient confidence in one man to entrust him with the duty of ascertaining how I could manage to get men to go to the United States to work for me. In this work he was to find out the thing was managed by the Frazer and Chalmers Company. In this work he was to get close to a trusted employee of the company who would be likely to know some of the details. On Wednesday night I met him and his statement, or as much as I can remember of it, runs this way:

"I couldn't get any points about the way workmen are taken out, they have some one out there who sends word when they want men and what kind they want. Then they have a member of the union out there..."
to act with them. He is in Montreal now and has a place on Notre Dame street, anyway his mail goes to Notre Dame St but I didn't get the number."

I inquired if the English Union acted with this man and he positively assured me that it did not and furthermore it wouldn't. All I could get from him was as stated above.

The mechanics of Erith are well organized, each man had his membership card and while no member of their union, or unions, would act as agent to send men to the United States they were satisfied that a member of the American union was aiding the bringing out of English workmen. It was their opinion that the workmen who had gone out had been recruited away from Erith.

To get a proper idea of the situation and to locate the seat of the trouble would take several weeks and then I would have to be reinforced by a knowledge of the evidence in your possession. In addition to that it would be well to locate some of those who have been induced to go from England to the United States, get into the confidence of one, or more, of these men and then work back to England on the clues obtained.

I am morally certain that violations of our laws have taken place but under the circumstances I did not deem it wise to continue the investigation at that time.

Under my instructions, as contained in your letter of July 18, 1906, I was prohibited from permitting my identity as an investigating officer from being known. Under your letter of October 3, I would have felt free to act on my own discretion in the matter were it not that publication of my mission had been made. Had my mission at Erith been discovered, interested parties, who might learn of it, would then know what my mission was from the beginning and I was
obliged to postpone further action.

Manchester.

Instead of stopping off at Manchester I went on the Liverpool and worked from that city. The distance is very short between the two cities and the run consumes but an hour's time.

The Westinghouse Works, at Trafford Park, Manchester, England, cover 27 acres and the various shops have floor area of 1,182,000 square feet. The site of the factory covers 133 acres. All kinds of electric machinery, turbine engines, gas engines, steel and iron castings of every description are manufactured there.

Here I decided to apply direct at the office for permission to go through the works, witness the process of turning out the work and, if possible, select one or more of the employees to meet me in the evening. The works are situated quite a distance from the centre of Manchester, most, if not all, of the workmen and women are obliged to reach the shops by tram car. None of them remain round the door at quitting time and arrangements had to be made with those I wished to see before that hour arrived.

Thursday evening I rode to town on a car with a number of the workmen and questioned them but could get no useful information. On Friday I went through the works in company with Mr. J.P. Malpass. He gave me his card and address so that I would remember him in case I should require his services in America. I gave him to understand that I had followed the machinist business until I retired. This statement was strictly within the bounds of truth. He explained all the operations of the company except the one I desired information on. Inquiries put to him elicited this information:

"This is an American concern only in name, its chief men are
British and there are strong American influences and capital back of it. We brought no men from America on starting it and but few of our men leave us. You see we make provision here for the retention of old men in the service although the Americans have recently been opposing the hiring of men any way advanced in years. We are not connected with the Westinghouse company of the United States beyond the fact that Americans having an interest in the American works are also interested in this. They do not direct or control. We make the electric motors for London and Glasgow and the workmen who take care of this machinery, when erected, are valued highly. We find employment for some of them."

Nothing that I could say would elicit any information concerning the sending of men to the United States and I did not dare ask the question direct on such short acquaintance.

I managed to meet three of the workmen that night but so well disciplined are they that they would not enter a drinking place. In my talk with them they said that quite a number of men had gone out to the states from the neighborhood, skilled men in the machinist and molding trades. These men were supposed to have positions awaiting them and the men I talked with, in ignorance of the Alien Contract Law, were of the opinion that the company sent the men out. They knew no names, could not tell where the American works were located and only knew that men had been sent out. None of those I conversed with cared to go to the United States, were satisfied to remain at home. They were treated well, fairly well paid and felt secure in being kept on when old age came on them.

With several thousand workmen, and women in these works it would require a long time to get around to the one who could give
me direct evidence and I did not remain there after Friday, November 9th.

During my conversation with the men I was told that the Singer Sewing Machine Company of Glasgow interchanged its workmen. That men from the United States "traded places with men who worked in Glasgow." One of my informants had worked at Glasgow and seemed to know whereof he spoke but could give me no names or facts, other than that related above.

I went to Glasgow and after interviewing some Glasgow workmen decided it best to abandon further inquiry and report the facts to you. I shall, orally, present a plan for your consideration whereby evidence may be obtained that will lead to proof of violation of the Alien Contract Law.

Inasmuch as I had arranged to sail for home on the 14th I was obliged to leave Glasgow and return to Liverpool.

Workmen at Erith are paid as follows: Machinists, two pound ten a week, their rents are from six shillings to half a pound a week; Molders get nine pence an hour, their rents are the same as those paid by the machinists. They begin work at six o'clock in the morning and quit at five in the evening, with an hour for dinner.

The first day I was at Erith I took a photograph of the home of one of the mechanics in the employ of Frazer and Chalmers, also a picture of the end of the Maxim gun works. The next day was too wet and every day I was in Manchester and Glasgow it was raining, so that I could take no pictures in either place.

That the Alien Contract Labor Law is being violated in Erith, Manchester and Glasgow I feel certain, that the facts may be obtained I believe and that you may by beginning the investigation in this
country locate the offenders I have no doubt.

I supplement this with pictures referred to above and a card with representation of the Frazer and Chalmers shops.

With request that you give me the opportunity to discuss the matter with you so that I may acquaint you with what I could not, properly, mention here, this report is-

Respectfully submitted.

[Signature]

Emigrant Inspector.
F.W.

Hon. T.V. Powderly,
Care United States Consul General,
Paris, France.

Sir:
The Allis-Chalmers Company, of Chicago and Milwaukee, has been involved in a labor difficulty with its men for several years past and evidence is at hand to show that workmen, particularly moulders, have been brought from England to Montreal under agreement to work for a branch concern, known as the Allis-Chalmers-Bullock Company, such employees being almost immediately sent to the United States and employed at the Chicago or Milwaukee plant.

It is stated that this same company has a branch at Erith England, the probability being that the contract laborers are recruited from the English establishment.

Please make this matter the subject of investigation, with a view to securing any information obtainable as to the operation of the concern in question.

It is reported that an almost similar condition of affairs exists in the case of the Westinghouse Company, having plants at Cleveland, Ohio, and Wilmerding, Pa., the branch house of this company being located at Manchester, England. Please make inquiries at the latter place with a view to securing any information that might be valuable in tracing up alien workmen who have been brought to this country unlawfully.

respectfully,
F.P. Sargent
Commissioner General.
Carnivorous House (Top) & Farm (Bottom)

End view of Terraced House

Small House and Farm 

England
<table>
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