

## APPENDIX

# MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

## OPENING DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

MONTREAL, July 21, 1904.

## PRESENT :

His Honour JUDGE WINCHESTER, *Commissioner*.H. M. MOWAT, Esq., K.O., *Counsel for the Dominion Government*.JEROME INTERNOSCIA, *Counsel for the Italian Immigration Aid Society*.A. J. WALSH, *Counsel for Antonio Cordasco*.

The COMMISSIONER.—Gentlemen, under this commission, issued to me on June 30, 1904, and signed by the Deputy Governor General, Mr. Justice Robert Sedgewick, I now open the investigation into the question of the immigration of Italian labourers to the city of Montreal.

The Commission is read by His Honour.

The COMMISSIONER.—This inquiry is now open, and I will proceed to examine witnesses.

Mr. MOWAT.—As in another branch of a matter referred to Your Honour, I appear for the government of Canada in this branch of inquiry. There are two other gentlemen here, Mr. Jerome Internoscia, on behalf of the Italian Immigration Aid Society, and Mr. A. J. Walsh, who is watching the case on behalf of Mr. Antonio Cordasco. As a matter of historical evidence, I proposed to call before Your Honour at first two gentlemen who would have shown the embarrassment caused to the municipal authorities here by the large number of Italians brought in during the month of April last, and also as to the distress created among them by the fact of their being penniless and in having work promised them. These two gentlemen are Mr. Laporte, Mayor of Montreal, and Mr. Honoré Gervais, M.P., but unfortunately both these gentlemen, through press of other most important business, are unable to attend for the moment, and with Your Honour's permission, I will ask to postpone calling them until Saturday next.

Mr. ALBERTO DINI, being sworn :

By Mr. Mowat :

Q. How long have you resided in Montreal ?—A. About 32 years.

Q. How long have you been conducting, among other things, an employment agency for labourers ?—A. I think, about ten years.

Q. I see in this copy of *La Patria Italiana* your advertisement. This is it ? (Hands paper.)—A. (Looking at paper.) Yes.

Q. You can tell me whether or not this would be a good translation into English of that : 'Great number of labourers required ; work guaranteed at good wages. Apply to Dini's bank, 2026 St. Catherine's street, Montreal' ?—A. Yes. Well, look here, some employees from the paper came home one night and asked me.

Q. And you were also advertising the same thing in the papers in Italy ?—A. No, sir.

Q. There was another advertisement put in by you. This is the translation I have got ; you can tell me whether it is right or not :—'For the coming spring.—Mr.

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Dini announces that there will be a very large demand for perhaps 10,000 labourers for the coming spring. Italian workingmen 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 Montreal. 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. Catherine street?—A. What paper; I have put it in no paper. That is all I know.

Q. This is an advertisement in *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 come out and I see the advertisement.

Q. It was not by 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 10,000. 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. I suppose you wanted to show you were not a lesser Italian agent?—A. I think they were on the same list.

Q. You did not want to admit that you were a less extensive agent than he was?—A. I do not understand.

Q. You were just as good an employment agent?—A. I think so; I think I am better.

Q. So far as numbers, you were not going to be behind?—A. No.

Q. But you had not any particular works for railway or construction companies in your mind?—A. No, sir.

Q. Are you also vice-consul?—A. No.

Q. Were you at one time vice-consul here?—A. No.

Q. You also keep a bank?—A. An employment bureau or steamship agency.

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

Q. In the last 10 years?—A. I do not bring them, they come themselves.

Q. Through your advertisements, your instrumentality, through your efforts, through your advertisements?—A. I never advertise at all.

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

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

Q. Are you sure of that?—A. I am sure.

Q. Did you not inquire in England or in Italy, had you any correspondents?—A. No, sir. I have no correspondents at all, by that line of American.

Q. Now, try and remember?—A. I am sure I tell the Italians some lots of time to be very like going west, probably will be here, and I have looked out for lots of men to come, but I think three or four years, in 1898, about 5,000 or 6,000 Italians come from Chiasso.

Q. Are you agent for any steamship companies in Italy?—A. Well, I got agency in New York for North German Lloyds, Hamburg-American, Anchor Line, and two Italian lines, one of them called *La Veloce* and two others.

Q. In Barcelona?—A. No.

Q. They call at ports in Italy?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. I want you to be sure about your answer. I do not want you to answer hastily to me. Are you an agent for emigration societies in the old country, such as the

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Anonymous Emigration Society called 'La Svizzera,' with headquarters at Chiasso, Switzerland?—A. No, sir.

Q. What is this?—A. I tell you what this mean.

Q. Read and translate into English. (Hands him document.)—A. That is my name. On the one side is the following: 'Signor Albert Dini, ufficio di collocamento, N. 2026 St. Catharine Street, Montreal.' And on the other is: 'Sig. Alberto Dini, volgiatelo ben accogliere il porgitore del presente, raccomandandovi di valere allo stesso in quanto gli potesse occorrere. Ringraziandovi dell'appoggio che presterete al medesimo, con ogni stima ci rassegniamo. Società Anonima d'Emigrazione, "La Svizzera." Translation being as follows: 'Mr. Alberto Dini—Will you be good enough to receive the bearer of this and render him such assistance as you may be able to? Thanking you for any trouble you may take in the matter and with every mark of esteem.

'The Anonymous Emigration Society,

"LA SVIZZERA."

Q. That is given to persons?—A. Given to persons coming from Chiasso to Montreal.

Q. That is, they are recommended to you by the 'Società 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, sometimes 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. He say 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. Have you communication with this Italian Immigration Aid Society?—A. I am vice-president.

Q. Has Count Mazza any connection with it?—A. Not as a member.

*By the Commissioner:*

Q. Where did this card come from?—A. From Chiasso.

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

Q. What society?—A. I never print it. I have no man there at all.

Q. You think they go to the expense of printing the cards just to please the men?—A. I cannot say.

Q. Did you not print this in Canada?—A. No.

Q. Did you not send this over to Chiasso?—A. No.

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 Dolovico. I saw him and another in Chiasso.

Q. Was that Ludwig?—A. Yes.

Q. Is that a steamship agent there?—A. I was five months in Switzerland.

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 says: 'Dini you are here I am glad to meet you. I think you do the best you can for the men. I give them your address because the men complain when arrive in Montreal somebody else take them.' He says, he repeats, he complains, and that is reason why I will send to you because there is no complaint at all.

Q. How long ago was that?—A. In 1902.

Q. About eighteen months ago?—A. Yes; in April.

Q. How many men came across since this was reported to him?—A. I cannot say.

Q. Well, you have an idea?—A. I do not think there should be many coming to see me.

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Q. But you can say about how many; were there two or three hundred?—A. I don't think more than two hundred.

Q. When do they come?—A. Generally come in spring and summer.

Q. How many this last spring?—A. This spring?

Q. Yes?—A. I cannot tell.

Q. Do you keep a record of all men coming?—A. No; men come and show me card; I say I will see if I can get work. I keep no record.

Q. How much did you pay for printing this card?—A. Never paid anything.

Q. Where was it printed?—A. I do not know.

Q. Did you not bring these cards over to Italy with you?—A. No, sir.

Q. Nor any card at a later date?—A. No, sir.

Q. Did you send them over?—A. No, sir.

Q. Then how many men came to you this spring from Chiasso?—A. I cannot tell exactly; probably 100, probably 200.

Q. Perhaps 200?—A. I do not think more.

Q. Have you the names of those who came to you?—A. No; I do not take the names at all.

Q. You do not take the names down at all?—A. No, sir.

Q. How many Italians were there in Montreal last May?—A. I cannot say.

Q. Well, you have a pretty good idea. I only want to know how many you suppose?—A. Arrived from Italy?

Q. I do not care from where?—A. Some say 5,000, some say 10,000. I do not know. I never counted. I do not think there were more than 6,000 or 7,000.

Q. They were all Italians; had no work?—A. No work.

Q. Were there many of them that had nothing to eat?—A. Well, I cannot say; they would be very few.

Q. How many?—A. I do not know.

Q. One thousand?—A. No, sir. I do not think over 100. I think everyone had money.

Q. You think all had?—A. Yes.

Q. How many were helped by the city authorities?—A. Well, I do not know.

Q. How many did you help?—A. None at all.

Q. You were getting work for them?—A. Yes.

Q. You never gave them a loaf of bread?—A. Sometimes I thought necessary to help, gave 25 cents.

Q. You have been keeping an employment bureau for the last ten years. Will you tell me exactly how that bureau is carried on; how do you conduct your business?—A. I have got an employment office, bank is name known to Italians, and supposing an immigrant he comes—

Q. Any conditions? What do the immigrants do?—A. Nothing; he come there and ask have any work.

Q. What do you do then?—A. I tell him yes if I have work. I try and send him, and if not he have to wait.

Q. How do you find out if there is any work?—A. I write to several, to contractors, to employers, to Grand Trunk if they want labourers, and if they want ship them.

Q. Have you any of these letters you wrote to the Grand Trunk?—A. Well, letter not here; I have one or two letters here.

Q. Let me see them; have you them?—A. I write my friends in department, and department has write to me.

Q. This is a letter from Mr. Stephens, Montreal. October 7, 1903, he writes to you:—

'DEAR SIR,—Your letter of 23rd instant to Mr. Hobson has been referred to me for a reply, and I have placed the same on file for reference when construction begins. At

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present we are engaging nothing but engineers on location, and of course it is too early to consider the question of Italian labour for construction purposes.

'Yours truly,

'J. R. STEPHENS.'

Q. So you did not get an order?—A. Yes, sometimes I got a little order for 25 or 40.

Q. On last November you applied to be appointed labour agent for the Grand Trunk?—A. Yes.

Q. And Mr. Hays writes to Mr. Stephens that it is too early to employ an agent. This is dated November 5, 1903, that is with reference to the Grand Trunk Pacific. So nothing came out of that?—A. No.

Q. Do you represent any contractors?—A. No, I got friends like D. J. McDonald; he is a friend of mine.

Q. Let me understand how many contractors do you represent?—A. I cannot say about all.

Q. How many?—A. 10 or 20. When the contractors want labour, they got my address, they write or telegraph to me if I have any Italians to send them.

Q. How many have you sent out this spring?—A. I think about 1,000.

Q. Where?—A. All over.

Q. Have you got a list of the numbers?—A. I don't got any list. I will make a list of the men I send out. I put all the names on it and give it to the foremen who go with the men.

Q. How much do you charge for getting employment?—A. \$1.

Q. Who pays the dollar?—A. The labourers.

Q. How much do you charge the foremen?—A. Nothing.

Q. Why, how is this they get better pay?—A. I think the foreman has lots of trouble to get men, to try to have men, I never charge a cent for the foremen.

Q. The only charge you make is \$1 for the labourers?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How much do you charge the contractors?—A. Nothing.

Q. Nothing at all?—A. No, sir.

Q. Can you tell me how much you received this spring?—A. Well, I sent out 1,000, I make \$1,000.

Q. Up to the middle of July?—A. Before July.

Q. When did you start sending them out?—A. I think in May and June.

Q. And you have met other men from May to the present time?—A. Yes.

Q. How many others are there in Montreal engaged in this work of employing Italians?—A. I don't know, there are five or six.

Q. Will you give me the names?—A. One Italian.

Q. Give me Italians?—A. Cordasco.

Q. We all know Cordasco, anybody else?—A. Another Italian somewhere, but don't know his name.

Q. What about Monetta?—A. I think some foremen are engaging labourers besides bureau.

Q. Never mind the foremen, I want the bureaus?—A. I don't know name.

Q. You don't know the bureaus?—A. Well, one in St. James street, near St. Peter street. Another on McGill street.

Q. Do you know the names?—A. No, sir.

Q. You are the oldest one in the city?—A. No.

Q. You do not know the names of the owner?—A. I do not care about the English.

Q. I meant an Italian?—A. There is one opened this summer, I think Monetta.

Q. I mentioned his name, in Montreal?—A. Yes.

Q. Who is the man representing the Italian paper that came to you and asked you for an advertisement?—A. Di Rosa.

Q. Where does he live?—A. He left the paper, I don't know if he is in town.

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Q. Is he the proprietor of the paper?—A. No, he is employed by the paper.

Q. Do you know where he lives?—A. No, sir.

Q. What large book did you produce to me the other day?—A. That is for addresses. You see when I send men out I give envelopes No. 8 and No. 7. No. 7 is addressed to my care, and if used by the person and letter come to me, and if coming to the country I will change the address and I will send it to the country.

Q. You have a printed envelope and then you have a smaller one?—A. Yes, No. 7 and No. 8.

Q. (Judge looks at envelope). This is No. 7 (hands to witness)?—A. Yes, sir, I give it to the labourer.

Q. You give it to the labourer?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. There is a blank space above here?—A. Yes, after letter come to my office I put place where he lives in the country and I mail it again.

Q. Where does this letter go, to Italy?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. In letter?—A. In letter written by immigrant to family and he encloses this.

Q. And family will write name above yours and send it out and you get it and forward to the address of the labourer?—A. When man goes to country, writes to me and give address. I put in book any change. He write, I change address.

Q. This is No. 8 envelope?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you give this to the labourers, too?—A. Yes.

Q. This large one they write to friends in Italy?—A. Friends and family.

Q. And enclose with their letter a No. 7 envelope?—A. Yes.

Q. Is that all you do for the labourers?—A. Yes.

Q. And you receive all their letters in your bureau?—A. Yes, and forward them if no call at all.

Q. If the labourer does not call you forward?—A. You see some are here in town, they come themselves to get letter and other ones gone, but will write to me and I will address the letter to place where labourer is.

Q. Do you give them any letter paper?—A. No.

Q. Any cards that you give them?—A. No, sir.

Q. Do you give them any small amounts?—A. No.

Q. How much do you charge these men for this work you do for their benefit?—A. Nothing.

Q. Nothing at all?—A. Nothing at all.

Q. The dollar covers that?—A. Yes.

Q. And do you say that you do not charge anything to each contractor or the person employing these men, or the company?—A. No, sir.

Q. How many Italians are there without work in Montreal to-day?—A. Well, I don't know there are many. I think, sir, there are very few.

Q. 500?—A. No, I cannot find even 100.

Q. All gone away?—A. All at work. I shipped 40 men last night, I have 40 to-night, I don't know whether I can get. I sent to Grand Trunk. Men leave the work here and men ask street car company \$1.25 or leave and go to country. I don't think there are 100 men without work in town.

Q. How many have you shipped out for the Grand Trunk this year?—A. About 200.

Q. How many for the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. None I do not send for them, the Canadian Pacific Railway do not come to me at all.

Q. Have you ever sent out any for them?—A. I have sent about two or three years ago.

Q. That is the last you sent?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you charge the Canadian Pacific Railway for sending men out?—A. No, sir.

Q. Never?—A. Never a cent.

Q. Any charge to Grand Trunk for sending men out?—A. No, sir.

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Q. The only charge, you state, is \$1 for the men and you find employment?—A. Yes and not pay, sometimes I cannot charge \$1. Late in summer when men are scarce I cannot charge a commission. I must send men for nothing.

Q. How many of that class have you sent out for nothing?—A. Well a good many.

Q. How many this year?—A. Well this year I do not think I sent many, lots of time it is easy to get Italians.

Q. Well it is hard work when you cannot get them?—A. Yes.

Q. Who pays you for that hard work?—A. I never get paid.

Q. For this hard work?—A. No, sir.

Q. This is rather peculiar when you work harder you get less pay?—A. If man is scarce have asked you must pay \$1.

Q. How many came this year, 10,000 or 12,000 in May, how many came from the United States?—A. Well, I don't know.

Q. About how many?—A. Very hard for me to give estimate, I don't have. From the old country there come, well, this spring not more than other years.

Q. You think not?—A. No.

Q. Where did the others come from?—A. From the States.

Q. Which was the greater, from the States or from the Old Country? Would there be more than one half from the States?—A. Well, I cannot say.

Q. Well, I know that you cannot give the exact number, but you are an intelligent man?—A. There are lots come from the States for one year off railways in States.

Q. Has work been stopped in the States?—A. They say so.

Q. That is what they say?—A. Yes.

Q. Not much work this spring?—A. No.

Q. What part of the States?—A. Down from New York and Boston.

Q. And other States?—A. Yes.

Q. Were there many of these men from the States who were in Canada before?—

A. Every year they come from States and go back after work is done, and stay there during winter. I do not know. I think Canada is cold place.

Q. Is it colder than New York?—A. I think so. I think colder in Canada than in States.

Q. And that is one reason why they go back for the winter?—A. Yes.

Q. And come back in spring?—A. Sometimes come in spring. Come to Montreal I don't know.

Q. Have you any agent in the United States?—A. No, sir.

Q. Nor any agents in Italy or Switzerland?—A. No, sir.

Q. Not even Ludwig?—A. No, sir.

Q. He is your agent?—A. No, sir.

Q. How many men have you in your office to help you?—A. I have two clerks; two of my own sons.

Q. You do a larger bank business than most of them, do you?—A. Well,—

Q. Not a bank but a steamship business?—A. I get a good deal.

Q. How many prepaid passages did you sell since last December?—A. I think between 300 and 400.

Q. Who paid these passages?—A. Friends, cousins of the men come to me and ask what is the price of prepaid passage, and I tell the price of every company, and says I will get from Gennaro Veloce and other line.

Q. Any of your agents buy any?—A. No, sir.

Q. None of your agents buy any?—A. No, sir.

Q. Do any of the contractors or any of the railway companies buy any?—A. No, sir.

Q. You get paid your commission from the steamship companies?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Not from those who buy?—A. No, sir.

Q. Is this all you know about bringing in so many Italians this spring? Tell me all you know about cases?—A. Well, I do not know. Men come and want to bring family, wife and children; some send prepaid to friends and to cousins.



Q. That is prepaid passages, but—A. Yes.

Q. But why did so many come to Montreal last March, April and May?—A. I don't know.

Q. Can't you give me an idea?—A. I don't know.

Q. Were you surprised at so many?—A. Well I think, I tell the truth, I do not think more than in 1903.

Q. Not more than in previous years?—A. I don't think we have so very many, and work started late, and all the labourers be here in bunch in May. In year before I think work started in March and April. The Canadian Pacific Railway took as many as 1,000.

Q. How many?—A. Over 1,000. I saw no Italians at that time. When I returned I saw no person here.

Q. No one here on May 1?—A. No.

Q. That was two years ago?—A. Yes.

Q. You think there were no more this spring than the spring of last year?—A. That is my opinion.

Q. And the reason why there were so many seen at one time was that they were all in a bunch, work was late, and the number of men sent out to work was not as large as usual?—A. Yes.

Q. There was a large number working last year?—A. Yes.

Q. The works were all over the country going on extensively?—A. It was very hard to get men.

Q. You don't think that the reason was that extra efforts were being made to get men?—A. I think that labourer write to friends and family in Italy the truth. As soon as I come here I get work at \$1.50 and \$1.75 per day.

Q. How much do they get in the Old Country?—A. I think 25 or 30 cents a day.

Q. Living cheaper there than here?—A. Yes.

Q. They would make more here than in Italy?—A. Yes.

Q. A great many come out because friends write work was plentiful and wages good?—A. Yes.

Q. What papers do you advertise in?—A. I do not advertise at all.

Q. You advertised in a paper?—A. For the bank, yes.

Q. Yes, and did you not advertise for labourers?—A. Yes.

Q. I am not speaking about the number, but you advertise the bank as a labour bureau?—A. Yes.

Q. You advertised in the *Corriere del Canada*?—I don't know, I got advertisement about two or three years ago.

Q. Did you advertise in any Italian paper?—A. No.

Q. New York paper?—A. Yes, I have a little advertisement in three or more newspapers.

Q. When did you drop this advertisement?—A. I think about two or three years ago.

Q. Nothing this year?—A. No.

Q. Or last fall?—A. No.

By Mr. MOWAT.—The advertisement in this paper, April 28 of this year, in *La Patria Italiana*, it says about the large number of labourers that is wanted.

The COMMISSIONER.—To witness: Do you remember that advertisement?—A. In *La Patria*, I remember, yes.

By Mr. Mowat:

Q. These Italians came from Italy it seems, although they came from Quebec or Boston?—A. They came from New York, one line from Boston. Now from Quebec I do not know, because I have no prepaid.

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Q. What is the proportion?—A. I think came very many from Boston and New York.

Q. From Boston or New York?—A. More in Boston than in New York.

Q. From company in Quebec?—A. Quebec.

*By Mr. Internoscia:*

Q. I wish to ask the witness as to his knowledge of the number of destitute Italians in Montreal. (To witness.) You have just stated that you were vice president of the Italian Aid Society. Do you remember the meeting of May 2, you were present?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you remember at that time it was discussed by the board of management that we began by giving 30c. to destitute Italians to go and get meals, and later on the number was increasing so that we reduced it to 15c., and after that the number was so increased who were destitute that only a loaf of bread could be given. You were present when it was said that there were over 200 or 300 with nothing to eat?—A. I remember that, but in my opinion I tell if the labourers they have few dollars in pocket when we started to give bread to one to come before you gave proof have no money. You remember once you find four dollars and some cents in pocket and gave bread.

*By the Commissioner:*

Q. How many did you supply with food?—A. He says 500. If I remember well, report say 500, something like this, poor men who got bread.

*By Mr. Internoscia:*

Q. Another question. You did not suggest at the time any means of finding the exact number of destitute Italians. Were they too numerous to find out, was it possible to find out?—A. Certainly it is my opinion; I tell in the meeting to try and have clerk to see hire boss who say you must offer four or five dollars, and you will see if men have no money.

Q. Do you know, Mr. Dini, that this way of finding out was also tried, with the result that only five or six had money?—A. Yes.

*By Mr. Walsh:*

Q. Do you know that a great majority of these labourers would not accept positions out in the country, but were waiting?—A. I think this spring every labourer would take any work; not now but in the spring.

Q. As a matter of fact, did not these Italian labourers prefer long work?—A. They preferred C. P. R., to go west.

Q. Did I understand you rightly in answering Mr. Internoscia a few moments ago, did you mean to say that the Italians were not poor, but were simply making believe?—A. That is my opinion.

Q. Did you learn of certain facts connected with these men?—A. Certainly I remember I told about four weeks ago that I would give 500 bread. Men came to get bread, and one morning a man came to my office to get bread and his wife come back again. I said what is the matter, she said my husband he come here for bread, he tell me had \$2.65 and he was robbed, and I come to find. He had \$65 in money.

Q. Did you say that some of these people who went to get bread were not poor men?—A. Certainly. Many of them seemed to have money to spend in saloons.

*By Mr. Internoscia:*

Q. Out of the 500 how many had money? Can you prove how many?—A. I cannot prove, that is my opinion.

Mr. RODOLPHE CANDORI, being sworn.

*By the Commissioner :*

Q. What position do you occupy?—A. As agent or clerk in the Italian Immigration Aid Society.

Q. How long have you been in that society?—A. About one and one-half years, since December 15, 1902.

Q. What are the objects of that society?—A. The object of the society is to help, as far as possible, all the Italians who come here, to find work for them, to help them in getting their wages when there is any difficulty in getting them, and to advise them; to do everything possible to make easier for them their coming here. Of course, directors, incorporators, &c.—

Q. Have you any agents in Italy for sending out emigrants?—A. No, sir.

Q. No agents in Italy?—A. No, sir.

Q. No agents in the United States?—A. No, sir.

Q. Only an agency in Montreal?—A. Certainly.

Q. How is it supported?—A. Supported by annual subsidy from Italian government.

Q. Any subscriptions from friends of the society?—A. No, somebody gives some moneys, but very limited amount.

Q. No public subscription?—A. Being only in office last year, we spent all the money allowed for helping Italians, and had to address ourselves to public charity.

Q. Did you advertise for immigrants?—A. No.

Q. Do you issue bulletins?—A. Well, we issued some. They were distributed among the Italians here to let them know the aims of our society, and to let them know that there was a society here for their protection.

Q. Where distributed?—A. Here in Montreal, at my office.

Q. Not forwarded to Italy?—A. Yes, forwarded to the Foreign Office in Rome, the one at Palermo and the one in Venice.

Q. Were these quoted in any Italian papers?—A. I never heard anything.

Q. Or any parts of them?—A. I never saw any.

Q. Have you got a copy of the last two or three?—A. Yes; there have been only two.

Q. So you say that these bulletins are distributed in Montreal and sent to the offices you mention?—A. Yes.

Q. Who prepares the bulletins?—A. The first bulletin I fully prepared myself, and second one by myself partly and by Mr. Internoscia.

Q. Mr. Internoscia is solicitor of your society?—A. He is solicitor, and at the same time one of the shareholders.

Q. Is it a stock company?—A. Yes, it is composed of 25 shares of \$20 each, \$10 cash down and \$10 to be paid later.

Q. How much do you receive from the Italian government?—A. It has not been established yet, but we received for the first two years 5,000 francs, 5,000 francs for 1902-03 and 1903-04. So that this term will expire on June 30 of this year, and we expect to have 5,000 francs for the coming year. Besides that, as we wished to institute a fund for a house of refuge we sent to the Italian government and asked them for about \$2,000 for what we needed. These \$2,000 were sent to us, but when we started to take a house and to order the furniture, beds, &c., we had on our hands these destitute men.

Q. That was this year?—A. Yes. We had to buy instead the food of these people, and we spent more than one-half of the amount sent us for the house of refuge. We spent it for bread, and we do not know whether the Italian government will give us back the money we spent for bread.

Q. Never mind, you have done all for the best?—A. All right.

Q. What has been the amount of immigration during the last two or three years from Italy?—A. That is very hard to state.

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Q. Are there no statistics?—A. The statistics from the Dominion government give it in part, but the information is difficult to obtain. If all immigrants would come from Italian ports or through navigation companies authorized by the Italian government it would be very easy to know that, as they are compelled to be *viséd* at the Italian ports, because no man can leave Italy who does not pass an examination so that he will not be rejected after arriving in America. Those men who have passed the prescribed age limit, or for any reason are afraid of being rejected in Italy, cross the frontier into Switzerland and go to Chiasso. But the Italian government kept its eyes open, and Ludwig, who is an agent for some of these doubtful immigration societies, was arrested in Italy for giving out notices contrary to our laws. I don't know exactly the time, but I think it was about six months ago, and he was fined 1,600 francs.

Q. For sending labouring men out?—A. Yes.

Q. How many men came in March, April and May, 1903?—A. In May very few. Work with the Grand Trunk Railway and Canadian Pacific Railway and other similar companies started very early last year. Although it was my first experience, I thought the work of the season very favourable. I remember that I saw in the middle of March last year lots who were going away.

Q. On work?—A. Yes, lots of them to the west.

Q. Although they came in they went out. How many came in?—A. Last year, altogether, the immigration has been 3,000, according to the statistics I have seen of the Dominion government.

Q. How many immigrants arrived in Montreal this year?—A. I think more than that. I think there have been passing through Montreal, coming partly from Canadian ports and partly from the American border, over 6,000.

Q. How many came to Montreal last May?—A. Not less than 4,000.

Q. Where did the larger number come from?—A. Well, I think that all these came from the north of Italy. We had a large immigration from the Venetian provinces this year, and this I think is due, partly to the advertisements that have been sent, because they are good men. They are picked men, and any railway company would be glad to have these men, because they are strong and even good looking.

Q. That is something new?—A. Yes.

Q. How many came from the States?—A. Lots, because since January those they call banks or labour agencies in Boston, Chicago and New York, were already asked to gather men to send to Canada for the opening of the season, so I think a very large number came from the States.

Q. Did more than one-half come from the States?—A. I don't think more than one-half.

Q. Did one-half?—A. Well, we have no count of these who may have come from the States to Montreal, but I think there were at least 4,000, at least 4,000, if not more.

Q. What was the condition of these men?—A. Well, the condition as it appeared to us was that at least one-quarter of them were destitute.

Q. Would that be about 1,000?—A. Perhaps, but I do not think it was that much.

Q. How many would you say?—A. From what I saw myself, it may have been 800.

Q. How many did the society you represent assist?—A. Since the month of January the increase was very small until the month of April, since the beginning of April the number increased enormously. Every day we had from 600 to 700 men or more applying for bread, but we did not give bread in this time, especially in May. When they came we distributed tickets with which to obtain bread.

Q. Who else assisted them besides your society?—A. I do not think anybody else assisted them.

Q. Did the city corporation assist them?—A. Not particularly, perhaps some private assistance.

Q. Did the city give any money towards their assistance?—A. Not for that purpose. We had from the city the sum of \$200, payable \$50 every three months.

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Q. For the purpose of assisting?—A. For the purpose of assisting Italians who were needy.

Q. How many are there in Montreal to-day?—A. I do not think there are many.

Q. Are there any that require assistance?—A. They may be counted on the hand. There are several that are not young.

Q. I mean able to work?—A. Any able to work can get work.

Q. How many are there without work in Montreal?—A. I do not think practically there is anybody, but some come back from other works to the city and stay 10 days doing nothing and then find other work, and even those men who this spring had no work if you ask them to go to work now at \$1.25 or \$1.35, they will not accept, thinking that they will have a better chance at short notice.

Q. What is the Italian population in Montreal?—A. I do not think it may be said exactly, because in winter it will go as far as 10,000 when they return after working. In summer it may be a couple of thousand, that is children and wives, or labouring people and others that are settled.

Q. Are there many settled in Montreal?—A. I think nearly 2,000 with their families.

Q. Doing business?—A. Exactly.

Q. Then in addition to these, you think there were about 4,000 immigrants extra in May last?—A. Yes.

Q. And of these, 800 in needy circumstances and requiring assistance?—A. Yes.

Q. You think there is no one now?—A. Nobody now.

Q. Have you done anything to get men or immigrants to come to Canada?—A. Oh, no, we never did anything. We never wanted to state to the government how many immigrants there were here, because in the beginning they did not wait to work. We asked the head bosses approximately how many men they would require for the season so as to have a kind of control of this immigration and to state to the Italian government that such a company will be in need of so many men, and another company so many men. There would have been some control in our immigration, as in the event of the number of immigrants from Italy being larger than required the Italian government would have stopped it.

Q. What efforts did you make to ascertain the requirements of these companies?—A. Well, we applied to the management of these companies, but they declined.

Q. What companies?—A. The Canadian Pacific Railway, the Grand Trunk Railway, and others.

Q. Did you make any offers to the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. We thought to supply all the men they might require for their works without any charge and explained to them what were the ends of our society, the beneficial character of the work.

Q. Did you state how many you could supply?—A. We stated we could supply any number.

Q. 10,000?—A. Oh, no. We never stated any number. This was not this year. Last year we stated only that we should have been called to supply these men to the company, asking how many they would require and we would have asked the Italian Government to send them over.

Q. Who is Mr. Marriotti?—A. Secretary-treasurer of the society.

Q. You remember his sending a letter to the General Manager of the Canadian Pacific Railway, in March, 1903?—A. Yes, we sent two, this might be one. (Looking at letter.) Yes, this is the one we sent.

Q. Have you got the second one?—A. Well, I may give you a copy.

Q. If you can find the copy, I would like it?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is that the answer that was received. (Showing him answer)?—A. Yes, I remember this answer.

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The COMMISSIONER reads:

MONTREAL, March 5, 1903.

'D. McNICOLL,  
'General Manager,  
'Canadian Pacific Ry. Co., City.

'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 C. P. R. Co. first, as the most important of the Dominion, offering our services for the allotment of the men.

'Two months ago we sent to the C. P. R. Co. 50 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, *Secretary-treasurer.*

'*The Immigration Aid Society No. 1.*'

—A. Exactly.

Q. You will perhaps let me have a copy of the first letter, and there is a reply from Mr. Geo. E. Burns, I presume, as I see that Mr. McNicoll has indorsed on his letter: 'Geo. E. Burns, Esq. For acknowledgments. D. McNicoll, 6-3-'03.'

'MONTREAL, March 16, 1903.

'C. C. MARIOTTI, Esq.,

'Secy.-treas. Immigration Aid Society, No. 1,

'906 Lagauchetière Street, 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 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,

'GEO. E. BURNS.

'*Special Agent.*'

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Q. How many men have you assisted this year to get employment?—A. Over 600.

Q. Do you make any charge to any one?—A. Our by-laws give us the right to charge a small tax of 50 cents. This year I did not get a cent.

Q. Got nothing this year?—A. No, and last year we got only \$61 and spent \$400 to give them assistance.

*By Mr. Mowat :*

Q. Is that article 14 you are speaking of?—A. Exactly.

Mr. Mowat (reading) :—‘Article 14. The fees of 50 cents each to be charged to every employed Italian labourer shall form a fund from which shall be taken the money for expenses in trying to employ other labourers who are not finally employed by the society within a week, and who would not be bound to pay such expenses; also to pay law costs in law suits that may be lost before the local courts, when brought to compel the fulfilment of contracts of employment, as above stated.’

Q. How many labour bureaus for Italian labour are there in Montreal?—A. Of labour bureaus kept by Italians there are practically only two, Cordasco and Dini. Then there is Monetta, who started this year, and also three or more foremen of these who can understand English. They go to these men and ask them to give them so much and they will find work for them; sometimes they do and sometimes they do not. Our office was formed for the purpose of preventing this kind of swindling of our men. They come here and do not know anything. They come here very anxious to get work, having just a little money that they borrow in Italy very often. After they have paid their passage and have been fifteen days or a month in making expenses they have not got very much and are very anxious to get work, and the last few dollars remaining go to pay this kind of tax to different people to get work. A man who is very anxious to work and does not know where to get it gives what they ask and he is not always well used

*By Mr. Internoscia :*

Q. Mr. Caudori, you state we have no agents in Italy, but supposing we want 2,000 men to whom would we apply?—A. We address ourselves to the Royal Emigration Office in Rome.

Q. Then, did we ask any men of the Royal Emigration Office?—A. We never did.

Q. You say that No. 1 bulletin has been prepared by yourself?—A. Yes.

Q. No. 2 was prepared partly by myself and partly by you. What do you mean by prepared by myself? Was it an annual report?—A. Yes; the first annual report made by the president and secretary-treasurer of the society and translated into English by you.

Q. We have put into the report this paragraph:—

‘As this is the first year of the society, no one could expect it would do many great things, such as what concerns colonization and the opening of a house of refuge for Italian immigrants, things that we have already discussed but which we hope to put in execution during the year 1904.’

Later on I see:—

‘These hopes, together with that of being asked by railway companies to provide them with thousands of Italian labourers, form the project of what we intend to do during the year 1904.’

Q. When we speak here of Italian labourers, are these facts or mere hopes?—A. I think they were hopes.

Q. Did anybody in Italy take these hopes for facts?—A. I do not think so.

Q. They have read the facts as we have?—A. They were facts, and we have done our duty, as we have to report to the Italian government our view on the present condition of Italians. We stated what had happened last year, and we stated that was our opinion of what was going on for the next year, but if we were saying that the companies would require a large number of men we should have stated to the govern-

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ment, to warrant the opinion, so many will be employed, and we should have stated send these.

Q. Answer my question. Now, have we forms of a contract of engagement in the office?—A. Yes, a kind of an agreement.

Q. Would we ask the Italian labourer to sign this contract?—A. No.

*By the Commissioner:*

Q. You might produce some of these forms?—A. Yes.

*By Mr. Internoscia:*

Q. We only send these forms to contractors and companies?—A. Yes, we send these forms to contractors or companies.

Q. These contracts are made between the society and contractors, and not between the society and the immigrant?—A. Yes.

Q. And in which I have been authorized to do by Chapter 66, Revised Statutes of Canada, 1886?—A. It is mentioned in the constitution.

Q. The other part of bulletin No. 2 that was prepared by yourself; there are some paragraphs on page 10 of the Italian and page 11 of the English versions. Now, will you read those, and give us your reasons for writing them?—A. (Reads):—

‘Some time ago our society applied to the Provincial government of Quebec to obtain some free land for colonization, and we were assured that our demand would be taken into consideration most favourably.

‘What we will want next is to secure good men who can help us in the realization of our best schemes, and they may be sure that the result will be quite a reward for their good-will and co-operation.’

‘Everybody knows that very important lines of railway will soon be built across Canada from ocean to ocean. Many thousand men will be employed, not only in the construction of the railroads, but also to open up civilization and progress the territories they will cross.

‘What a chance for the Italian labourers who will emigrate to Canada, will they be able to take the advantage of this opportunity?

‘We appeal to you, Italian labourers and agriculturists, for your own happiness, for your own credit and for the credit of our country. Come to us, help us in fulfilling our difficult task to guide and protect you. Why should you not be able to do what people of other nations did? Look at the splendid result that the Italian agriculturists have had in South America, and especially in Argentina? Why should you not have the same result in Canada?

‘Exercise your courage and energy and be ready to do something good on behalf of your families and yourselves. If you are afraid to start in a new calling you will remain a prey to swindlers and cheaters, you will be despised by others and humiliated before your own conscience.’

Q. Please explain in a few words why you wrote that?—A. That is according to my idea, when I wrote that it was that we really intended to change the character of the Italian immigration as much as possible. There are lots of people who come here who are no honour to the country they come from, nor to themselves. So that we want to have men come here who will settle here and take up land work and meet their situations and positions and so continue. This is what I intended in writing that. There is nothing positive in that, there is only information that large and important lines of railway are going to be built, facts that everybody not only in Canada but every where else know. We did not say to the men to come, but we say to those willing to come: you have a chance. This is what I said, I do not find anything to be ashamed of in that.

Q. How many men could you supply from Italy, good immigrants?—A. Any number.

Q. How many?—A. It depends.



Q. 10,000?—A. Well, I don't know of so many. I think 2,000 or 3,000 could be supplied in a certain time.

Q. What time?—A. A month or six weeks.

Q. You think you could supply contractors or railways with 2,000 in six weeks after application?—A. I will explain my application to the Royal Emigration for passports and for licenses to leave Italy, so that when the Royal Office will know that a number of Italians are required, they will publish the request any day there is a request for so many men at such a place. Of course the prefect and the mayors of different villages will be utilized, they will go into the districts where population is thickest, where emigration is most required.

Q. Would these make good settlers?—A. Some of them would have fair qualifications, because they would not like to stay. The character of the Italian is always to go back to his own country generally, but there are other places in which population is so thick the land is not to be had. So then in these places might be picked up lots of good agriculturists, good settlers. In Argentina we have 3,000,000 Italians, good men. In South America about 300,000, and I think in Argentina they have more Italians than Spanish.

Q. So you think you could supply Canada with the same class of men?—A. Yes.

Q. Let us determine the facts that we see here. You state, 'our society applied to the Provincial government of Quebec to obtain some free land for colonization.' Do you know that as a matter of fact?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you the letter here?—A. I will bring it.

Q. We see here that you ask them to help you in the realization of your best schemes. What are the best schemes?—A. Our best scheme is to change the character of immigration, to make our immigration more useful to Canada, and generally to the men as well.

Q. 'And they may be sure that the result will be a reward.' What is this result?—A. Because every man who comes here and settles on a farm did very well in Canada. I don't know why Italian farmers should not do as well.

Q. The result would be farming in Canada?—A. Yes, certainly.

Q. When you say we appeal to you for your own happiness, you ask them to come to you. Do you ask them to come from Italy to you, and why do you ask them to come to you?—A. To come to us when they are here, rather than to go to private agencies that make them pay money, people who are not reliable. We have no interest we have to fulfil a duty which has been imposed upon us by the government to protect our Italians and to advise them to come to us rather than elsewhere.

Q. 'Come to us, help us to fulfil our difficult task to guide and protect you?'—A. We can do nothing without co-operation in our efforts.

Q. And is it possible that our difficult task is to get men from Italy?—A. That is the very last thing we think of.

Q. The Italian government can improve immigration 50 per cent, what do you mean by difficult task?—A. Just to control immigration and to have moral strength to protect.

Q. 'Exercise your courage and energy and be ready to do something good on behalf of your families and yourself.' Do you mean that they should emigrate so as to go into agriculture?—A. It does not require great courage to emigrate, because they come very easily. It requires courage to change the kind of ways they have which I think are bad for something new and to change ways is not an easy thing and requires pluck.

*By the Commissioner :*

Q. What have these men been accustomed to do in the old country?—A. Farming.

Q. What are they good for when first hired?—A. When they arrive here at first they are fit for nothing else than pick and shovel. I have seen in the neighbourhood of Montreal about 100 farms composed of from 15 to 20 acres. These men come and

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hire immigrants who do 75 per cent of the work of improving the little piece of land and after they get there they lease houses. Besides this they have to pay the passages, have to keep families there, small wages are no good for them.

Q. Were any of those who came this spring skilled labourers?—A. You mean, as mechanics?

Q. Yes.—A. We had a list of masons.

Q. How many?—A. About 100.

Q. Masons and stonecutters and good men, have they been employed as masons and stonecutters?—A. Very few, and for this reason. Many of these are men who have travelled about the world and been in Germany, France and elsewhere. When they come here they are asked to join unions as a means of protecting labour. They join the unions and when they do so they find very little work—one or two days per week. Canadian workmen do not like to be supplanted by foreigners, so many of these masons are compelled to work as labourers. I sent many down to Black Lake Mine, who are now there, say 250.

Q. Besides these 100 skilled all the others were unskilled labourers?—A. For the most part farmers.

Q. But only accustomed to pick and shovel?—A. Yes.

*By Mr. Mowat :*

Q. I see here in article 51 that Count Mazza, Consul General in Canada, is honorary president. Is this society carried on with his approval?—A. It is quite natural, as it is the Italian government that grants money to us, it is quite natural that the representative of the government will approve it.

Q. Is it so?—A. Yes.

Q. Does he take an active part?—A. The part he takes is controlling it.

Q. Do you let him know what are your proceedings?—A. Certainly, when any are taken.

*By Mr. Internoscia :*

Q. I see also an article in this constitution which says that provided skilled labour is required that you will furnish it?—A. We can get any kind of men. Our society is not only to bring out shovel and pick men, although it is more easy to have immigration of that kind of men to come than skilled labour; they find work everywhere, and they get better wages here than in Italy.

Q. We would not ask any of these people to come to Canada unless there was work for them?—A. No.

*By Mr. Walsh :*

Q. Where did you endeavour to place these men, particularly the men who were here so far, since you have been in existence?—A. We have done so.

Q. Where the big majority?—A. As labourers.

Q. You tried to place them with railway companies?—A. With railway companies and private companies.

Q. You did not succeed with railway companies?—A. I succeeded mostly with the Grand Trunk.

Q. How many did you place altogether?—A. Last year about 300, this year, I am under the impression—

Q. Had you, as a matter of fact, any experience in the kind of men required on the construction railways?—A. Certainly.

Q. What experience?—A. The judgment of every one.

Q. Practical experience?—A. Since I started this kind of business.

Q. How long have you been at this business?—A. One and one-half years.

Q. And you state you have placed men on railways, what experience had you?—

A. It is not very hard to understand what kind of men a railway company may need for ditching or shovelling.

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Q. As a matter of fact, do you know that railway companies always employ the same men from year to year?—A. Yes, I had proof even last year.

Q. Don't you know that a great many of these men go back to the United States?—A. Part of them.

Q. Don't you know that most of the labour brought here from Italy is not used on railways?—A. It is quite the contrary.

Q. Brought directly from Italy?—A. The railway construction is made in Italy.

Q. And you brought out skilled labour to work on railways here?—A. No, because we have no control over immigration, otherwise we would; if you will look into the matter you will see that our main railways in Italy are even higher than anywhere else.

Q. You do not know, you are not an engineer?—A. I have some knowledge, and you know we have parts of railways that are worse than the Rocky Mountains, the line from Pisa to Genoa, for example.

Q. You issued a bulletin called No. 2. In that bulletin you speak greatly about agriculture and what you intend to do as regards settlement, did you ever apply to the Dominion as to placing of any of these people?—A. No, because it was not represented yet.

Q. But you were 1½ years at work in connection with your society, still you never thought fit to apply to the Dominion government?—A. Yes, we applied for lands in the province of Quebec.

Q. How many people did you settle?—A. It is a thing about which——

Q. How many people did you endeavour to settle?—A. It was impossible to settle people if we did not have the land, if we had the land we would find the people.

Q. You send the railway companies to place labourers for which you were to get 50 cents per man. You merely made application to the Provincial government for land, when did you do that?—A. About this time last year, July.

Q. Did you go to see the government?—A. No, we made a regular application.

Q. Did you get an answer?—A. Yes, our demand was taken into consideration.

Q. Did you ever take any further action?—A. No.

Q. So that you have followed up your plans concerning the immigration of settlers to this country by simply trying to find work with railways and contractors?—A. We could not do otherwise for the mere reason that everything has been contrary to us.

Q. And you attribute that to clear circumstances?—A. I attribute that to private interests.

Q. Well, you have certain interests in these people?—A. No, I do not mean as regards commission, from friendship, you know.

Q. You receive no commission?—A. No, it goes to our secretary-treasurer.

Q. Are you the agent for any Italian navigation company?—A. No. Three men came to see us on the 15th. We had a postcard from the Inspector of Immigration stating that they wanted to go to Italy, and I had bulletins of the sailings of the steamers, and I saw there was one next day from New York at 11 o'clock, and I informed them that if they started that night they might arrive in time on the following day.

Q. That is the only case?—A. Yes.

Q. Now, what about the changing of money to be sent to Italy?—A. Anybody coming to me inquiring for change of Italian money into Canadian, or Canadian money into Italian, I send to Mr. Dini. If I thought Mr. Dini would not give same change as another banker I would send the inquirer to the other.

Q. As regards the bulletins that were written, don't you know that the publication of these bulletins led to an attack in 'La Patria Italiana' and the 'Corriere del Canada'?—A. This was not an attack, only a discussion.

Q. It was no discussion, because nobody answered it?—A. They said lots of interesting things about several gentlemen, of me personally and of the society, but we never answered, because they did not deserve it.

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Q. Well, the publication of these bulletins lead to a certain amount of publication going on in the Italian papers?—A. There was no discussion.

Mr. INTERNOSCIA to Mr. WALSH.—Was it not for the bulletin itself and not the discussion, if we want to call it a discussion about the tone of the bulletin or matter?

Mr. WALSH.—I want to say that this bulletin was re-copied in Italian papers and in other papers.

The COMMISSIONER.—He says that. He says it did lead to something. He is ready to state that it did lead to something.

Mr. MOWAT.—I do not understand the position my learned friend is taking here. I do not know why he is contradicting the society, why is this acting before going on with cross examination?

*By the Commissioner:*

To witness. Q. Let me ask you a question myself. Has the publication of this bulletin lead to certain publications concerning Italian immigration in the Italian papers of this city?—A. Yes.

Q. Has it lead to certain publications in the Italian papers in New York?—A. I do not know.

Q. Has it led to any publications in the Italian papers in New York?—A. I never read any.

Q. Have you read any other Italian papers?—A. I have not. Perhaps the idea of these gentlemen was that the bulletin was made to be published by these papers, because they only criticized the form of the bulletin, saying that there was nothing in what we were doing, but they never published much of the contents of the bulletin.

Q. As a matter of fact, did not these papers, that were referred to a moment ago, and which you admit have published certain information contained in the bulletin, did not these papers refer to the great prospects, taking the cue from these?—A. Not at all, because there was not one of these articles that we did not take great care to tell the Italians that we made these statements just from what we knew.

Q. Did they not take up your thought that they were going to have a great year and that the prospects were magnificent?—A. Oh, no.

Q. You swear that the Italian papers did not?—A. I never read them.

*By Mr. Internoscia:*

Q. Was our annual report copied in all of the papers?—A. Yes.

*By the Commissioner:*

Q. Have you got it there?—A. Yes.

Mr. JOHN S. SKINNER being sworn:

*By the Commissioner:*

Q. What is your name in full?—A. John S. Skinner.

Q. What position do you occupy?—A. I am labour agent for the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Q. How long have you been labour agent?—A. Well, since the beginning of this year. Previously I have had the supervision of all the labourers employed by the Canadian Pacific Railway and to a large extent the employment of mechanics for the shops, but last year I had nothing whatever to do with the employment of Italians.

Q. That was first added to your duties this year?—A. This year.

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Q. Now you say you have the supervision of the employment of all Italians employed?—A. I have the supervision of all.

Q. What do you mean by supervising?—A. It is my duty to receive orders for these men as they come in from the superintendent at different parts of the line and interview Cordasco, who is given the supplying of Italian labour, and in giving Cordasco orders it is my duty to see that the contracts are properly made and filled out by the men.

Q. You are an Ontario solicitor, Mr. Skinner?—A. I am.

Q. What contracts do you refer to?—A. Well, every labourer employed by the Canadian Pacific Railway signs a contract in duplicate. He receives one copy and the other copy is kept by the company.

Q. Is that in English?—A. In English for English-speaking labourers, in Italian for Italians and in French for French labour.

Q. That is in three languages?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you understand the three?—A. My knowledge of Italian is very limited.

Q. What other duties besides supervising these contracts and employment of these men?—A. Well, I have the supervision of the shipment of these labourers by train, and in the case of correspondence with the superintendents to see what divisions these men are sent to, and I also have charge of correspondence regarding claims, if any, are made by these men after returning from work.

Q. Have you charge of everything in connection with the employment and payment of labourers?—A. I have not direct charge of that. I have charge under the superintendence of Mr. Burns.

Q. Mr. Burns is your chief, and under his direction you take charge of that department of his work?—A. I do.

Q. Where is your office?—A. My office is on St. James street, No. 371.

Q. Now, who is your employment agent, who employs Italians for you?—A. Antonio Cordasco.

Q. How long has he been in that position?—A. Since before I was an employee of the company.

Q. His office is?—A. 375 St. James street.

Q. Adjoining yours?—A. Yes.

Q. And has been before your time?—A. Yes.

Q. Any agent besides Cordasco for that work?—A. For Italians, no.

Q. What part of the work do you supervise?—A. I supervise, first of all, the contracts and his accounts against the company. I check each month and make some notes or corrections or deductions, and after doing that, I pass them on to Mr. Burns.

Q. You certify the account to Mr. Burns?—A. I certify to Mr. Burns.

Q. Do you go into the account to see if Mr. Cordasco's charges are right?—A. Yes. Very much so.

Q. What remuneration does he get from the Canadian Pacific Railway for the employment of Italians?—A. There was an arrangement made this year, in April, between Mr. Burns and Mr. Cordasco.

Q. Were you present?—A. I was going to explain that I was not present when it was made, but Mr. Burns told me about it immediately.

Q. Did Mr. Cordasco tell you?—A. Mr. Burns told me in his presence.

Q. What was that agreement?—A. The Canadian Pacific Railway, from that date, would pay at the rate of \$1 for each man, and in consideration of that, Cordasco was not to make any other charge against the men.

Q. Against the men for employment in connection with Canadian Pacific Railway works?—A. Exactly.

Q. Do you remember that date?—A. I believe it was the last week in April.

Q. What was the previous arrangement?—A. The previous arrangement—I was not in charge of the Italian affairs.

Q. What was the previous charge made by Mr. Cordasco, as appearing in his

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accounts against the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. Before April; before that time Cordasco—

Q. Have you an account so that we may look it over?—A. I have not—I am quite well aware—I have no account. I have just the particular letters you required.

Q. Probably Mr. Burns may show you one of the accounts?—A. I am quite well aware that up to that time Cordasco was paid a fee from the company for his services, and it was understood that he was allowed to collect a fee also from each labourer.

Q. With whom was that agreement?—A. I cannot give you any information prior to that, before my supervision of this work.

Q. All you saw was his fee charged for attending to that work?—A. Yes.

Q. What was that fee?—A. Cordasco was allowed a fee of five dollars a day for a proper day's work.

Q. What would you call a proper day's work?—A. If it took several hours to do he charged for it *pro rata*, or something of that sort.

Q. Did you mention it by hours?—A. By hours and importance of work.

Q. So that if he went out to hire men and took two days to hire them, he was paid at the rate of five dollars per day?—A. Of course, it was a matter of judgment if he had; well, if he had used his best endeavours.

Q. I suppose you corrected any errors in the way of overcharges in his account?—A. Yes.

Q. That continued up to about the end of April?—A. Up to the end of April.

Q. Another agreement was made at that time. Why was another agreement entered into?—A. Just a matter of opinion on my part.

Q. Well, I wish to ask you as to your opinion, you do not know why that was made?—A. I can say that it was on account of complaints from Italians as to their being charged, I understand. It was simply an opinion.

Q. Was it spoken over between Mr. Cordasco, Mr. Burns and yourself?—A. At the time Mr. Burns told me of the new arrangement. He practically told me that it was because there had been complaints about Cordasco charging the men.

Q. And you wanted to stop these complaints?—A. Something of that sort.

Q. On behalf of the C.P.R.?—A. Something of that sort.

Q. So the C.P.R. was aware of the character of these charges. What charges were made against the C.P.R.?—A. I did not stop any charge.

Q. Why did the C.P.R. interfere?—A. Because these men were being employed by the C.P.R., and the C.P.R. thought it well to take care of them as much as possible.

Q. Do you think it was in consequence of the Immigration Aid Society who offered to supply men without charge?—A. I have no reason to believe that.

Q. No?—A. Because it never occurred to me.

Q. Do you know how many you asked Mr. Cordasco to supply?—A. Mr. Cordasco supplied 711 to the C.P.R. this spring.

Q. You requested him to supply, or to be able to supply any great number?—A. No, we did not tell him what number.

Q. Did you suggest to him the number likely to be employed during the season?—A. No, except in the most indefinite—

Q. I mean that—A. I do not think he was told in the early spring we would require many.

Q. How many?—A. I do not think I said anything to him in any way. Of course he had the experience of former years, and this year would be about the same.

Q. What was last year's employment?—A. 3,144.

Q. On the C.P.R.?—A. Last year, Italians.

Q. How many labourers had you altogether on your list last year?—A. Well, the total number of unskilled labourers was something in the neighbourhood of 6,000. I have not got my statement here. You only asked me to bring you the list of people employed this year. I can easily get the exact figures.

Q. Kindly do so this afternoon?—A. Well, it was something over 6,000.

Q. What is your information as to the remaining at work of these unskilled labourers. Did they remain there the whole season, or did they jump their contracts?—A. As far as the Italians are concerned, they stuck to their contracts quite well. But so far as the other men sent to the North-west where harvesting is going on, they sometimes jumped their contracts.

Q. In order to supply their places what do you do?—A. We have to send out more men from Montreal.

Q. Have you received any applications yourself for employment?—A. I received some this year. These applications from labourers go some to the president, some to the general manager. I have a list of those who applied, one list for this year, and there were three or four applications at the end of last year.

Q. How many are there?—A. Altogether 38.

Q. Personal applications?—A. Personal applications.

Q. Where from?—A. People who applied in the autumn, Portland, U.S., and Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan and Detroit. Then the year beginning in January to July 31, including people from Chicago, Brooklyn, Moose Jaw, Sault Ste. Marie, Roxbury, Berlin, North Bay, Seattle, New Orleans, Buffalo, Spokane, Hamilton and some other places.

Q. Are these individual applications, or made for parties?—A. These are all from persons who say they could supply a number of men, some 50, some 10,000.

Q. Well, 10,000, where did that one live?—A. Somewhere in the United States. I have the letters here.

Q. What dates do these cover?—A. October 22 last year up to July 7.

Q. What answer did you give to these applications?—A. Well, in some cases I stated we did not want these men at the present time, and others I did not answer at all.

Q. Why?—A. They came in too rapidly at times and there was no opportunity to answer them.

Q. Was it not because you wished to employ these Italian labourers here?—A. I suppose that was part of the reason.

Q. You employed them all through Cordasco?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you employed any at all outside of Cordasco?—A. No Italians.

Q. Is that your agreement with him?—A. I do not know of that agreement.

Q. What is the arrangement with Cordasco with reference to his office rent?—A. He finds his own office rent.

Q. He pays his own office rent, nothing further; who is his lessor?—A. His lessor is Mr. William Walker.

Q. The rent for the whole office is paid by the Canadian Pacific Railway, and Cordasco pays the Canadian Pacific Railway exactly one half?—A. He pays for his own office.

Q. To whom does he make payment?—A. I do not know exactly to whom he makes payment.

Q. I thought you had charge of that department?—A. I have not charge as far as the collection of rent from Cordasco is concerned.

Q. Does he not charge you for work in connection with the cleaning out of the office, and water rates, &c., and all that, who pays for that?—A. As far as cleaning of the labour office is concerned, that is a matter that I have attended to; at different times I have employed people myself, but at the present time and for some months past I have asked Cordasco to have it done by one of his men, who is generally lounging about his office. There is a woman who scrubs the office, it is the same person who scrubs his office out, I don't know her name. I do not pay her direct, I pay her through Cordasco.

Q. So that he and you and the railway looked after offices generally?—A. No. Cordasco has nothing to do with my office in the world.

Q. I thought you stated that he looked after your office cleaning, water rates, and charged you with them and you paid?—A. It is only a domestic matter the cleaning

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of the office. I asked Cordasco to get the woman who scrubs his office to scrub mine when she finishes scrubbing his and she is paid by Mr. Cordasco, that is all.

Q. Well then, look at that account, how is that, is that for your office?—A. No, it is for a yard there is behind the office, and I remember it got full of ice and snow last year and it became very difficult on account of that ice to get it cleaned out, so Cordasco was told to get it cleaned out. It was just a matter of convenience. He has a lot of men loafing around, and he put in an account for it.

Q. I suppose the March account would show how much he charged your company, that is certified by you, for the work in connection with the Italians. Have you got that account?—A. I have in hand all the expense accounts.

Q. We will look at that after adjournment.

The Commission adjourned until 2 p.m.

THE COURT HOUSE, MONTREAL, July 21, 1904.

2 P.M.

The Commission resumes.

Mr. SKINNER recalled.

*By the Commissioner :*

Q. Have you a statement of the men who have been employed this year?—A. Employed this year? I gave you a statement of last year yesterday afternoon.

Q. Don't you know how many there were?—A. Unskilled labour, about 3,000.

Q. And how many this year?—A. This year to the present, I have not got a statement to date. The unskilled labour altogether this year, including a lot of Norwegians employed in Winnipeg, numbered about 2,000. The number of Italians this year is 711 from Montreal.

Q. From Montreal?—A. And from Winnipeg about 204.

Q. Have you a copy of the contract under which they were engaged?—A. You have Mr. Candori, I have not a copy of it.

Q. I think you were asked about individual contracts?—A. Yes.

Q. (Showing contract). This is the form which you have adopted?—A. Yes.

Q. By the C.P.R., with all the Italian labourers?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you got it in English?—A. I have not got a copy here.

Q. Mr. Burns signs all of them?—A. I sign them for Mr. Burns.

Q. Have you been authorized by him?—A. Yes.

Q. Mr. Cordasco signs them as well?—A. He signs as witness.

Q. In every case?—A. He is supposed to sign in every case.

Q. He or his clerk?—A. He does it himself really.

Q. It is similar to the one in English and French?—A. Yes, I will get you a copy.

Q. What other work does Mr. Cordasco do for the C.P.R. in addition to employing Italian labour?—A. Sometimes there are claims against the company.

Q. You employ him for the purpose of looking into the claims?—A. Yes, looking after them and making translations of letters.

Q. He charges specially for these items, does he?—A. He is specially paid for them.

Q. You think under the five dollar a day item?—A. Yes.

Q. That is previous to the latter end of April?—A. Still.

Q. Still paid at that rate?—A. Still paid at that rate.



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Q. In addition to that I see he supplies Italians who go 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 that 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 that they are correct, by what means?—A. The only way to ascertain, I judge.

Q. How do you judge?—A. All the articles he supplies are every day matters.

Q. Did you ever test the prices?—A. I bought a few duplicates of articles in my list.

Q. Just to test the price?—A. To try them.

Q. His profit is added to the original item and charged against the Italians' wages?—A. I do not understand.

Q. You understand he just charges the amounts he pays for these articles?—A. I understand that 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. By whom?—A. By the C.P.R.

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

Q. You give him the orders in writing?—A. The orders are verbal.

Q. In all cases?—A. Yes, when I am away.

Q. Cordasco gets them?—A. As far as supplying provisions on the road.

Q. Does he supply provisions, is he at present?—A. I do not know that he is.

Q. No, he is not. He gets these articles from others?—A. I believe so.

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

Q. He is paid for his day's work?—A. The arrangement now is that he gets \$1 per man.

Q. Never mind now, I mean last year?—A. I do not know whether he got paid before that.

Q. Get me one of the accounts of last year?—A. I do not remember it, I had nothing to do with it.

Q. Well, we will take March 15, 1904—you had to do with that?—A. Yes, March, 1904.

A. Will you look at the items of March 15? (Hands him account.)—A. March 15; yes, I see.

Q. 'Services rendered by 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 simply for Chinese labour. It is a charge against you; the only difference was 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 the 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 accounts.

Q. And just estimated it was correct?—A. I looked at each item.

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, too?—A. The April account?

Q. What is the charge he makes there for shipping men?—A. Charges \$5.

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Q. For that he gives provisions on that date?—A. What date are you looking at.

Q. April 14.—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. Do you know how this is made up?—A. It is made up of loaves of bread. Three hundred loaves of bread; I think, he charges 18c. for each loaf.

Q. How many sardines?—A. Four hundred.

Q. How many men?—A. One hundred and eight.

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 out from any person doing business in Montréal? These Italians had to pay \$152 for what was purchased for \$94.72?—A. At the same time, I gather 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 accounts item by item, and if the items were reasonable I passed them.

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

Q. In every month there is a large item for supplies of this kind?—A. Some months there is only a small item.

Q. Some months larger than \$152?—A. I do not know.

Q. Last year some months were considerably higher?—A. I do not know about last year.

Q. And in the present year sardines that cost 4c. a box were charged 12c.?—A. They are down here at 10c.

Q. That is only 150 per cent profit. Where does all the profit go; does Mr. Cordasco alone get all the profit?—A. I do not know any one having an interest in it except Cordasco. I must confess that I was not aware that he bought the things as ordered.

Q. With every account that Cordasco produced he should have given you the bill in detail from the party he got the goods from for every day he charged you for supplies. He gets these articles from Mr. Spenard. I suppose, Mr. Spenard just drives them to the Windsor station, is that all?—A. They are looked after there by Cordasco.

Q. And he gets \$5 for doing that?—A. He does not now.

Q. He did last year?—A. Of last year I cannot speak.

Q. But up to April in the March and April accounts he has charged them. 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. \$152 less \$94.72, or \$57.28, that he gets out of that. I would suggest in future that you look into these accounts. Do you not 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.

Q. I do not think it is excusable at all, Mr. Skinner. I think the men pay a great deal more than they ought to pay and more than the Canadian Pacific Railway directors wish them to pay. I feel certain of that, and it is inexcusable that such charges should be made against men; of course it would be very important to have 10,000 for employment by the Canadian Pacific Railway, if such profits can be made. Adjoining your office is Mr. Cordasco's; you see men going in there for the purpose of obtaining employment?—A. I cannot see into the office.

Q. You can know and hear?—A. Only a few.

Q. Have you seen them at all?—A. I have heard him charge \$1 for registration.

Q. How much does he charge for foremen. I think Cordasco charges something like \$10 for foremen?—A. Not that I know of.

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Q. You never heard that Cordasco charged more than \$10, \$1 from the labourers and \$10 from the foremen for obtaining employment for them?—A. As far as the men were concerned, I was thinking of the whole thing, including registration and getting work.

Q. What about new labour?—A. I understood he charged \$1 for registration and a couple for starting them to work.

Q. Only that two dollars?—A. Yes.

Q. That is \$3 for getting employment?—A. Certainly.

Q. He really makes \$4 on these men and \$1 from the Canadian Pacific Railway, which makes \$5?—A. No.

Q. You told me that the Canadian Pacific Railway agreed to give him \$1?—A. The Canadian Pacific Railway agreed that he get nothing.

Q. Do you know that he gets nothing?—A. I do not know.

Q. Well, you say that he gets nothing from you?—A. I do not know that he will be paid anything by the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Q. If it is not known what he gets?—A. My reason for saying that is that he was given \$1 in consideration of his getting nothing from the men. I agree with Your Honour that he should not be paid double for the service.

Q. Can you tell me how much Mr. Cordasco has made out of these 700 odd men he has sent you?—A. I certainly cannot.

Q. Have you any idea?—A. Well, I know he has been paid nothing by the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Q. How many foremen have gone?—A. I should say about six.

Q. Only six foremen for 700 men?—A. In some instances it was asked that foremen should not be sent.

Q. Only six foremen for 700 men?—A. I think only six foremen.

Q. You have a list of the men who have gone out?—A. I have got it here.

Q. Kindly look up the number who have gone out this spring, every party has a foreman?—A. (Looks at list.) There are 11 foremen.

Q. 11 foremen and how many men?—A. 711.

Q. Eleven foremen at \$10 equals \$110. How much for each man and how much for getting employment, \$3?—A. I do not know, Your Honour.

Q. We will take \$1 for registering, this you do know, that is \$700?—A. Yes.

Q. Now, adding this \$700 to the \$110 received for the foremen, that would make \$810 since—when was the agreement established?—A. On April 14.

Q. Well that would be \$810 from April 14 up to July 16 inclusive, and if he has charged \$3 for each, that is \$2,100, and with the \$810, that would amount to \$2,910 from April 14 to July 16?—A. On what basis?

Q. If he charges you besides \$1 for these 711 men, that would bring the amount to \$3,620?—A. There was a gang yesterday.

Q. How many?—A. 15 men.

Q. We are only going to July 16. That is really all that is black and white.

Q. \$3,621 from April 14 to July 16. Do you know what efforts he puts forth in order to engage these men?—A. He has lots of trouble. He keeps an office with a waiting room, they are resorts where these people spend all winter. They come down to smoke, he keeps all sorts of conveniences for them.

Q. But I mean as to employment, I mean efforts contingent to getting these men hired?—A. I do not know anything about that. Of course, a great many come down from work in the autumn, some remain there and some go to Boston and New York.

Q. Some of those who have registered one year have to pay over again?—A. I think they want to do it. They come down and consider Cordasco their friend.

Q. I suppose he is their friend to the extent of getting what amount of money he can out of them?—A. They seem to like it.

Q. They are a peculiar people, you and I would not like that Mr. Skinner.

Q. You cannot tell me what agencies he has in the States, or in Italy, for the purpose of getting these men out?—A. I have not heard of any in Italy, and I do not know

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of any in the States. I simply know that at the end of the last year, after all the men had been sent and more were required, I understood he got some Italians living in Boston and New York sent up. I do not know though from whom he got them.

The COMMISSIONER.—That is all I wish to ask.

Mr. RICHARD H. LANE, being sworn.

*By Mr. Mowat :*

Q. I am told that you are a university graduate, and that for some years you have dedicated your life to the study of social and economical questions in connection with organized charity?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What is your present position?—A. Secretary of the Charity Organization Society of Montreal.

Q. Is that the society which combines the efforts of a number of other societies?—

A. It is a clearing house for the other societies.

Q. In connection with charity and other philanthropic subjects?—A. Yes.

Q. You remember the influx of Italian labourers in April and May last?—A. I do so.

Q. Is it part of your duty to look after and dispense help to destitute persons who come to Montreal?—A. All social problems belonging to Montreal.

Q. Did it come under your notice that there was anything extraordinary in this great influx?—A. I first noticed along in April that there were a large number of unemployed Italians in all our parks who did not leave the city as they did heretofore in the two years I had been there.

Q. Were they sitting in the parks only a few moments?—A. Well, they were spending the whole day in the parks, and my attention was called by a good many members of our society, and I think we spoke of it and thought it wiser to wait until things came to a crisis before doing anything.

Q. Did you inquire where these Italians came from?—A. Not at that time, we had a little meeting. I am told it was about May 30 in the mayor's office. I speak and submit to him or he to me frequently questions regarding dependant immigrants from the city council which are referred to the bureau of the mayor. I think he informed me that the president of the Italian Immigration Society had been to him that morning and stated that they had spent a large amount for the relief of the homeless from the house on Windsor street, and he asked my judgment and I told him that before doing anything I thought it would be wiser to call in the president.

Q. That is Mr. Catelli?—A. Yes, Mr. Catelli. We met at another room that day Mr. St. Denis, chairman of the Police Committee, who was interested in the affair.

Q. Alderman?—A. Alderman. The president of the Italian Society. He stated that they had spent over \$1,000 of the \$2,000 voted by the Italian government for a house of refuge, on bread for these Italian immigrants, and that there were probably 500 of them who had no means.

Q. Completely destitute?—A. Completely destitute.

Q. Eating bread and drinking water and nothing else?—A. Yes. The president of the society asked me if the charitable societies would make a public appeal. I did not feel justified in doing this, for it is absolutely impossible in feeding a large number of foreigners to have proper control as to how much they really need.

Q. You mean that there may be destitution practised?—A. Yes. The president of the Italian Society here is well respected, and the mayor told me that he had perfect confidence in what he stated that before I acted as treasurer of this fund I thought it was wiser to take the judgment of two men friends, members of the society.

Q. Were they called in?—A. I went to both of their houses before I would act as treasurer of this fund. Both of these men stated that there were Italians who were

asking for food, and acting upon their judgment I went back and told the mayor that I would be willing to act as treasurer for the fund, and the appeal was published in the papers and we received about \$185 from the public for the bread fund.

Q. Where was the bread distributed?—A. From the Windsor street house. I told the president of the Immigration Society and other gentleman that I felt it would be wiser to cut down the bread limit every day, and we did until in about four weeks they were practically giving away no bread.

Q. Then the trouble was acute for about three or four weeks?—A. Yes, I made an investigation for my own sake and the sake of the mayor, as to the Italians who had no bread and we came to the conclusion that there were possibly at that time between 200 and 300 in Montreal.

Q. You mean Italians?—A. Between 200 and 300 who were dependent for their support either on the Italian Immigration Society or on their friends, of course I know the Italian Society stated there were more, but that was due to many who without reason stated that they were in need, but from my own judgment there were 200 or 300 without means to buy bread.

Q. Did you hear Mr. Dini this morning give evidence on this subject?—A. I did.

Q. Did you hear him say that the bulk of the immigrants were from the States?—A. And I think that is right. That is one of the greatest difficulties we have, we can get any amount of people to come to this country from Boston and New York, but we have no means of returning them to these places.

Q. You mean that there is a prohibition against our sending foreigners across the line?—A. Yes, less than six months ago I had a case of an Italian who had consumption and could not live more than two months, and we wished to send him to Italy by the boats that sail from New York, but we could not do so as the United States government will not allow us to send an Italian home by way of New York, even if we give our personal word that he has paid his fare.

Q. How is it about foreigners coming into this country from the States?—A. Well, we do not keep a record of them. It is an open secret that there is some arrangement whereby the steamships plying at ports in the United States get the United States officials to allow these people to pass through to Canada without the inspection they would require if immigrating to the States. I cannot prove that, nor have I seen it, but it is known to be a fact.

*By the Commissioner :*

Q. How much was the cost to the society, Mr. Lane, what was the cost for this influx?—A. How much I spent giving bread?

Q. Yes?—A. I spent about \$106.

Q. Do you know what was the result of this large influx on wages of our people?—

A. That is a very difficult question, Your Lordship.

Q. Are you in a position to state?—A. No, I have no statistics.

Q. You have no practical experience?—A. Well, I know what they say, but I do not think the Italians in Montreal have taken jobs that others would do.

Q. That is, you believe that the Italians do work in Canada and the United States that no one else would?—A. Yes, that is true of certain work.

Q. For instance, construction of railway lines?—A. An inspector would answer that better than I could. There is a distinction between the Italian colony in Montreal, that come here to reside with their families, and people who come only for the summer.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Mr. J. M. VIGLINO was sworn as interpreter.

POMPEO BIANCO being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

By Mr. Mowat :

- Q. Are you living at 94 Felix street?—A. Yes.
- Q. When did you come from Italy?—A. Eight years ago next March.
- Q. Have you acted as foreman and interpreter of gangs?—A. Yes, sir, two years for the Canadian Pacific Railway.
- Q. Did you go to Antonio Cordasco asking him to get you employment?—A. Yes, sir, when I came back from the company.
- Q. Do you remember the date?—A. November 27 last.
- Q. You saw Antonio Cordasco?—A. Yes, sir, he told me to make up a gang.
- Q. Did you undertake to make up a gang?—A. Yes, 104 men.
- Q. When?—A. On December 2, and they were put in the register on the 7th.
- Q. Was any condition exacted by Cordasco?—A. Cordasco told me to send him the names and the money?
- Q. What money?—A. \$100.
- Q. Did Cordasco make that a condition of putting the names in the book?—A. He took a list.
- Q. Was any greater sum demanded from you as foreman or interpreter?—A. No, sir, I was only a foreman.
- Q. Was there no greater amount paid?—A. They gave him \$100.
- Q. How much did you pay as foreman?—A. I paid \$10 in the month of August.
- Q. August, 1903?—A. Yes, but he did not mark it in book.
- Q. You paid Cordasco \$104 and \$10?—A. Yes, \$104 for men and \$10 for myself.
- Q. When was employment to be given to yourself and men?—A. The beginning of March.
- Q. Did you or these men get employment from Cordasco?—A. Yes, on the Canadian Pacific Railway.
- Q. Were they employed at that time?—A. No, they were placed to work on Thursday last.
- Q. From the first of March, when they were promised employment, until Thursday last they were idle?—A. They work for the Grand Trunk now, and not at place during that time on the Canadian Pacific Railway.
- Q. They were not placed by Cordasco?—A. No.
- Q. Did he return the money that was paid?—A. No, sir.
- Q. Have you instructed suit to be entered to recover the money?—A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Through what solicitors?—A. Mr. Pelissier.
- By the Commissioner :
- Q. Where did these men come from whose names you gave in?—A. Montreal; they had come back from the country.
- Q. When did you get the gang?—A. Last March.
- Q. Did any of them come from Italy?—A. Only two or three came from Italy.
- Q. Who were they?—A. Donato Dorazio, Domenico Bianco, a cousin of mine.
- Q. And who was the other?—A. I do not remember now.
- Q. Where did those two men come from?—A. From Italy.
- Q. What place?—A. Somité Cheta.
- Q. Who sent for them?—A. Domenico Bianco sent for them. He has two brothers here.
- Q. Did you get any of your men from the United States?—A. Yes, but I do not know their names, about 10 or 12.
- Q. Did you ask Cordasco to refund you this money?—A. Yes, I asked him and he refused to pay; he said no.
- Q. On what condition was the \$10 paid?—A. He told me it would be all right, he would get me a job, and I took \$10 and gave them to him.

Q. It was to be a good job for \$10?—A. Yes.

Q. On what condition were the \$104 paid?—A. For the gang, I suppose, to be foreman.

Q. Where did you get the \$104?—A. I paid one part from my pocket, and some I collected from the men.

Q. Were they to pay any other sum besides the \$1 before getting employment?—A. Yes, they paid \$2, but I paid it back; I did not give it to Cordasco.

Q. They paid \$2 to get employment?—A. Cordasco told me, you must get \$2 and bring money to me.

Q. How many paid you the \$2?—A. About 15, and I paid it back right away.

Q. Were you present in Montreal during April and May last?—A. Yes, I was here with all the men.

Q. Did you see a large number of Italians here then?—A. Yes, a large number.

Q. How many?—A. All the streets were full.

Q. Can you give me the number as near as you think?—A. Two or three thousand, I do not know.

Q. Where did they come from?—A. Some from Italy, some from work, some from the United States. From the United States I had 15 men in my house.

Q. What induced them to come here?—A. I don't know.

Q. Did they not state why they came here?—A. They said, we saw a notice in the newspapers there was work in British Columbia.

Q. What newspapers?—A. I don't know.

Q. Where did they see this notice?—A. In the United States.

Q. But those that came from Italy, why did they come here?—A. I don't know.

Q. Who obtained employment for your gang?—A. One part myself and one part my nephew, who lives in Burketon. One of the parties works at Burketon.

Q. Are they on the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. Yes, on other contracts with Mr. Foran.

Q. How much are they getting?—A. \$1.75 per day.

Q. How much do the foremen get?—A. \$2.25.

Q. Are they employed in Montreal?—A. Yes, they started last Thursday for the Grand Trunk Railway and for manufacturers.

Q. How much are they getting?—A. Most of them \$1.50 per day and others 20 cents an hour, so that they make \$10 or \$15 per week.

Q. Are all your gang employed now?—A. Yes, one portion I sent to Mr. Dini on Thursday last; they went to Burketon.

Q. For Mr. Dini?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you know how much they paid Mr. Dini?—A. I don't know.

Q. Have you anything else to say?—A. I can say that my gang owe me \$500 for support and cannot give me the money back, because they did not start early enough to work.

Q. Your gang owes you \$500?—A. Yes.

Q. What was that money advanced them for?—A. To give them something to eat and their board.

Q. During the last spring?—A. Yes, because I was obliged to keep them until last Thursday, eight days ago.

Q. It will take all their time to pay back?—A. Yes, I think this year they cannot make enough to live, only two or three months work.

*By Mr. Walsh:*

Q. Why did you pay these \$10 in August?—A. Because Cordasco told me that to get a good place I would have to make a little present, and I gave him \$10.

Q. Not for work this year?—A. Yes. I had paid before I left here on 3rd May, 1903.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

*By the Commissioner:*

Q. Did you pay \$10 each year you went out?—A. I gave him \$10 or \$15.

Q. Every time you went out?—A. Yes, every season for the two years I worked for him.

GIUSEPPE MIGNELLA being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

*By Mr. Mowat:*

Q. Did you apply to Antonio Cordasco for work?—A. When I came back from the country in November last I went to Cordasco and he said, 'Mignella you must make up a gang.'

Q. He asked you to make up a gang?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you had experience for some years?—A. No, none.

Q. What condition did Cordasco make, what did he tell you?—A. He says make up a gang.

Q. And did you make up a gang?—A. Yes, and I gave money to him.

Q. How many were there in the gang?—A. 42.

Q. And you paid \$42?—A. Yes.

Q. How much for yourself?—A. \$25 for myself.

Q. When were you promised work?—A. He promised work for the beginning of March.

Q. Were you ready with your gang?—A. Yes.

Q. And work was not given?—A. No, sir.

Q. And no signs of work?—A. No, sir; he told me to wait.

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

Q. Was the money refused?—A. Some of the men went to ask for the money and were told by Cordasco that he did not know them but knew Mignella, so I went myself but he said he did not know me.

Q. Did he ask you for any further sum in addition to the \$1?—A. Yes, he asked me to get \$2 more from each man, but I did not.

Q. Where did you get the men from, the United States or from Italy?—A. They were all living where I was boarding, 474 Lagauchetière street.

*By the Commissioner:*

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

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

Q. Who brought them out?—A. Fratello; there are some here now boarding in the same house and some in court. They stated to me that they had consulted Cordasco's newspaper.

Q. What are the names of these men in court?—A. (Pointing them out.) Grisaphé, Saverio and Antonio Sicari. There were eight, three young boys in the passage and three others over there near the coils.

Q. Do you owe Mr. Cordasco any money?—A. I owe him \$40. I gave him my note for \$15 and I paid \$10.

The COMMISSIONER TO MR. WALSH.—Has Mr. Cordasco that note with him?

MR. WALSH.—I will ask him to look and to bring it over to-morrow morning.

The WITNESS.—I paid \$10. He marked down \$15 on book and \$5, he took \$5 from \$20 and kept it.

*By the Commissioner:*

Q. Did you sign a note for \$40?—A. Yes. There was no amount on note, I saw only my name.



Mr. VINCENZO SCIANO, being sworn. (Through interpreter).

*By Mr. Mowat :*

Q. Did you apply to Mr. Cordasco for work and when?—A. Yes, in November last about the 20th or 22nd.

Q. What did you pay him?—A. I gave him \$10.

Q. When were you promised work?—A. In the spring, March or April.

Q. Were you to make up a gang?—A. Cordasco told me I will give you the men otherwise if men cannot be supplied here I will send you to New York.

Q. Did you supply men?—A. No.

Q. And did not get work?—A. No.

Q. Did you get back the \$10?—A. No, sir. I went and asked him for my money and he asked me what are you asking for, and I said I was asking for my rights and he told me that I had no rights at all. I told him to look at his books and see if I had no rights at all, and he said your name is not in the book.

Q. When was this?—A. January last, 17th or 20th.

Q. You were not to get work until the spring?—A. I was looking for work, and he said your name is not in the book. There was a crowd waiting for work, but there was no work.

Q. But he was not to get you work until March, why did you go there?—A. I went there like the rest.

Q. Did he afterwards find your name in his book?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever apply again for a return of the money after January?—A. Yes and he gave me \$5 back.

Q. Did you renounce all claims against him?—A. I did not.

*By the Commissioner :*

Q. Where did you come from?—A. Buffalo.

Q. Who brought you here?—A. Mateo Farina.

Q. When?—A. On August 30 last.

Q. Who was Mateo Farina representing?—A. He was a foreman.

Q. Foreman for whom?—A. Cordasco.

Q. What work were you engaged for?—A. Foreman.

Q. On what work?—A. Railway.

Q. Which railway?—A. For the C.P.R.

Q. When was it?—A. We started work on September 12 last, and I arrived in Montreal about August 30. When I went to Buffalo I had a trip pass, and when I arrived in Montreal I was obliged to pay him \$7. He said if you will not give me \$7, I will have you arrested.

Q. Who?—A. Cordasco.

Q. What did you do?—A. I paid.

Q. \$7 for the trip?—A. Yes.

Q. Was that a portion of the \$10 that you paid him?—A. No, the C.P.R. gave him a free pass; Cordasco charged that for food. We were one day and a night on the road. We had no food, and of course we complained to Cordasco. He said you will find food in the car. There were two boxes of sardines, two pounds of cheese and one loaf of bread, and we paid \$7 each for that, for one day and night. When we arrived about 150 miles from Fort William we told our foreman that we had paid \$7 for food going down to Montreal. He said that is nothing, you will see now when you draw your pay. We paid \$7.10 for a day and a night before.

Q. Where?—A. At Ignace. We went to the head office there and tried to get back our money, and the boss told us we could not, as Cordasco took that money.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Mr. MICHELE TISI being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

*By Mr. Mowat :*

Q. Did you apply to Mr. Cordasco on November 16 last for employment?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did he demand money from you and how much?—A. I was working for the Canadian Pacific Railway, and I came back from work on November 14. Cordasco had told me when you come back again I will give you another job for one gang of 100. I made up a couple of gangs of 100 and paid \$10 for my part and the men paid \$2.

Q. Did you pay \$2 to Cordasco?—A. The men paid.

Q. The men that you got paid?—A. Yes, some of the gang did. I got \$78 and the others went and paid \$2.

Q. And you paid \$10?—A. Yes.

Q. When were you to get work?—A. There was no more work.

Q. Did he not promise you?—A. He said we have no more work, but this will remain for next season.

Q. When does the next season begin?—A. When the work goes on like last year, on November 27 I went to work with a gang of 100 men. I worked about two months with Rafaele Giasso. I had 50 men before and two foremen for 100 men.

Q. You yourself paid \$2 for 50 men?—A. I did not pay myself.

Q. The 50 men and not yourself paid?—A. Yes, the men paid.

Q. After they paid when were they to go to work?—A. They went to work; I am not complaining about that.

Q. Why did you give up work?—A. I went on November 27 to work. The men paid their \$2 and I paid \$10 for myself on November 16. There was no work, so we waited for a few days and worked for Mr. Beemer, a contractor.

Q. You never worked for the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. No.

Q. Did they get work with Beemer through Cordasco?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. When did Beemer's work finish?—A. I arrived in Montreal on January 27.

Q. Did you ask your money back from Cordasco?—A. I did not ask money, because I left the money there for this season.

Q. And you did not get work this season?—A. No.

Q. How long have you been idle?—A. From January 27.

RAFAELE DI ZAZZA, being sworn.

*By Mr. Mowat :*

Q. How long have you been in this country?—A. Fifteen years.

Q. As interpreter and foreman?—A. Foreman.

Q. Did you apply to Cordasco for employment?—A. I always worked for Cordasco since I have been in Canada, the last five years.

Q. Have you got any complaint in regard to work this year?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you pay Cordasco money?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. When and about how much?—A. About the middle of January.

Q. How much?—A. \$10 for a job as foreman with 83 men.

Q. How much did they pay each?—A. \$1 each.

Q. When was work to commence?—A. To commence on March 1, but March, April and May went and there was no work.

Q. Did you ask for your money back?—A. No.

A. No, you thought that no use?—A. No. I tried to get a job, and we worked for a little while.

Q. Did he ask for more than \$1?—A. Only \$1.

*By the Commissioner :*

Q. Did the men get employment through him?—A. Some.

Q. Did they pay anything extra?—A. I don't know.

SALVATORE MOLLO, being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

*By Mr. Mowat :*

Q. Did you apply to Cordasco for work on January 9?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you been foreman of a gang?—A. Yes.

Q. Did he ask you to pay him?—A. Yes.

Q. How much?—A. \$10.

Q. Were you to get up a gang?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How many?—A. Seventy.

Q. Did they pay?—A. Yes.

Q. How much?—A. Sixty paid \$1 each and 40 \$3 for a promise of a job. I gave him \$81 myself.

Q. For how many men?—A. Some paid \$2 and some \$3. I paid myself for them. They gave me the money.

Q. Why did some pay \$2 and some \$3?—A. Some of them paid \$2 more last January when they registered, and some paid \$3 later on.

Q. When was that, how long after January?—A. About two or three weeks ago.

Q. In the month of July?—A. Yes, the same morning I paid \$81 for 42 or 43 names, in the beginning of July.

Q. When was the work to begin?—A. In a couple of days; every time they went to the office they were told to-morrow or after to-morrow.

Q. If they were promised work on March 1 and did not get it, why did they pay him \$2 more?—A. He always put off the men saying to-morrow or after to-morrow, and at last the men came to me saying they would like to get money back. I went to Cordasco to ask for the money and he said, get out or I will break your face.

Q. He would push your face in, that was within the last few days?—A. Yes, sir, when I went down to his office.

*By the Commissioner :*

Q. Did you get a paper like this?—A. The men do not know him at all, they know me. When I went there to his bank, he would not hear me.

*By Mr. Walsh :*

Q. Is it not true that Cordasco has returned some of the money to some of the men?—A. I do not know, but the men came to my house and asked for money and I told them to go down and see Cordasco.

Q. Where are these men?—A. Some have left, some were asking for money, so I borrowed \$10 from a friend and gave it to them. The day after I went down to Cordasco and told him I paid \$10 for the men and I said give me \$10 at any rate, and he gave me \$10. We could get nothing more from Cordasco, and we could not get work. We spent all our money, sometimes \$6 or \$7 trying to get a job. Cordasco used to tell us to-morrow, next week, but to-morrow or next week never came.

*By Mr. Mowat :*

Q. I see your picture in the supplement of the banquet to Cordasco, did you contribute towards that?—A. Yes, myself. I paid \$5. I had no money and was obliged to go and borrow it.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

RAFAELE DI ZAZZA, re-examined.

*By the Commissioner :*

Q. You sent for your wife on November 26 last?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How much had you to pay for tickets?—A. I forget, about \$42, yes \$41.65.

Q. When did she arrive here?—A. About February 27.

Q. How long does it take to come?—A. About 12 days via New York, 12 days from here.

RAFAELE ITALIANO, being sworn. (Through interpreter).

*By Mr. Mowat :*

Q. Did you apply to Cordasco for work on November 27 last?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did he say that you would have to pay him?—A. Yes.

Q. How much did you pay?—A. \$10 on November 27.

Q. How much for yourself?—A. \$18 altogether for myself.

Q. Did you ever pay any more?—A. No.

Q. Did you ever pay \$7?—A. No.

Q. Only \$18 in all?—A. Yes.

Q. When were you to get work?—A. On March 20 or 25.

Q. Did you get a job?—A. No.

Q. Did you ask for your money?—A. No, I asked him last year and he told me he did not give it back.

Q. Did you ever know him to give back any money to anybody?—A. No.

*By the Commissioner :*

Q. How long have you lived in Canada?—A. Four years.

Q. You lived in Montreal?—A. Yes.

GIUSEPPE ZOLAIRE, being sworn. (Through interpreter).

*By Mr. Mowat :*

Q. Have you been employed on the C.P.R., and when did you go to work?—A. On July 3.

Q. July 3 this year?—A. Last year.

Q. When out on the work were you bitten by mosquitoes?—A. Yes, bitten by black flies while employed.

Q. How much did you pay to Cordasco?—A. We paid \$9 for three.

Q. When did you pay that money?—A. On May 15.

Q. These men were not foremen?—A. No.

Q. Did you pay the money to Cordasco himself?—A. Yes.

*By the Commissioner :*

Q. Why did you pay that money?—A. Because Cordasco said if you want work for the season you will bring \$3.

Q. Did he demand \$3 before giving employment?—A. Yes.

Q. What work were you on?—A. With a contractor.

Q. On the C.P.R.?—A. Yes, sir. We signed a contract that they could not put me out before four months, and after working three days we were sacked.

Q. Who sacked you?—A. The boss foreman.

Q. I suppose he was sacked too?—A. Yes.

Q. How much had he paid for himself?—A. \$3.

Q. He was not a foreman?—A. No, he was just a labourer.

ANTONIO SICARI, being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

*By the Commissioner :*

Q. Where did you come from?—A. From Italy.

Q. When?—A. Arrived here on May 15.

Q. What part of Italy?—A. Reggio, Calabrie.

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

Q. Have you got any of them?—A. No, I have not got any.

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

Q. How many?—A. In my village, about 20.

Q. What cards had this man, what name?—A. Pasano.

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

Q. All?—A. Yes, all. I paid 450 francs; there were 90 of us paid the 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 directed to Montreal and went to Cordasco and paid him \$3.

Q. You came direct to Montreal and paid Cordasco \$3?—A. Yes.

Q. When?—A. We paid to the foreman and the foreman gave the money to Cordasco.

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

Q. Did they all come to Montreal?—A. I think there remained about 30 in New York.

Q. About 30 remained in New York?—A. Yes.

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

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

Q. Do you know where any of these are now?—A. I do not know.

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

Q. Did the circular state how many men were wanted?—A. It stated that man should like to come because he could 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; stonemason 15 lire, or \$3 a day.

Q. When did you arrive in Montreal?—A. On May 15.

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

Q. How many did get work, between 600 and 700?—A. I do not know, but 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 friends helped us some and some helped us.

Q. How many are there now without work?—A. All these here have no work.

Q. Are there 100 without work?—A. I mean only where I board myself.

Q. Yes, only those you know?—A. There are more than 100 without work.

Q. More than 100?—A. Yes, they all go to Cordasco's bureau for work. Of course, we paid before and cannot pay any more.

Q. Does he ask for any more before giving work?—A. No, sir.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

MICHELE CILLA, being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

*By Mr. Mowat :*

Q. How long have you been in Canada?—A. Since last May, 1903.

Q. Have you been foreman?—A. No, sir.

Q. Have you applied to Cordasco for work and did Cordasco get money from you?

—A. When I arrived in this country Cordasco's brother took me down to Cordasco's, and I paid \$3.

Q. Were you promised work?—A. This was last year; he gave me work.

Q. This year did you pay any more?—A. Yes.

Q. How much?—A. On March 22 last I paid \$13 for 13 men at \$1 each to Cordasco.

Q. Was work promised to them?—A. Yes, he said we would start with his brother on April 1.

Q. For the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. Vincenz Cordasco left Montreal on April 14.

Q. You were promised to go with that crowd?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You were not taken?—A. No, sir.

Q. Did you ask for your money back?—A. He said I will send you to work in a few days with my nephew.

Q. Did he do so?—A. No, sir.

Q. Is it the practice for you to pay each season to be put on the register?—A. Why should we pay.

Q. If a man goes up and comes back, has he to pay again?—A. I left job I had on ship, Cordasco promised me I will send you to work on the railway.

Q. How often have you paid Cordasco?—A. I paid him twice, once I paid \$1 and then I paid \$40 to Cordasco.

Q. For how many men?—A. I paid \$3 for thirteen men for to get a job on the C.P.R. Some time after I went to Cordasco and told him, I have lost check, I have no work, you will give me no job, will you be good enough to give me back my money, my \$40. He had a revolver in his hand and he said, if you ask any more for your money I will pull forty drops of blood from your forehead.

Q. Did that threat affect the matter, were you threatened?—A. Yes, he had a revolver in his hand.

Q. Where?—A. In his private house, I can swear that was in his house.

ANTONIO SICARI, re-examined

*By the Commissioner:*

Q. What was the name of the steamer you came in?—A. *Santo Trado*.

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

FRANCESCO PICIMENTO, being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

*By the Commissioner:*

Q. How old are you?—A. Going on 19 years.

Q. When did you come to Montreal?—A. Arrived here April 25 last.

Q. Where did you come from?—A. Reggio, Calabria.

Q. What was the name of the steamer?—A. I think the name was *Ingleterra*.

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

Q. How much?—A. \$34.20.

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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. You came to New York?—A. Yes.

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, many.

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. Did you know whether the gentleman was from the steameship or another gentleman?—A. I do not know.

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

Q. What did the paper 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.

Q. Did you know these men in Italy?—A. Yes, sir, in Reggio.

Q. What part of Italy?—A. Reggio Calabria.

Q. How long before you came out did you see the circulars?—A. They commenced to post the 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. When you arrived here where did you go?—A. When I arrived at the station a cousin of mine was there, and I went with my cousin.

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

Q. When?—A. The middle of March.

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. Has he promised since then to send you?—A. Oh, yes.

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

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

Q. Have you got 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 50 cents a day, it ceased the other day.

Q. Are you working now?—A. No, sir.

Q. How are you supported now?—A. Last week I worked three or four days and drew a couple of dollars.

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

SEVERIO CRESAVI, being sworn. (Through interpreter).

By the Commissioner:

Q. When did you come to this country?—A. I came to this country on May 16.

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- Q. Where from?—A. From Italy.
- Q. What part?—A. Reggio, Calabria.
- Q. Who paid your passage?—A. I paid it myself.
- Q. How much?—A. 215 lire (\$43).
- Q. What line did you come by?—A. The Piedmonte.
- Q. What line?—A. I do not know, I think the Veloce.
- Q. What induced you to come out?—A. I saw the others starting for this country and I felt like doing the same.
- Q. Did you have any circulars at all?—A. No, sir.
- Q. When did you arrive in Montreal?—A. On May 15 last.
- Q. How many came out on the same boat?—A. 550.
- Q. Did you all come to Montreal?—A. No, sir, only 25.
- 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. Why did you go to Cordasco?—A. Well, I saw other men going there and I tried to get a job, and went there myself.
- 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 will 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.
- GIUSEPPE AGOSTINO, being sworn. (Through interpreter).

*By the Commissioner:*

Q. Where did you come from?—A. I am an Italian, I came from the province of Reggio, Calabria.

Q. When did you come here?—A. I have been two years in Montreal and one year in Nova Scotia.

Q. Did you apply to Cordasco for work?—A. I went to Cordasco and paid him, on December 23 last, \$2, \$1, for myself and \$1 for my son. I paid him also \$4 in the beginning of April last because he told me, you must pay as you will go to work. I paid \$6 altogether.

Q. How old is your boy?—A. About 15 years.

Q. He charged \$3 for him?—A. Yes, \$3 each.

Q. How old are you?—A. 51 years of age.

Q. Did you receive any work at all?—A. I worked only two days because I was waiting. I had a chance of working two days. I spent all the money I had made last summer waiting for work. I only had a chance to work two days and have no more bread.

Q. Did Cordasco give you any work?—A. Cordasco sent me to work, I worked one day, it was heavy work. He did not give me anything more.

Q. Where was that?—A. I went to work one place, I do not know where. I paid 20 cents for street cars and I gave 25 cents to Cordasco that morning, he asked me for 25 cents.

Q. How did you get work?—A. They did not give me a cent. There were six men and he asked 25 cents to go and try and get something for us to do. They did so and he said, why don't you go, and they went but got nothing to do.

*By Mr. Walsh:*

Q. Was not the 25 cents given to pay car fare?—A. I paid my own car fare.



BRUNO TIMPOLO, being sworn. (Through interpreter).

*By the Commissioner:*

Q. How long have you been in America?—A. Three years in Canada.

Q. Did you apply to Cordasco for work?—A. No, I was boarding with Giuseppe Mignella and I paid \$1 to Cordasco and he said you will pay \$1 now and \$1 when you start work. I complained to our foreman and he said go and see Cordasco and we had promises but no work.

Q. You only paid \$1?—A. Yes, sir.

RAFAEL TALIANO, being sworn. (Through interpreter).

*By the Commissioner:*

Q. Did you apply to Mr. Cordasco for work?—A. I signed a contract on July 6 last, to go out on the C.P.R. There was some work, but the foreman said there was three ahead of me.

Q. Who was the foreman that took your place?—A. Cordasco told me that the C.P.R. did not want any foreman with that gang and that I would have to wait.

Q. You were in the gang?—A. I had 86 names with 2 water boys. He took 32 and the rest remained here.

Q. Can you give the names of any of these men or when they were shipped?—A. On July 6.

Q. And did anybody go out in your place?—A. Cordasco told me he did not send a foreman.

Q. Did Antonio Memme go out as a foreman?—A. Yes, Memme took my place.

Q. Had Memme applied after you did?—A. Yes afterwards, I went to him on November 27 and the other on the 28th. He signed ahead of me Antonio Memme, Adolphe Miela, Bocancelli, Miorano, all these were after me.

Q. After you?—A. Yes.

Q. Had you been foreman before this year?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. No fault found with your work?—A. No, sir, I have a certificate from the superintendent.

Q. André Bocancelli went out on July 10?—A. I signed a contract on July 3 and Cordasco told me there were no places for bosses now, but, that man had no contract and went there on the 16th after me.

Q. You had applied before him?—A. Then ahead of me signed Vincenzo Gaillard, a relative of Cordasco who did not want it mentioned. He sent five foremen and James Cordasco, but I do not blame him for sending the latter but only when he sent strangers who signed after me.

GEORGE E. BURNS, being sworn.

*By the Commissioner:*

Q. What is your position on the C.P.R., Mr. Burns?—A. I have charge of the special service department of the C.P.R.

Q. Does the employment of Italian labour come under your department?—A. That is extra Italian labour.

Q. What do you mean by extra Italian labour?—A. That is Italian labour that cannot be picked up by local agents along the line of the railway and has to be employed for extra gangs.

Q. How long have you occupied that position?—A. In connection with the labour department since somewhere in 1900, four years.

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Q. What means do you take in order to obtain this extra Italian labour?—A. I have engaged that labour entirely through Italian labour agents.

Q. Can you mention the names of these agents you have employed?—A. During the past three years, or since the summer of 1901, I have dealt almost exclusively through Cordasco. Previous to that I have had several others engaged, such as Mr. Dini, two gentlemen by the name of Schenker and possibly one or two more.

Q. But since 1901 you have dealt exclusively with Mr. Cordasco?—A. I have, Your Honour.

Q. Was that the year you had the strike?—A. It was.

Q. And Cordasco got in touch with you during that time?—A. I think the first business I had with Cordasco was in July 1901.

Q. In connection with the strike?—A. In connection with supplying Italians to take the places of trackmen who went on strike.

Q. Was Cordasco able to supply you with all you wanted?—A. Yes, largely, of course we were short.

Q. That was his special work?—A. It was.

Q. I understand he visited the United States for the purpose of getting men, with you?—A. Not personally that year, he had his agents in the United States.

Q. He has agents in the United States that he gets to work for him when necessary?—A. I believe that is the case Your Honour.

Q. Did he 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 don't know about that. The way it came about was this. He only 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. I suppose he paid you for your services going down there?—A. No.

Q. He did not help out the C.P.R.?—A. I had business down there and paid my own expenses.

Q. Did he employ any agents for getting Italian labour at that time?—A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. Did you visit any other places than New York?—A. No. I was only there two or three days.

Q. What was your agreement with Cordasco when you first employed him?—A. During 1901 I paid him at the rate of \$1 per man for all men he could secure.

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. Did you appoint him sole agent?—A. I did not, Your Honour.

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 acting agent for the C.P.R.

Q. Besides being an immigrant 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. Who inserts that advertisement, yourself or Mr. Cordasco?—A. Mr. Cordasco paid for it, I never paid anything for it.

Q. He pays for it?—A. Yes.

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

Q. This is the paper and advertisement. (Paper produced). I think that is one of the last issues. Mr. Cordasco put that in there?—A. I believe he did. He did not charge for that.

Q. In addition to that he has cards printed as agent for the C.P.R., has he not?—A. I have never seen any of these cards, Your Honour.

Q. None of Cordasco's cards?—A. I saw some of Cordasco's cards a couple of years ago, but did not know the C.P.R. was on the cards.

Q. That was after you appointed him agent?—A. That was before the opening of the season of 1902. I had to make provision for a large number of men, we were always short of labour, and I thought we would have to employ a lot of Italians perhaps in 1902. I went to Cordasco and told him verbally that, it may have been in the end of 1901, but along there or the beginning of 1902, and I told him verbally that I expected to do a large business, but that things had been more or less unsatisfactory with the large number of other foreigners that I had hired previously from out west. I was desirous of getting business arranged so as to have the least possible trouble. I wanted men I could trust and I was prepared to pay well for them and I did not want anybody to go into this business without making money, as I was quite aware that unless inducements were offered we would not have any guarantee that the gentlemen employed would be absolutely straight, and it was my desire that there should be money in the offer.

Q. How much money did you say would be in it?—A. I did not say at the time, I have figured since \$3,000 or \$4,000.

Q. That is what you intended to pay?—A. Not entirely. I knew it was necessary, it was customary for agents to get fees out of their men, but did not figure that from the number of men. I thought that possibly he might make \$3,000 or \$4,000 a year.

Q. Was that all you offered him?—A. I told him I would pay him \$5 for every day he worked, and if he only worked part of a day, then he was to be paid proportionately. Also that I would allow him any expenses he might make in drumming up men. Frequently we have to send men out to drum these men up and we have to pay their expenses. I agreed to these matters on the verbal contract.

Q. That was a verbal contract at that time, was that carried out by his actually charging that?—A. It was Your Honour.

Q. He rendered his accounts to you from month to month and was paid this sum of \$5 per day. Have you some of these accounts?—A. They are at the office.

Q. You might bring the whole of last year's accounts to-morrow morning?—A. All right.

Q. That has been carried on until when?—A. Until last April.

Q. And a change was then made?—A. We had some trouble with the Italians, the first we had, who were employed through Cordasco and certain statements were made in the judgment that was rendered, which were adverse to the C.P.R., and I was instructed that it would not do for our company to be mixed-up in this sort of thing and to make some other arrangement.

Q. What was that judgment?—A. I think it was that of one named Vaccha versus the C.P.R.

Q. Have you got a copy of that judgment?—A. I will try and get a copy.

Q. It was in consequence of that judgment that you thought it was necessary to change the system with Mr. Cordasco?—A. Not necessarily with Mr. Cordasco alone but to change the arrangements so that it could not be said that the C.P.R. had accepted any fees from any of their employees.

Q. I cannot understand what you mean by that.—A. Well, I think, Mr. Justice Curran when delivering judgment made the statement that by Cordasco accepting this fee, which was always customary, from the labourer, therefore the C.P.R. which had

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appointed him agent participated in this fee, and I was instructed that it did not look very well

Q. Then you say he had been receiving fees from workmen?—A. He collected \$2 apiece from these men.

Q. How long had he been doing that?—A. He had always been collecting \$1 for registering and \$1 for getting the job.

Q. Did he make any difference to your knowledge with respect to foremen?—A. Yes, Your Honour, I believe he did.

Q. How much did he charge them?—A. I understood he charged them \$10.

Q. And he charged you \$5 a day for the same work?—A. I forgot to state that by the agreement he was to devote his services to me when I demanded them and that he was to supply me with men before anyone else.

Q. You were his first choice?—A. For instance, last year he had orders from the C.T.R., the Dominion Coal Company, from H. J. Beemer and others, but I wanted men badly and he had to supply me.

Q. In consequence of that agreement?—A. Yes.

Q. Then what was the change made in April last?—A. In April last, I went to Cordaseo and told him he was not to make any charge pending a regular written agreement, which I had been instructed by our solicitors we ought to prepare, a contract with our labour agent so that there would be no question about these matters in future. We were expecting shipments every day and if some came along, pending this agreement, I told him I would pay him \$1 per head with the understanding that he would collect nothing from the men.

Q. That included foremen as well?—A. That included everybody.

Q. Do you remember that date?—A. Some day prior to April 23, perhaps it might be a little earlier.

Q. Has that agreement been acted upon by Cordaseo since?—A. I will say this much for Cordaseo, he came up to me after the first gang went out and asked me if this agreement would apply to these men from whom he had taken \$1 last year in November or December.

Q. And did not want to pay it back?—A. I suppose so. He said they have been living around my office and their dollar has been earned by me. I said we will say nothing about that, but in future, any you may employ for the C.P.R., no fees must be collected.

Q. You could not deal with anybody else?—A. He hires for other people.

Q. Has he carried out that contract by charging the C.P.R. \$1 for each man he has employed?—A. He sent in his bill but I have not paid him.

Q. For how many months?—A. For April and May.

Q. For June?—A. I think, the June bill is not in yet.

Q. I thought I saw that?—A. I do not think so.

Q. It had been in your room, I have a memo of it?—A. Mr. Skinner will be able to testify as to that.

Q. Have you got the month of May. Mr. Walsh says the June account is in, Mr. Burns?—A. Yes, May and June are together.

Q. Has the April month been settled and paid for?—A. No, Your Honour.

Q. It has been initialled by Mr. Skinner, is that correct?—A. Yes, Your Honour.

Q. And who else has it been initialled by besides Mr. Skinner?—A. Initialled by Mr. Lancey.

Q. Is he your assistant?—A. He is my assistant.

Q. Why is it initialled by Mr. Lancey as correct?—A. Only as correct as to rate for service to be performed.

Q. Have the May and June months also been initialled in the same way?—A. Both are initialled by Mr. Skinner, and Mr. Lancey certifies to the voucher part as correct.

Q. Mr. Skinner is the one really in charge and certifies to the work being done?—A. Yes.

Q. And you accept his certificate ?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you not go into the items ?—A. Occasionally.

Q. Only when any difficulty arrives ?—A. Well, I certify vouchers in every month.

Q. Have you in any case certified the items without your attention being first called to any portion of them ?—A. Yes, I have turned them back lots of times.

Q. These were paid, they were passed as they now exist ?—A. These were paid, but I cannot say as to whether the bills, as practically vouched for are the same as first presented to our company. In almost every case for a long time past there have been disputes about these bills.

Q. In what respect ?—A. Likely paid too much for what we got done and for other causes. Instead of passing them with the items scored out they were rewritten.

Q. He could not succeed in getting his first claim through ?—A. No, Your Honour, I paid exactly what was right. The whole bill was rewritten and the old bill destroyed.

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 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. How many men did you employ last year ?—A. Altogether about 8,500.

Q. Of that number, how many were Italians ?—A. 3,144.

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. As far as the whole work is concerned ?—A. Yes, sir.

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 works 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. And how many from the States ?—A. A great portion.

Q. Over 2,000 ?—A. About 2,000.

Q. What part of the States did they come from ?—A. Principally from New York and Boston, I think more from Boston.

Q. Did Mr. Cordasco get these men ?—A. He arranged that matter for me.

Q. And when winter came on these men returned home ?—A. Most of them did. Last year 300 men stopped in Montreal, I suggested that.

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 the 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.

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Q. Did you not get any answers to your letters?—A. I did, Your Honour.

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

Q. Do you think you can find anything about it in your files?—A. Mr. Skinner may find something.

Adjourned until 10 a.m. on July 22, 1904.

THE COURT HOUSE, MONTREAL, July 22, 1904.

10 A.M.

The Commission resumed.

PRESENT:

His Honour JUDGE WINCHESTER, *Commissioner*.

H. M. MOWAT, Esq., K.C., *Counsel for the Dominion Government*.

A. J. WALSH, *for Antonio Cordasco*.

Mr. JOHN HOOLIHAN, being sworn.

*By Mr. Mowat:*

Q. I understand that you have been for some years employed in the Immigration Department of the Government, how long?—A. About twenty years.

Q. What is your official position?—A. Dominion Immigration Agent.

Q. At Montreal?—A. At Montreal.

Q. How long have you been in that position?—A. I suppose about 10 or 12 years.

Q. Has the Dominion Government any agencies in Italy for the purpose of sending out Italian immigrants?—A. I do not think so, I never heard of any.

Q. Were you here in the month of April and May last?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. When a large number of Italians arrived without having any work provided beforehand?—A. Yes.

Q. It has been stated here that advertisements were put in the Italian papers and other newspapers saying that as many as 10,000 men were wanted, good wages, &c., from your observation and your knowledge of the business and the interests of the country what is your opinion of that?—A. Well, I think, the advertisement exaggerated, because 10,000 or 15,000 coming in at once, why there would be no employment for them. It would be impossible to find employment for such a number of men at once.

Q. This would constitute a positively disturbing element?—A. I think it would unless they were provided with funds or had a society to take hold of them and manage for their maintenance or shelter.

Q. How costly would that be from your knowledge?—A. For an ordinary labourer's maintenance, about \$3 per week.

Q. And any society would have to be well equipped with funds to handle such a crowd?—A. Yes, sir. Not only with funds, but with shelter, accommodation, sleeping apartments and all that sort of thing.

Q. In your opinion would it be reasonable to ask of such societies that they should provide shelter?—A. There are several societies in Montreal which provide for their own immigrants, such as the St. George Society, St. Andrew's Society. These provide everything required for the accommodation and maintenance of immigrants here for two or three days during their sojourn in Montreal.

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Q. Just during their sojourn of two or three days, how many would they provide for?—A. No more than 15 or 20 at a time.

Q. In each case there were 1,000, 2,000 or 3,000?—A. Well, there would be no accommodation for them. Not only that, but their would be no work, or work could not be provided for more than four or five days.

Q. Was that the state of affairs in May last?—A. That was about it, the supply of labour was in excess of the demand. In the first place, we had a very late spring and there was no demand at the time for out-door labour. The C.P.R. and G.T.R., each employ a large number of navvies but were not in a position then to give them work.

Q. Is it your opinion that this immigration should not be encouraged unless there is actual work in the city?—A. Of course it would be better to have these people arrive in reasonable numbers, that is 10, 15 or 20 a week, or perhaps 30 or 40 a week. Mr. Candori could manage these.

Q. That is the extent that could be handled?—A. That is during the spring time.

*By the Commissioner:*

Q. What effect would such a large number have on the market for unskilled labour in Montreal?—A. Well, I think, it would have a very bad effect.

Q. In what way?—A. The supply would be in excess of the demand. Our labour market would not require such a number in a short time, for the period of two or three weeks.

Q. What would the result be?—A. Wages would decline, and it would upset the market altogether.

Q. Do you know if that actually took place?—A. No, I do not, I did not inquire into that.

Q. How many immigrants came to Montreal from Europe during the year, say for the last two or three years?—A. I would have to look up the record. I cannot answer that question just now. I can get you the data.

Q. Have you any data from which you could give me that?—A. From Europe through Montreal, well these people passing through all other ports, Quebec, Halifax &c.?

Q. All coming from Europe into Montreal?—A. Well we have had an immigration of about 130,000 last year, and a very large majority passed through Montreal.

Q. How many came from Italy?—A. Oh, I don't know, I suppose 6,000 or 8,000 came in March and April of this year.

Q. Where from?—A. From Italy and from the States.

Q. What proportion came from the States?—A. I would say about one-half probably.

Q. How many Italians are there without work to-day in Montreal?—A. I do not think there is one, for any man who is able and willing to work can find employment in Montreal.

Q. There were two or three yesterday who stated that there were about 100 unable to find work?—A. Lots of people are not willing to work. These people you will find in all large cities, the never-do-wells.

Q. How many were destitute in April or May last among that number of about 6,000?—A. I cannot tell you exactly, but I do not think there were many, not more than 25 per cent of the whole lot.

Q. Was it about that number?—A. From what I could learn.

Q. About 800 might have been destitute?—A. I cannot tell you exactly.

Q. Did you make any inquiry as to that?—A. No, I did not.

Q. Then you say that the Dominion Government does not induce any Italians to come to this country by having an agency in Italy?—A. I do Your Honour.

Q. Are there any means taken by the Dominion Government to assist the Italian immigration?—A. Well, nothing except our agents in the old country.

Q. What part of the old country?—A. England, Ireland and Scotland, and I think an agent in Belgium, I do not know of any in Italy.

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Q. Have you anything to do yourself with the immigration of Italians?—A. I distributed about 35 of these people, sent them to Ontario to work.

Q. Did you have any literature sent to Italy?—A. We have no literature in the Italian language.

Q. You have not any?—A. No.

Q. You have not sent any?—A. No.

Q. Would you know if literature were sent by the Government to Italy?—A. I do not know what our department at Ottawa might send, but from here we had nothing in the Italian language.

Q. Did any of these Italians who come to Montreal call upon you for assistance?—A. Well, a few, very few.

Q. What assistance did they ask for?—A. They wanted meals or the price of meals.

Q. How many of them?—A. About ten or twelve.

Q. Where did they come from?—A. They told me they came through the States from Italy.

Q. What time was this?—A. I think last March.

Q. Have you any oversight of the labour bureaus in Montreal?—A. No, Your Honour.

Q. Have you any supervision over them at all?—A. Now, if you will allow me to state in connection with the Italian immigration of last spring, I may say that they were a very competent lot of people, of strong, healthy figures, that is working people, they were fully competent for labourers' work.

Q. For what class of work?—A. For common labouring work, and their ages ranged from about 18 or 20 to 35, men in the very prime of life, and all they wanted was work. They did not want charity from anybody, but I believe had spent all their money on the way out here. It costs a lot of money to get here in the first place, having to pay passage money and other expenses, and very few people come here with a large amount of money in their pockets, but some of these people were, I do not say were destitute altogether, but when they had to remain here for some time were without funds, and had to fall back on the Italian society, of which Mr. Candori is secretary. He did his duty thoroughly, and then Mr. Dini, an old friend of mine, who has been keeping an agency or labour bureau for Italians has also been zealous and indefatigable in the performance of his duties, I can testify to that.

MORTIMER WALLER being sworn :

*By Mr. Mowat:*

Q. What is your business?—A. Employment agent, sir.

Q. How long have you been acting as employment agent?—A. About eighteen months.

Q. What class of men do you employ largely?—A. Mostly Italians.

Q. For what work do you employ them?—A. Railway work as a rule.

Q. How many have you employed this year?—A. About 450.

Q. Where is your place of business?—A. 1887 Notre Dame street.

Q. What means do you take in order to get these men?—A. I have orders from different companies asking me if I can supply them with men.

Q. How do you get the men?—A. I never found any difficulty in getting lots. They come to the office for employment.

Q. Do you find any difficulty in getting the desired number?—A. Not until now except in the last days of the summer.

Q. You have always been able to get the number you desired?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What terms do you impose upon these men in giving them employment?—

A. I charge them \$2 each.

Q. How much do you charge for foremen?—A. As a rule nothing at all.



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Q. There is an exception to that rule ?—A. Yes, sir, sometimes a foreman has not got a complete gang and has to take time to get a gang up. If a man has a gang already I charge him \$5.

Q. And his gang \$2 each ?—Q. Yes.

Q. Do you give them work for that money ?—A. Yes.

Q. Supposing that you do not get them work in the time stipulated, what do you do ?—A. I give the money back.

Q. You refund the money ?—A. In a reasonable time.

Q. How long a time ?—A. When I have given the money back to the men ?

Q. Yes.—A. I have given more than \$1,000 back since May. When I know that I will have work for a man within a few days, or if sometimes a man refuses to work and asks for his money back, I do not give it to him.

Q. What railway companies do you supply men for ?—A. I have supplied 200 to Mackenzie & Mann, I have supplied a few men to the Grand Trunk, I am sending a lot to a mine down in Quebec and different places.

Q. Any to the C.P.R. ?—A. No, sir.

Q. Have you supplied men for employment to the C.P.R. ?—A. No, I only inquired whether I could supply some.

Q. With what result ?—A. No result.

Q. To whom did you apply ?—A. I applied to Mr. Burns on one occasion.

Q. What was his answer ?—A. He was not wanting any men at all.

Q. How many men have you on your books now for employment ?—A. Not more than 50 or 60.

Q. Have you work enough for them ?—A. I want about 200 men to go away next week.

Q. Where to ?—A. Well, I want a gang to go to the Seven Islands.

Q. Where is that ?—A. About 300 miles below Quebec.

Q. Have you any agency in Italy for the purpose of getting men from there ?—A. No, sir.

Q. Have you any agency in England for the purpose of getting men ?—A. No, sir.

Q. What means do you take for getting men besides those coming into your office ?—A. I know several Italian foremen and ask them.

Q. Do you advertise ?—A. I never advertise for Italians.

Q. You remember the large number that were here in April and May last ?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How many were there here, do you recollect ?—A. I think any way between 8,000 and 10,000.

Q. Do you know where they came from ?—A. Well, in so far as I know, they came from the States, a lot from Italy.

Q. Do you know why they came here and what induced them to come to Canada ?—A. I cannot say that I know. I only heard of advertisements being inserted in Italian papers telling of plenty of work when they got here. I know that a lot of the men got very disgusted with Canada since coming here and they will not come back.

Q. They had too rough an experience. Is there anything else you would like to state in connection with this investigation, Mr. Waller ?—A. No, sir, I do not think so. Only I think myself that Englishmen should have as fair a chance of supplying this Italian labour as the Italians themselves.

Q. You think that an Englishman should have as good a chance to supply this labour ?—A. Yes.

Q. You think that Englishmen have not that chance ?—A. No, sir.

Q. Why ?—The companies like the C.P.R. will not go to anybody but Italians for the men.

Q. Could you supply all the men the C.P.R. would require during the year ?—A. I could supply a big majority.

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Q. Could you supply 3,000 or 4,000 ?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You say that pretty emphatically ?—A. I do, sir.

Q. What means have you to supply these men ?—A. I would have every foreman with me. I have always treated the men and foremen well who came to me for work and they will not go to anybody else.

Q. Have you had any difficulty with the men ?—A. Very little difficulty.

Q. Have contractors made any complaints about them ?—A. No, sir, I do not know of any complaints whatever.

Q. And you believe you are in a position to supply as many Italians as may be required on these railway works ?—A. Certainly.

Q. Have you a list of the names you sent out ?—A. I have a list of most of the names.

Q. Now, what methods do you adopt in order to get supplies of these men, and what do you charge them ?—A. I charge the men a fee, as I told you, and each foreman. I give them a printed receipt for the money, and if I cannot get them work and they bring back the receipt to me, I return the money unless I know that I can get work within a few days, when I refuse to make a refund.

Q. You give a similar form of that receipt, Mr. Waller, each man who pays gets a receipt ?—A. Either himself or the foreman.

Q. And if you cannot get work within a reasonable time you refund the money ?  
A. I refund the money.

Mr. INTERNOSCIA.—If Your Lordship will allow me to put a few questions.

Q. Mr. Waller, will you explain to the judge why you had some trouble with Giuseppe Lisa and why you have not paid him the balance of \$38 ?—A. I have not paid the balance of \$38 because I had work to give these men in the course of a few days, and after I asked them they refused to go to work.

Q. You told them to go to work Monday morning, Monday afternoon would not do. When did you receive \$80 from Mr. Lisa, what date ?—A. I cannot tell without looking at my books.

Q. Was it not on May 13 ?—A. I paid him back \$70.

Q. When you were told that these men from whom you received \$2 each were going to leave town, why did you not pay them ?—A. They were going to leave town, and broke their agreement with me.

Q. Did you not tell Mr. Lisa that you would be able to send these men, about 50 men, on May 15, while you received the money on the 13th and only sent them on May 15. Did you pay the money back ?—A. I paid back a portion of the money, the balance of \$38 I refused to pay because I sent these men away and they refused to go.

Q. Did you promise the men yourself ?—A. I offered the men work and they would not take it.

*By the Commissioner:*

Q. If the men would not go after being told where to go, it is their fault.—A. They can go this week and I am willing enough to take men if they will go.

Mr. ALBERTO DINI, re-examined.

*By the Commissioner:*

Q. You are already sworn. (Showing him a letter). Do you remember receiving that letter from the firm of Corecco & Brivio ?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You will give the English of it ?—A. Well I cannot, Mr. Internoscia will. Will you address him ?

Q. I will.

*By Mr. Internoscia:*

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 you some trouble.

'You are also aware that our firm is corresponding with the "Societa Anonima di 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.

'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 you 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 that 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 receipt of it?—A. I never answered it.

Q. Did you not write to them acknowledging receipt?—A. No, sir.

Q. That was not very nice?—A. I don't know.

Q. You did not write?—A. No.

Q. You received another letter from Chiasso, dated May 12?—A. Yes, I got two.

Q. Do you know what it says, what is it in English?—A. You had better give it to Mr. Internoscia.

Q. I have a translation here, it reads:

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CHIASSO, May 12, 1904.

'SIGNOR ALBERTO DINI,  
2026 St. Catherine St.,  
Ottawa.

'By this letter I wish to inform you that a certain Pedratta Ferrari Filippo will sail to-day from Antwerp by steamer *Montezuma* to Quebec and from Quebec to Montreal; he will introduce himself to you. He has your address with him like the others. This man should go to Reno, Nevada, and I pray you to do your best to see that he arrives safely at his destination. He is a person from my neighbourhood. You might furnish him with a ticket, and you will oblige us if you will credit me with the commission on that ticket.

'Societa Anonima d'Emigrazione, La Svizzera,  
'IL DIRETTORE.'

A. Some men wish to go to the States and they were recommended to me to do the best I could for them.

Q. Do you remember this man going to the States?—A. I think I do.

Q. He went to the States?—A. Yes. I do not know everyone that goes to the States.

Q. How did this society get your address?—A. Well I cannot say it is long ago.

Q. They have known you for many years?—A. I cannot say it is long ago.

Q. They have known you for many years?—A. Not me, but my address.

Q. The letter states this man has your address? A. Is that the yellow card?

Q. Are these the cards that were brought out?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you send them to this company?—A. No.

Q. 'You might furnish him with a ticket,' what does that mean?—A. I do not know, he wanted to go to the States.

Q. 'And you will oblige us if you will credit me with the commission on that ticket'?—A. I never credited him with commission, of course I got no commission.

Q. Did you write an answer to this letter?—A. No sir.

Q. Now, you remember the advertisement you were speaking about yesterday, which Mr. Mowat asked you about, as to 10,000 men for next spring?—A. I saw it in the Italian papers.

Q. How much did you pay for the advertisement?—A. Nothing.

Q. Did you give Mr. Di Rossa something for it?—A. No, sir.

Q. You did not pay for the advertisement in Montreal?—A. No, sir.

Q. Are you sure that you did not answer that letter?—A. No, sir.

Q. Have you any other letters that you received?—A. I only got two letters.

Q. You told me yesterday you had nothing and I found this?—A. I was giving a couple of people a sheet of paper in my drawer and came across these two letters from Chiasso, I did not remember them.

Mr. BURNS, re-examined.

*By the Commissioner:*

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 to 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 that 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 that there was going to be a large number of labourers in America, and we dropped the whole matter. There was no estimate.

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Q. You stated last evening that 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. That is what you explained?—A. Yes.

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

Q. Now you said you had about 8,000 or 9,000 on the list in 1903, of which about 3,100 were Italians?—A. Yes.

Q. Now, how many did you think you would require for 1904, the Italian part of that number?—A. I had no idea whatever.

Q. Did you think you would require as many in 1904 as you had in 1903?—A. It is quite impossible to determine, I will tell you why. The Italians on our line are used to replace those men in the North-west Territories who have been employed earlier in the season on contracts, and to whom at this time of the year, July and August, when the harvest starts, the farmer offers high wages and they jump their jobs, and the work is left behind, and we have to rely on anything we can get. As a rule they come here for labour, as there is none in the west, and the only thing that is found is Italian labour.

Q. Your duty is to provide them in case of emergency?—A. Yes.

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. Who got that information?—A. We get correspondence that would show.

Q. That correspondence with Cordasco and others would show exactly, but these were letters which you really did not answer then?—A. Yes.

Q. But you relied upon Mr. Cordasco to supply you with all the Italians you wanted?—A. Well, I heard.

Q. You relied upon him?—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. Never any definite information?—A. No.

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

Q. None whatever?—A. None whatever.

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. No number likely to be required?—A. No.

Q. To any body else?—A. No, sir.

Q. Do you remember saying to anybody 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. You lay your plans before spring opens, so as to arrange things?—A. We did not this season.

Q. I thought you stated you inquired late in the fall to get the number?—A. We inquired through the general superintendent.

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Q. At that time had you no idea of the number that would be required on other lines as well as on your own?—A. No, Your Honour.

Q. None at all?—A. No.

Q. I think there was correspondence to show that was the case. (Looks at correspondence.) Look at that letter, Mr. Burns. (Mr. Burns reads letter.) Was that letter written by you Mr. Burns?—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 the fall not the spring, Mr. Burns. Now your letter reads as follows :—

‘10th December, 1903.

‘F. 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,’

Q. 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 was 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. The information which you had in your mind in the fall of 1903? Was it that you considered then you would have a greater or a lesser number of employees in 1904 than in 1903? You told me yesterday you would have less. In this letter written on December 10, 1903, you say: ‘As you are possibly aware there is every indication of a large demand for labour in this country in 1904?—A. Well, the only explanation I have is that I was a little defective as to the time or place.

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Q. I think it is part of your duty. 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 that 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 C.P.R. with Italian labour?—A. I have no recollection of speaking to Mr. Cordasco about Italian labour, as to giving Cordasco any definite idea.

Q. I do not want anything definite at all, when you spoke to him it would 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. It is not a question of the labour market, supposing 10,000 men were wanted, how long ahead?—A. It just depends on the season and state of labour market.

Q. You were 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. Not to your knowledge?—A. Not to my knowledge, I do not know, he made no preparation whatever.

Q. Never advertised?—A. I do not know whether he ever advertised.

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

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

Q. That was done in 1903, was it not? (Shows paper). This is for next spring. Can you read the advertisement and say what was in it?—A. Yes, Your Honour.

Q. You say these labour agents had to prepare sometime 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 that you were preparing to get ready for the work?—A. We were looking around.

Q. Did you speak to Cordasco?—A. No, sir.

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

Q. When?—A. In the course of the winter.

Q. When you were writing these letters?—A. Hardly before I wrote these letters.

Q. Would you know better?—A. I might have, but I do not think so, it is rather hard to remember the exact time.

Q. I do not know that it is very hard, it is your business to meet the general press of business?—A. Yes. Possibly the Grand Trunk Pacific might want a great many thousand men, as the supply is limited in Canada, steps would possibly have to be taken by our company to import labour from abroad or make some definite agreement as to the supply of labour.

Q. That was your opinion at the time?—A. Yes, 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 Anchor line had told him that 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 that I wrote that letter.

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Q. That was in September you were down ?—A. I think not, I think it was later than September, I think it was on 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 then preparing for a large number of men ?—A. Yes.

Q. And it is in consequence of that you were taking steps to prepare for same ?—A. To ascertain what was required.

Q. It was your duty, you were compelled to do that in the interests of your company ?—A. Certainly.

Q. At that time you thought that 'steps may possibly have to be taken on the part of our 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 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 to only 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. How many did you think you would send for, give me some idea ?—A. It developed afterwards.

Q. Never mind afterwards, at the time you were considering these ideas.—A. Well, my idea was to provide for the future.

Q. How many did you think would be required, not only for this year, but other years ?—A. I have no idea.

Q. Well, 10,000, 20,000 ?—A. Speaking from other years I should say not less than 5,000.

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. But the Italians form a very large part of the number required on your road ?—A. It was my idea that we ought to get Danes, Swedes and Norwegians.

Q. What is your experience of workmen for that class of work, what class is best ?—A. I think the best people for the C.P.R. are the Scandinavians, not because they are better workmen than the Italians, but if they get through their season's work they usually take up a piece of land and settle, whereas Italians come out here for gain and do not assimilate with the country.

Q. How long have you been of that opinion, Mr. Burns ?—A. I have studied this matter quite a bit, four or five years.

Q. How long since you first came to that conclusion ?—A. I think last year.

Q. Were you not of a different opinion even as long ago as last month, that you considered Italians the best for the railway ?—A. Italians are best in this way, they are the only class of labour we can employ in Canada who can live for a year on the wages they earn in six months.

Q. You are looking at it from your standpoint, not from the standpoint of the men at all. In the interest of the company which class of men do you consider the best ?—A. I should think the Scandinavians.

Q. Did you ever express an opinion that the Italians were the best ?—A. I may have, in some respects.

Q. In what respects ?—A. Well, for instance, at the present time, if we have Italians in the North-west there is no danger of their jumping their jobs and leaving us in the lurch.



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Q. It is very important to have a large number of section men to depend upon ?—  
A. Very important.

Q. Therefore, with that end in view, the Italians are the best employees?—A. Yes.

Q. And therefore you have a large number employed?—A. Yes.

Q. A greater number than of other classes?—A. About equal.

Q. Equal with what other class?—A. No one class, but all classes together.

Q. About half Italians. Therefore did it not strike you that it would be a good stroke of policy to provide for a large number of Italians for 1904, so far as your work is concerned?—A. I do not remember making any calculations on the subject.

Q. You were quite willing to allow the Grand Trunk Pacific what would be left; but you wanted first choice?—A. I think we made a basis of what we want in Montreal but beyond that I do not make any calculations at all.

Q. Did Mr. Cordasco make any calculations?—A. I do not know.

Q. Did he never tell you?—A. I think he told me in December or January, he had about 1,000 men on his books.

Q. Did he not tell you he was bringing a large number to Montreal and wanted you to take so no?—A. No.

Q. He never asked you to take men from him?—A. Yes he frequently wrote especially during this spring.

Q. What did he say?—A. He wanted to get rid of his men.

Q. And you were leading him into trouble?—A. Yes.

Q. Saying you were aware that he was bringing in a lot of men?—A. I did not know he was bringing in any.

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. Not at all?—A. Never sir, I think. Not one man.

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 on March 18, 1904, that letter did he not Mr. Burns?—A. Yes, Your Honour.

Q. He was in trouble about you not taking men?—A. Yes, Your Honour.

He wrote you that 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 disgracefull for these poor emigrants 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.'

A. I would imagine that the Italian Society brought them out.

Q. That is why he wrote? You do not think he was trying to blame them for bringing these people out. You remember his going for that society?—A. I know he and the society did not pull.

Q. In fact he has been doing all in his power to injure that society?—A. I believe he has.

Q. Writing in the papers against that society?—A. I have heard of writings.

Q. A special supplement against that society?—A. I don't know anything about that.

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Q. Never heard about that?—A. No.

Q. Then at that time you knew he had 300 arrived and 200 more coming?—A. Cordasco used to cover all trains with his men, and I did not know they were his men.

Q. He was at that time asking you to employ them?—A. If you can interpret that letter so.

Q. Did you assist him getting employment for them?—A. I did not assist at all.

Q. You remember that telegram being sent to Foley Brothers & Larson on May 5, 1904?—A. Yes, he spoke to me about that.

Q. And you approved of its being done?—A. That is his own telegram.

Q. I know. You see it is charged to you, you paid for it?—A. Yes. It does not cost me any thing.

Q. Would cost him though.—A. Yes, I quite understand that.

Q. It says: 'Understand you are in need of large number men for construction from Sudbury for C.P.R. Can supply you with two thousand experienced railway Italian navvies at moment's notice. Reference Canadian Pacific Railway.'

'A. CORDASCO.

'Charge a-c G. E. Burns.'

Q. So that you were aware at that time that he could supply two thousand men. He could supply more than that 500 men in Montreal at that time?—A. I believed so.

Q. None hired?—A. I don't know.

Q. Where did they come from?—A. I don't know.

Q. Did you make inquiry?—A. No, I knew there was a large number.

Q. It would take some time to procure a large number from Italy and the United States would it not?—A. I don't know.

Q. They had to make some preparation?—A. I suppose they would require certain tables of steamship sailings if they were brought out.

Q. Exactly, did you inquire about that?—A. No.

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. He objected to others sending men to any other railway?—A. He objected to any company getting ahead of the C.P.R.

Q. He writes:—

'MONTREAL, May 9, 1904.

'G. E. BURNS, Esq.,

'Special Agent, C.P.R.

## Re INFORMATION.

'DEAR SIR,—The Canadian Northern Railway Company has sent on order *re* Mr. Waller, agent at 1887 Notre Dame street, for 200 labourers, and this hiring was going on from this morning and 200 Italians were hired to go to Winnipeg, leaving Montreal to-morrow morning. Wages \$1.50, fares \$12 to be deducted from first wages from each of them, and talking going on that 600 more Italians will be hired by them this week and each of them was charged \$2. Who is to blame, is only Cordasco that charges.

'Your servant,

'A. CORDASCO.

P.S.—Very sorry to see all the best and first-class Italian labourers taken away. A.C.'

Q. I suppose that was written by himself, he was sorry to see?—A. Your Honour, these letters came to my office. He was keeping me posted as to labour conditions. I think that was about the time of this agitation.

Q. No, May 6, 1904, the agitation was for want of bread?—A. What date.

Q. May 6, 1904.—A. When was the agitation for want of bread?

Q. About this time.—A. I wanted to get data as to the situation from Cordasco.

Q. When did you advise him about the situation of labour?—A. I think about the time this trouble occurred.

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Q. Do you remember when?—A. Early in the spring.

Q. March?—A. Somewhere about the neighbourhood.

Q. He was in great trouble to see that other gentlemen were sending men away?—A. The great trouble was that he was getting no orders from me.

Q. P.S. Very sorry to see all the best and first-class Italian labourers taken away?—A. He wanted to supply these to me, I suppose.

Q. Had he charge of all Italians in Montreal?—A. No.

Q. Why was he sorry to see these men despatched by anybody except Cordasco?—A. I consider that to mean that his men were dropping him and getting employment elsewhere and the C.P.R. was losing their services.

Q. I suppose that was the reason. On May 3, 1904, he writes you again:

'Last night, May 2, 1904, fifty Italians hired by Mr. A. Manetti, Italian restaurant, 508 St. James street, were shipped to North Bay and each of them paid \$3 for commission, at rate of \$1.75 per day, to work on railroad for A. K. Macdonald.

'Your servant,

'A. CORDASCO.'

Q. Still advising you of what was going on?—A. No, sir.

Q. That is the position Mr. Cordasco was taking towards these men. That is not answered. On May 18, 1904, Mr. Cordasco wrote:

'G. E. BURNS, Esq.,

MONTREAL, May 18, 1904.

'Special Agent, C.P.R.,

'DEAR SIR,—I am in trouble with some Italians and if any orders come you must take some of my labour, or otherwise I will be obliged to face big trouble with some of them.

'I agree with you to supply your superintendent in Ontario division, or to any other with first class men. About that man in Latour, I believe he never worked in your company at all, and if he is a new man, will have my interpreters all mad and kindly to see that if any men be called to take my men before anybody else.

'Oblige

'A. CORDASCO.'

Q. Other men were taking his men?—A. I should infer that.

Q. And he wanted to have them?—A. I have them first.

Q. Mr. Cordasco wrote a very pathetic letter to Mr. J. Osborne on April 28, complaining that men were not taken from him. Amongst other things, he says:

'I have supplied your company nearly three years, commencing from the time the strike was on, all over your lines, and then no one tried to supply one man over your tracks only Antonio Cordasco. At that time, during the strike, no Alberto Dini, no Candori, no Italian consul, but A. Cordasco supplied good many thousands. I do know that all my bad enemy making over my name and are accusing me of doing all they can in their power to do harm over me, but I am glad that not one of them can prove me to be guilty.

'Even Italian lawyers are mad at me because I have cut off good many cases from their hands.'

A. That was written to me, it was not written to Mr. Osborne.

Q. It was addressed to G. E. Burns, Esq., and if necessary to be referred to J. Osborne, Esq. That was put in red ink after the original was sent to Osborne. This is Cordasco's handwriting?—A. The other is not.

Q. The other is the original?—A. Well, I do not know anything about it.

Q. There was one sent to you at the same time?—A. I have this in my possession. He would not correspond direct with any official, as far as I know.

Q. You do not know Cordasco. I see several letters to others?—A. In years gone by.

## SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. You think he would not correspond with anybody else but you ?—A. Not on the matter of Italian labour.

Q. Why do you think that?—A. Those were his instructions.

Q. You knew he was charging those labourers for obtaining work for them?—A. Yes, Your Honour.

Q. How much do you know was he charging?—A. I understand he was charging \$1 for registration and \$1 when they went out to work.

Q. That is all ?—A. Yes.

Q. How much did he charge foremen ?—A. I believe \$10, Your Honour.

Q. You know that ?—A. Yes.

Q. How long did you know that?—A. I have known that for years.

Q. Do you not know that he was charging \$2 going out to work, after \$1 had been paid for registration ?—A. No.

Q. Never heard that ?—A. No, Your Honour.

Q. You do not seem to credit it ?—A. Well, I do not think he was charging \$3. It was in my mind that he only charged \$2.

Q. Do you know that he charges \$4 now ?—A. No, I never heard of it.

Q. Never heard of it, did you ask him ?—A. Yes.

Q. When ?—A. When the matters came out on different investigations.

Q. What do you mean by investigations ?—A. There have been certain complaints made as to Italians being charged fees, and numbers of the men asked for a refund of these charges.

Q. You say that you only heard recently that he was charging the men \$3 for going out ?—A. Only recently.

Q. How recently?—A. I think the first evidence I got as to the \$3 was when you were in his office the other day.

Q. You found out then, that from July 1, 1904, up to say the 16th he had sent out 200 men and had charged them \$3, in addition to the \$1 registration fee ?—A. Yes. You informed me.

Q. The books showed that ?—A. I do not see the books.

Q. \$10 at least for foreman as well ?—A. Yes.

Q. You knew that he had been charging something all along while you were paying him for this work ?—A. Yes, I paid him according to the agreement I had with him in 1902.

Q. And in April you made a new agreement to pay him \$1 for each man, provided he did not charge anything to any Italian ?—A. Yes.

Q. Has he carried out that agreement to your knowledge ?—A. Well from the evidence that I have before me now I do not think he has.

Q. I suppose he would have informed you at any time if you had asked?—A. I presume he would.

Q. You can rely on Cordasco's word ?—A. I think so, Your Honour.

Q. Then why did you pay him ?—A. My agreement was that he was not to charge C.P.R. employees for sending them to C.P.R. work, and I paid him that \$1.

Q. And now you find he has charged ?—A. I have no definite information, but have ever reason to believe from the evidence adduced and what you personally assured me—

Q. Is there any reason why he should be paid anything for these men ?—A. I have not paid him yet.

Q. Do you intend to ?—A. That is a matter for consideration. We have not paid him anything for some months.

Q. What months ?—A. April, May and June.

Q. Have you paid him anything for any service ?—A. No, sir.

Q. Because you heard at that time that he was charging the Italians ?—A. I think I heard some time in June.

Q. Why do you not pay the April account ? How do you account for this delay, it was passed in May ?—A. It has never been passed.

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Q. Not by Mr. Skinner ?—A. I do not call that passing, when it passes my hands it is passed.

Q. But Mr. Cordasco has rendered the account in due course and your clerk has dated and initialled it ?—A. Yes, Your Honour.

Q. And the only reason you refuse to pay him is that he received money from Italians ?—A. Well that was one reason.

Q. Any other reason ?—A. The item was not satisfactory.

Q. Did you take means to verify it ?—A. I cannot say I did.

Q. Was the real reason that he was charging Italians and you did not want it made payable ?—A. Well that is one reason.

Q. Another reason ?—A. Well let me see the account for April, and I think, I can perhaps tell you. (The Commissioner hands him the account)—A. The delay in the first instance was, I think, because I got the account some time toward the end of May and the May account was delayed on account of some charges in it in connection with a law suit we had.

Q. He was charging for some items for a law suit against the company ?—A. Yes.

Q. Was he not entitled to them ?—A. I was in doubt.

Q. You struck them out and had the account made out again ?—A. Yes.

Q. That was passed by you ?—A. Yes.

Q. Was that the only account in which he charged \$1 for each man ?—A. That was the first account.

Q. You paid that account ?—A. No, sir.

Q. Did not pay it ?—A. No, sir.

Q. You have not paid that account ?—A. No, Your Honour.

Q. To whom are you going to pay it if not to Cordasco ?—A. I do not know that I shall pay it to any other if he does not get it.

Q. But these Italians had to pay ; after he agreed to do the work for nothing he charged them \$3 per man, will you give them relief ?—A. I will investigate the matter and whatever I decide to do I will carry out. I will do right as far as I know.

Q. Now, have you given the Italians from the States transportation to Montreal ?—A. Last year.

Q. This year or last year ?—A. Not this year. None at all.

Q. Last year you did ?—A. Yes.

Q. To all ?—A. Not all.

Q. Why ?—A. In the early part of the season they used to come in here themselves and pay the fare, but labour got scarcer and I had to advance the fare and take it out of the wages, and then when labour got still scarcer we used to advance the fare out of our own pockets. They were a different class of men who came then than in the beginning of the year.

Q. Then you think that Cordasco has broken faith with you ?—A. Well, as I said before, I want to investigate this matter thoroughly and come to a conclusion, and whatever conclusion I arrive at I will act accordingly.

Q. Is it not the same matter that Mr. Guertin was discharged for from the company's service ?—A. Mr. Guertin was a regular employee for the company, on regular salary, on the permanent staff.

Q. Does it make any difference whether a regular salary, or a regular sum for which a man works ?—A. It does so far as the C.P.R. is concerned. We have a permanent staff of permanent employees, and the company has all sorts of men engaged, but whether they are treated as agents I do not know. I have never regarded Cordasco as an employee of the company.

Q. At any rate here is a man, calling himself an agent for your company, who makes a solemn agreement not to charge Italians any thing at all. He breaks that contract and charges them double and treble ?—A. I have no evidence of that.

Q. You will only have to wait to get plenty evidence about Mr. Cordasco ?—

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Well, I suppose then Mr. Cordasco will have to follow Mr. Guertin. If he disobeya orders he will have to take his medicine like any body else.

Q. Now you wrote to Mr. Timmerman on May 17, 1904. He is your general superintendent at Toronto?—A. Yes.

Q. In which you say:—

'Under the present conditions, starting from this year, all Italians may be engaged through Cordasco's office for the Canadian Pacific Railway without the payment of a single cent, but in the past, as indicated in Cordasco's letter of April 29, 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.'

Q. Is that correct?—A. Yes, I believe that is correct.

Q. 'Starting from this year'?—A. Yes.

Q. 'All Italians may be engaged through Cordasco without the payment of a single cent,' that was your agreement?—A. Yes, that was the agreement.

Q. Then are you aware that he was employing men in the United States this spring for the company?—A. No.

Q. That the Stabili Company were?—A. He had no connection with that whatever.

Q. Did he not say that he was having a number of men coming from the States?—A. Yes, he told me a number of men were coming, but he did not tell me they would all come in early.

Q. Last September you asked him to send for men to the States for you?—A. I believe so, we were very short of men.

Q. These are the men given transportation at the time?—A. Yes.

Q. He had agents there picking these men out?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you know whether he had any agents in Italy?—A. No.

Q. Do you remember a man named Mareucci being sent to Italy, you did not know that man?—A. No.

Q. You never heard his name?—A. No.

Q. Do you know of Mr. Magna who went to the States for you?—A. Yes.

Q. Does he belong to Montreal?—A. There are two Magna's in Montreal, I do now know which it is.

Q. D. Magna?—A. One is called M. and the other Dominico Magna.

Q. Then there was one Icto?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Also an agent?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. An agent sent by Cordasco to the States?—A. These men have connections down there and they pick out forces of men, they are allowed expenses, railway fare and \$2 or \$3 per day.

Q. You have always stated that Mr. Cordasco was labour agent for the C.P.R.?—A. I have said that he was sole agent to hire Italians.

Q. Advertisements have been issued in every direction?—A. I have seen his advertisements.

Q. That he is the only authorized agent to handle men for the C.P.R.?—A. Yes.

Q. Then with reference to Mr. Cordasco's accounts, do you audit them yourself?—A. Yes.

Q. Always?—A. Yes, I do not go into all details but scan them over, and if correct initial.

Q. Who goes into the details?—A. Mr. Skinner and Mr. Lancey.

Q. You heard Mr. Skinner's evidence yesterday with reference to the payment of these supplies and the charges?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever consider his accounts with reference to provisions to Italians and Chinese?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever go into them?—A. In regard to that question I would just like to correct an impression that Your Honour seems to have in reference to that fact.

To go into the thing thoroughly we will have to start in 1901, when we shipped large numbers of men during the strike, I used to buy provisions myself from a retail firm of grocers, and I found that when shipping two or three gangs every day to different parts of the line, it necessitated the employment of a couple of my men, and even more handling the supplies. When the strike was over things got quieted down a bit, and in the following year I made a proposition to Cordasco and asked him to undertake to feed all Italians who went, selling them the necessary food, &c.

Q. Was not that included in his day's work?—A. He did not have any particular kind of duties, looked to see that they had bread and such things as bologna sausages, &c. He agreed to do that provided I saw that his bills were collected. Now, Your Honour yesterday seemed to think, from Mr. Skinner's evidence, that the Canadian Pacific Railway bought these supplies, when as a matter of fact all the Canadian Pacific Railway has to do is to see that the bills are correct and to see that the amounts are collected at the other end of the line, and that Mr. Cordasco is reimbursed. Now, I might say that I considered I was bound to see that these men were not imposed upon. Some time ago I made a personal inspection of the food which went on board and I discovered a large gang going out, about two or three years ago, I discovered a large consignment of bread, probably 400 or 500 loaves, baked by several bakeries, which were mouldy, and I rejected the whole lot and wired Ottawa to supply fresh bread there.

Q. Who supplied these?—A. I do not know.

Q. Last year?—A. Two years ago. After that I gave instructions that all supplies should be inspected, and I know that from that date every shipment is as represented and that all these provisions are of good material and there is no fault to find with them. Now, in regard to the prices, in checking these accounts, roughly speaking, I placed the price on the cost of bread to arrive at a definite figure on three meals a day. In addition to that, if you will observe the accounts, Your Honour, you will find these prices specifically mentioned, and if you compare these prices with any retail prices at any grocery and any bakery, you will find there is not very much discrepancy. For instance take bread, the 6 pound loaf he charged 17 cents for, he had charged 14 cents, but there has been a rise in prices and they are now 17 cents. If you go down town they will charge you 8 cents for a small loaf, so he made 1 cent on that. As regards sardines; I went into the matter once, I think last year. I picked out a tin from a case in a car and put it in my pocket. I went to my office and sent one of my men down town to Hudon, Hebert & Co., wholesale grocers, to enquire as to the prices of these sardines, and I got an answer back and found that Cordasco was charging too much (12 cents) and knew from my own household expenses that the best sardines only cost 13 cents each, or two for a quarter. I spoke to Cordasco, he admitted having charged too much, and he put the price at 10 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 that 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 that the retail prices at the grocery stores were not overstepped. I did not think there would be much overcharge, as in handling the stuff Cordasco required two or three men. Because we had three or four shipments a day.

Q. Now, that is your explanation?—A. Yes.

Q. You paid Cordasco \$5 per 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. The work consists of doing this?—A. He supplies the men.

Q. And you pay him \$5 for that work?—A. He is paid \$5 for drumming up and shipping these Italians.

Q. He charges \$5 for supplying provisions?—A. I have noticed in the accounts.

## SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. I suppose they are correct. Mr. Cordasco would not make a wrong account. If you will look over the accounts, there are a great many details of the sort. Supposing, now, that instead of Cordasco getting the provisions you get them, would you charge a profit?—A. None whatever.

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

Q. His accounts show that way?—A. I do not like to argue.

Q. Look at the accounts; there is no argument. Look at the accounts, that is what governs you and him?—A. We certainly refused.

Q. You pay him \$5 for supplying these provisions and he makes a profit for doing this?—A. Yes.

Q. That is, he not only gets \$5, but charges a profit on everything he buys?—A. Not to 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.

Q. That is the honest way; why should a man pay 15c. for a box of sardines costing 3c.?—A. I always regarded that as his prerogative.

Q. You are quite willing that these Italians should pay double prices for these things?—A. He had a right to some profit.

Q. Why, when you paid him for his services?—A. I paid him \$5 for drumming up men and shipping them, and lots of other work.

Q. And also for providing food?—A. I never made that stipulation.

Q. Look at this account; you paid him for that work?—A. And handling the men.

Q. We are not joking here; there is no use talking for nothing?—A. I wish no disrespect to Your Honour; I give my evidence as—

Q. That is as Cordasco looks at the matter?—A. I am just giving facts.

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 that to the Chinese; the Canadian Pacific Railway pay for the provisions for the Chinese out of their own pocket, is not that so?—A. Yes.

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. That is—

Q. Passed that way?—A. Yes.

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. You paid him \$5 a day and he makes a profit on everything, as much as 150 per cent on little sardine boxes.

Q. In March he charges for provisions to Chinese, on the 5th, services rendered?—A. He had two or three claims to inquire into that day, that made \$2 or \$3.

Q. I suppose that did not take him more than 24 hours?—A. No.

Q. You had his exclusive services for a full day for \$5?—A. Yes.

Q. If he was less than a day he was only paid in proportion?—A. Yes.

Q. Therefore, according to your understanding, you should have made him supply that food to the Chinese at exactly what it cost?—A. Undoubtedly.

Q. You should have done it yourself; he only bought your supplies?—A. He is an outsider.

Q. He gets \$5 a day for devoting his time to that?—A. I never looked upon it in that way, Your Honour.

Q. Why did you not? Does anybody share with Cordasco in this profit?—A. No, sir, not to my knowledge.



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Q. Quite sure of that?—A. Yes.

Q. Now do you share with him?—A. Not one cent directly or indirectly.

Q. Has he made any presents to you within the last year?—A. Not of any value.

Q. What were they?—A. I mean to say that at Christmas time and I think at Easter, I got a few little things, little Italian delicacies; they did not amount to anything.

Q. Nothing else?—A. No.

Q. No money ever passed between you?—A. No.

Q. Quite sure?—A. No, nor any of my employees.

Q. I did not suppose any employees would, Mr. Skinner, nor any other, but your name has been suggested?—A. I have heard it, Your Honour; I have my friends, but also many enemies.

Q. What did they say?—A. That my intercourse with Cordasco would probably lead to something being said about me. I have a good many enemies in this town and friends, too.

Q. Yes?—A. I have always replied to these critics that it made no difference to me as long as I did what was right by the company.

Q. How long ago was this?—A. Within a year.

Q. Have these insinuations been continued since?—A. I believe so.

Q. They were against you and him?—I took them for me.

Q. And you swear on your oath that you have never received any share of any profit or any sum of money in connection with any Italian labour?—A. I do, Your Honour, if Cordasco has given me anything it is very trifling indeed, and I think I have reciprocated in kind.

Q. These friends referred to your intercourse with him at home?—A. My business relations.

Q. Only business relations?—A. Only.

Q. You go around together?—A. Last year I saw him every day when we had shipments, but this year it was different.

Q. These statements did not affect Mr. Skinner?—A. No, they only date since the first of the year.

Q. I may say that no one suggested the name of Mr. Skinner to me. I am perfectly satisfied that Mr. Skinner is above such charges as made against you, Mr. Burns?—A. I hope Your Honour does not believe it.

Q. I have heard no evidence to support it, whatever the circumstances are that is a different thing.

Adjourned until 2 p.m.

Meeting at 2 p.m., June 22, 1904, at Court House, Montreal.

Mr. Burns re-examined.

*By the Commissioner:*

Q. Has Mr. Cordasco collected the wages of the men at various times from the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. I believe he has on a few occasions, not to any great extent as far as I know.

Q. On orders from the men?—A. Always payment would be made by cheque.

Q. Do you know as a matter of knowledge that these were under orders from the men?—A. That is the rule.

Q. Do you know how he came to receive orders?—A. I do not know, I only knew of a few cases.

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Q. You do not know personally to what extent he collected ?—A. No.

Q. Not in your office ?—A. Through the paymaster's office.

Q. That is your knowledge ?—Yes.

Q. You stated that you were aware that Mr. Cordasco was charging \$3 only last week ?—A. I think it was last week.

Q. You never heard of it before ?—A. I had heard that it had been done and I asked him if it was so.

Q. Who told you he had been doing it, do you know ?—A. Well, I will not be positive. I think I had some identifications where the question came up, and I think it was denied at the time. There was really no evidence to show that money had been paid and I took it for granted that only \$2 were paid.

Q. Have you the accounts for 1903 with Cordasco ?—A. I have.

Q. Will you produce them ?—A. Yes.

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

FILIPPO D'ALLESANDRO being sworn—(by interpreter).

*By Mr. Mowat :*

Q. Were you one of Taliano's gang ?—A. No, sir, Pompeo Bianco's gang.

Q. Did you apply to Cordasco for employment, and how much did you pay ?—A. Yes, I paid him \$1, he told me I would have to pay him \$2 more to get work.

Q. When was this ?—A. At the beginning of December last; he told me I would get some work in the beginning of March.

Q. Did you get work in March ?—A. No, I only worked one day, last Thursday.

Q. You have not got regular employment ?—A. No.

Q. How long have you been in this country ?—A. 15 or 16 months, a year last April.

Q. Did you ever pay him more than \$1 ?—A. Last year I paid \$3.

Q. And got a job ?—A. Yes.

NICOLA FANDINO being sworn (through interpreter).

*By Mr. Mowat :*

Q. Were you in Pompeo Bianco's gang ?—A. Yes.

Q. How long have you been in Canada ?—A. Three years.

Q. Did you apply to Cordasco for work ?—A. Yes, I went last year.

Q. This year and last year ?—A. Yes.

Q. How much did you pay this year ?—A. \$1.

Q. Is that all ?—A. \$1 in December last.

Q. Was that all you paid ?—A. Yes.

Q. Were you promised work ?—A. Yes.

Q. When ?—A. March 1.

Q. Did you get work ?—A. There was no work.

NICOLA SPIDIGLIACCI being sworn (through interpreter).

*By Mr. Mowat :*

Q. Were you in Bianco's gang ?—A. No; in Salvatore Mollo's.

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

Q. When ?—A. I went in February last. He told me I would go to work in March.

Q. Was any money demanded from you ?—A. Yes.

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Q. How much?—A. I paid \$1 in February last. He took my name down in February, and he told me in three weeks to bring him \$2 more and he would send me to work.

Q. You did pay that, when?—A. Three weeks ago.

Q. In July?—A. Yes; beginning of July.

Q. Have you obtained work?—A. No, sir.

Q. How long have you been in this country?—A. Since last February.

Q. Just came in February?—A. Yes, from States.

Q. How long in the States?—A. About one year and a half.

*By the Commissioner:*

Q. What part of the States?—A. Boston and Vermont.

Q. Did you belong to any gang in Vermont or Boston?—A. Yes.

Q. Who was foreman?—A. Gianni.

Q. Did he write to Cordasco for work for you?—A. No.

MICHELE ORCIANO being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

*By Mr. Mowat:*

Q. To whose gang did you belong?—A. Salvatore Mollo's.

Q. When did you come to this country?—A. Two years ago.

Q. Did you apply to Cordasco for work?—A. Yes, last year.

Q. When?—A. I came to Montreal in November last.

Q. You went to see Cordasco at that time?—A. Yes.

Q. Was any money demanded?—A. Yes, I paid \$1.

Q. Ever pay any more?—A. Yes, I paid \$2 three weeks ago.

Q. You were promised work when you paid that?—A. Yes, he said come to-morrow, after to-morrow.

Q. Did you go back repeatedly for work?—A. All the time I was told to go away, that there was no work.

Q. After paying the \$2?—A. Yes, he got \$2 from every one in our gang.

*By the Commissioner:*

Q. I suppose they paid \$1 each before this?—A. Yes.

RAFFAELE CACARABELLI, being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

*By Mr. Mowat:*

Q. Were you in Mollo's gang?—A. Yes.

Q. You applied to Cordasco for work?—A. Yes.

Q. When did you go to him?—A. In January, I paid him \$1.

Q. Did you pay him any more?—A. Yes, \$2 on the 3rd of this month.

Q. Did he promise you work?—A. When I went he would say come to-morrow morning, and in the morning he would say come to-night at five o'clock.

Q. He mentioned the hour when you were to get work?—A. Yes.

Q. After you paid the \$2?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you get any work?—A. No.

Q. When did you come to this country?—A. Sixteen months ago.

Q. From Italy?—A. From London.

MARTINO CRESCENZO being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

*By Mr. Mowat:*

Q. Were you in Mollo's gang?—A. Yes.

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

Q. When?—A. In January last.

Q. Was any money demanded from you?—A. Yes, I paid him \$1.

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- Q. When did you go to Cordasco again after that?—A. Once in March and April.  
 Q. Was more money demanded after that?—A. Yes, we paid about \$15 or \$10.  
 It was on a Sunday, and he said you will go to work to-morrow morning.  
 Q. Did you go the next morning?—A. Yes, sir.  
 Q. What was the answer?—A. Wait two days more.  
 Q. Did you go back again?—A. Yes.  
 Q. What happened?—A. He said there will be some work to-morrow morning sure.  
 Q. Did you go back frequently?—A. All the time.  
 Q. Never got the job promised?—A. No.  
 Q. When did you arrive from Italy?—A. One year ago.

CONSTANZO LOMBARDI being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

*By Mr. Mowat:*

- Q. Were you in Mollo's gang?—A. Yes, Salvatore Mollo.  
 Q. Did you apply to Cordasco for work?—A. Yes.  
 Q. When?—A. I paid him \$1 in January.  
 Q. Have you paid him a further sum?—A. Yes, I paid \$2 more.  
 Q. When?—A. On the 3rd July.  
 Q. Did Cordasco, in consideration of that sum, promise you a job?—A. Yes.  
 Q. What was the result?—A. He put me off from day to day, saying to-morrow morning you will go to work. I went to North Bay in order to obtain work, and was obliged to come back. I paid \$16.80 to go to North Bay and back.

TO THE COMMISSIONER.—I was promised work there, but did not get any, and was obliged to come back, because it was costing us 60 cents a day for board.

GIOVANNI MORILLO being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

*By Mr. Mowat:*

- Q. When did you go to Cordasco for work?—A. I worked last year, and when I came back I went there with Salvatore Mollo and we paid \$1 each.  
 Q. Did you also pay \$2 further?—A. I paid altogether \$3 for myself, \$3 for one of my sons, and \$3 for another boy coming from Italy; \$9 for the gang.  
 Q. When did you pay this \$9, what date exactly?—A. I paid in February and in March I gave him \$2 more.  
 Q. And you started work?—A. No, we went back repeatedly looking for a job every day.  
 Q. What?—A. If you do not go out of the office, I will kick you out.

*By the Commissioner:*

- Q. When did you come from Italy?—A. Nearly three years ago.  
 Q. You say you paid \$3 for a boy coming from Italy, when did he come?—A. He arrived in March.  
 Q. Where from?—A. From Naples.  
 Q. What is his name?—A. Constantino.  
 Q. You paid for another boy that came from Italy?—A. Yes, my son.  
 Q. You paid his passage?—A. Yes.  
 Q. How much did you send him?—A. I do not know how much, I did not take notice, \$36 or \$37, I think.  
 Q. Through what agency did you send the money?—A. I do not know.

IMPERATO LAZZARO, being sworn. (Through interpreter).

*By Mr. Mowat :*

Q. You belong to Mollo's gang?—A. Yes.

Q. How old are you, and from what part of Italy did you come?—A. 18 years age; from the Marches, Italy.

Q. When?—A. Six months ago.

Q. What month?—A. In January.

Q. By Quebec or Boston?—A. Came straight from Italy to Montreal.

Q. By what boat?—A. I do not remember.

Q. How did you come here, who sent you out?—A. A friend of mine.

Q. How did you come to go to Cordasco's?—A. I met Mollo and went to Cordasco's.

Q. Did you pay any money in advance to Cordasco?—A. I paid Pellegrini \$1 and Mollo \$1.

Q. How much of this money went to Cordasco?—A. \$1 to Pellegrini to give to Cordasco, and \$1 to Mollo and \$1 to Cordasco.

Q. \$3 altogether?—A. Yes.

Q. When?—A. April last \$1, other \$2 20 days ago.

Q. In July?—A. Yes.

Q. Were you given work?—A. No, nothing but promises.

Q. Did you ask the money back?—A. Yes, I asked him, but he refused to give back the money.

FUERELLO CARNINA, being sworn. (Through interpreter).

*By Mr. Mowat :*

Q. Have you paid any money to Cordasco for work?—A. Yes, I paid \$1 in middle of January to him, and paid him \$2 about 15 days ago.

Q. What did he tell you?—A. He told me : you will go to work this week.

Q. Did you get any work?—A. No.

*By the Commissioner :*

Q. How long have you been in Canada?—A. 15 months.

*By Mr. Mowat :*

Q. Did you ask your money back?—A. I went there, but he refused to give back.

PIETRO BAZZANI, being sworn. (Through interpreter).

*By Mr. Mowat :*

Q. You are a foreman?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How long have you been in Canada?—A. Six years, I have been in Nova Scotia.

Q. Did you come from Nova Scotia here?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you go to Cordasco and offer your services?—A. I went to Cordasco and brought 19 men from Nova Scotia.

Q. Did he demand money?—A. I gave him money myself.

Q. For yourself?—A. \$10 for myself and \$1 for each of the men, \$19.

Q. When was that?—A. I sent the money from Nova Scotia on February 3.

Q. Did you ever get work?—A. Never.

Q. Never sent out?—A. Never sent out, he promised to give me a chance.

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Q. Do you keep your men around here?—A. My men are in Nova Scotia. They paid \$1 each and were registered.

Q. You could have got them here at any time you wanted, could you not, if he had offered you work?—A. He never gave me a chance.

Q. Did he ask you for any more money?—A. He said: 'I want some more money.'

Q. Did you give him any more?—A. No; I gave him \$1 each for the men.

Q. You did not give him \$5?—A. \$5 in Nova Scotia.

Q. \$10 in two payments?—A. Yes, I spent money here for board and got no work and lost all summer waiting for him. I called on him several times.

Q. What did he say?—A. Well, the first chance I have I will call you.

Q. When was this?—A. A month and a half ago.

Q. You never heard anything from him?—A. Nothing at all.

Q. Where did you work in Nova Scotia?—A. For the Dominion Iron and Steel Company.

VINCENZO MANCINI, being sworn.

*By Mr. Mowat:*

Q. You are a foreman?—A. Yes.

Q. For Cordasco?—A. Yes.

Q. How much did you pay him?—A. \$10 for myself.

Q. When was that?—A. I paid about \$20 to \$21 for the men and \$10 for myself.

Q. When was that?—A. The end of February or beginning of March.

Q. He promised you work?—A. Yes, he told me he would send me to work for the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Q. Did you go back to Cordasco?—A. Yes.

Q. The same answer?—A. He refused to give me the money.

Q. He did not send you to work?—A. No.

*By the Commissioner:*

Q. How long have you been here?—A. About seven years.

Q. Lived here during the winter?—A. Yes, I lived in Montreal.

ACHILLO CAMPOBIANCO, being sworn. (By interpreter.)

*By Mr. Mowat:*

Q. What gang do you belong to?—A. To Mancini's gang.

Q. Did you pay Cordasco any money?—A. I paid \$1. I gave \$1 to my foreman, Mancini, and he gave it to Cordasco.

Q. Did you get any work?—A. No.

ADOLPHE MIELE, being sworn.

*By Mr. Mowat:*

Q. Are you a foreman?—A. Yes.

Q. How long have you been in Canada?—A. Six years.

Q. When did you apply to Cordasco for work?—A. On the 28th January.

Q. Did he get any money from you?—A. Yes.

Q. How much?—A. \$10.

Q. For your gang as well?—A. Yes.

Q. How many?—A. 63.

Q. Did you pay \$63?—A. Yes, \$63.

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Q. When were you to get work?—A. He promised me every day, never told me when.

Q. Did you ever pay any more money?—A. No.

Q. Did the men pay any more?—A. No.

Q. Have you ever been able to get any work from him?—A. No.

Q. Can you get hold of your men when wanted?—A. Yes, sir.

ANTONIO GIACCI, being sworn.

*By the Commissioner:*

Q. You are a foreman?—A. Yes.

Q. Where you employed last year?—A. Yes.

Q. By Cordasco?—A. Yes.

Q. What time last year?—A. I mean last spring, two years ago.

Q. Did you apply for work this spring? When did you apply for work?—A. In January.

Q. To Cordasco?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you pay him anything?—A. Yes.

Q. How much?—A. \$10.

Q. Had you any men with you?—A. I had a gang of men with me; I settled for them with Cordasco.

Q. What had you to pay him?—A. Altogether \$98 for 98 men.

Q. When was that?—A. From 4th January up.

Q. To what time?—A. About the last of March or April.

Q. How many men had you, 98?—A. Yes, I had two gangs, one for me and one for my brother.

Q. How much did your brother pay?—A. The same as I did.

Q. How much?—A. \$10.

Q. There are two foremen for 98 men?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you get work?—A. Not yet.

Q. Have you applied for work?—A. Sure.

Q. Have you asked for the money back?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you get it?—A. No.

Q. Why?—A. He promised to send me out April 1st or after that date.

Q. That date has not come yet?—A. Not yet.

Q. Did your poor men get their money back?—A. Yes, all of them.

Q. Who paid them back?—A. I paid, gave money back to men, not \$98.

Q. How much?—A. I had paid \$182 for 91 men, or \$2 per man, and I got that back from Cordasco and gave it to the men.

Q. You paid \$2 each to the men?—A. Yes.

Q. You paid more than that?—A. Yes, \$3, but \$1 went for registration.

Q. You had at first paid \$98 to Cordasco for 98 men; you did not get that back?—A. No, sir.

Q. None of these men got that back?—A. No.

Q. Where are these men now?—A. They are all out in the country at work.

Q. Who sent them out?—A. No one; they went by themselves.

Q. Cordasco did not send them out?—A. No. The men are working, but no thanks to Cordasco.

Q. You did not get your \$10 back?—A. But he has promised to give it back.

ANTONIO MANZELLI, being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

*By Mr. Mowat:*

Q. Whose gang do you belong to?—A. Raffaele Taliano.

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Q. Did you pay Cordasco any money?—A. Yes, \$1.

Q. Did you get any work?—A. No, I went to the office and asked for a job and he put me out.

Q. How long have you been in the country?—A. Over two years.

GIOVANNI BIANCO, being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

*By Mr. Mowat :*

Q. You belong to Raffaele Taliano's gang?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you pay any money?—A. Yes, \$3.

Q. When?—A. \$1 in the beginning of January and \$2 15 days ago.

Q. Have you got any work?—A. Have been promised work, but have none yet.

Q. Did you ask for your money back?—A. Yes, I asked but Cordasco refused to give it back.

GIUSEPPE BIANCO, being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

*By Mr. Mowat :*

Q. Whose gang?—A. Raffaele Taliano's gang.

Q. Did you pay anything to Cordasco?—A. I paid Cordasco \$1 in December last and \$2 15 days ago.

Q. Did you ask for your money back?—A. Yes, and he refused.

Q. Did Cordasco get you any job?—A. No.

FRANCESCO COTTOIO being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

*By Mr. Mowat :*

I belong to Taliano's gang. I paid Cordasco \$1 in January and \$2., 15 days ago. Did not get any work. Have been in the country since last year.

NICOLA DANILLO, being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

*By Mr. Mowat :*

I belong to Taliano's gang. I paid Cordasco \$1 in December and \$2., 15 days ago. Asked for a job but got none. I asked for my money back, and he refused to give it.

STEPHANO LETO, being sworn.

*By the Commissioner :*

Q. How many men did you bring over from New York?—A. Fifty men; they came by themselves.

Q. Fifty men only?—A. Yes.

Q. What do you mean by saying that you brought 100 men over when you brought 100?—A. 100 divided under two feremen.

Q. When did you bring them over?—A. A month and a half or two months ago.

Q. Where from?—A. From New York.

Q. How much did they pay?—A. We paid \$1 each.

Q. To whom?—A. To Cordasco.

Q. When?—A. In March.

Q. Have you got employment?—A. Not yet.

Q. Did you pay any more money?—A. No.

Q. You got \$1 from each of the men in New York?—A. No, sir.



Q. I say you got \$1 from each of the men in New York?—A. Yes, I took \$1 send the money here.

Q. Were they promised work on the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. Yes, on the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Q. On payment of \$2 for each?—A. We did not pay it.

Q. Was not that the understanding?—A. Yes.

Q. Did they ever receive any work?—A. No.

Q. Did you take Cordasco's cards with you to New York?—A. No.

Q. Did you see some of the men with Cordasco's cards?—A. No.

Q. How long have you been in New York?—A. Ten years.

Q. Have you ever acted for Cordasco in New York?—A. Never.

NICOLA GIOIA, being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

I belong to Pellegrini's gang. I paid \$1 to Cordasco in December last for a job I got no work. I am 17 years of age. I have been in Montreal for the last 15 months I am from Naples. I arrived here on June 15 last year.

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PIETRO PALMIERO, being sworn. (By interpreter.)

I belong to Bazzanni's gang. I paid Cordasco \$2 in November last. Last year I was in the country working for the Canadian Pacific Railway, and I came here because I was told they had a job here for me.

Q. Did you get any work?—A. No. Did not get my money back. I paid \$3 more on the 9th of this month. He said he would give me a job. Here is the receipt for the money.

Mr. INTERNOSCIA.—If your Lordship will permit, I will ask Mr. Burns to come into the box one minute.

The COMMISSIONER.—Very well, Mr. Burns.

Mr. BURNS re-examined.

By Mr. Internoscia:

Q. Mr. Burns, you stated in answer to His Lordship that you had no knowledge that Mr. Cordasco was charging \$3 for the men. Do you remember if Mr. Candori here ever spoke to you of this?—A. I remember one particular case, yes.

Q. That is the one I refer to?—A. I do not know if I misunderstood, I only heard it, Your Lordship, later. I have heard it before and went down. Mr. Candori came to my office with an Italian, who told me he paid this \$3. We went down to Cordasco's office, and held an investigation, and my recollection is that as such an amount did not appear in the books both Ganna and Cordasco denied having received it.

Q. When was that, what month?—A. I cannot remember, probably two months ago.

Q. Do you remember that Mr. Candori spoke to you several times about this subject?—A. I remember his telling me about \$3 being charged, but not more; the \$3 I do not remember.

Q. Do you remember if Mr. McNicoll, of the Canadian Pacific Railway, showed you a letter written by our society on March 26, 1903, wherein appears this paragraph:

'We suppose it never came to your knowledge that certain people possibly authorized to deal with your company engage Italian labourers to work on your roads, only on payment of a commission of \$3 each, and refuse to engage those who cannot afford to pay such a commission. Every day at the Italian Consulate General and at our office complaints of that kind are made. We wish to stop such an abuse of charging \$3 or more to poor men, whose children are perhaps starving.'

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Q. You remember if Mr. McNicoll showed you that letter,—it is dated March 20, 1903,—or will you please correct your statement to that extent?—A. I think I made some inquiry at the time, and reported that only \$2 was charged; that was my impression.

*By the Commissioner:*

Q. It was understood that the amount of provisions supplied by Mr. Cordasco should be deducted from the first month's wages of the men?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. That sum would be paid to Mr. Cordasco in his monthly account?—A. Yes, sir.

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

Q. Now, 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 do 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. And what can you give as profit?—A. I can only work out the last three items.

Q. You have not worked out the whole?—A. There is no data.

Q. You take the prices there?—A. I compute the profit of the last three items.

Q. That would apply pro rata to the whole amount?—A. I suppose so.

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.

ANTONIO CORDASCO being sworn.

*By the Commissioner:*

Q. What business are you engaged in?—A. I am a labour agent, ship Italian money, and sell some steamship tickets.

Q. Have you a bank?—A. Just for the use of Italians, shipping money to Italy. I do not receive money on deposit.

Q. How many years have you acted as labour agent?—A. About six or seven years, I guess.

Q. For Italian immigrants altogether?—A. For everybody.

Q. Have you employed any other classes of immigrants besides Italians?—A. Yes. Some years ago I engaged French, English, Scotch and Irish; any kind.

Q. For the last two years?—A. All Italians.

Q. During the last four years?—A. It is a little over three.

Q. For three years have dealt exclusively with Italians?—A. Yes.

Q. You claim to be sole agent for the Canadian Pacific Railway for the employment of Italians?—A. I put that in the papers, and did not find anybody to interfere.

Q. You claim to be sole agent?—A. You see I was employing.

Q. Are you sole agent for the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. As far as I see nobody else is.

Q. Were you employed as sole agent?—A. I do not know if—

Q. You must answer my question. are you sole agent for the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. Yes, I am.

Q. Why did you not answer at first? How long have you been sole agent for the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. About three years.

Q. What was your engagement?—A. To hire Italian labour.

Q. What remuneration were you to receive?—A. At the beginning, before the strike, I received nothing at all. I supplied two or three gangs.

Q. For nothing?—A. Not a cent.

- Q. Who paid you?—A. I charged the men \$2 each.
- Q. That was in 1901?—A. Yes, May 27.
- Q. Then, when did you commence to work for money?—A. When the work commenced they wanted labour; they offered good wages, and they came over to see me.
- Q. Who were they?—A. Mr. McKay and Mr. Garden.
- Q. Who else?—A. And Mr. Burns.
- Q. These three gentlemen came to see you?—A. Yes, that is all I can remember.
- Q. What was the agreement arrived at between you?—A. They asked if I had Italian labour to supply to the Canadian Pacific Railway.
- Q. How many?—A. In the beginning 100 or 500, whatever I could get.
- Q. When was this?—A. On the beginning of the strike.
- Q. In May, 1901?—A. In June Garden came to see if I could supply some labourers for the Canadian Pacific Railway.
- Q. What did he offer?—A. At that time he offered nothing.
- Q. When did he offer anything?—A. As soon as the strike began.
- Q. In July?—A. I think so.
- Q. What did he offer then?—A. One dollar for each man I could supply.
- Q. One dollar for each man?—A. Yes.
- Q. How many men did you supply then?—A. During that year of the strike?
- Q. During the strike?—A. I might say between 2,000 or more.
- Q. Where did you get them?—A. I picked up what I could get in Canada, and when I could get no more here I wrote for some.
- Q. Where?—A. I think I wrote to New York.
- Q. No where else?—A. I wrote to Boston, but did not get any there.
- Q. Anywhere else?—A. That is all; I wrote New York, Boston and Portland.
- Q. Did you send any men down there to look for men?—A. I think so.
- Q. How many did you send over to the States during that time?—A. Let me see. I sent four, five or perhaps six.
- Q. They went to different parts of the States?—A. I sent them to New York, and now I remember I sent men to Philadelphia and to Buffalo; that just comes to my mind.
- Q. I thought you had.—A. That is all.
- Q. Then, how long did that arrangement continue?—A. That went on until the strike was over.
- Q. You got the men's expenses or wages that you sent away as well as the \$1 per head?—A. I got no wages, just \$1.
- Q. Did you get paid for the men you sent over collecting these men?—A. I do not understand.
- Q. Who did you send over to Philadelphia?—A. I sent my brother.
- Q. How much did you get from the Canadian Pacific Railway for this work?—A. I told you I paid Furnero \$3 per day.
- Q. And his expenses?—A. I do not know.
- Q. You do not remember about his expenses?—A. That is all I remember, \$3.
- Q. He was not paid his hotel bill besides the \$3?—A. That is all I remember.
- Q. He got his expenses?—A. He may have, I would not say no.
- Q. You charged for his expenses?—A. That is three years ago.
- Q. Did you establish any agencies at that time to supply you with men when you wanted them?—A. No, sir.
- Q. Did your men do so?—A. My men went by my instructions to New York and Portland wherever they could get the men.
- Q. Can you say how long that agreement lasted?—A. I had no expenses at all during the strike, only \$1 for each man I supplied.
- Q. How long did that agreement last?—A. About three months.
- Q. Then you entered into a new agreement?—A. Then this year, I think, the strike was over some time in August; I stayed idle for two or three months and went to see my friends about in the month of October. That same year after I came back here

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a new agreement was made that I was to get \$5 per day. I was to meet No. 2 train every night and take No. 1 to go on and meet No. 2 as far back as Ottawa or any place to meet that train, and to send back the men where they came from. I did this until January.

Q. Did they get a free pass?—A. Yes.

Q. They were given free passes?—A. Yes, even when I brought them from New York they got free passes coming here.

Q. Did you charge any of them \$1 for hiring them?—A. Not at that time.

Q. That was later?—A. Yes.

Q. Then from that date, the fall of 1901 up to 1904 you were paid \$5 a day for your work?—A. You will excuse me, no, in December that year I was only given work to settle claims and translations until January. There were some complaints about money, wages, time, and I went with Mr. Burns to New York on January 9, 1902, and stayed there about eight days to settle up all claims in regard to wages. Then we went to Boston to see if anybody there claimed anything.

Q. Yes, what else?—A. Then from Boston came back to Montreal.

Q. Well now, when did you enter into a new agreement after that?—A. Then when I came back to Montreal I made up my bill for January and I think in February and I received a letter from Mr. Burns objecting to giving me the \$5 per day any longer, but would pay me so much for translation, so much for investigations, and would give me \$5 if I put in a full day's work, but I would be paid so much for each investigation when it took less than a day.

Q. Last year what was the agreement?—A. Last year, 1903, beginning of January, I was sick and was laid up for a couple of months, for seven weeks anyway. After I got a little better and Mr. Burns got me a pass and told me I had better go off on a trip, and I would have liked very well to go, but one of my children here was very sick and I did not go.

Q. What agreement?—A. This was agreement, \$5.

Q. \$5 per day?—A. When I put in full day.

Q. Did you put in full days from end of March until December?—A. I think from March until December there were four days cut off in October when I went on business to New York, and I was cut off from November.

Q. How many days?—A. If I do not mistake, about \$62 or \$65.

Q. I think you are not right?—A. You have the paper there. As far as I can remember we had some claims to settle then.

Q. That is later on. Look at the amount in January?—A. In January I took sick.

Q. During that year you got full months. In January, 1903, 2½ days, February, 6½ days; March, 20½ days; April, 29½ days, last April remember?—A. Yes.

Q. April, 1903, a year ago, you got Sundays?—A. Perhaps I worked on Sundays.

Q. I did not think you would work on Sunday?—A. I did, Your Honour.

Q. June, 30 days; July, 31; August, 31; September 30, you got paid for Sunday; October, 28, two Sundays struck off, you went to church on those days?—A. Yes, very good.

Q. November, 28 days, anything cut off, two Sundays?—A. In 1903.

Q. Anything cut off?—A. I got \$62, I am not sure. In December, my friend Skinner cut off that much.

Q. You got an account?—A. In December.

Q. December, 17½ days allowed?—A. That is all right, Mr. Skinner cut off Sundays.

Q. So you were working then?—A. I did some work as before. I thought amount was right so I took it.

Q. You took it because you could not get any more?—A. Yes, if I could have got more I would.

Q. Yes, you complained to Mr. Burns and wrote a hard letter to Mr. Skinner?—A. Well, I do not say so; probably I was looking out for my rights.

Q. Then the \$5 arrangement continued until when?—A. Continued until 1903.

Q. 1904?—A. I beg pardon.

Q. What time in 1904?—A. Well, in January I took sick, last year.

Q. This year?—A. Got sick in January.

Q. When was the arrangement entered into?—A. This new arrangement was not in black or white, there was just a verbal arrangement.

Q. Verbal is good enough?—A. In April Mr. Burns spoke about it and on the same day we had to send some people away, and I said I will see.

Q. Did you not agree to it?—A. Well, I agreed to it in my own way. I did not know what he meant.

Q. That you were only to charge \$1. \$1 on this condition I have named?—A. My idea was that I would supply all the men needed and at the time of signing the contract I would make a list and would charge the company \$1 per man.

Q. Would not charge the men anything?—A. Any time I was sending for the men.

Q. You would not charge from the date you entered into the agreement?—A. I wish to say when signing the agreement I charged nothing to any men.

Q. You would not charge the men anything for employing them?—A. Just the time I was working for the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Q. Let us understand the matter. Mr. Burns swears that the agreement between you and him was this, you were to be paid \$1 for each man employed by the Canadian Pacific Railway, on the condition that you would not charge the men a single cent. Is that agreement right as Mr. Burns says, answer whether or not it is right. There cannot be two ways of understanding it. Mr. Burns swears that you agreed to supply the Canadian Pacific Railway with men, they to pay you \$1 each in condition that you were to charge the men nothing, is that right?—A. Not right, we—

Q. Where is it wrong?—A. It is wrong in this, at the time I worked in my office, in the office belonging to me when a man registered in my office, and when the C.P.R. asked for 100 men I make the contract and I charge nothing to the C.P.R.

Q. Would you refuse a man work without his being on your book?—A. Well, I refused nobody, but I took what was right.

Q. Mr. Burns is wrong when he said you were charging the men nothing?—A. Probably misunderstanding in his way.

Q. There could be no misunderstanding, you are an intelligent man?—A. There must have been a misunderstanding as to the way of hiring.

Q. The C.P.R. allowed you \$5 a day for looking after the men you were to hire?—A. No, when I was engaged last year for the C.P.R., I charged nothing. Then when during the strike I wanted 100 men, the men came to me and offered me money to be taken on.

Q. And you charged for these 100 men?—A. Not a cent, when engaged direct for the C.P.R.

Q. It was understood that you were to take nothing?—A. When I was hiring for the C.P.R.

Q. I suppose the men paid you money to get work?—A. The men came to my office which I had fitted up for them; I supplied them with envelopes, writing paper, ink and other conveniences tending to their comfort, and you would not expect me to do this for nothing.

Q. If any men registered last December they paid \$1?—A. I do not think there was any labourers registered.

Q. No labourers registered?—A. No.

Q. How many in round numbers paid \$10?—A. I cannot remember, but my books will show.

Q. Can you tell me how many?—A. Not very well.

Q. Pellingrino?—A. Paid me not a cent for registration.

Q. Polisenio?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Del Vecchio?—A. Yes, sir.

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- Q. Mighella?—A. Yes.
- Q. Cirillo?—A. Never paid me a cent.
- Q. Maiorano?—A. Yes, \$10.
- Q. Misite?—A. Yes, \$10.
- Q. Memme?—A. \$10.
- Q. Bertone?—A. Nothing.
- Q. De Ciccio?—A. Yes, \$10.
- Q. Taliano?—A. Yes, paid \$10.
- Q. De Leva?—A. Nothing.
- Q. Luigi Vecchio?—A. \$10.
- Q. Bocconcelli?—A. \$10.
- Q. P. Bianco?—A. Not one cent. I think he came to complain. He never paid one cent for registering for this year.
- Q. Mollo?—A. Never paid a cent for registration this year.
- Q. Banechiero?—A. \$10.
- Q. Spinosa?—A. \$10.
- Q. Bazzani?—A. He paid \$9. He came to me and got \$5. I will give him back the rest.
- Q. Giacchi?—A. \$10.
- Q. Fuoco?—A. \$10.
- Q. Figara?—A. \$10.
- Q. Pellissio?—A. Nothing.
- Q. Onofrio?—A. I gave him back the \$10. I wanted his receipt back and he refused it.
- Q. Barachino?—A. \$10.
- Q. Denardi?—A. Nothing.
- Q. Scarfo?—A. \$10.
- Q. Mancini?—A. \$10.
- Q. Old Giacci?—A. \$10.
- Q. Leto?—A. \$10.
- Q. Aceto?—A. \$10.
- Q. Tisi?—A. \$10.
- Q. Perluzzi?—A. Nothing.
- Q. Cardarello?—A. \$10.
- Q. Tamnizzi?—A. Nothing.
- Q. Antonucci?—A. Has not paid.
- Q. How many men had he?—A. 20.
- Q. Condo from Boston?—A. \$10 and 41 men.
- Q. Lisa?—A. \$10.
- Q. F. Farina?—A. Only \$5 as foreman, 53 men.
- Q. Mateo Farini?—A. \$10, 50 men.
- Q. Lenzie, New York?—A. \$10, 32 men.
- Q. Localio?—A. Has not paid.
- Q. Ragonesi?—A. \$10, \$31 for men.
- Q. Zuccaro, New York?—A. \$10, 34 men.
- Q. Cosenza?—A. Got money back.
- Q. Masseni, New York?—A. Sent him ~~money~~ money back.
- Q. Diana?—A. \$35 paid
- Q. Mila?—A. \$10.
- Q. La Femina?—A. \$10.
- Q. V. Cordasco?—A. Nothing.
- Q. Ant. Giacci, Sciano, Mello?—A. Nothing this year.
- Q. Cerrone?—A. \$10.
- Q. D'Alessandro?—A. \$10.
- Q. Olivastri?—A. \$10.

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Q. Filavori, Portland ?—A. This is not paid, 27 men.

Q. M. Tisi ?—A. \$10.

Q. Cina ?—A. Not paid, 25 men.

Q. A. Miele ?—A. \$10.

Q. Scarpino ?—A. Not paid anything.

*By the Commissioner to Mr. Ganna:*

Q. All these are foreman ?—A. Yes.

Q. How many are there ?—A. About 62.

Q. How many paid \$10 ?—A. More than 50.

Q. Since what time have they paid this amount ?—A. Since about the beginning of November last.

Q. Up to what date ?—A. Up to May or June.

Q. How many do you say ?—A. 62 foremen in all.

Q. Do you know how many men registered with these foremen and some without bosses during that time, from the end of November until the end of June ?—A. I made out a list of 3,863.

Q. Is that right ?—A. I don't know; it is about right. (Hands in list.)

*By the Commissioner to Mr. Cordasco :*

Q. Will you go over that list and tell me how many paid \$3 to you ?—A. I cannot say, probably 300 or 400.

Q. How many paid \$2 ?—A. I have not figured it out.

Q. How many paid \$4 ?—A. There may have been some, yes, 300 or 400.

Q. 400 ?—A. Yes, 400; Ganna put it in his book.

Q. What did Ganna put in his book ?—A. The amount I received.

Q. You have collected \$1 for registering all along, and \$2 for getting work for them, and lately you have been charging besides \$1 over the \$3 ?—A. Your Honour, excuse me, I only got from \$1 to \$3. The men paid me \$1 in December, then \$2 in March. Later on in June they came along and wanted to get registered, and they forced me to take more money. I can get half a dozen witnesses to prove this.

Q. How much have you received from these 3,863 men ?—A. The figures are all in the books; they paid \$1, \$2 or \$3.

Q. Have you received \$6,000 ?—A. No.

Q. \$8,000 ?—A. No, sir.

Q. I will go over the matter, but I don't want to take up the time now, and find out the money that has been paid since November. Where did you get all these men from Mr. Cordasco ?—A. Those I have been receiving lately are from all over. Of course, they know me to be supplying the Canadian Pacific Railway, and lots of men come during the last two or three years from all over and they have all had correspondence with me to know whether there would be work this year and to enter their names. I told them I can say nothing just now, but I expect there will be lots of work. I also told them not to come to Montreal until I called for them by letter or telegram. I told them also to send \$1 in order to have their names registered in my books.

Q. Did you tell any of these people that you wanted 10,000 men ?—A. I do not remember that I ever wrote such a letter, if you can show me it.

Q. I do not wish to show anything; from your memory, did you write to any one or advertise that you wanted 10,000 men this spring ?—A. I never authorized any one to put in paper about Cordasco wanting 10,000 men.

Q. Did you write to a firm in the United States stating that you wanted 10,000 men ?—A. I do not quite remember.

Q. Did you ever have a notice posted in Stabile's bank in Boston that you wanted 10,000 men ?—A. I never gave any such instructions.

Q. You heard about that notice ?—A. Ganna wrote him a letter about it.

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Q. Where is that letter?—A. Well, Ganna has got this letter; Ganna you must get that letter. He put it in the book and signed it, saying we wanted 10,000 men.

Q. Cordasco wanted 10,000 men?—A. Yes, Your Honour.

Q. You heard that such notice was in Stabile's office?—A. No.

Q. What business had Ganna to write over your name and state that you wanted 10,000 men?—A. He signed many of my letters; we were good friends.

Q. You did not hear that your name was on that notice?—A. I never heard that. I asked Ganna who authorized him and why he advertised in the papers for 10,000 men.

Q. You will show me that letter you wrote, you had better have the letter book here?—A. You have all my papers. I have all my office before you.

Q. I want your letter books to-morrow morning.—A. You will have them.

Q. Do you know Mr. Paretti in Italy?—A. I never saw the man until I heard about this party when Deputy Minister King came to Montreal.

Q. You will swear to that now that you never heard of him until Mr. King came here?—A. I can swear that.

Q. You can swear that?—A. That is as I remember.

Q. I wish to warn you to be very careful because it is a serious matter if any one swears what is untrue; I want you to be careful.—A. I will tell you—

Q. Do you know Mr. Paretti?—A. Never saw him.

Q. Ever wrote to him?—A. Not myself.

Q. Did you ever write to him?—A. No, sir.

Q. Ever send him any of your cards?—A. No.

Q. Nor letter?—A. Not that I know of.

Q. Without your knowledge?—A. I found out there was some communications between A. N. Ganna, my bookkeeper, and him.

Q. Ever send him any newspaper?—A. Mr. Ganna—

Q. I am asking you, not Mr. Ganna?—A. I did not myself.

Q. Did you ask Mr. Ganna to send for one?—A. No, sir.

Q. And write him letters?—A. Well, sometimes Ganna writes letters and posts them without showing them to me. In these letters he may have said it is likely that Mr. Antonio Cordasco will want 10,000 men.

Q. Do you know where Paretti lives?—A. No, sir.

Q. Not even where he lives?—A. No, sir.

Q. Did you ever receive a letter from Paretti?—A. Well, I don't think until Mr. King—

Q. Yourself?—A. Myself, I did not myself.

Q. Did you ever receive a letter from Mr. Paretti?—A. I do not quite remember.

Q. Now Mr. King, did not see that letter at all from Mr. Paretti?—A. I think he saw it.

Q. No, he did not; I saw it first and you produced it to me; do you remember that?—A. Probably you did.

Q. On the 1st July?—A. Probably I did.

Q. Did you ever see it before I saw it?—A. That is the time I saw the letter from Paretti when Mr. King was here.

Q. You did not show it to Mr. King?—A. Mr. Ganna—

Q. Never mind Mr. Ganna, I want you to answer for yourself; did you show that letter to Mr. King?—A. I did not know such a letter.

Q. You stated you knew when he came here. I understand he knew nothing of this letter from Paretti to you?—A. I guess that is right.

Q. When did you get that?—A. That letter was received.

Q. You got that letter?—A. Yes, I got that letter.

Q. You did get that letter from Paretti?—A. Yes.

Q. When?—A. Some time ago; I do not remember it.

Q. About the time it is dated; have you got that letter, Mr. Cordasco?—A. The letter from Paretti? Your Honour, I think, has got it.



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Q. Just see if you have it?—A. (Looks in book). That is it, 1st March, 1904.  
Q. On the 1st March you wrote to Mr. Paretti as follows:—

Sig. ANTONIO PARETTI,  
94 Aquileia, Udine, Italy.

I am in possession of newspaper which you were so kind as to send to 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 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, Belleno, 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.) ANTONIO CORDASCO,  
Per A. GANNA.

A. I never signed this letter, never authorized anybody to sign it.

Q. Did you get a letter in answer, do you remember that?—A. There was an answer.

Q. You remember that?—A. That time I was nearly firing Mr. Ganna. I did not want to fire anybody until I was sure, any way.

Q. You had received a postal card from Mr. Paretti before March 1?—A. I never knew there was any correspondence with this man.

Q. Will you look at this post card and see if you did not hand that to me on July 1?—A. Yes, I did.

Q. You got that?—A. I said there was a man.

Q. You got that letter in February or March 1?—A. I handed that post card because I knew nothing about the letter.

Q. You got that post card about March 1?—A. I don't know.

Q. Now, do you know what that post card says—(Reads):—

'Mr. ANTONIO CORDASCO, Montreal.

UDINE, February 17, 1904.

'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 newspaper, and I can reciprocate by sending you Italian papers.

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'You might send me a time-table of the Canadian Pacific Railway from Montreal to the interior of Canada, with a map.

'Always at your disposal, and thanking you,

'Yours truly,

'ANTONIO PARETTI.'

Q. You know the paper?—A. I know the paper.

A. Pretty good paper?—A. It is all right, I think.

Q. Bears your distinguished name?—A. I never sent any.

Q. 'As I believe you are the kind donor,' you never sent that? 'As we have a strong stream of emigration from the Venetian Provinces,' &c?—A. I never had any communication with that gentleman.

Q. You remember reading that?—A. I think so.

Q. And you answered it?—A. No, I did not; ask Antonio Ganna; you can bring him under oath.

Q. I don't want to bring Ganna.—A. I blame him for the whole thing.

Q. Did you get another letter from Mr. Paretti?—A. I do not know what is coming. Well, go ahead.

Q. That I am trying to do but very slowly. On April 6, 1904, you again wrote to Mr. Paretti, do you remember that?—A. I don't remember.

Q. You say :—

MONTREAL, April 6, 1904.

'Mr. ANTONIO PARETTI,

'94 Via Aquileia, 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 I 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 stamp 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.

—A. Is my signature there, if it is then I will be responsible, Your Honour.

Q. Let me see the letter book, page 48. It is your signature, per A. Ganna, your stamp.—A. Anybody can make a stamp. I never authorized this gentleman to sign this.

Q. On April 26, 1904, you wrote again to Mr. Paretti :—

'MONTREAL, April 26, 1904.

'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 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

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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 go 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 chose 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.

Q. That is a pretty good letter?—A. I see something good on this letter, but Ganna wrote without my authorization.

Q. You are to blame?—A. Of course I am to blame.

Q. You remember a man named Ludwig, of Chiasso?—A. I wrote him last fall, I did it myself, I admit this.

Q. (Looking over letter.) That is to Ludwig, I see?—A. I wrote to Chiasso.

Q. When?—A. Last fall some time.

Q. To Ludwig, the 18th October?—A. Some time like that.

Q. The letter reads :

'Mr. LUDWIG, Passenger Agent,

'Chiasso.

'MONTREAL, October 18, 1903.

'By the same mail I am sending you a package of my business cards, asking you to hand them to the passengers, or better to the labourers that 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 that 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 4,000 men per year, besides the other companies. Please take all the information you may require about me.'

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Q. Ganna did not sign that?—A. These are matters I do not want to deny.

Q. You need not, your letter book shows that you signed it yourself.

Q. Then you received a letter from Mr. Ludwig?—A. Probably.

Q. He was an agent for sending prospective emigrants out. He wrote you as follows :—

'CHIASSO, November 27, 1903.

'Mr. A. CORDASK,  
441 St. James street, Montreal.

'I received in good time your favour of the 18th October. I did not answer at once because I wanted to get some information about you.

'Now, as the information regarding you has reached me and it is pretty good, I am going to try and send you some passengers in the hope that they will not be cheated, and if I see that you act as an honest man I shall give your address to all the passengers who go to Montreal.

'What I especially recommend to you is not to change your residence every moment like a wandering merchant.

'On your envelope the address is 441 St. James Street and on your business card is 375; now which of the two is your right address.

'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.'

Q. On December 7th you wrote him a very long letter?—A. At the time I wrote I could secure no men at all.

Q. In that you first speak of your address and of your good qualifications and you state :

'You must know after this that it has never been in my habits to cheat passengers of any nationality. I want and intend to be respected and I know how to respect others, no matter if they are rich or poor. I do not need that you should wait to see if I act as an honest man. I am an honest man like you and more than some Swissmen who ran away from his country to come here to cheat the others.

'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.

A. I guess you are right; Ganna may have put in about our employing 4,000 or 5,000 men. I did not say anything about 10,000 men.

Q. Do you remember sending that letter?—A. I never mentioned to this agent 10,000.

Q. You never mentioned that number to anybody?—A. I think not, I do not recollect.

Q. Are you quite clear?—A. Quite right. I never authorized Ganna to write about these men.

Q. Mr. Ganna did not write all your letters?—A. I was away last winter, he did all the work.

Q. You knew what he was doing very well?—A. I did not know that he was doing such business as to say I wanted 10,000 men.

Q. Supposing you look at the letter of February 9 to Mr. Aristide Guerrieri, it reads as follows:

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'MONTREAL, February 9, 1904.

'Mr. ARISTIDE GUERRIERI,

'P. O. Box 11,

'Mapleton Dep., Pa.

'Your letter (without any date), I am sorry to say that I shall not be able to find and work that may 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.

'Yours truly.'

A. On February 9 I was in bed and Ganna was manager in office. I did not authorize that.

Q. What about January 6?—A. I got sick, I think then.

Q. You were not sick on that date. You wrote on that date :—

'MONTREAL, January 6, 1904.

'Messrs. LUCA CAMMAROTA &amp; Co.,

'13 Burns street, Fall River, Mass.

'I promptly answer to your letter. I do not make shipments to Nova Scotia. I send men to work for the C.P.R. and other great companies and contractors, and this year I shall be in need of 10,000 men.

'The first shipment will be sure in spring, according to the weather, and the first to start are those marked in my books.

'If you want more particulars write to me and I shall give them to you.

'Yours truly.'

A. I do not want to dispute any letter, but when Ganna says 10,000 men, I never authorized him.

Q. Suppose we take January 26, what about that date, were you pretty sick then?—A. Well, I was sick about six weeks.

Q. Able to talk?—A. Yes.

Q. I think so. Well, on January 26, you wrote :—

MONTREAL, January 26, 1904.

'Mr. LUIGI SCARCELLA,

'243 Rideau street, Ottawa, Ont.

'In reply to your letter of the 23rd instant, of the contents of which I took note, but in this moment I do not know where I can find work for you.

'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 the shovel.

'In the beginning of March please write again and will see if I can do anything for you, but I cannot promise anything.

'Yours truly.'

Q. Do you remember writing that letter?—A. I can positively swear I never authorized Ganna to write about 10,000 men.

Q. You remember writing to Ludwig to send hundreds of them?—A. Last October was my first letter to send more men.

Q. But you tell him to send hundreds of them?—A. If I did that in my first letter I am wrong, but I will have to say I did so. A great many men in the States sent me over money.

Q. \$10 for foreman and \$1 each for gangs?—A. Yes, Your Honour.

Q. How many hundreds came over from the States?—A. I cannot say. I cannot tell now.

Q. Will you find it for me?—A. About 2,000 or 3,000.

Q. They pay \$1 for having their name put down here?—A. Yes.

Q. Here in Montreal?—A. Yes.

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Q. You require them to pay \$1 before putting them down?—A. They have to pay \$1.

Q. You would not put them down unless they paid \$1?—A. There is no use working for fun.

Q. I am asking whether you would not put their name down without their paying the \$1?—A. No.

Q. So that it was compulsory that they first register with you and pay \$1?—A. Any man who applies for work has to pay \$1.

Q. \$10 for foremen, \$1 for registering, and then going out to get work \$2 or \$3. You have been telling me some time ago that it was a matter left to their free will to pay or not?—A. They come and offer me money.

Q. But you demand the dollar?—A. I do.

Q. So that it is no free-will offering on their part. I see that there are some who have to pay \$10 as foremen. I have a number of letters from the States, men sending \$25, \$50 and other large sums of money, some of them asking that their names be put down and you refuse to put their names down unless the foremen has sent the \$10?—A. That is my order.

Q. You do business with Messrs. Stabile & Co.?—A. When I want men I get them from New York.

Q. How many last year did they send over?—A. 600, 800 or 1,000. I gave everything to Mr. Burns.

Q. You send everything to Mr. Burns' office?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you divide up the commission with Mr. Burns?—A. No, sir.

Q. How much do you give him?—A. Not a cent.

Q. Have you got an entry of that in any way?—A. No.

Q. No book entry?—A. No.

Q. It goes into Cordasco's pocket?—A. And from my pocket into the Toronto Bank.

Q. How many men come over from the States for 4, 5 or 6 months?—A. All I can say that when they come I ask them why they cannot stop here and make a British subject.

Q. How many men come over from the States for two or three months?—A. I don't know that.

Q. For six months?—A. I don't know; the Italians come 200 or 300 strong; sometimes there may be 2,000 of them; they do not come to stay.

Q. None of them?—A. Some.

Q. How many?—A. 200 or 300.

Q. Are all these men entered in your book who come here?—A. Yes.

Q. How many came from Italy with your cards?—A. Five or ten cards belonging to me, simply saying Antonio Cordasco a good friend.

Q. Have you got any of these cards?—A. They were simply little cards.

Q. Have you any?—A. I have not got any.

Q. Now, in March, April and May there were a great many Italians in Montreal?—A. Yes.

Q. How many?—A. My idea is, I do not know, 5,000 or 6,000.

Q. How many of these reported to you?

A. None.

Q. How many came to your office for work?—A. Hundreds and hundreds. I estimated the number here at 3,000 or 4,000, not quite 1,500 came for work to my office.

Q. All these men that you have put in your register called at your office?—A. Yes.

Q. So that as soon as Mr. Ganna counts up in your register you will know how many called?—A. Probably.

Q. I suppose a great many called that did not register?—A. Not many, for none had money.

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Q. They knew it was not worth while to go; if they went they would not be put in your book.

Q. How many men came to your office that did not register?—A. I cannot say.

Q. About how many?—A. Hundreds and hundreds.

Q. How many hundreds came that did not register?—A. I cannot say.

Q. 2,000, 3,000, 15,000?—A. I cannot say, probably 2,000 or 3,000.

Q. How many of these were destitute, that is unable to buy provisions for themselves?—A. In my office there were only two or three.

Q. Only two or three?—A. Two or three Italians.

Q. How many men do you think among those in Montreal were unable to get bread?—A. I cannot say.

Q. You heard the evidence?—A. Probably 600 or 800, some of them who had money applied for bread.

Q. How many did that?—A. A good many.

Q. Here are some nice little cards?—A. That is Cordasco, I cannot deny that.

Q. Do you know that these men had two?—A. That is my name, but not my card.

Q. That was given to a man at Antwerp, have you an agent there?—A. No, sir.

Q. Who gave him that?—A. I cannot say.

Q. How did he come to put your name in print?—A. My name is pretty well known all over.

Q. That is your name?—A. Yes.

Q. Address?—A. Yes.

Q. Delivered to passengers at Antwerp?—A. Yes.

Q. How did it come there?—A. Some men sent them. I cannot say whether Mr. Ganna sent cards. I don't blame him, as I might have said, 'send a large number of cards.'

Q. But Ganna did not get this card printed?—A. Ganna, he did everything.

Q. Did you get this card printed?—A. Ganna will know.

Q. Will you read it in English?—A. (Reads) 'Montreal, February 25, 1904. Invitation to the banquet given by the Italian foremen in honour of the King of Labour on the evening of Saturday, February 27, 1904, at the Hotel D'Italia, No. 471 Craig St., Montreal, Canada. The President of the Committee, F. Cordasco.'

Q. Who was that given to?—A. It must have been to Antonio Cordasco.

Q. Was he king of the workingmen?—A. I was then, but not to-day.

Q. That was in February, did you get that printed?—A. There is the gentleman who did the work. (Pointing to Ganna).

Q. At your request?—A. Well, I told him to go ahead.

Q. You got up the banquet?—A. Well yes, cost me something.

Q. You were king and got up the banquet?—A. These men paid some money too.

Q. What is that emblem there?—A. I don't know.

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

Q. Is that the emblem of Italy?—A. It is not the full crown, I do not know.

Q. I suppose it would be very wrong to put on the full crown?—A. Ganna did that.

Q. Poor Ganna, what about these envelopes, did you get them up?—A. Mr. Ganna got these up.

Q. Not the full crown?—A. Some machine like that.

Q. Did he print these?—A. He ordered some one to print them.

Q. Where?—A. Some one in Montreal.

Q. The 'Corriere del Canada'?—A. I think so.

Q. Cordasco runs that paper?—A. Cordasco gives some money.

Q. That looks very official, does it not?—A. I cannot say.

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

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

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Q. Those going to Italy have the Italian emblem. That was for usual correspondence?—A. I don't know that is what he says, it is not the full crown.

Q. You have these go to Italy, Mr. Cordasco?—A. I did not call myself King.

Q. You came pretty near?—A. Now they try to dismiss me, those friends of mine.

Q. That is the way, there seems to be a great want of Christianity.—A. Like Our Lord, the Jews took him and said we want to kill him.

Q. Now, you wrote to Peter Bazzano on January 11?—A. I think I know about that.

Q. You told him:

'MONTREAL, January 11, 1904.

'Mr. PETER BAZZANO,

'P.O. Box 4210, Sydney, C.B.

'In reply to your letter, as I told you already, the first to be shipped are those already marked in my books, and who come every day to give their names, paying by their own will, the interpreters \$10 and the men \$1 each for office fees.

'If you and your men intend to be shipped by me, and if you like to pay what the others have paid, send the list of the men and the money order.

'The shipments will be in spring, according to the weather, and the contract must be signed in Montreal personally.

'The wages will be as they always have been.

'As I told you before, if you like to send your names to me I will try to get a free pass for you from St. John.

'Yours truly.

Q. You got the money order?—A. That is correct.

Q. And he has not got work?—A. His turn has not come.

Q. Did you do that with many?—A. The work did not begin.

Q. How many did you register at that time, when you got the money?—A. I cannot say.

Q. Will you find out and let me know to-morrow?—A. Yes.

Q. I notice in reading these lists here they show that you demanded money from men, and that you received money from some of them. You will give me a list of names you received other than the men registered to-morrow morning?—A. You will have to give Mr. Ganna time, we will work all night.

Q. You wrote letters, of which the following is a sample, to a great many men in the United States:

'I have received your letter. The shipment will start as soon as the season will permit it, but the first to start will be those who entered their names in my books paying willingly, the interpreters \$10 each and the men \$1 for office fees.

'All the names of the men will be entered progressively, and when their turn will come they will be notified by letter.

'Every interpreter has to give the name of 50 men.

The daily wages for the interpreters will be \$2.50 and more, and \$1.50 and more for the men.

'Men can board by themselves.

'The transportation will be free up and down from and to Montreal.

'The contracts will be signed in Montreal.

'If you want to enter the names for the first shipments, send the list of the names, the money order and your address clearly written.

'Yours truly,'

Q. That form of letter was sent to a number of men in the states?—A. These men, they wrote me first.

Q. That is the form of letter you wrote?—A. I did not authorize this letter.

Q. That is the reply to the letter you sent. Send a money order, if for 50 men \$50, and \$10 besides for an interpreter, or \$100 for 100 men?—A. Yes, sir.



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Q. And when they came here asking you for work you required them to pay you \$1 before you would register their names, and when these men were entered in your books you charged them \$2 more for getting them work.—A. Yes, and \$1 for keeping them on my books.

Q. And then \$2 or more when you got them work?—A. In order to keep my office here I have to make big expenses, Your Honour.

Q. And you got a great number of letters to that effect?—A. I cannot live on air, I have heavy expenses.

Q. You remember Ubalde Zembla, of 167 Willa Ave., New York?—A. Have I got his name on my list?

Q. He sent a money order, but there is no entry in your books. You wrote him on February 3: 'I received a cheque for \$51 for which I acknowledged receipt in due course, and I received the list of the men which had been progressively entered in my books'?—A. That might have happened.

Q. Do you remember that fact?—A. I remember several letters were received and we replied to them.

Q. Did you get \$10 from Rafaele La Femina?—A. Yes. I got his name on the list.

Q. Did he get his money back?—A. He said he was going to work to the—

Q. No matter what he said, did he get his money back?—A. No.

Q. He put it into the lawyers' hands to prosecute, and you said you would pay it back?—A. He said he had registered with me and would wait a while.

Q. Were the Canadian Pacific Railway calling for any men?—A. No.

Q. You did not give him back his money yet?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you know Frank Aiello of New York?—A. Yes.

Q. An agent of yours?—A. A friend of mine.

Q. An agent of yours—you have used him as an agent?—A. Well, yes, I took some men from him last year.

Q. On January 6 he telegraphed you: 'Have sent 156 men from New York and 57 from Buffalo. Their passage both ways are prepaid. One paid fare from Montreal to New York'?—A. Yes, that is an answer to my telegram. I got it from New York. The company wanted over 200 men.

Q. Then Bianco Stabile is your agent too?—A. Yes.

Q. How many men did he send over?—A. 15 and 25, that would be 40 on January 6. From Boston there came 75, they paid their own fare to Montreal.

Q. So that you telegraphed these gentlemen to send you over men in January?—A. Not for any work here.

Q. You telegraphed for these men, did you not, answer?—A. Put me one question at a time.

Q. Did you telegraph for these men to Aiello and Stabile?—A. I telegraphed for them.

Q. Did these men come?—A. No men came.

Q. Why?—A. Because Stabile got order.

Q. How many men were shipped from Boston and New York. How many were shipped with passes and without passes?—A. That is before January?

Q. Yes.—A. Shipped last fall?

Q. Yes.—A. I will find out. I do not want to put myself in trouble, I want to answer the questions every time.

Q. Do you know Messrs. M. Torchia and Co., of Boston?—A. I had correspondence with them.

Q. You heard they were hiring men there to go to British Columbia?—A. I remember about them, they wanted to supply men and I wrote them back I had no work beginning here.

Q. On March 12, 1904, you wrote them:—

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

'MONTREAL, March 12, 1904.

'Messrs. M. TORCHIA & Co.,  
'Boston, Mass.

'I was told that in your bank you hire men to go and work for the C.P.R., in British Columbia, paying one dollar each.

'Really this is very strange news, because I am the sole agent for supplying men to the C.P.R., and I did not give any order to any body to hire men.

'If I had to give such order for Boston, Messrs. Stabile & Co. are my sole agents, so in the event that you have men who want to go and work you must apply to Stabile & Co., who will give you all the information you may require. No shipment of men will be recognized but those made through Stabile & Co.

'Yours truly,'

—A. That is right, that is correct.

Q. You would not let any one else hire men for the C.P.R.?—A. They were strangers. They should not hire men for the C.P.R. without getting their permission.

Q. That is your permission. Why did you not let them have some of these men hired by other people. Why refuse work here and require an entry in your books before they went to work?—A. I do not know.

Q. Just think?—A. I don't think any thing about it.

Q. Did you not know that man in North Bay?—A. Barrachino?

Q. He hires men?—A. He has been hired in Montreal and we refused him.

Q. They refused them in North Bay?—A. There were some men hired for the C.P.R. and were refused, were hired through me?

Q. Well, I will have to show you a letter you wrote to Mr. Burns. You would not let them go to work unless they came through your office, until registered.—A. I do not understand the question.

Q. The roadmaster heard of the same and made a complaint, stating that these men came through your office?—A. Yes.

Q. And they were refused work because of that fact?—A. I don't know that they were refused.

Q. They came back, were registered in your office and got work?—A. I do not remember. Every day there are men coming to my office.

Adjourned until 10 a.m., on July 23, 1904.

MONTREAL, July 23, 1904.

THE COURT HOUSE, 10 A.M.,

The Commission resumes.

PRESENT :

HIS HONOUR, JUDGE WINCHESTER, *Commissioner.*

H. M. MOWAT, Esq., *Counsel for the Dominion Government.*

Mr. HORMISDAS LAPORTE, being sworn.

*By Mr. Mowat :*

Q. Are you mayor of Montreal for this year?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. When did you become aware of the presence in Montreal of a large number of Italian labourers, in the month of May, I think?—A. Yes, in the month of May a large number of Italian labourers in our streets, in going through the district.