

THE ROYAL COMMISSION

APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO THE

IMMIGRATION OF ITALIAN LABOURERS TO MONTREAL AND THE ALLEGED FRAUDULENT PRACTICES OF EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES

REPORT OF COMMISSIONER

AND

EVIDENCE

PRINTED BY ORDER OF PARLIAMENT

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ORDER IN COUNCIL RE APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER

Privy Council,
Canada.

*EXTRACT from a Report of the Committee of the Honourable the Privy Council, approved
by the Governor General on June 20, 1904.*

On a report dated June 16, 1904, from the Minister of Labour, submitting that by an Order in Council passed on May 23, 1904, it was referred to His Honour Judge Winchester, senior judge of the County Court of the county of York as commissioner under chapter 114, Revised Statutes of Canada, to inquire into certain complaints respecting the alleged employment of aliens in connection with the proposed National Transcontinental Railway, and that such inquiry is now in progress; that complaints have been made that a large number of Italian labourers have recently been brought to the city of Montreal; that it has been represented that many of these persons were induced to come to this country through representations made by persons in Canada that there was great need of labour in the Dominion in connection with various public works and enterprises, and that certain agencies and organizations are at the present time in existence in the city of Montreal for the purpose of further promoting such immigration; that many of the said persons on reaching Montreal failed to find employment as represented, and that in consequence much distress has resulted among those who have been so induced to come to Canada, and serious dissatisfaction has arisen among Canadian workmen in the said city and elsewhere in the Dominion; that it is expedient that an inquiry be made to ascertain the circumstances which induced the said Italian labourers to come to Montreal, and the persons engaged, directly or indirectly, in promoting their immigration, and the means and methods adopted in bringing about such immigration.

The Minister recommends that the said Judge Winchester make such further inquiry in connection with the present commission, and that the said Order in Council be amended by adding after the words 'the nature of the appointment applied for and the result of such application,' the words, 'also that an inquiry be had as to the circumstances which have induced Italian labourers to come to the city of Montreal from other countries during the present year, the persons engaged directly or indirectly in promoting their immigration and the means and methods adopted in bringing about such immigration.'

The Committee submit the same for approval.

(Signed),

JOHN J. MCGEE,
Clerk of the Privy Council.

The Honourable
The Minister of Labour.

COMMISSION

(Sgd.) ROBERT SEDGEWICK,
Deputy Governor General.
[L. S.]

CANADA.

EDWARD the SEVENTH, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India.

*To all whom these presents shall come, or whom the same may in anywise concern—
Greeting:*

WHEREAS in and by an Order of Our Governor General in Council bearing date the twentieth day of June, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and four, provision has been made for an investigation by our Commissioner therein and hereinafter named with respect to certain matters therein mentioned as upon reference to the said Order in Council, a copy of which is hereto annexed, will more fully at large appear, such order being an amendment of the Order of our Governor General in Council, cited in our certain letters patent, bearing date the twenty-third day of May, one thousand nine hundred and four, authorizing and empowering our said Commissioner to investigate certain matters therein referred to.

NOW KNOW YE that by and with the advice of Our Privy Council for Canada, we do by these presents nominate, constitute and appoint His Honour John Winchester, Judge of the County Court of the County of York, in the Province of Ontario, to be our Commissioner to conduct such inquiry.

TO HAVE, hold, exercise and enjoy the said office, place and trust unto the said John Winchester, together with rights, powers, privileges and emoluments unto the said office, place and trust of right and by law appertaining during pleasure.

AND WE do hereby under the authority of the Revised Statute respecting inquiries concerning public matters, confer upon our said Commissioner the power of summoning before him witnesses and of requiring them to give evidence on oath orally or in writing, or on solemn affirmation if they are persons entitled to affirm in civil matters, and to produce such documents and things as our said Commissioner shall deem requisite to the full investigation of the matters into which he is hereby appointed to examine.

AND We do hereby require and direct our said Commissioner to report to our Minister of Labour of Canada the results of his investigation, together with the evidence taken before him and any opinion he may see fit to express thereon.

IN TESTIMONY whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of Canada to be herunto affixed.—Witness The Honourable Robert Sedgewick, Deputy of Our Right Trusty and Right Well-Beloved Cousin and Councillor The Right Honourable Sir Gilbert John Elliot, Earl of Minto and Viscount Melgund of Melgund, County of Forfar, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom; Baron Minto of Minto, County of Roxburgh, in the Peerage of Great Britain; Bar-

onct of Nova Scotia; Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George; etc., etc., Governor General of Canada.

At our Government House, in our City of Ottawa, this thirtieth day of June, in the year of Our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and four, and in the fourth year of our reign.

By Command,

(Sgd.) JOSEPH POPE,

Under Secretary of State.

(Sgd.) A. POWER,
Acting Deputy of the
Minister of Justice, Canada.

LETTER TRANSMITTING REPORT OF COMMISSIONER

TORONTO, March 24, 1905.

The Honourable

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK, K.C.M.G., M.P.,
Minister of Labour, Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit to you the result of my investigation as Special Commissioner appointed to inquire as to the immigration of Italian labourers to the City of Montreal in the year 1904, together with the evidence taken before me and documents produced.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) JNO. WINCHESTER,
Commissioner.

REPORT OF COMMISSIONER

TORONTO, March 24, 1905.

To the Honourable

SIR WILLIAM MULOCK, K.C.M.G., M.P.,

Minister of Labour,

Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to report that pursuant to the Royal Commission issued to me, bearing date June 30, 1904, authorizing me to inquire as to the circumstances which induced Italian labourers to come to the City of Montreal from other countries during the year 1904, the persons engaged, directly or indirectly, in promoting their immigration, and the methods adopted in bringing about such immigration, I prosecuted such inquiry in the City of Montreal on the 30th June, 1st, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 25th and 26th days of July, 1904.

During the first five days of such inquiry I inspected the correspondence in the offices of Messrs. Alberto Dini and Antonio Cordasco, as well as that in the office of George E. Burns, officer in charge of the special service department of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. Having obtained translations of the correspondence found in the possession of Mr. Dini and Mr. Cordasco, it being in Italian, I appointed the 21st July, 1904, to proceed with the examination of witnesses at the Court House in Montreal, and on that date I began the examination and continued same until the close of the inquiry on July 26, during which time I examined 64 witnesses.

The Circumstances Inducing Italian Immigration.

The evidence shows that for some years past a considerable number of Italians have been employed in connection with the construction of railways and other public works in Canada; that during the year 1903 the Canadian Pacific Railway alone employed 3,144. Of these, 1,200 were in Montreal and the remainder came from the United States. Mr. Burns in his examination stated that since the summer of 1901 he engaged Italian labourers for the Canadian Pacific Railway, almost exclusively through Mr. Cordasco. Previous to that year he had employed other agents, namely, Mr. Dini, the two Schenkers, and possibly one or two others, in obtaining Italian labourers for the company, but that in the year 1901 there was a strike on the Canadian Pacific Railway, and he made special arrangements with Mr. Cordasco to obtain Italian labourers for the railway. Cordasco in turn employed agents in the United States to assist him in getting the required number.

With reference to the number of labourers required for the year 1904, the evidence given by Mr. Burns was of a contradictory character. Referring to the obtaining of Italian labourers he gave the following evidence :—

'Q. Did he (Cordasco) visit the United States with you last year, last September?—A. He did, Your Honour.

'Q. What for?—A. He went down for the purpose of getting some agencies for steamship companies.

'Q. Was that for the purpose of getting Italians from Italy?—A. I do not know about that; the way it came about was this: he had a regular office and was doing a large business, but he had no steamship agencies, and of course when these Italians come back from work most of them have a good deal of money which they want to send over to their relatives and friends, some for their wives and children, and they buy these steamship prepaid tickets. Cordasco was desirous of getting a line of these tickets from the different steamship agents, and he came to me about the matter, and I told him he could easily get agencies if he made the proper representations to the agents in New York.

'Q. You recommended him?—A. I took some steps to get these agencies for him.

'Q. Did you appoint him sole agent for the company?—A. I never appointed him sole agent; I have always reserved the right to cancel any agreement I had with him; there was no definite period.

'Q. You have seen his advertisement from time to time?—A. I have.

'Q. In which he states that he is sole agent?—A. Yes, I think that is the translation, that he is the only agent for the Canadian Pacific Railway.

'Q. Besides being an immigration agent he is interested in a newspaper called *Corriere del Canada*?—A. I believe he is the owner.

'Q. You advertise in that, do you, Mr. Burns?—A. There is an advertisement there.

'Q. Is it with your authority, you authorized it?—A. Yes.

'Q. Your method of getting workmen was to call upon Cordasco for a certain number when you needed them?—A. We are entirely dependent upon orders from the divisions which come through the superintendents, and we have no means of stating exactly when men are required, and formerly the superintendents would send in orders, and they do it yet. These orders are generally by telegram. Mr. Skinner is telephoned, and if he is busy Mr. Cordasco is called upon to arrange the matter. A copy of the telegram sent in by the superintendent is sufficient notice for him to go ahead.

'Q. Then at the end of the year you would estimate the number you would require for the following season?—A. As far as Italians are concerned.

'Q. Did you do that last year?—A. Yes.

'Q. And how many did you estimate last fall for this year's work?—A. Your Honour, a great deal depends upon certain conditions as to whether one can make a proper estimate as to what labour is going to be required in the following year. Last year the market was all down and money was tight, and every one thought there was going to be no work going on this summer; all contractors and others were on uneasy street and could not get any idea, it was impossible for my department at the time to say how many men would be required, and it looked as if we would have to utilize the men in Canada first before taking up this Italian question. I may say that sometimes we have been obliged to go to the United States to bring Italians here; to send to the North-west, and last year I do not suppose we took more than 1,200 out of Montreal.

'Q. How many men did you estimate for this season's work last fall?—A. I do not think I made any estimate one way or another.

'Q. What means do you take to ascertain the requirements of the service?—A. I send out to many contractors and men accustomed to employ labour and make inquiries. In addition to that I ask all the general superintendents on the line what their experience was before, and what they would require for going on. In regard to the year before I asked them their experience as to when men quit and requested them to state exactly how many men stayed with the company and did not jump their contracts. I thought by this means to form some idea as to the requirements for 1904, and as I stated before I was not able to foresee.

'Q. How many men, in round figures, did you estimate being required for 1904?—A. I have forgotten; I do not remember what such number was."

'Q. When we adjourned last evening we were inquiring into the question of the estimated number of labourers you would require for 1904?—A. Yes, your Honour.

'Q. Well, now, you told me that you had written some superintendents for information so as to enable you to estimate the number?—A. Yes, your Honour.

'Q. What was the result of your efforts to estimate that number?—A. The effort was fruitless. On looking over the matter I found some superintendents did not give correct information, some delayed answering so long that as a matter of fact the spring was so far advanced, and we saw there was going to be a large number of labourers in America, and we dropped the whole matter; there was no estimate.

'Q. You stated last evening you thought there would not have been so many required for 1904 as had been used in 1903?—A. That statement was based on inquiries I had made and the result of this communication was that I thought there would be a stringency in the money market and consequently probably few works of any importance going on throughout the country.

'Q. Was that your opinion at that time?—A. It was, your Honour.

'Q. Now, you said you had about eight or nine thousand on the list in 1903, of which about 3,100 were Italians?—A. Yes.

'Q. How many did you think you would require for 1904? The Italian part of that number?—A. I had no idea whatever.

'Q. What means do you take to provide them?—A. That was generally all right, it does not require particular action.

'Q. It required some information from your agent, who employed them?—A. We kept pretty well posted as to labour immigration in New York and in Boston.

'Q. But you relied upon Mr. Cordasco to supply you with all the Italians you wanted?—A. Yes.

'Q. If you relied upon him I suppose it was necessary to give him some information as to the number you required?—A. Well, I have never given him any definite information.

'Q. Did you give him any information as to the number you would require in 1904?—A. None.

'Q. Never spoke about it?—A. I may have discussed the matter.

'Q. Have you discussed the matter with Mr. Cordasco as to the likely number you would require in 1904?—A. It was possible.

'Q. Do you know how many you suggested to him?—A. I do not remember suggesting any number.

'Q. Do you remember saying to any one that the Grand Trunk Pacific would require a great number?—A. No, your Honour, I may have inquired if the Grand Trunk Pacific would require them.

'Q. But you never mentioned that to anybody?—A. We may have discussed that matter.

'Q. With Cordasco?—A. Yes, it was discovered that the Grand Trunk Pacific was not going to require any Italians.

'Q. When did you discover that?—A. I think late in the spring.

'Q. This year?—A. Yes.

'Q. Look at that letter, was that letter written by you?—A. Yes.

'Q. And I suppose the statement there is an estimate?—A. That is in December.

'Q. I am talking about December?—A. Yes, Your Honour.

'Q. That was your opinion at that time?—A. I was thinking about the spring.

'Q. I was referring to fall not the spring, Mr. Burns. Now, your letter reads as follows :—

"December 10, 1903.

"E. P. BRADY, Esq.,
"Asst. General Superintendent,
"Winnipeg, Man.

"DEAR SIR,—Referring to the attached, my object in asking for this information is to make adequate provision early in 1904 for the labour requisitions during the season of that year.

"This year we had an unprecedented demand for labour from all sources over this company's lines, and we have shipped out in the neighbourhood of 10,000 men, skilled and unskilled, so you see that it is very important for us to know what proportion of those sent out on the lines worked out their contracts, so that some information may be obtained as to the reasons for so many men jumping their work with a view of remedying that state of affairs during the coming season. It is also necessary to find out what the local supply of labour is on each division.

"As you are possibly aware, there is every indication of a large demand for labour in this country in 1904. I am informed that possibly the Grand Trunk Pacific may want a great many thousand men, and as the supply of labour is limited in Canada, steps may possibly have to be taken on the part of our company to import labour from abroad, or make some definite arrangement in regard to the supply available in Canada.

"I am sorry to trouble you for this information, knowing you are so very busy, but I would like very much to be in a position to make my report about the first week in January, 1904.

"Would you kindly strain a point to get your superintendents to forward information desired.

"Yours truly,

"GEO. E. BURNS."

'That was your opinion?—A. That was at the time. I presumed the Grand Trunk Pacific was going ahead.

'Q. At that time that was your opinion, Mr. Burns?—A. Well, if it was not I would not have stated it.

'Q. You stated yesterday that your opinion was just the other way, that the same number would not be required in 1904 as in 1903?—A. Well, I think that I took into consideration the Grand Trunk Pacific project when I wrote that letter.

'Q. I know that I was asking you what your opinion was in the fall of 1903. You stated your opinion that a large number would not be required. Now, you wrote in December you would require more; which is correct?—A. It is difficult to reconcile both, although I utilized the information I had on hand when I wrote.

'Q. When I was trying to find the aggregate number in former years you showed me a statement to the effect that you did not think you would require so large a number, which is correct, your recollection or the letter?—A. I should say my letter.

'Q. How soon did you speak to Mr. Cordasco about supplying the Canadian Pacific Railway with Italian labour?—A. I have no recollection of speaking to Mr. Cordasco about Italian labour or to giving Cordasco any definite idea.

'Q. When you spoke to him would it be as early as September, 1903?—A. I do not think so.

'Q. December?—A. No.

'Q. You understand Mr. Cordasco's position; he would have to get men, he would have to make arrangements ahead?—A. Certainly.

'Q. How long ahead would he require to make arrangements?—A. It just depends on the state of the labour market.

'Q. You are beginning to look for men as early as the opening of spring; now, when would you require to inform Mr. Cordasco?—A. I do not think I ever made any preparation.

'Q. Did he?—A. Not to my knowledge.

'Q. You advertise in the same paper he does, you get that paper?—A. I have never seen his advertisement for men.

'Q. You remember the advertisement Mr. Dini says he put in in consequence of the advertisement of Cordasco?—A. I do, Your Honour.

'Q. You say these labour agents had to prepare some time ahead, and you had to prepare some time ahead?—A. No, the preparation was not made. We had no data to go on.

'Q. I understand you were preparing to get ready for the work?—A. We were looking around.

'Q. You did not speak to him (Cordasco) at all?—A. I spoke to Cordasco several times.

'Q. When?—A. In the course of the winter. * * * Some steps, some arrangements would have to be made. When I come to think of this matter I can tell you what made me write this letter.

'Q. Well?—A. I had been in New York and had met our agent.

'Q. That was the time you were down with Cordasco?—A. I think that was the time, and he informed me that the general agent of the Anchor Line had told him he was to bring in 10,000 for the Grand Trunk Pacific.

'Q. Who was the agent?—A. I do not know. This agent stated that they were bringing in about 10,000 men for the Grand Trunk Pacific this spring, and I think it must have been acting on this information I wrote that letter.

'Q. That was September you were down?—A. I think not; I think it was later than September; I think it was in December.

'Q. Had Mr. Cordasco that information, too?—A. I think he had.

'Q. You were both together at the time?—A. Yes.

'Q. So that he was also aware that they were preparing then for a large number of men?—A. Yes.

'Q. At that time you thought that steps might possibly have to be taken on the part of your company to import labour from abroad?—A. Yes, Your Honour. I may say that I took some steps in regard to the importation of labour with the management; it was my desire to send some one of our men over—

'Q. To Italy?—A. No, to England, Scotland and Scandinavia for the purpose of getting immigrants.

'Q. How many were you going to get out?—A. We wanted him only to get prepared.

'Q. He was not going to send men over?—A. Only 100 or 200; we wanted him to be ready if we required men to send them by next ship.

'Q. You would not go into such an undertaking for the company without consulting the management, you proposed that to the management this spring?—A. Yes.

'Q. When?—A. I think it was in the month of February or beginning of March.

'Q. Did you talk to Cordasco about helping in this matter?—A. Cordasco was not in it; the Italian question did not come into it.

'Q. Did you not inquire how many you could depend upon getting?—A. I did make some inquiry, but I did not know the number. I spoke to Mr. Cordasco.

'Q. Did he not tell you he was having a lot of men coming from Italy?—A. I think he did mention that he had a lot of men, he did not tell me they were coming from Italy.

'Q. You are quite clear about that?—A. I am; I have no recollection of his saying about bringing any men from Italy.

'Q. He wrote you a letter on May 10, 1904?—A. Yes, I remember that letter distinctly, but I have no idea he ever brought them over.

'Q. The letter is as follows:—

'Montreal, May 10, 1904.

'G. E. Burns, Esq.,
Special Agent, C.P.R.

Re Information.

'Dear Sir,—Arrived by the way of Chiasso, over 300 Italians and nearly 200 by New York. Sure will be a disgraceful for these poor immigrants with the old ones which they put up here all winter, and Italian Consul with his society are to be blamed and they should be crushed to peace.

'Your servant,
'A. CORDASCO.'

In Mr. Cordasco's evidence he admitted receiving a number of letters which were found in his office and also admitted some of the replies sent to same from his office, but invariably denied that he authorized his clerk to state that he wanted 10,000 men. Some of the letters so received and answered are as follows :—

On the 18th October, 1903, he wrote to Mr. Ludwig, passenger agent, Chiasso, Italy, as follows:—

'By the same mail I am sending you package of my business cards, asking you to hand them to the passengers or better to the labourers you will send directly to me. Please note that work here is never short, and anybody you will send to me personally are sure to be employed. In summer you may send hundreds of them and be sure as soon as they arrive they will find work at once. To satisfy the Italians better, I have opened a banking office, of which I send a circular to you, and from which you will see that I can do all that they request. Awaiting for some shipment, and to hear from you soon,

Yours truly,

A. CORDASCO.

P.S.—Please note that on the Canadian Pacific Railway alone I employ about four thousand men per year, besides the other companies. Please take all the information you may require about me.'

In answer he received a letter from Mr. Ludwig dated Chiasso, November 27, 1903, in which he stated: ".....I am going to try and send you some passengers in the hope that they will not be cheated, and if I see you act as an honest man I shall give your address to all the passengers who go to Montreal.....If you provide work for some of my passengers you must be satisfied with a modest commission, and Alberto Dini, with whom I worked until now, placed my passengers without any commission, and I never had any complaint against him. We shall see then, if you will work with the same conscience and punctuality.

Waiting to hear from you,

F. LUDWIG."

On the 7th December Mr. Cordasco wrote him a very long letter in which he stated: ".....Every year I secure work for 4,000 or 5,000 men, and next spring I need 10,000 to employ in the Canadian Pacific Railway, and other railway companies and contractors, and you must know that all the workmen for whom I secured work, when the season is over, and that have paid every expense, they can save from \$150 to \$600."

On the 26th January a letter was sent to Mr. Luigi Scarcella, 243 Rideau street, Ottawa, Ont., in which he said:—

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 366.

"Next season I shall be in need of 10,000 men whose work will be heavy, and I understand in your letter you do not like to work with a shovel. In the beginning of March please to write again, and I will see if I can do anything for you, but I cannot promise anything."

On the 9th February he wrote a similar letter to Aristide Guerrieri, Post Office Box 11, Mapleton Dep., Pa., as follows:—

"Your letter (without any date). I am sorry to say I shall not be able to find any work that will suit you. I find work for thousands of men, and this year I shall be in need of 10,000 of them, but I need only men that can work with shovel and pick."

And on the 19th February in a letter to Angello D. Sentis, 18 Canal street, Buffalo, N.Y., he writes: ".....I need this year nearly 10,000 men, but all of them must be able to work with pick and shovel. If you like you may engage men for the first shipment, but I do not take any responsibility, only take those men who give their name by their own free will and send me the list of the names very clearly written with a mark that shows they have paid \$1 each for office and inscription fees."

On February 17, 1904, there was a post card sent to him from Udine, Italy, by Antonio Paretti, as follows:—

"I received a newspaper, the *Corriere del Canada*, in which appears your distinguished name, as I believe you are the kind donor. As we have a strong stream of emigration (from the Venetian Provinces) towards that country, I should be very glad to frequently receive your newspapers, and I can reciprocate by sending you Italian papers. You might send me a time-table of the Canadian Pacific Railway from Montreal to the interior of Canada, with a map * * *"

In answer to this postal card the following letter, dated March 1, 1904, was sent: 'Sig. Antonio Paretti,

'94 Aquileia, Udine, Italy.

"I am in possession of newspapers which you were so kind as to send me; also your cards, and wish to thank you for them; also two packages. I am sending you the time-table which you asked me for and my address, which you can give to the people so that I will know them when they come.

"At the end of the present month there will open up great and important works, and I must supply about 10,000 labourers. If you have any passengers, you can send them without any fear—I am able to give them immediate work. The salary will be \$1.50 a day; besides that they will get a return ticket from any locality; they can board themselves or get board as they like. The work will last long and the payment is sure. Each man gets a contract in Italian, containing the clear conditions under which they have to work, in which is specified the length of time, salary, &c. In one word, there will be no tricks or schemes. I am always here to defend the interests of compatriots. I am, besides, in touch with other navigation agents in Italy, and they have already written to me that they will send some passengers to me this month. If you send any one to me, please supply them with two of my business cards that I sent you, so that each passenger landing at New York will be recognized by one of my agents, which agent, authorized by me, will accompany them to the train, and on the train to Montreal, so that they won't be taken up by anybody else, or fall into the hands of speculators.

Already a large number of workers arrive continuously, especially from Vicenza, Treviso, and some from Padova, Belluno, also some from Pordenone, Codroipo.

"If you wish to send us any men, you need not have any fear, and send them all to my address. You must notify me in time when the men will arrive, sending the names of the passengers and of the company and boat by which they start.

'With regards,

'(Sgd.) A. CORDASCO,

'Per A. GANNA.

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

And on April 6, the following letter was sent :—

'Mr. ANTONIO PARETTI,

'94 Via Aquilea, Udine.

'In these days some Italians come to me showing your blank business card and saying that you recommended them to me, and although the presentation signal was not a sure guarantee, I received them and shall send them to work.

'In future it will be better, when you send Italians to me, to give them one of my business cards with your office on them, and I shall be sure they are sent by you.

'Some time ago I sent you several business cards; to-day I am sending you some more of them.

'I thank you for the newspaper you sent me and hope you will receive weekly the newspaper that I send you.

'Yours truly,

'ANTONIO CORDASCO.

'Per A. GANNA.'

On April 26 Mr. Cordasco further wrote him as follows :—

'Mr. ANTONIO PARETTI,

'Udine, Italy.

'I confirm my letter of the 6th inst., and I address you the present to clear up some facts that cause me annoyance, that I do not need to have.

'Many immigrants from the Venetian provinces came to me declaring that they were sent by you, but without any card of recognition, and alleging that you had promised that they would be sent to work in two days.

'I don't wish to blame you for that, nor do I believe what the men say, but I think it is better to clear the matter up. I give employment to all Italians who come to me, as I wrote you in my letter of March 1, but it is absurd to expect that I am to give employment to-morrow to a man who applies to-day to my office. I could not put him before the others who are awaiting their turn to go and work. Please note that this year we had an uncommonly long and hard winter, and in the west, where important railway works will be done the roads and land are still frozen, and it is no use sending labourers there. This year I sent away only 70, while in previous years at this time I sent away more than a thousand.

'Please note that many of your men declare that they are stonecutters, and that you promised them I would have them employed in this quality. I never wrote this.

'Many of these men said that they did not intend to work on railways, but to obtain from me free transportation to British Columbia, and then with very little money to go to Michel and work in the coal mines.

'You will understand how all this annoys me. I am not responsible for the extremely cold season that prevents the companies from starting work.

'No one has sent men away yet, and I have only sent 70.

'In conclusion, so as to eliminate trouble, from this moment do not send me any more passengers, and if you like to send some, please inform me how many are coming (as I asked you in my letter of March 1), and every man must have my business card with your office stamp on, and they must be warned that they must wait for their turn to work. Please, in the notice that you send me, state that you have warned them that they will have to await their turn. Also please send me a list with the names of the passengers you send me. Outside of these conditions, I am sorry to say that I could not accept the responsibility of giving work to your passengers. Please inform them that I will send them to work on railway construction, and that they will have to work with pick and shovel.

'If, afterwards, some roadmaster may choose of them for some special work, it will be all the better for them, but I cannot guarantee to employ men in any particular quality.

'Yours truly,

'ANTONIO CORDASCO,

'Per A. GANNA.'

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

To this letter he received the following reply:

' UDINE, ITALY, May 8th, 1904.

' In prompt reply to your favour of April 20, which has called my attention and surprise to the facts you have mentioned, and which is in full contradiction with the other of the 6th of the same month, in which you complained that I did not send passengers addressed to you with your business card. Now, I must tell you that it is not my system, after 22 years' experience in emigration, to advise or not the passengers who are at liberty to do what they like. This is my principle.

' All our emigrants addressed to Canada were booked for beyond Montreal, and we are sure of that, for our companies do not give railway tickets beyond your residence.

' I gave the address to nobody, only to those who read your newspaper, full of promises. I answered giving good references of your firm.

' You must have great experience, and you must know that everybody can come and say what he likes, coming to you without a written line.

' Be sure that we are very careful, and we hope you will be too, and we quite understand when something happens that cannot be helped. This year everything has been against us, but we hope better days will come.

" Yours truly,

" PARETTI."

On January 27, 1904, Domenico Zappia sent the following letter from Italy to Mr. Cordasco:—

" STAITI, January 27, 1904.

" Mr. ANTONIO CORDASCO,

" Railway Agent, Montreal, Canada.

" Although I do not deserve to have the honour to be acquainted with your highly respectable person, I take the liberty of writing directly to you asking you a favour.

" As there are here about 70 men who wish to emigrate to that country, I wish you would be kind enough to receive my countrymen passengers on their landing in that part, and tell me which will be the best spot where they can be visited.

" In obliging me with a favour answer, please tell me when the works under your control will be started. I was pushed to write this letter by the noble and good reputation your name enjoys in this country. Please let me know which will be the best landing port on account of the visit.

" If I shall be able to reciprocate such an obligation, I offer you my services if you will please yourself and command me.

" Please accept my unlimited gratitude, &c.

" Yours,

" DOMENICO ZAPPIA."

" P.S.—I wish to know how much costs there, via New York or Boston.

" I beg you to answer me at once, otherwise I cannot make the men start. Please also let me know something about the age of the men, and if men over 60 years of age will be accepted; if they will be received by you, and how they have to answer to the inquiries."

To which Mr. Cordasco, on March 2, 1904, sent an answer as follows:—

" MONTREAL, March 2, 1904.

" Mr. DOMENICO ZAPPIA,

" Staiti, Prov. Reggio, Calabria.

" Your favour is before me, and in short I will let you know anything you require. You may send to me as many men as you like, and I shall be able to find work for them at \$1.50 per day, board by themselves, and the railway fare up and down free.

" Every man before he goes to work receives a contract that guarantees his pay, &c.

" You can make your men leave from March 20 or 25 via New York.

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"If you will tell me exactly the day on which the men will leave Naples, with which company and steamer, I will send my agent to meet them in New York. He will put them on board the cars and send them to Montreal without any trouble and without falling into the hands of speculators. If they will land in Boston I will send my Boston agent to meet them.

"I am sending you a parcel of my business cards, which you will give to your men to be recognized at their landing in New York or Boston.

"Re the age of the immigrants, you must follow the Italian immigration laws that do not allow passports to people over 45 years old.

"Awaiting to hear from you,

Yours truly,

'ANTONIO CORDASCO,
'Per A. GANNA.'

On March 3, the following letter was sent from Mr. Cordasco's office in reply to a letter received by him from Marche, Province of Rome, Italy.

"MONTREAL, March 3, 1904.

"Mr. TOMMASO MONTEVERSE,

"Civitanova, Marche.

"I have before me your favour of February 3, and I have recommended you to a good company, the Transatlantica de Barcelona.

Q. That is the company you sold a number of tickets for?—A. Yes, one of them.

"If as you write there are many men who wish to come here you may address them to me, and for that purpose, in a separate registered parcel, I send you some envelopes and business cards, and you may give one of these cards to each of your passengers, so when they land in New York they will show it and they will be addressed to me.

"In this season the works are enormous and every man will go to work with an agreement in Italian in which are explained the wages, how long the work will last, &c.

"Every workingman earns \$1.50 and more per day. He is at liberty to board himself and transportation free up and back. I am here to protect, defend and help the workingman.

"Now, you know how matters stand, and in the event of your going to send me some passengers, send me a list of their names and the name of the steamer so that my agent in New York may go and meet them.

"Yours truly,

"ANTONIO CORDASCO,
'Per A. GANNA.'

While Mr. Cordasco stated that he never knew that the number 10,000 had been inserted in any letters written from his office, his clerk, A. Ganna, stated that Mr. Cordasco received all the correspondence himself and opened same, and that he was instructed to write letters in the tenor in which these were written. Not only was 10,000 mentioned in these letters but Mr. Cordasco admits that he mentioned that 10,000 men were wanted, to men coming into his office seeking employment, and several witnesses testified to his making such statement. Mr. Cordasco admitted that he owns the greater part of the paper *Corriere del Canada*, which is printed in Italian, and states that a number of copies of each issue are sent to Italy. His examination with reference to same is as follows:—

"Q. You advertise in the *Corriere del Canada*?—A. Yes, they have one of my advertisements calling for men.

'Q. Two or three advertisements in that paper?—A. Yes.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

'Q. How long have you been advertising in that paper?—A. Since November.

'Q. You own it?—A. I do not.

'Q. Do you not own the greater part of that paper?—A. Yes.

'Q. And you object to being called proprietor?—A. Yes.

'Q. You get paid for the advertising in that paper?—A. Yes, most of the people have to pay.

'Q. How many copies did you send to your town?—A. About 25 or 30.

'Q. How long have you been sending them to your town?—A. Since November.

'Q. How many did you get printed?—A. Some times 450.

'Q. Did you send one half to Italy?—A. Not quite, I suppose.

'Q. About half?—A. 60.

'Q. More than 60 to your own little village?—A. In my village I have many relatives.

'Q. And you sent them every week?—A. Weekly.

'Q. You get people to write articles in this paper for you?—A. Yes, to write articles some times.

'Q. Scarrone wrote an article for you?—A. Yes, sir.

'Q. You asked him to do so?—A. No, sir, never.

'Q. Who suggested he should use your name in connection with the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. I do not know.

'Q. You remember his writing an article for you?—A. Yes, I did not ask him to do it.

'Q. The *Corriere del Canada* has a long labour article?—A. February the 27th, 1904.

'Q. It is headed "Italian Labourer" and it reads:

"The working season is approaching under a very promising aspect. The principal companies have in the past few winter months estimated for a large amount of work, and will give employment to a more considerable number of men than in other years. The greatest and most sincere friend of the Italian labourers, Mr. Antonio Cordasco, of Montreal, the sole Italian agent for the most important railway company in the world, the Canadian Pacific Railway, proposes himself to give, in the coming season, work to as many labourers as may apply to him. What he proposes to do himself cannot but be realized owing to the enormous amount of work the Canadian Pacific Railway will do this year.

"This company, which, both for the extension of its lines and for its capital, is the finest among railway companies, and it is considered also as the most important proprietor of land, owning 14,000,000 acres. It has always employed a larger number of labourers than any other company and with higher wages. Mr. Cordasco, the sole agent of the company, never betrayed the confidence that was put in him, not only fulfilling his duty as an agent, but assisting and protecting Italian labourers, and the good reputation he enjoys among the different companies and contractors is the best guarantee for the labourers employed through him.

"But the most splendid proof of that has been given by two thousand labourers, who in orderly parade, demonstrated a few days ago in Montreal that they did not forget what was done for them, and even if there were no other proof, this would be sufficient to show the philanthropic work of Antonio Cordasco.

"The spontaneous demonstration by two thousand men in a town where Italians are not counted by hundreds of thousands was most flattering for the person honoured, and we cordially congratulate Mr. Antonio Cordasco.

"What we say is not flattery, for we very well know that Mr. Cordasco, as a business man, does not care for that. It is only to sympathize with him for what he does for the Italian labourers who come here ready to fight against any kind of adversity, and who find in Cordasco a father, a friend, who not only helps and protects them, but puts them in a position to provide for their families and their aged parents.

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"But as if all that was not enough, he has instituted a solid bank, through which anybody can send money to any part of Italy within a few days.

"We trust that the benevolent action of A. Cordasco will last for years and years, for the welfare of our labourers, and we cannot help to let his name be known to everybody, so that our compatriots will know when landing here that they will find a friend waiting for them."

'A. I never ordered that, I never ordered this man to put in one line of that kind.

'Q. Turn up the letter to Mr. Scarrone?—A. I never ordered him to send such an article.

'Q. Did he not send that article to you to be printed?—A. He sent it to be printed.

'Q. And you saw it before it was printed?—A. Yes.

'Q. You had it printed?—A. Yes.

'Q. You sent that paper all over Italy?—A. Sixty in Italy besides my town.

'Q. You wrote on February the 9th?—A. That was the very day when I was in bed.

'Q. You say: "I have received yours of the 7th instant and I thank you very much for the kind words you wrote in your correspondence, of which I am proud. But I am sorry that I cannot publish this correspondence as I do not wish the readers to know that I am the capitalist and administrator of the *Corriere del Canada*."

"If I should place this before the readers they will say that I sing my own praises, that I order others to praise me; so you can (and I thank you for that) send articles on the work and solidity of the Canadian Pacific Railway, but do not tell the readers that I belong to this newspaper.

"You may say this privately to your advertisers and subscribers. I like the principle of your correspondence, which is well written, but you understand that it is no use to let the people know that I have a share in the newspaper for the above reason.

"If you send for Monday a good article on the work of the Canadian Pacific Railway, I shall publish it with the greatest of pleasure. I take the opportunity to thank you for the kind reception you gave to my traveller, Mr. Ianuzzi.

"Please tell me if you received the newspapers. I will be glad if you will confirm that you accept to represent the *Corriere del Canada* on the condition proposed.

"Please send me your cut, for I wish to introduce you to the readers by publishing it.

"Wishing you good business, and hoping to receive on Monday an article to publish as correspondence from Toronto.

"Yours truly,

"ANTONIO CORDASCO."

'Q. You advertised in *La Patria Italiana*?—A. Yes, about a month or two ago, a couple of months ago.

'Q. Did you put in advertisements for some time?—A. Yes.

'Q. Some friend put one in?—A. Yes.

'Q. Was that the one about the ten thousand men?—A. Yes, I remember he put in an advertisement asking for men.'

The evidence shows that the newspapers and cards referred to in the above letters and sent by Cordasco to Italy were distributed there and resulted in a number of Italian labourers coming to Montreal, as shown by Mr. Cordasco's letters to Paretti in March and April above set out and also shown by the evidence of several of the witnesses, among whom were Antonio Sicari, Francesco Picimento and Saverio Cresavi.

Antonio Sicaro being examined, stated that he arrived here on May 15 from Reggio, Calabria.

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'Q. What made you think of coming here ?—A. They sent so many newspapers and circulars, and some representatives.

'Q. Who sent them ?—A. A man named Pasano, he paid for many men.

'Q. How many ?—A. In my village about twenty.

'Q. Where did he direct you to go ?—A. He gave the address to each man, and told us to go to Cordasco, and we paid 450 francs.

'Q. All ?—A. Yes, all. I paid 450 francs, there were ninety of us paid the same amount.

'Q. Where were you directed to go ?—A. To Cordasco, they gave us his name and address.

'Q. What did you do in New York ?—A. We were visited and examined and come direct to Montreal, and went to Cordasco and paid him \$3.

'Q. How many men came with you in the same vessel ?—A. 750 Italians.

'Q. Did they all come to Montreal ?—A. I think there remained about thirty in New York.

'Q. Had they the address of Cordasco, all these men ?—A. Yes.

'Q. Did you see any circulars from Cordasco ?—A. Oh, yes, there were lots, and newspapers.

'Q. What was on the circular ?—A. It stated that any man that could come would make plenty of money, so that we came to this country and left our families.

'Q. Did the circulars state how many men were wanted ?—A. They stated that every man should like to come, because he would make lots of money.

'Q. Did they state the wages ?—A. Yes, sir.

'Q. How much ?—A. From 7.50 to 10 lire per day, stone mason, 15 lire, or about \$3 a day.

'Q. Did you get any employment since you came here ?—A. We were promised work from day to day and some got work.

'Q. How many did get work, between six and seven hundred ?—A. I do not know, because we did not stay in the same place.

'Q. Were there many without money ?—A. No one had money.

'Q. How were you supported ?—A. Well, our families helped us some, and others helped us.

'Q. What is the name of the steamer you came in ?—A. Santo Trado.

'Q. What line ?—A. The Italian General Navigation Company.

Francesco Picimento stated that he was nineteen years of age, arrived in Montreal on April 25 from Reggio Calabria in the steamer Ingle Terra.

'Q. Who paid your passage coming over ?—A. I paid myself.

'Q. How much ?—A. \$34.20.

'Q. How many came out with you ?—A. From the same village there were about thirteen or fourteen.

'Q. From all parts ?—A. 1,800 with the sailors.

'Q. How many came to Montreal ?—A. Fourteen came to Montreal.

'Q. Did you come direct to Montreal ?—A. The ship arrived in New York.

'Q. How many men came from the ship through from New York to Montreal ?—

A. Fourteen from my place, I do not know about the rest.

'Q. Were there many ?—A. Yes.

'Q. Did you see any papers to induce you to come here ?—A. Yes, sir.

'Q. What were they ?—A. They came from Montreal.

'Q. What name was on them ?—A. Cordasco Bank.

'Q. Who showed you these papers or gave them to you ?—A. Some gentleman from that place.

'Q. They left the papers with you ?—A. Yes, he had lots of papers.

'Q. What did the papers say ?—A. All those who wished could come to Montreal and make plenty of money.

'Q. Did you come out in the same boat as Antonio Sicari ?—A. No, before him, the ship before.

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'Q. How long before you came out did you see the circulars?—A. They commenced to post circulars in February, two years before.

'Q. You saw that circular two years ago?—A. There was a circular telling them to come here and make money.

'Q. Whose name was on the last circular?—A. I do not remember.

'Q. Do you remember the name on the Montreal circular?—A. Yes.

'Q. Whose name?—A. Antonio Cordasco, Montreal.

'Q. Did you apply to Cordasco for work?—A. Yes.

'Q. Did you give Cordasco any money?—A. Yes, I paid \$3.

'Q. What for?—A. I paid because he asked for it, so as to send me to work in the country.

'Q. Did he send you to work in the country?—A. No, sir.

'Q. Did you ask for the money back?—A. Yes.

'Q. And Cordasco refused to pay?—A. He said, 'Why do you want it, you will be on a gang that will start to-morrow.'

'Q. Have you any means of paying your way?—A. No, sir.

'Q. How are you supported?—A. I have no more money, I was obliged to work for fifty cents a day, it ceased the other day.

'Q. Are you working now?—A. No, sir.

'Q. Do you know any men in Montreal who came from your village this spring?—A. There is a cousin of mine here.'

Saverio Cresavi stated that he arrived in this country on May 15 from Reggio Calabria, having paid his passage out on the steamer The Piedmonte of the La Veloce line.

'Q. What induced you to come out?—A. I saw the others starting for this country and I felt like doing the same.

'Q. How many came out on the same boat?—A. 550.

'Q. Did you all come to Montreal?—A. No, sir, only twenty-five.

'Q. Where did the others go?—A. To New York.

'Q. Did any of them come afterwards from New York to Montreal?—A. I do not know.

'Q. Did you apply to Cordasco for work?—A. Yes, sir.

'Q. How did you come to do that?—A. He said if you have \$3 you will go to work, and I paid the \$3.

'Q. Did you get a job?—A. No, sir.

'Q. Have you asked for a job more than once?—A. Yes, I asked every day.

'Q. What did Cordasco say?—A. Well, all right, you can go to-morrow, but I never went.

'Q. Did you ask for your money?—A. Yes, sir.

'Q. What did Cordasco say?—A. He said he would not return the money, but to wait until I got a job.'

Guiseppe Mignella, being examined, stated:—

'Q. Did you know any of the Italians that came from Italy during the spring?—A. I knew some.

'Q. How many?—A. I knew three from my own place and some from other places.

'Q. Who brought them out?—A. Fratello, who stated to me they had consulted Cordasco's newspapers.'

Mr. H. Laporte, Mayor of Montreal, in his evidence said:—

'Q. Did you know he (Cordasco) was interested in bringing them (the Italians) out?—A. Well, I have the names of a few agents, Mr. Cordasco, who I understand claimed he had large contracts from railway companies which he must fill, and he brought out a certain number of men.

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'Q. Did he mention about how many he would require on the railway?—A. He mentioned last year about 10,000 would find employment.

'Q. That he wanted 10,000?—A. He expected that number would be required this year.

'Q. When was this he said that?—A. It was on the first or second of June.'

Count Francesco Mazza, Italian Consul General in Canada, gave the following evidence:—

'Q. Were you in a position to ascertain what was the reason for this excessive immigration?—A. It seems that persons interested in having immigrants come to Canada so as to employ them have written to Italy, and sent advertisements in order to have people come here.

'Q. That is not with your approval, or with the approval of the Italian government?—A. On the contrary, it is in opposition to the wishes of the Italian government and the wish of the consulate.'

Mr. James B. Mack, Vice-President of the Dominion Trades and Labour Council, and labour editor of the Montreal 'Star,' stated:—

'Q. Mr. Mack, whose names did these Italians who went to your office mention in connection with bringing them from Italy?—A. They mentioned Mr. Cordasco and several others; at that time I was not so much interested in it as now.

'Q. Did they tell you the methods by which they were induced to come?—A. They had been induced by letters, circulars, and some of them cards, some on their own responsibility, others had wished to come to see if there were any good propositions in Canada, more wages, no need for any man to be out of employment in the Dominion of Canada.'

Chevalier Charles Honore Catelli, the President of the Italian Immigration Aid Society No. 1, Montreal, being examined, gave the following evidence:—

'Q. Have you formed any opinion as to the chief cause of this excessive immigration, will you give it to us?—A. Some Italians came to see me, when I asked them why they came here they said they had been sent by Mr. Parretti, of Udine.

'Q. How many were there?—A. There were five or six. They went back.

'Q. Did they show any cards?—A. They had a book of addresses and set of cards at Parretti's office.

'Q. What were on the cards?—A. I did not notice, these people were told by Mr. Parretti that Signor Cordasco was a large contractor in Montreal and wanted eight or ten thousand men.

'Q. They were told that in Italy?—A. Yes.

'Q. That induced them to come to this country?—A. Yes.

'Q. They have now gone back to Italy?—A. I was told they had gone back.

'Q. This is a statement by these men: "We, the undersigned, declare as follows: That at the moment of leaving Italy for Canada, Mr. Antoni Parretti has read and shown us a letter signed by Antonio Cordasco, in which he asks for 8,000 or 10,000 labourers from the Province of Venete, and in which he promises immediate work as soon as we get to destination. Besides this we saw circulars and newspapers coming from Montreal, with the photograph of Cordasco circulated in our province, encouraging the labourers to emigrate to Canada. Besides that Parretti distributed the address of Cordasco as above.

"Signed by ten Italians."

'Q. Is that a correct translation?—A. Yes, sir, that is about what they told me.

'Q. Do you remember receiving a letter of complaint from some Italians at North Bay?—A. Yes.

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'Q. Is this a proper translation of it :—

"States that the men were pretty nearly starving up at North Bay; they had got some help from another man who came from Montreal. If it had not been for him they would have died, some of them. Now would be the time to ask Mr. Cordasco where is that work which he had when he said he would employ 8,000 or 10,000 labourers, in the letter he wrote to Antonio Parretti, agent of La Veloce Udine. About twenty of us at Venete can prove this. Mr. Parretti read to us a great many times the letter of Mr. Cordasco. You must pardon my speaking about Mr. Cordasco, but my conscience compels me to. I am only doing it with a view to stop this fraud, and they have had to mortgage everything to come to this country, with the hope that they would find a fortune; in exchange they are suffering hardships and misery.

"The day that I signed the declaration there were over twenty with me. Italians all over Canada tell you the same.

"To certify the truth of what I am saying I will sign with two of my friends.

" (Signed) ANTONIO COSANI,
DEMURAZA GIOVANNI,
VITTORIO VENTARUTTI."

'A. Yes, that is about the tenor of the letter.

'Q. Which you received from North Bay?—A. Yes.'

Mr. Ganna, clerk of Mr. Cordasco, in his evidence stated:—

'Q. How many came from Calabria here?—A. I think in Montreal direct from Italy they did not come more than three or four from that province.

'Q. How many came from Chiasso?—A. That is another question, from Chiasso there came about eighteen or twenty, having business cards printed by Mr. Cordasco.

'Q. Who do you think they were sent by, Ludwig for Cordasco?—A. Yes, he sent his paper to about twenty young men coming to Montreal. Mr. Cordasco wrote the men last October, I do not remember the date.

'Q. How many came through Paretti?—A. I know of twelve.

Upon the declaration of the ten Italians, dated April 22 being read, Mr. Ganna said:

'Q. I remember that very well, because they came to the office, and afterwards went to the immigration office and told them; I remember that very well.

'Q. Will you look at that letter-book, page 60, Mr. Ganna, November 4, 1903?—A. Yes, your Honour.

'Q. This is the letter:

"MONTREAL, November 4, 1903.

"GEO. A. RINGLAND, Esq.,

"General Passenger Agent

"Canadian Pacific Steamship Line, Atlantic Service,
"6 St. Sacramento St., Montreal.

"DEAR SIR,—I represent nine different lines, as per the attached list, and I think I could do considerable business with your company. I do not refer to business to Italy, but I have had a number of inquiries for tickets to Liverpool and London, and I think I could sell a good many for you.

"For references as to financial standing, please refer to the Dominion Bank, or if you require a bond, I am willing to put it up. I will also refer you to Mr. G. F. Burns, chief of the Labour Department, for whom I have been supplying men for a number of years.

"I also supply men for the Grand Trunk, and a large number of contractors and railway companies in Canada, and in the course of the year get in touch with probably 6,000 or 7,000 Italians.

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"Will you kindly let me know what you can do for me in the above and oblige.

"Yours respectfully,

"A. CORDASCO."

'A. I did not write that letter.

'Q. Whose signature is that to that letter in that letter-book?—A. That is Mr. Cordasco's own signature.

'Q. What steamship line does he write to there?—A. This is a French line; I wrote this letter from a copy he gave me.

'Q. He wrote it first and you copied it for him?—A. I think so, I have copied this for him.

'Q. This is the letter:

"MONTREAL, November 14, 1903.

"Compagnie Generale Transatlantique,
"General Agency for Canada,
"1672 Notre Dame Street, Montreal.

"GENTLEMEN,—I hereby beg to apply for the third-class rate steamship tickets for your line. I represent nine different lines as per the attached list, and I think I could do business with your company.

"I have a number of inquiries for tickets, and I think I could sell a good many for you.

"For reference as to financial standing, please refer to Dominion Bank or Hochelaga Bank or Toronto Bank. I will also refer to Mr. G. E. Burns, chief of Labour Department of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, for whom I have been supplying men for a number of years.

"I also supply men for the Grand Trunk and a large number of contractors and railway companies, &c., in Canada, and in the course of the year I get in touch with probably 6,000 or 7,000 Italians.

"Will you kindly let me know what you can do for me in the above, and oblige.

"Yours respectfully,

"ANTONIO CORDASCO,

"Per A. GANNA."

'Q. Do you remember whether he got the agencies for these companies?—A. Yes, a few days after, I think about ten or fifteen days.

'Q. So this was before he wrote to the people in Italy for ten thousand men?—A. I do not remember the date of that letter.

'Q. These were in November, 1903, and your letters were early in 1904.'

Mr. Alberto Dini admitted the following advertisement was inserted in the issues of *La Patria Italiana* of January 14 and 21, 1904, namely:

"For the coming spring Mr. Dini announces that there will be a very large demand for perhaps 10,000 labourers for the coming spring. Italian workmen know that Mr. Dini is the representative of very many construction companies, and also are aware of the proverbial integrity with which he has in the past proven during the many years he has resided in Canada. Every one who wishes to be assured of work at good wages from the spring to the coming winter can go from the present time and be inscribed at the banking office of Mr. Dini, 2026 St. Catharine Street."

In his examination he gave the following evidence:

'Q. This is an advertisement of *La Patria Italiana*, that is your name?—A. I do not know who put it in.

'Q. See, there is a similar advertisement put in by Mr. Cordasco?—A. I cannot say; a man coming home, employed by *La Patria Italiana*, say, You will see Cordasco wants about 10,000 men, and I told do what you like. I do not give number. The paper came out and I see the advertisement.

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'Q. It was not your authorization, you did not authorize it?—A. No, sir. What papers say that?

'Q. *La Patria Italiana*?—A. Same paper.

'Q. Yes. What excuse had you, Mr. Dini for giving an advertisement calling for 10,000 Italians?—A. I have not told to put in ten thousand. I told you they will reply to Cordasco's advertisement. I never told to put 10,000 or 5,000.

'Q. What was Cordasco's advertisement?—A. I think about 10,000.

'Q. How many Italians do you think you have succeeded in bringing here?—A. I did not bring any at all.

'A. Mr. Cordasco says he brought in 12,000 in three years?—A. Cordasco? I do not know what he did, I have not bring men here at all.

'Q. Have you agents in Europe?—A. No, sir.

'A card having been produced to Mr. Dini with his name on same he was asked: "That is given to persons?—A. Given to persons coming from Chiasso to Montreal."

'Q. That is they are recommended to you by the Societa Anonima d'Emigrazione at Chiasso?—A. Yes.

'Q. What you told me a minute ago was hardly correct; you have given authority for these to be given to introduce men to you?—A. Well, some times in the late summer labour is very scarce, and they want to go around to Quebec. When the ship arriving in Quebec and get labourers and he write to me. Said I know you have a good name, and if I like I recommend to you.

'Q. And that is what this card is for?—A. Yes.

'Q. How did it get to Chiasso?—A. I do not know; probably the society gave it to him.

'Q. Do you know any one in Chiasso?—A. Well, I see one man when I was in Italy last year. I say to one or two agents, if you send these men recommend to me. I can promise nothing if men come to Canada otherwise. I go and see that man you consult in Dolo Vico. I saw him and another in Chiasso.

'Q. Was that Ludwig?—A. Yes.

'Q. What agreement did you enter into with Ludwig about bringing men over from Italy?—A. No agreement; I told him just a few words. He said, "Dini, you are here, I am glad to meet you. I think you do the best you can for the men. Give them your address, because the men complain when arrive in Montreal somebody else takes them." He says, he repeats, he complains, and that is the reason why I will send to you because there is no complaint at all.

'Q. How many men came to you this spring from Chiasso?—A. I cannot tell exactly, probably 100, probably 200; I do not think more.

'Do you remember receiving that letter from the firm of Corecco & Brivio?—A. Yes, sir.

'Q. This letter is dated May 7, 1904, and is from Bodio, Switzerland, and addressed to Mr. Alberto Dini, Montreal.

"You are already aware that our firm has had your address for several years, having during that time sent you a great number of labourers. They received from you all the help and information possible regarding work and we have no doubt that our sending you such men has caused some trouble.

"You are also aware that our firm is corresponding with the 'Societa Anonima d'Emigrazione, La Svizzera,' as well as with other agencies of emigration of Switzerland, which have been regularly and legally constituted.

"You do not ignore that a brother of Mr. Schenker, one of those who has opened an office in Montreal for the exchange of money in order to compete with you, has lately opened an office in Chiasso, Switzerland, and gets passengers from Italy through the help of Schenker who is in Montreal.

"The latter sends to his brother in Chiasso notices and orders for the shipment of men, and the brother reads the notices to the passengers mentioning the ships they ought to go by.

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"Having had knowledge of this action on the part of Schenker we took the liberty of addressing ourselves to you in order to advise you and inform you thereof and to ask if it would be possible for you to do something for us in the matter.

"In order to facilitate the thing for those who wish to go to Montreal through friends, you can exact yourself in Montreal the amount of the passage money. Send us an order for shipment, saying at the same time that you should pay us only 170 francs from Chiasso to Quebec. All that you can get above that from the interested parties will remain to your benefit.

"It is understood that our shipments will be executed as far as we are concerned with accuracy and precision.

"We enclose herewith a list of the dates of sailings of the ships of the C.P.R., plying from Antwerp, and we beg to reply to us and hope that the same may be favourable.

"We remain,

"CORECCO & BRIVIO."

"P.S.—You can interest yourself in another way by suggesting to those who want to get their people to Canada, to take or get transportation through our firm. Or you may give us the address of the immigrants so that we may write to them and offer them our services. When the shipment is finished we will send you a commission, such as it may be possible for us to pay."

'Q. Do you know this firm, Mr. Dini?—A. No, sir.

'Q. They say they have been communicating with you for several years?—A. Well, I told you yesterday that men coming from Chiasso gave me a card.

'Q. Very many men?—A. No, sir.

'Q. When did you receive this letter?—A. I do not remember, in April or May.

'Q. What did you do on the receipt of it?—A. I never answered it.'

Mr. Dini was in error when he stated that he did not give any instructions to have the advertisement inserted in *La Patria Italiana*. Mr. Di Rosa in his evidence states:

'Q. You are editor of *La Patria Italiana*?—A. Yes, chief editor.

'Q. Do you remember Mr. Alberto Dini asking you to write out an advertisement calling for 10,000 labourers?—A. Yes, sir.

'Q. This advertisement was published January 14 and 21 last, 'For the coming spring, &c.'; did Mr. Dini ask you to write that?—A. Yes, the first time.

'Q. And it was repeated in other editions?—A. Yes, many times.

'Q. What is the circulation of your paper?—A. From 1,200 to 1,300.

'Q. Dini said here the other day that he knew nothing about this advertisement, he saw it only afterwards?—A. He came himself to my office and asked me to write the advertisement.

'Q. Where did Dini tell you to write it, at what place?—A. In the newspaper office.'

Means and Methods Adopted to Bring About Immigration.

In addition to the means and methods to which I have already referred, the evidence shows that Mr. Cordasco employed agents in the United States for the purpose of hiring Italians for the C.P.R., he also had printed letter headings and envelopes bearing the Italian crest, the envelopes being in different colours, green, blue, yellow and brown. In his evidence with reference to these, he stated:

'Q. Does not that crest belong to Italy?—A. It is not the full crown of Italy.

'Q. On arrival in Italy they would think that came from the King?—A. I do not know that, your Honour.

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'Q. You had these envelopes in different colours, green, blue, yellow and brown, these are all Antonio Cordasco's crests?—A. Yes, your Honour.

'Q. Why did you put the Italian crest upon them without authority?—A. I did not do it myself, Ganna did it.

'Q. You have the crest upon all your letter paper and envelopes, even upon that banquet invitation?—A. All through Ganna, I was sending nobody.

'Q. You had no authority to allow you to print the coat of arms on your envelopes?—A. I am ready to take it off if your Honour wishes.

'Q. Was not that done for the purpose of making these poor immigrants think you were connected with the Italian government, and that you were really the King of Labour?—A. I will cut them off. Of course I asked Ganna; he is not responsible, it is not a full crown."

It was further shown that at least one or two persons went from Montreal to Italy for the purpose of bringing out Italian labourers. With respect to these the following evidence was given by Mr. Cordasco:

'Q. You know Mr. Marcucci?—A. I never saw him.

'Q. When did Mr. Marcucci go over to Italy?—A. Marcucci, I don't know anything about him.

'Q. He was sent over from Canada to bring these men out to this country?—A. I never sent him there.

'Q. Did you ever hear of that before?—A. I never heard if this man went from Canada to Italy for men.

'Q. You know Boconcelli?—A. Yes.

'Q. Was Marcucci only employed?—A. I have heard him mentioned, but I do not know this man.

'Q. Then Marcucci did go from Canada?—A. I do not know, I think Boconcelli sent him.

'Q. What did he send him for?—A. I do not know.

'Q. How many tickets did Boconcelli get from you to bring men out?—A. About 13 or 14 men, the books show it.

'Q. How much did Boconcelli pay for the tickets?—A. \$36.65 from Naples to Montreal; \$30 from Naples to New York; \$6.65 from New York to Montreal.

'Q. Did he buy tickets direct from Naples to Montreal?—A. Yes.

'Q. What is your profit on each ticket you sell?—A. In this company I think \$7.

'Q. How many tickets had you issued?—A. 14 tickets to Boconcelli.

'Q. Who directed him to do all that work, you?—A. Yes.

'Q. You instructed him?—A. For this work, yes.

'Q. Boconcelli was a great friend of yours?—A. No friend of mine, no relation.

'Q. Never mind the relations, you lent him money?—A. Yes.

'Q. How much?—A. About \$380.

'Q. Now you sent Marcucci over to Italy with these tickets?—A. I know nothing about that, I heard he sent him.

'Q. Heard of it after he bought the tickets. Marcucci came back again?—A. I never heard of it.

'Q. Heard about it?—A. Boconcelli told me, that is all I know.

'Q. How much did he charge these men?—A. I do not know.

'Q. You heard?—A. I did not.

'Q. What is the use of saying, you told me you did, they charged these unfortunate men \$60 for every \$30 ticket sold, Boconcelli said it?—A. He probably did, I do not know whether he got \$60, \$65 or \$70.

'Q. You are swearing to it, how much did he charge these men?—A. I think Boconcelli said he was going to charge \$60.

'Q. Now, you have given money to Boconcelli, gave him \$100, took a \$125 note for it on demand?—A. That is all business.

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- 'Q. You sent him out as foreman?—A. I did that.
- 'Q. One of the first men?—A. On July 16.
- 'Q. He gave you a list of his men?—A. Yes.
- 'Q. He brought these Italians with him?—A. I don't know, I gave him \$35.
- 'Q. How was Boconcelli to get this \$60 from those men?—A. I do not know.
- 'Q. Yes, you talked the matter over with him, you were to get money from him?—A. I lent him money to accommodate.
- 'Q. It was to come out of his wages?—A. Yes, whenever he got them.
- 'Q. That was understood?—A. Yes.
- 'Q. These men were to pay their money out of their wages?—A. I had nothing to do with him.
- 'Q. You loaned Boconcelli the money because he brought men out, sold tickets and was to get it out of their wages?—A. I only loaned him money.
- 'Q. The first note you took was for \$125, you paid him \$100?—A. Probably.
- 'Q. The second note was for \$65, how much did you pay him?—A. I do not remember.
- 'Q. The third note was for \$190, how much did you pay him, \$140?—A. Probably.
- 'Q. These moneys you said you were to be recouped as soon as he got his wages from the Canadian Pacific?—A. Whenever he earns it.
- 'Q. He was also to receive money from these men brought out from Italy?—A. I do not know, he told me that they owe him an amount of money.
- 'Q. He was to get their wages to pay it?—A. I do not know.
- 'Q. He told you?—A. He was looking to the men to pay the money.
- 'Q. Because he was to get their wages, every man of them, was not that the case, he was to get their wages?—A. That is what he said.
- Mr. Ganna, in his examination, stated as follows:
- 'Q. Do you remember Nicola Maroni?—A. He had seven or eight steamship offices in Montreal.
- 'Q. Is he here now?—A. Not at present.
- 'Q. Who were the men he brought out?—A. This I cannot tell.
- 'Q. How did he come to send so many men?—A. I remember he came twice.
- 'Q. Did he come in the same ship as Boconcelli?—A. Perhaps, one time I think he came with Boconcelli, I am not sure, yes, he came about the same time.
- 'Q. He came on the same day, on January 11?—A. In January, yes.
- 'Q. Do you know how many tickets he purchased?—A. I cannot tell you exactly.
- 'Q. Boconcelli and Maroni, there are seven marked there?—A. Yes.
- 'Q. Do you know how much he charged these men going out?—A. I do not know what Maroni charged.
- 'Q. Probably the same as Boconcelli, they were together?—A. Some people have told me that Boconcelli charged \$60, but I do not think that is true.
- 'Q. Mr. Boconcelli told that to Mr. Cordasco, that is what you heard?—A. Yes, perhaps.'

Persons Engaged in Promoting Italian Immigration.

The evidence shows that the only persons engaged directly or indirectly in Canada in promoting the immigration that took place were George E. Burns and Antonio Cordasco, acting on behalf of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and Alberto Dini. The Schenker Brothers referred to in the Corecco & Brivio letter to Mr. Dini, had ceased doing business in Montreal some time previous to the immigration in question, and so far as the evidence showed, had nothing to do with same.

TREATMENT OF IMMIGRANTS BY AGENTS IN MONTREAL.

The evidence shows that there were at least 6,000 Italian immigrants in Montreal in the month of May last, many of whom had been induced to come to Canada by reason of the advertisements and representations made to them as above set forth. The evidence shows further that the Italian labourers could not obtain employment with the Canadian Pacific Railway without first paying Cordasco the sums demanded by him, Mr. Burns refused to employ any Italians unless through Cordasco. The Italian Immigration Aid Society, in order to relieve these men from this imposition, on March 5, 1903, wrote to Mr. McNicoll, General Manager of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, as follows:—

"DEAR SIR,—We noticed in yesterday's *Star* that your company and sub-agents fear not to be able to secure a sufficient number of labourers to carry on all the estimated work for the coming season.

"Two months ago we applied to your company, proposing to supply all the labourers you might need, and now we beg to apply to you personally stating again that:

"You can trust on us for any number of men you may require, even for thousands.

"We shall supply these men without any charge whatsoever for the company, and shall act as interpreters and do all the work, so as to prevent any kind of trouble or annoyance for the officers and employees of the company.

"Our society being under the control and subsidized by the Italian government, we may have good, sober and honest people coming to us through the Emigration Office in Rome, that would never allow criminals or sick men to come here.

"Later on, when the railway work will be over, we shall try to settle those men on land and make them good and industrious Canadian citizens.

"As our principal aim is to protect our countrymen against any kind of swindlers, of whom they have been victims until now, we try to secure the good-will and co-operation of all the companies that engage Italian labourers, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company first, as the most important of the Dominion, offering our services for the allotment of the men.

"Two months ago we sent to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company fifty copies of our by-laws, and as perhaps they did not reach you, we beg to send to you another one of them, from which you may see that our work is highly moral, and that it deserves to be taken into consideration.

"Please address yourself to our office, where you will find our agent always at your disposal for any information your company may require.

"Trusting to hear from you very soon, so as to put us in condition to be always ready to meet your requests.

"Yours truly,

"C. MARIOTTI, *Sec.-treasurer.*

"The Immigration Aid Soc., No. 1."

To this letter they received the following reply:—

"March 16, 1903.

"C. C. MARIOTTI, Esq.,

Sec.-treas. Immigration Aid Society, No. 1,

"908 LaGauchetière St., Montreal.

"DEAR SIR,—Referring to your letter of the 5th inst., directed to the second vice-president and general manager of the company, and also referring to the conversation with the delegation representing your society which took place in my office some days ago, I would state I have taken up the question of the employment of labour with the proper authorities, and have to advise you that it is not the intention of this company to change the arrangements for the employment of Italian labour, which have been in

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vogue during the past few years; our present system has given entire satisfaction so far, and I therefore regret I shall be unable to place direct with your society any specific order for any number of men.

"Yours truly,

"G. E. BURNS,
Special Agent."

A number of Italians gave their evidence before me showing that Cordasco demanded a fee of \$1 for registering the name of the applicant, as labourer, and \$10 as foreman or interpreter; that he subsequently demanded from the labourer \$2 to \$3 as a further fee before he would recommend them for employment; after receiving these sums of money he did not get employment for them, and refused to repay the sums so obtained. A number of these men had to bring suit against him for the return of moneys so paid, and under a judgment he was compelled to repay certain of these sums.

Mr. Cordasco in his evidence with reference to the receipt of these sums of money admitted same.

It was admitted that there were at least sixty-three foremen since the beginning of November, 1903, up to May or June, 1904, the greater number of whom paid \$10 each; and that there were 3,916 men registered, of whom 400 paid \$4 each. Cordasco in his evidence stated:

"The men paid me \$1 in December, \$2 in March; later on in June they came along and wanted to get registered, and they forced me to take more money."

'Q. You were making out a statement last night as to the number of men who registered with you this year?—A. My bookkeeper has got it, I think.

'Q. From the statement that you produced, Mr. Cordasco, there appears to be sixty-three foremen?—A. Well, yes.

'Q. Have these men all paid?—A. Three have not paid.

'Q. If all had paid it would be \$630?—A. I received \$10 unless for three men, this would be \$600.

'Q. Then I see 3,916 men, is that right?—A. It is right.

'Q. You received from these \$5,656?—A. Yes.

'Q. Do you know what rate they paid?—A. Some \$1 and some \$3.

'Q. How much did you charge the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. I did not receive anything, I did not care.

'Q. You charged \$5 a day when you were sending them out before this arrangement?—A. Yes, if I did a full day's work.

'Q. Is that statement of the charge at \$5 during last year up to the end of December, 1903?—A. Yes.

'Q. You received from the C.P.R. \$1,456 up to the end of last year, how much this year?—A. Only a few dollars for January, February and March, I cannot say whether it was \$400 or more.

'Q. Now, you say there are over 404 paid \$4 who had been registered twice, have they work yet?—A. No.

'Q. You got their \$4?—A. Yes, I am going to give them back.

'Q. You got \$3 from each of these men between the 5th and 12th July, you got over \$600 from these men?—A. If they want the money back I will give it to them to-night.

'Q. Mr. Cordasco, how much money have you received from all those you have employed?—A. Ganna has got the figures, he has done my work, and I will take what he says.'

Mr. Ganna gave the following evidence:

'Q. Do you know how much Cordasco makes in a year out of these people?—A. I cannot tell you, because I have not been with him a year; for about six months I can say about \$7,000.

'Q. Out of men for six months?—A. No, out of the men altogether, out of the men registered now. You have that list, the amount is \$6,121.

'Q. How much from the Canadian Pacific Railway during the same months?—A. That changes every month, some times \$270, sometimes \$300, I think in July about \$600, because 300 have left for work, and they had some provisions.

'Q. How much would that be in addition to the \$6,121?—A. \$1 for each man.

'Q. How many for six months this year?—A. Of this year, \$727.

'Q. How many steamship tickets from Italy for these men?—A. I think about 125 from Italy, and he gets \$7.

'Q. That is only one company, how much from every company?—A. About 105 or \$735.

'Q. In connection with these men he therefore makes pretty nearly \$10,000 a year on them?—A. In one year? I know only these months.

'Q. Well, then, from October to October?—A. I suppose so.

'Q. That \$20 referred to in Franco's letter was received by him because he wanted a position as foreman?—A. Yes.

'Q. How high does Mr. Cordasco go in his demands for money for getting positions as foremen?—A. Nothing, he wrote himself and sent \$20 instead of \$10 because he hoped to get work before some others."

In addition to the sums charged by Cordasco to these Italian labourers he was authorized by the Canadian Pacific Railway to supply them with food on their journey from Montreal to their destination, he received \$5 per day for every day that he worked for the Canadian Pacific Railway, whether for looking after Italians or other work including the obtaining and forwarding of the provisions. He charged up the provisions to the company, who in turn charged them up against the men *pro rata*, and deducted same out of their first wages, paying these sums so charged by Cordasco to him. In connection with these charges the following evidence was given:

Mr. Skinner, who is labour agent for the Canadian Pacific Railway, and had charge under the superintendence of Mr. Burns, of the employment of all Italians, certifies the accounts of Cordasco from month to month.

He gave the following evidence:—

'Q. In addition to that, I see he supplies Italians going a distance with provisions?—A. He does.

'Q. These provisions are charged against their wages?—A. Yes.

'Q. Who checks the accounts for such supplies?—A. I check them.

'Q. How do you check them, what means do you take to see they are correct?—A. Well, the first thing I do is to see whether I think he has supplied enough or too much stuff for the parties leaving, and then I look over the prices charged for each item.

'Q. You look over the prices charged for each item, and ascertain if they are correct, by what means?—A. The only way to ascertain, I judge.

'Q. You understand he just charges the amount he pays for these articles?—A. I understand the articles are bought from him. He adds an amount for what he thinks a fair price.

'Q. Are the articles bought from him?—A. The articles are bought from him.

'Q. On your order?—A. On Mr. Burns' order.

'Q. You pay him for getting these things?—A. Oh, no, he is not paid for getting them.

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'Q. Would you look at the items of March 15, 1904 (hands him Cordasco's account)?—A. March 15, yes, I see.

'Q. Services rendered in sending provisions to Westward train; it is O.K'd, that is a \$5 item?—A. That is not for Italian labour.

'Q. It is for Chinese; it is a charge against you, the only difference is that you did not get it back from the Chinese, but you did from the Italians. He charged \$5 for that day. \$54.05 for these provisions; look at the account?—A. Yes, \$54.05.

'Q. He bought them for \$37.95 the same day?—A. I am not aware.

'Q. There is an account produced by Mr. Cordasco; \$16.10 made on that little item of \$37.95. What means have you taken to find out what were the prices of the articles supplied to the Italians and Chinese?—A. I have taken no means, I have looked at Cordasco's account.

'Q. Without knowing whether they were reasonable or not?—A. I just went on my own judgment.

'Q. Look at the April account you passed. What is the charge he makes there for shipping men?—A. Charges \$5.

'Q. For that he gives provisions on that date?—A. He only gets \$5 for shipping and loading provisions.

'Q. That is all he is entitled to, that is bread for your men. Now, what is the account for provisions?—A. \$152.

'Q. As you see (showing account) the original cost of these various items was \$94.72?—A. I never saw that before.

'Q. But could you not have found it out from any person doing business in Montreal. These Italians had to pay \$152 for what was purchased for \$94.72?—A. At the same time I gathered from this statement that they were not paying any more than they would be obliged to pay for themselves.

'Q. The Canadian Pacific Railway were paying Mr. Cordasco for acting in the interest of these Italians. They were your employees; now, what means did you take, as a servant of the Canadian Pacific Railway to find out that you were getting articles at the lowest price for these men?—A. In reply, I can only say I scanned Cordasco's account item by item, and if the items were reasonable I passed them.

'Q. Without knowing what they could be bought for elsewhere?—A. Yes.

'Q. So you see he gets \$5 a day, and how much from the unfortunate people who have to pay for these supplies going out west?—A. \$152 less \$94.72, \$57.28 he gets out of that.

'Q. Don't you think that is a little more than fair, he is your servant, he has to supply these articles, has he not?—A. I quite see the point.

'Q. Why should you allow him to make money out of these men?—A. It is not a great hardship, the cost to the men.'

In explanation of these accounts Mr. Burns in his evidence stated:—

'As regards sardines, I went into the matter once, I think last year. I spoke to Cordasco. He admitted having charged too much, and he put the price at ten cents, which gave still a good margin. I do not know what he charged; I did not care, he was looking after the matter, and if he was not giving away the goods for nothing it would simply mean he had a good business contract, and the cost of the goods supplied by him to the Canadian Pacific Railway I had nothing to do with except, to go over his accounts and to see the retail prices at the grocery stores were not overstepped.'

'Q. You pay Cordasco \$5 a day during the time he is employed in any work for the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. Yes.

'Q. The work consisted of getting provisions for these men when necessary?—A. That is separate.

'Q. He charged \$5 for supplying provisions?—A. I had noticed it in the accounts.

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'Q. Supposing now that instead of Cordasco getting provisions you got them, would you charge a profit?—A. None whatever.

'Q. He is, in your position, gets paid for that work?—A. I do not understand it that way.

'Q. That is, he not only gets \$5, but charges a profit on everything he buys?—A. Not the Canadian Pacific Railway.

'Q. It is far worse if it is not the Canadian Pacific Railway; it is against these unfortunate Italians who do not know anything about prices?—A. I do not know if the prices are not excessive.

'Q. There should not be one cent profit if Cordasco was paid for the service?—A. That is one way of looking at it. I always regarded that as his prerogative.

'Q. You were quite willing that these Italians should pay double prices for these things?—A. He has a right to make some profit.

'Q. There is an account for \$152, how much did he actually pay; the statement is added there?—A. \$94.72.

'Q. Now, then, supposing we pass from them to the Chinese, the Canadian Pacific Railway would pay for the provisions for the Chinese out of their own pocket, is not that so?—A. Yes, sir.

'Q. The provisions are charged against the Chinese on the same principle?—A. Yes.

'Q. You pay him \$5 per day for providing these provisions, look up the amount if you are not sure?—A. Yes, sir.

'Q. How many hundred dollars during the year has Mr. Cordasco made in this manner?—A. I would like to look over the accounts for information.

'Q. Will you kindly go over these accounts and find out what he has charged for provisions to Chinese and Italians and for services?—A. I will, Your Honour.

'Q. Have you gone over the statement for the last year to see what is the total amount charged for provisions?—A. I have taken all of 1903 and 1904 to date.

'Q. From the beginning of 1903 to June, 1904, how much does it amount to?—A. \$6,453.41.

'Q. Would that be paid by Italians only or by Italians and Chinese?—A. This would be by Italians and Chinese; the latter does not amount to a great deal.

'Q. Have you gone over the profits that were charged on these provisions by Cordasco?—A. As far as I could.

'Q. What would be the percentage?—A. About 63 per cent.

'Q. What would that amount to on the whole?—A. About \$3,600 or more.

'Q. Nearly \$4,000?—A. \$3,800; I will go over it again.'

Mr. Burns in his examination with reference to the payments made by the labourers to Cordasco stated that he understood Cordasco received \$10 from each foreman, and from \$1 to \$2 from each labourer; that he investigated certain complaints of greater charges than these having been made, but that he believed Cordasco in preference to those making the complaints. The evidence shows, however, that Mr. Burns is not candid in his answers relating to this matter. On March 21, 1904, Mr. Cordasco wrote Mr. Burns a letter in which he stated: 'I charged Italian labourers sometimes \$3, sometimes \$2, sometimes \$1, sometimes nothing; same thing for Italian interpreters, according to reason. I charge each of them from nothing up to \$15, according to ability of them if they are able to pay.'

Mr. Burns wrote a letter to Mr. Timmerman, general superintendent at Toronto, on the 17th May, 1904, in which Mr. Burns stated:

"Under the present condition, starting from this year, all Italians may be engaged through Cordasco's office for the Canadian Pacific Railway without the payment

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of a single cent, but in the past as indicated in Cordasco's letter on April 29th he has not been out for his health, and I have no doubt has exacted his fee as is usual in such cases not only in Montreal, but all over the country, as probably you are aware."

Mr. Burns made a new arrangement with Cordasco in April, 1904, in consequence of a suit against the railway company brought by some Italian labourers for the return of the amounts charged by Cordasco, in which Judge Curran of Montreal held that the company were liable owing to the fact that their agent, Cordasco had received the moneys and had not given employment. The new arrangement was that Cordasco was not to charge the men anything whatever, but that the company would pay him the sum of \$1 for each man he employed for them. Although this arrangement was made in April, Cordasco still continued up to the commencement of the inquiry to collect up to \$4 from each labourer, and this with the knowledge of Mr. Burns.

The evidence shows that Mr. Dini charged \$1 only for obtaining employment for men, and nothing for foremen. Other intelligence agents charged from \$2 to \$3 for obtaining men, and no charge where employment was not given. It was also shown by evidence that Cordasco charged a fee from the labourers on giving them a free pass provided by the company.

Results of the Immigration upon Canadian Workingmen.

The evidence shows that the arrival of such a large number of immigrants interfered with the wages of the working men in Montreal. Mr. Honore Gervais, member of Parliament, representing the Division of St. James, Montreal, being asked what in his opinion would be the results on resident labourers in Montreal of the bringing in of such a large number of labourers stated:—

"I would think it would be most detrimental to the interests of resident labourers, because having to accept fixed salaries they have to make a scale that would cover the cost of living, and by the coming of these Italian labourers in such large numbers without a moment's warning to our shores, the scale of wages is destroyed because there are too many men willing to work at reduced rates, and thus our resident labourers are bound to suffer. Accordingly, on account of the sudden fall or decrease in wages generally, it is most detrimental to the workmen of Canada, to the workmen of Montreal, that at any moment some ten thousand men shall be thrown on our shores and come in competition with our workmen resident in Montreal."

Mr. Hannaford, engineer of the Montreal Street Railway Company, stated that they had 300 Italians in their service, and that they paid the ordinary labourers 12½ cents per hour, and that the sub-foremen received as high as \$1.37 a day, that the rate of wages in Montreal to ordinary labourers in other departments is \$1.50 per day, that they have no trouble in obtaining labourers; and in answer to the question "Well, you can get any number you wish at \$1.25 per day," he replied, "They come to us, we do not have to look for them."

Mr. J. B. Mack, upon being asked: "Will you state your opinion of the effect on the scale of wages in a city like Montreal, caused by the bringing in of large numbers of foreign labourers at one time," answered, "The effect of bringing in large numbers of foreign labourers, in my opinion, would be a reduction in wages, and probably pro-

longed hours of labour. When the labour market is flooded wages are not liable to increase, rather to decrease, and it is a benefit to capitalists or companies who employ large numbers of unskilled labourers to have a large immigration in order to have work performed at less cost.

'Q. Can you tell the commission of certain classes of labour wherein the wages did go down?—A. I have been told that in various classes wages have been reduced.'

Mr. Charles Hodgson Osler, superintendent of mains and services in the Montreal Light, Heat and Power Company, stated that out of 250 or 260 men employed by the company 100 were Italians.

'Q. You remember the influx of Italian labour last April and May?—A. Yes.

'Q. Would that affect the scale of labour for labourers?—A. Yes, I think it would.

'Q. These Italians only received from \$1.25 to \$1.35 a day?—A. Yes.

'Q. Are there others besides Italians only receiving that amount?—A. Yes, quite a number.

Q. Who are they?—A. Well, some English and French speaking men.

Q. You get as many men as you require on your work without difficulty?—A. We have done it so far, we have had no trouble at all; we had a little trouble last year, but we increased the wages to \$1.45. We got lots of men this year at \$1.25, whereas we had to pay \$1.45 last year.

Q. I suppose there are the same number employed this year as last?—A. No, I have nearly double the quantity this year.

Q. The wages then dropped 20 cents?—A. Yes, there was a large influx of men, and we took advantage of labour as it came in.'

Findings and Recommendations.

I am of opinion the evidence fully establishes the fact that the large number of Italian immigrants who arrived in Montreal in the early part of 1904 were induced to come to this country through the efforts put forward by Mr. Cordasco representing himself to be the sole agent of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and requiring 10,000 men, offering them good wages and immediate employment, and that these inducements were made by means of advertisements inserted in *La Patria Italiana* and *Corriere del Canada*, two newspapers published in the Italian language in Montreal, which he forwarded to Italy, and through the assistance of steamship agents in Italy with whom he corresponded on the subject.

Mr. Burns and Mr. Cordasco were most intimate in their dealings in connection with the employment of Italian laborers. This was so noticeable as to cause adverse criticism of Mr. Burns, it being claimed by some that he was financially interested with Mr. Cordasco in the employment of such laborers; this was denied by both. In my opinion, Mr. Burns had control of Mr. Cordasco's actions and was well aware of the sums that were being paid by the men employed for the Canadian Pacific Railway Company as also for the provisions supplied, but instead of preventing the collection of these extortionate sums, he refused to interfere when requested to do so.

Mr. Burns states that in December, 1903, he was told in New York by an agent that 10,000 men were being brought into the country for the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, and that he believed this to be the fact. If he were so informed, he could by inquiry and the use of the most ordinary intelligence, have ascertained this to be a

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false statement. Whether it was in consequence of this statement or not, Mr. Cordasco appears to have at that time commenced his efforts as above described to obtain 10,000 men, and this without having any agreement with the Canadian Pacific Railway Railway Company or any other employers of labour for the employment of men.

In my opinion, he so acted with the knowledge that these men must apply to him before obtaining employment on the Canadian Pacific Railway, and with the object of compelling them to pay him the large sums it is shown he received.

His dealing with these unfortunate men after their arrival in Montreal in demanding and receiving money on the promise of immediate employment, and afterwards refusing to return same when he could not furnish them with employment, indicates that his main object in inducing these immigrants to come to Montreal was for the purpose mentioned, and this he was enabled to do by Mr. Burns refusing to employ any Italians unless through him.

By obtaining steamship agencies he expected to be the better able to carry out his object; in obtaining these agencies he was assisted by Mr. Burns.

His evidence as to Bioncellini's dealings above set forth indicates the manner in which he intended to use his position as steamship agent.

In my opinion, the city of Montreal should pass a by-law similar to that enforced in Toronto respecting intelligence offices, which provides that every person who keeps an intelligence office for registering the names and residences of and giving information to or procuring services—labourers, workmen, clerks or employees for employers in want of the same, or for registering the names and residences of and giving information to or procuring employment for domestic servants, labourers, workmen, clerks or other persons seeking employment—should procure a license before being permitted to carry on that business. The by-law provides as follows:—

' INTELLIGENCE OFFICES.

19. ' Every keeper of an intelligence office shall keep posted up in a conspicuous place in his office, as shall be determined by the chief constable, his license, and also a copy of sections 19 to 23, inclusive, of this by-law, which shall be supplied to the licensee by the chief constable at the time of issuing the license.

20. ' Every person licensed to keep an intelligence office shall keep, in a conspicuous place on the outside thereof, a sign showing his name and indicating his office hours.

21. ' Every person licensed to keep an intelligence office shall keep a book, which shall be supplied to the licensee by the chief constable at the time of issuing the license, in which the licensee shall enter, at the time of application, the name and residence of any person who may apply for employment or who may make application to be supplied with any clerk, servant, labourer, workman other employee, and also any and all sums of money which may be received from any person for any such service; and such book shall at all times be open to the inspection of the chief constable, or any inspector of police, or any other person in the employ of the police commissioners.

22. ' Every person licensed to keep an intelligence office shall be entitled to receive at the time of the application the following fees and no more:

' (1.) From every male applying for place or employment as servant, or labourer, or workmen, a sum not exceeding 50 cents; as clerk or skilled employee, coachman, butler, rockman, timekeeper or teamster having a team, \$1;

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'(2.) From every female applying for place or employment as domestic servant, or person employed by the day, a sum not exceeding 25 cents; as governess, clerk or skilled employee, housekeeper, or cook, \$1;

'(3) From every person making application for a male domestic servant, labourer or workman, a sum not exceeding 50 cents; for a clerk or other skilled employee, coachman, butler, rockman, timekeeper, or teamster having a team, \$1;

'(4.) From every person making application for a female domestic servant, or person employed by the day, a sum not exceeding 50 cents; for a governess, clerk or other skilled employee, housekeeper or cook, \$1;

'for which sum a receipt shall be given at the time of making application to the person so applying; and in the event of no place or employment being obtained as applied for, or no employee being obtained as applied for, within one week from the date of application, one-half the fees so paid shall be refunded on the demand of the person producing the receipt.

23. 'Every person licensed to keep an intelligence office who shall directly or indirectly, or through any person, make or use any improper device, deceit, false representation, false pretences, or any imposition whatsoever, for any improper purpose, or for the purpose of obtaining a fee, money or gratuity, or other thing of value from any customer, person or patron, or who shall be guilty of extortion, or of taking or demanding any article or thing, or any fees except those authorized by this by-law, shall be subject to the penalties of this by-law.

PENALTY.

'Except as hereinafter provided, any person convicted of a breach of any of the provisions of this by-law shall forfeit and pay, at the discretion of the convicting magistrate, a penalty not exceeding the sum of fifty dollars for each offence, exclusive of costs; and in default of payment of the said penalty and costs forthwith, the said penalty and costs, or costs only, may be levied by distress and sale of the goods and chattels of the offender; and in case of there being no distress found out of which such penalty can be levied, the convicting magistrate may commit the offender to the common jail of the city of Toronto, with or without hard labour, for any period not exceeding six calendar months, unless the said penalty and costs be sooner paid.'

Mr. Gervais, M.P., in his evidence, stated :—

'The class of immigrants that Canada wants to be brought here are picked up by the proper officials of the Dominion government, by the proper agent of our government, and I do not recognize the right of any private individual to speak in the name of Canada to the foreign labourer, and induce them to come here. We have our proper officials, who will not deceive the foreign labourer, and consequently, I would say that these private enterprises bringing poor men to Canada should be checked. Special legislation should be incorporated defining those who shall have the right to represent Canada abroad, because the good name of Canada and the credit may be imperilled.' Upon being asked the question, 'Have you given this subject enough attention to state definitely what in your opinion such amendments to the law should be?' He replied, 'Well, yes, we should have some clauses inserted in our immigration laws, for example, empowering our quarantine officials to examine what is the standing of the immigrants coming into Canada, and before they have been brought to Canada, and rejecting those who are unfitted, and at the same time making it necessary for the speculators who have been deceiving these people to send them back.'

Count Mazza, in his evidence, was asked :—

'Q. Then, it is your opinion that there should be some system to prevent the indiscriminate immigration?—A. I told you my idea is not to allow these private individuals to make a business of that, and to prohibit such action.'

ON ITALIAN IMMIGRATION

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I am of opinion that legislation in the line indicated by Mr. Gervais should be enacted.

Conclusion.

I am pleased to report that as a result of my inquiry I have received information from Mr. Cordasco that he has repaid the sum of \$2,017.25 of the moneys received by him from the Italian labourers, although in his letter to me of August 2, 1904, he states: 'This was the first year I instituted the system of registration, and I may add that it will be the last, as I intend to carry on my business without registering any men whatever.'

I have much pleasure in acknowledging the valuable services rendered during the inquiry by Mr. H. M. Mowat, K.C., counsel for the government, and of Mr. J. M. Viglino, Italian interpreter, and of Mr. R. Candori, the secretary of the Italian Immigration Aid Society.

I have the honour to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,

JNO. WINCHESTER,

Commissioner.