

DAVIS DEFENDS ELLIS ISLAND; 'IT'S NOT HOTEL'

Labor Secretary Tells of Difficulties.

Washington, D. C., Nov. 28.—[Special.]—Secretary of Labor James J. Davis, in a letter to Senator Medill McCormick of Illinois, made public today, defends conditions at Ellis island.

Secretary Davis says the criticisms written by Miss Genevieve Forbes of THE TRIBUNE after she had entered Ellis island as an immigrant are "grossly exaggerated," although in reviewing conditions during the last two years he states that the Ellis island force was badly disorganized during the war, and many of the men on duty there at the beginning of his administration were inexperienced.

Difficulties Recently Increased.

Their difficulties were increased, he says, by the fact that the arriving immigrants were below the pre-war standard, financially and physically, and by the more rigorous examination provided for in recent legislation, facts which combined to increase the number of detained aliens pending determination of their cases.

Ellis island, the secretary points out, "is not a hotel, but an immigration depot," and is utterly inadequate for caring for large numbers of people for any length of time.

Complaints of ill treatment rarely come from the immigrants, according to the secretary, but frequently from their friends and relatives, who resent their detention for examination, which, under the law, is obligatory.

Big Employers a Bad Influence.

The percentage law, he admits, has resulted in hardship to many immigrants and bitter disappointment to their relatives and friends in the United States. It has also, he adds, interfered with "certain business and other interests who desire an ample supply of cheap labor." Aliens were given preference by such employers over Americans in the past, the secretary comments.

"At the island," said Mr. Davis, "the dormitory system prevails. For reasons which need not be stated, mattresses are not provided, but there is always an ample supply of blankets. Every dormitory has fairly adequate washrooms and toilet facilities. These rooms are thoroughly cleaned every day and fumigated when necessary and the blankets sterilized daily."

Even More Rigid Rules Needed.

"Humane treatment must and will be given aliens seeking admission to the United States, but it is the firm belief of the bureau and department that efforts to detect undesirables of all classes—physical, mental, and moral—ought to be increased, rather than diminished. This, however, cannot be accomplished without adding to the alleged hardships which immigrants now undergo, and, in view of the prevailing, although unwarranted, criticism to which the service is now being subjected the bureau and department naturally hesitate to undertake a more adequate enforcement of the law."

IRELAND'S PEACE HANGS ON ACTION BY ULSTER TODAY

[Chicago Tribune Foreign News Service.]

LONDON, Nov. 28.—There will be a big crisis in the Irish negotiations tomorrow when Sir James Craig makes a statement to the Ulster parliament in a form agreed upon with Prime Minister Lloyd George. The Ulster cabinet met for two hours in Belfast today to hear Craig's report. The proceedings were kept secret.

Belfast was quiet today, but all the street cars which appeared were protected by wire netting to ward off bombs. One of the victims of last week's rioting died today, making the thirtieth to die as a result of the latest disorders.

There were no new developments in the Irish situation in London today. Michael Collins and Desmond Fitz

gerald of the Sinn Fein delegation are still in Ireland. They are expected to return tomorrow.

Mr. Lloyd George was fog bound at Chequers, his country home, today, and so did not return to London. It is stated that he is determined to go to Washington whether the Irish conference breaks down or not. He will make up his mind as to the date for sailing by Thursday.