

UNCLE SAM OILS VACUUM-CLEANER FOR ELLIS ISLAND

Abuses Miss Forbes Told Of to Be Corrected.

BY A STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Washington, D. C., Nov. 4.—[Special.]—President Harding has directed a thorough house cleaning at Ellis island to eradicate such abuses in the treatment of immigrants as were exposed by Miss Genevieve Forbes of THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE staff.

It was stated at the White House today that an investigation instituted some time ago had revealed deplorable conditions at the big immigration station, that many reforms had been accomplished, and that more are in process of formulation.

Shakeup for Island Force.

The president, after studying the disclosures of incompetence of employes and ill treatment of immigrants, came to the conclusion that the system of administration at the island is responsible for the conditions, and ordered not only a shakeup in the force of inspectors but a revision of the rules and regulations which make it difficult to obtain properly qualified employes. Mr. Harding expressed the determination to clean up the island and thereby end the ceaseless complaints of arbitrary and inhuman treatment of immigrants.

The state department, it was disclosed today, also has initiated reforms at Ellis Island as a result of formal protests from the British government against alleged mistreatment of British citizens at the immigration station.

Say Britain "Misunderstands."

Department officials, when their attention was called today to the fact that complaints against the island had been discussed in the house of commons, said that investigations into charges of mistreatment of British subjects had revealed that there had been misunderstanding of a large measure on the part of the British government with relation to several complaints, but that some things that had been called to this government's attention were being remedied. Details of the complaints made by the British government were not disclosed at the department.

Thinks Conditions Improved.

New York, Nov. 4.—W. W. Husband, commissioner general of immigration said today that the United States had expressed its "sincere regrets" to Great Britain over treatment of certain British subjects at Ellis island.

Commenting on the statement made in the house of commons yesterday by Cecil Harmsworth, under secretary of foreign affairs, that repeated representations to the United States on the matter had had no tangible results, Mr. Husband said:

"I don't know what is meant by 'tangible results.' We have expressed our sincere regrets and are sure it cannot happen again. We have been trying to work under a very drastic immigration law. I do not believe there would be any trouble over an case similar to the ones complained of if it should arise now."

Complaints about conditions at Ellis island have proved to have only about 10 per cent of justification, he said, but are being assiduously circulated as trade propaganda against the United States.

Mr. Husband also declared that foreign steamship companies were responsible for the hardships suffered by immigrants who are refused admission because the quotas for their countries have been exhausted.