

Immigrants Are Coming In at a Record Breaking Rate, And a Great Many of Them Are of the Undesirable Sort

THE announcement that during the first four months of 1903 all previous immigration records have been broken has elicited from prominent thinkers in every portion of the country statements to the effect that the time has at last come when the law should more rigidly exclude undesirable aliens. Most of these thinkers are liberal in their views and declare that the worst thing that could happen to this or to any comparatively new country would be the shutting of the door absolutely to the people of other nations who for good reasons desire to join us and in time become useful and producing members of society—people whose work aids in the upbuilding of the country.

More than four-fifths of the total immigration into the United States comes into the port of New York, and the officials at Ellis Island are always delighted when in a shipload of newcomers there happens to be a very large percentage of Germans, Finns, Norwegians, Danes and Swedes. These are the people who locate in the west, many of them to take up government land or to hire small farms. In most cases within a few years more than 50 per cent of them are respected members of the communities in which they have settled, and not a few of them, entering fully into the spirit of American institutions, attain local and in some cases state and even national prominence. But the principal point is that practically all of them are hard working people who come to this country not for the purpose of getting along without labor, but with the set determination to improve their condition in life. Most of them are either married when

An Italian Immigrant.



Immigration Station, Ellis Island, N.Y.



Emigration Bureau in Naples.



they come or if they are not send home for brides as soon as their resources warrant them in taking a step which necessarily adds greatly to the expense of living.

This applies equally to the Englishmen who come over here, and the Irish may also be included in this category, though the Irish are more inclined than the Germans, Swedes, Norwegians, Finns and Danes to remain in the east,

or at any rate to cling to the cities. But both Irish and English constitute a very desirable class of immigrants, and it is not at all that the suggested restrictions are aimed.

The people sought to be reached by those who believe that our present laws make it too easy for undesirable aliens to come into this country are the Italians (particularly the Sicilians), the Greeks, some Turks and the Syrians.

These immigrants stick to the cities, and not only that, but they do not, except in comparatively rare cases, even go to the cities of the central west. The inevitable effect of this is to build up in New York and other large places in the east districts in which every one of the undesirable home customs is perpetuated and in which the people seem to have no idea beyond eking out an existence with as little effort as possible.

They usually do not even take the trouble to learn our language.

The immigration figures for the four months of this year are enough to make the most thoughtful pause for reflection and ask where it will all end if something is not done promptly, especially since a study of those figures reveals the alarming fact that the class of immigration has so changed that whereas in 1882, for instance, Germany,

Great Britain, Ireland and the Scandinavian countries combined sent us 635,000 people and Italy, Austria and southern Russia sent us but 53,000 altogether, in 1902 these figures were almost reversed, the first group contributing but 52,000 souls and the latter group sending nearly 460,000 people. These figures are discouraging of themselves, but when it is known that during the first quarter of the current year nearly 100,000 persons arrived at this port from southern Europe, while but 20,000 arrived from the most desirable sections, they become absolutely appalling.

If these newcomers from southern Europe, especially the Italians, were farming people and proceeded to the west to enter into the work of this country and to adopt its mode of life, with its ambition to improve one's condition and the condition of the succeeding generation, this would not be unduly significant, but the records show that of the Italians who have landed here during the last three months about 2,500 went to Illinois and 1,500 to California, all the rest staying in the east.

Another deplorable phase of the undesirable immigration that is now pouring into the country is that while the southern Europeans still stick as closely as ever to the east, the desirable element, which has fallen off woefully in numbers, shows a smaller percentage going to the west for the purpose of becoming home builders.

When one knows of the elaborate precautions taken by this government to keep out undesirable immigrants, the wonder is that any of them ever get in; but the Ellis Island officials themselves confess that there are occasions when they are compelled to admit persons who in their opinion would never make good citizens no matter how long they might live in this country. If they are not physically or mentally or notori-

ously morally unsound and have a few dollars in their pockets, they must be let in, and there you are. But even then there are occasions on which the officials simply ignore the letter while living up to the spirit of the law and send back persons whom they cannot help seeing are undesirable.

The main building at Ellis Island is of Moorish architecture. It is nearly 400 feet long, 65 feet wide and more than 60 feet high. This building handled last year more than 500,000 immigrants, and if the present rate of increase should be maintained it is likely that close on to 700,000 aliens will pass through this building during the current year. All immigrants are first carefully examined by the quarantine officer in order to establish their freedom from contagious diseases and later are put through a severe questioning and examination by the Ellis Island officials. They are required to give name, age, sex, whether married or single, family if any in this country, trade if any, and if none to show a certain sum of money, whether going to friends here or not, whether or not they have transportation paid to point of destination and if not whether they have the money necessary to pay it, whether they have ever been insane or in prison, whether they have any loathsome disease and whether they are under contract, express or implied, to work in this country.

Rigid as is the examination at Ellis Island, it is no more searching than the one to which the prospective immigrants are subjected at the port of sailing in Europe. But despite it all we are daily getting thousands of undesirable persons into the country, and no satisfactory answer has yet been returned to the question:

What shall be done about it?

WALTER N. LESTER.
New York.

Snap Shots of America's Famous Baseball Stars With Just a Few Biographical Base Hits



BAN B. JOHNSON, ex-president of the Western league, ex-secretary of the American association, ex-Cincinnati scribe, ex-champion amateur catcher of Ohio, ex-candidate for the National league presidency and president of the American league, is the baseball Napoleon of America. "When he goes to the east, the west tips up," and vice versa. He is calm, forceful, determined, silent. The great sphinx is a chattering monkey compared to him. He bluffed the National league magnates with a pair of deuces and called their bluff with four aces. A year ago he voted to raise his own salary from \$3,500 to \$5,000, showing that within him lurks the mysterious germ that makes men successful.



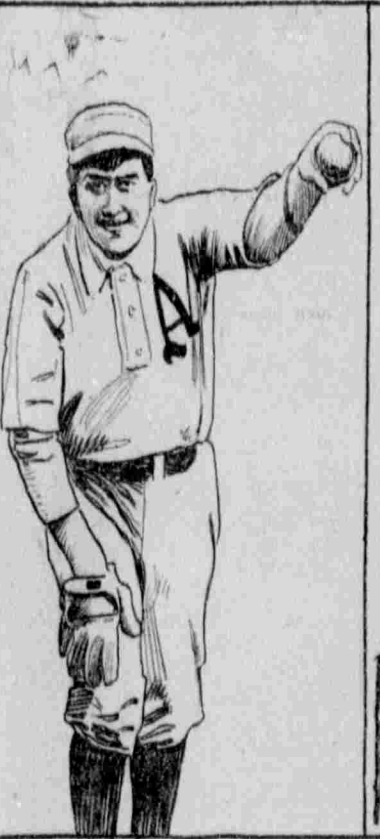
NAPOLEON LAJOIE is the greatest ball player Uncle Sam owns. He invented a new game called "dodge the lawyers" which won instantaneous popularity among his fellow green diamond sharps. His ability as a batsman has given a dozen high priced pitchers nervous prostration. He is also a long distance runner. Last year he defeated an injunction in a match race from Philadelphia to Cleveland. He is the man who made Cleveland famous. He is an artist of no mean accomplishment, being particularly good at drawing salaries. When not playing second base, he sells cigars and baseball bats. He once made a unique record by playing with three league teams in one season.



FRED CLARKE is captain-manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates, National league champions for two years, and it worries him to think that there may be people who are not aware of the fact. He has a splendid team and an unexcelled temper. When this temper gets busy, his friends flee to the cyclone cellars. A West Indian hurricane once visited the Smoky City, but on hearing Fred's argument with an umpire it stuck its tail between its legs and ran back home. He plays left field and the harmonica and a couple of years ago tried to transplant Joe Kelley from the earth to Mars. Kelley objected. Since then they have met only on opposite sides of the street.



EDWARD J. DELEAHANTY, baseball notable, turf plunger and fero player, has had more publicity than the average president receives while on a bear hunting expedition. Every man, woman and child from the tropic of Capricorn to the aurora borealis knows the size of his hat, the length of his shoes and the name of the breakfast food he eats. "Del" was the pride of the Philadelphia Nationals for several years, afterward jumping to the American league. He is now with Washington. He and George Davis recently tried to overrule the decision of the presidents of both the National and American leagues. Now Ed feels more experienced.



RUBE WADDELL is the Don Quixote of the green diamond. He likes to play ball, but prefers to go fishing. The manager that signs him has the strong, healthy nerve of a veteran lobbyist. Rube, who is a "south paw," now pitches for the Philadelphia Americans. He has been known to strike out more than fifteen men in a single game. Shortly after this contest he disappeared for several weeks. He finally came back. He had been in the woods hooking the speckled beauties. He disappeared from the Chicago Americans a couple of years ago. He returned one day when the team was in the midst of a losing contest. He coolly took the pitcher's place and won the game.



WILLIE KEELER, star batsman, crack outfielder, ex-captain of the Brooklyn, ex-manager of the Baltimore Orioles, is one of the most reliable batsmen in the country. He is a believer in expansion-of salary. He wears a dress suit with the grace of a Beau Brummel. His happy laugh and cheerful smile are a sure cure for dyspepsia. The small boy voters may elect him New York's mayor at any moment.



CHRISTY MATHEWSON, pitcher, football player, Benedict, ex-collegian and all around good fellow, has a reputation unlike Rome in that it was made in a day. Although recently married, he still sees joy in living. He likes all sorts of athletics, especially jumping. He tried to jump from New York to St. Louis last winter, but failed. He rose to national fame in the summer of 1901 by defeating the ablest teams in the National league. Matty is tall and powerfully built. While in the act of delivering the ball his long arms swing about like the sails of a Dutch windmill. Matty says, "Even a nearsighted umpire should be allowed to live," which shows that Matty can be funny.

Joseph W. Folk, St. Louis' Famous Circuit Attorney

JOSEPH W. FOLK of St. Louis, circuit attorney of the Eighth judicial district, is probably the most talked of young man in the United States today. He is also one of the most admired men in the country, a fact which seems to put to rout the statement of the pessimists that honesty doesn't pay nowadays, for if there is one characteristic which makes a man famous it is his meteoric rise to prominence of this youthful St. Louis lawyer. It is his uncompromising honesty and his inflexible and unswerving adherence to duty, without reference to the personality of the man whose violation of the law may have made it necessary for Mr. Folk to become his bitter official enemy.

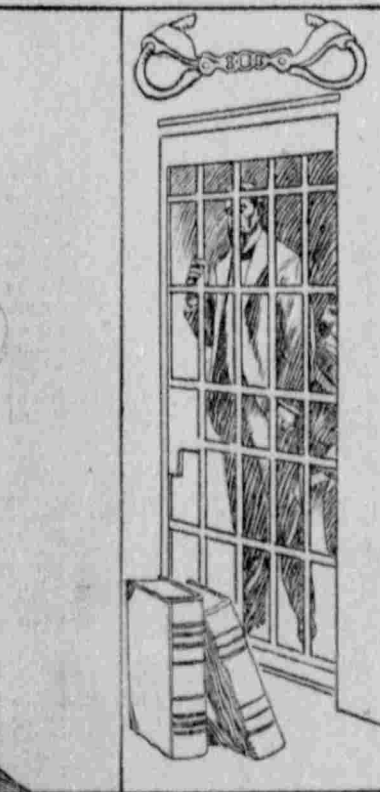
Mr. Folk enjoys the enviable distinction of having effectually broken up one of the most daring and shameless corruptionist gangs that this country has ever known, if the old Tweed crowd be excepted. And the St. Louis spoliemen were in many respects even more open in their assaults upon the rights of citizens than the followers of Tweed. They didn't exactly ask "What are you going to do about it?" but they required that the money be paid in advance or else deposited in such a manner that there was no possibility of the briber's suffering from a change of heart and withdrawing from his corrupt arrangement. Indeed, it was this very excess of cupidity and the determination to "take no chances" that led to the undoing of the gang.

The young circuit attorney whose fame has spread from St. Louis to the country at large is a Tennesseean by birth. He studied law at the Vanderbilt university, Nashville, after gradu-

ating from which he practiced his profession for a couple of years at Brownsville, Tenn. During this time he made a specialty of criminal law, but when he went to St. Louis, having decided that that city offered a broader field than Brownsville for his activities, he gave up his criminal work and devoted himself exclusively to civil practice. He got along exceedingly well, too, and soon numbered among his clients several of the important corporate interests. The young man married and appeared to be entering upon a highly respectable, comfortable and uneventful career when the event occurred which has changed the entire trend of his life.

Prior to that time Mr. Folk had joined the Jefferson club, an organization of Democrats, and so greatly was his advice esteemed that he had been given the presidency. He had further won the regard of the people of the city by bringing about the arbitration which resulted in the settlement of the street car strike of 1898. So it happened that a couple of years ago when the ticket for the coming elections was being made up Mr. Folk was suggested as a good man to nominate for circuit attorney. The bosses were willing; one man would suit them as well as another, provided he would pull the votes. But Mr. Folk declined the nomination. Then they threatened to nominate him anyway, and he very coolly informed them that if they did he would refuse to run. Then many respectable citizens, clients of Mr. Folk, persuaded him that it was his duty to the city to permit his name to be used. He yielded.

When Mr. Folk served notice on the bosses that if elected he would do his full duty regardless of party or other affiliations they assented good naturedly; they had heard that sort of thing before—a thing which sounds well be-



CIRCUIT ATTORNEY JOSEPH WINGATE FOLK.

fore election and is never meant to be taken seriously except by the uninitiated voters. Mr. Folk was elected, and then came the first horrible surprise for the bosses. One of them told Folk that he must do what he could for a heeler who had been arrested in connection with election frauds. The boss nearly

dropped in his tracks when Folk informed him that he should do everything within his power to send the rascal to prison. The statement that the man had helped elect him met with the response that the fellow had evidently misapprehended his character.

With his election as circuit attorney

Mr. Folk began in a systematic manner to study the criminal law which he had years before abandoned, and his old and his newly acquired knowledge were soon to stand him in good stead.

A newspaper reporter one day called his attention to a paragraph to the effect that a corruption fund of \$135,000

had been raised and was then in the vaults of two safety deposit companies for the purpose of bribing members of the house of delegates and councilmen in connection with a suburban railroad grab. Mr. Folk lost no time and the same day ordered the sheriff to subpoena nearly 100 prominent persons. An investigation began, and it was a highly amusing proceeding for a few days to those to whom it would naturally be expected to cause alarm. Had not such things been tried before? Was it not all a very clever bluff on the part of the young circuit attorney, who really was playing pretty good politics? The smile went around among the men subpoenaed, but it came off in a very short time. Mr. Folk, starting out with what was really a colossal bluff and making all sorts of threats which he had no idea whatever of carrying into effect, managed to extract from a few of the principals abundant verbal testimony of fraud and then, going a little further, contrived to bluff his way into the safety deposit vaults of two banks. In one of which was found \$75,000 in cash for the members of the house of delegates and in the other \$60,000 for the councilmen.

When the trials of the bribers and their tools began, Mr. Folk surprised every one by the completeness of his cases. More than a dozen men were sent to prison, several fled to foreign countries, and there are still others whom the circuit attorney hopes to get.

Mr. Folk is an abnormally quiet man. He takes everything seriously, though he smiles almost constantly. He cannot be bullied; he cannot be cajoled. A thoroughly loyal friend, he yet considers that the obligations of friendship end when a man has done that which involves sacrifice of self respect. Thus it has come to pass that several of the

men who are now wearing stripes as the result of what they consider Mr. Folk's overstrained sense of duty to the public were but a few short months ago his warm, personal friends. He is rather a small man, smooth shaven, with a permanent and rather peculiar little dimple in the center of his chin. This detracts somewhat from the firm appearance of the jaw, though one glance at the latter would suffice to convince any student of physiognomy that its owner is a hard man to sway from his desires, be they right or wrong. It is fortunate for St. Louis that Mr. Folk's impulses are praiseworthy, for were he a spolieman it would be a more difficult matter to bring him to book than it proved for him to round up the plunderers who are now engaged in working for the state and denouncing Joseph Wingate Folk.

But Joseph Wingate Folk is all right in the estimation of the vast majority of the citizens of St. Louis, and while it is said that he intends upon the expiration of his present term of office to abandon politics for good and all, it is likely that anything within the gift of St. Louis will be his should he change his mind. And, as every one is aware, that is a prerogative not confined to the gentler sex.

No exhaustive analysis of the character of Mr. Folk will avail, for it is impossible to judge such a man by his utterances. Indeed, there are not enough of these utterances to form a working basis. He must be judged by his work, and the reader is indeed obliged to who, from a simple recital of the events with which during the past few months Mr. Folk has been so prominently connected, is unable to form a fairly accurate opinion of his salient characteristics.

THURMAN L. ELTON.