

# TRIBUNE EXPOSE AIDS IMMIGRANTS

## Solons Laud Ellis Island Story by Miss Forbes.

(By a Staff Correspondent.)

Washington, D. C., Dec. 20.—[Special.]—For two hours this afternoon members of the immigration committee of the house of representatives heard Miss Genevieve Forbes of THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE tell the story of her experiences last fall as an immigrant alien en route from County Wexford, Ireland, to New York City, on shipboard, at quarantine, on the barge, from the pier to Ellis island, and, finally, at Ellis Island immigrant station.

At the conclusion of her testimony Representative Siegel of New York commented that her statement of conditions and every criticism she had made had been confirmed in speeches made by Chairman Johnson and himself on the floor of the house.

"I agree with you," he assured Miss Forbes, "that you have been accurate as to facts and that your statements have been correct. Many changes, however, have been made at Ellis island since you were there, and some of the changes and improvements you have suggested today have been made and are now in operation."

### Has Praise for Some.

The Ellis island station was institutionally clean, Miss Forbes said, and some of the inspectors were considerate and careful, while others, constituting the majority, were unnecessarily harsh. The general tendency, especially on the part of watchmen and junior assistants, she said, had been to hustle and frighten the immigrants, thereby adding to the confusion and congestion.

She emphasized the haste and carelessness, in some cases amounting to cruelty, as the cause of many of the mistakes which occurred and which brought about the avoidable detention of immigrants at the island while waiting for relatives and friends to claim them.

Members of the committee were especially interested in Miss Forbes' account of the transportation of the immigrants from the pier to the island and of the brutal and indecent conduct of the two men in charge during the trip, one of whom was particularly offensive.

### Her Tilt with Brophy.

Representative Johnson, chairman of the committee, questioned Miss Forbes closely concerning her encounter with Inspector Brophy, who threatened to detain her over night, "or as long as he liked," at the island after she had been officially cleared, and Representative Siegel noted carefully the names and

addresses of five immigrants who met with especially harsh and unjust treatment, and the relatives of some of whom desire to be heard by the committee.

Interest was also manifested in the statement made to Miss Forbes by several of her girl companions that the two women who boarded the ship with the inspectors at quarantine to conduct the first medical examination of the women passengers had accepted sums of money ranging from 25 cents to \$1.50 from immigrant girls who had only from \$1 to \$5 in the world, but who had been told by the stewardess that such tips would help them through their examination.

"These two women were not dressed as nurses and I do not think they were nurses," Miss Forbes said. "But I do not know what their official position was. We were not in a position to make inquiries."