

THE TRIBUNE TO SEC. DAVIS.

In the Voice of the People is published a letter from Secretary Davis of the department of labor saying that the facts contained in an editorial were not facts, and that the criticism was not well founded.

The editorial questioned Mr. Davis' knowledge of immigration conditions. He denied abuses which THE TRIBUNE knows existed. Mr. Davis says that when he makes a statement of fact he takes care that every vestige of it is either of personal knowledge or has been carefully checked by confidential men.

In the case of Ellis Island Mr. Davis knew what he saw or what other interested men told him. He and the confidential men were observing their own responsibilities and they found them good. The department inspected itself and said it was good. If the department conceded it was good everybody else must know it.

THE TRIBUNE'S "second hand" information of Ellis Island and the immigration methods was obtained by sending Miss Forbes to Ireland to return to her own country in the steerage as an Irish girl with a British passport.

Miss Forbes went through the immigration mill. Mr. Davis has observed it as the secretary of labor might observe it. Is he so credulous as to believe that the eye of the secretary develops and encourages abuses? Does he believe that when the secretary of labor visits Ellis Island his subordinates want to expose under his eyes everything that he as a right minded man could condemn?

If Miss Forbes had been known as an American newspaper reporter she would not have had the experiences which fall to the lot of the immigrant. It was because she was regarded as an Irish immigrant girl that she had them and could see what happened to the people the United States is receiving as its future citizens.

She was restrained in what she wrote of the coarseness and brutality of some of the men in American uniforms and of the indecencies to which girls and women coming to America were exposed. The manner in which these newcomers were ushered into the United States disgraced the nation in many respects and hurt it, because the people thus handled were to live here and they started with such impressions.

We doubt that any of Mr. Davis' informants ever went through the mill. THE TRIBUNE made an investigation of immigration from its source through Ellis Island, and Miss Forbes can present Mr. Davis with more facts than his confidential men ever have given him and with more than ever came to his personal knowledge.

It would do Mr. Davis more credit if the facts and not the investigator aroused his indignation. Miss Forbes had no prejudices in the matter, except as an American is naturally prejudiced in favor of the uniform of the United States in any service and wants to find that it reveals good purposes rather than rascally ones.