

NELLIE BLY WRITES ON DEPORTATION

Declares Americans Should Be Relieved of Burden of Supporting Foreign Criminals and Paupers—Way Must Be Found to Send Them Home.

By Nellie Bly

ARRANGEMENTS should be perfected immediately by which we can deport the foreign criminal.

Our citizens should be relieved of the burden of having to support the undesirable foreigner: in jail or out of jail for that matter. One needs only to look at statistics to be indignantly amazed at the large percentage of foreigners we are supporting in jail, and outside by charitable societies.

If we would do well the things our duty demands we should do in behalf of American citizens, we would be busy enough, and find sufficient use for our jails and our charities. Let each country take care of its own criminal class. England understands this subject well. They have a way of hustling out the convicted or undesirable foreigner and keeping him out. In this way they are put to no further expense, and are free from an irritating and useless liability.

I have been working for several weeks to have a convict deported. He came to this country in 1914 for the purpose, I believe, of evading military service at home. He did not know the English language when he landed, but he acquired it in a remarkably short time, and with a great degree of brilliancy. He is a man with above the ordinary education.

Be a Crime Expert Forger.

Within the year he not only became an expert in the English language, both speaking and writing it fluently, but an adept at manipulating checks. Within a few months he was arrested, for forgery, convicted and sent to the Penitentiary for an indefinite period, on Blackwells Island.

To those who would be charitable and have but little understanding of criminal idiosyncrasies, he appeared. His appeal succeeded in winning him a release after serving eight months. He was not out long until he began the same life over. Only this time the checks were for larger amounts.

His course was short, but to him agreeable and successful. He had good clothes, lived in a fair-sized hotel, was a constant visitor to places of amusement, and was able to enjoy his favorite music at high-priced concerts.

Someone became bored by having money go out to meet checks drawn by a skillful imitator, and made a little fuss. Detectives were put on the trail. Warnings were sent out, and in a few weeks the diligent young forger was caught, tried and sentenced to three years in Sing Sing.

He considered his case very seriously while behind prison bars. He did no hard work. His cleverness with the pen insured him prison work that didn't harden his hands or destroy the artistic taper of his fingers.

Seeks Money Without Work.

He thought long and seriously over his predicament. He decided that forging checks, while easy in itself, was too readily recognized, and too speedily solved. Nights when he could not sleep he lay on his small hard cot, listening to the tread of the guard on the iron gallery. He was always planning how he was to get money after his release.

Work did not enter into his calculations. He knew any salary paid him for work he could do would not be sufficient to supply him with a mode of life to his liking. How to get money without

forging checks was his problem. Meanwhile he established an excellent reputation in prison. There was no mark of any kind against him. He determined to be free as quickly as it could be arranged.

His prison record combined with the untiring efforts of a misguided welfare worker, obtained his release at the end of twenty-five months.

Once more, he was free. He knew he must not commit forgery and travel the same road of retribution as in the two previous cases. He knew a third time would bring the severest and longest sentence. But money he must have. And that without labor.

Letter-Forging Scheme.

So he devised a scheme of forging letters. The letters were apparently written by well-known public persons, pleading for a little loan for a short while, with a promise of speedy repayment and everlasting gratitude.

It panned out beautifully—for him! He had all the money he needed, and he enjoyed life thoroughly. But as crime will out, and as all things, however smooth, must have an end, he struck the snag which brought about his

third conviction. It was for the small sum of ninety dollars. That was really "disgusted" him. Letters asking for bigger amounts had been complied with unquestioned. But this little sum of ninety dollars, secured from a violinist, had only one compensation. It landed him before a magistrate. So his third term of three years was spent in a jail.

Good behavior again won him time. At the end of twenty-two months he was to go free.

Before this time expelled he had written to me. I talked affairs over with him very bluntly and frankly. He acknowledged there was no chance for him to go straight, and I warned him that a fourth conviction, within a period of five years, would doubtless result in the sentence given to habitual criminals. After many conferences and arguments he agreed that the only thing to do was to return to the home he had left in 1914.

COULDN'T BE DEPORTED.

With his consent and approval, I took the matter up with the different authorities. I wrote to Washington. They referred me to the authorities at Ellis Island. I wrote there. They referred me to the District Attorney. I wrote to the District Attorney. He sent me back again to Ellis Island. I appealed to the Swedish Consul and to the Finnish Consul. They had no funds for this purpose. It was a case of good riddance. They would worry!

None had funds or desire to deport a criminal who in five years had committed innumerable crimes and had served three prison sentences!

"We, the taxpayers, must be taxed to help other taxpayers to want them and feed them while waiting trial, not say the judges and the jury, the district attorneys to prosecute, and at the same time provide an attorney to defend the man and guards to take him to prison and warden and keepers to see he stays there, and food and clothes and light and heat for the duration of his sentence. That is the best money and some bad men. All for the upkeep of a confirmed lawbreaker.

Apparently nobody cared. And the young man? He is no slow. He has taken my tip that a fourth conviction in this State may bring him the unending sentence of a habitual criminal. He is going to another State!

STATE PUBLISHES REMARKABLE MAP OF ADIRONDACKS.

THE most complete vacation map of the Adirondacks and neighboring country ever published has just been issued by the Conservation Commission. It includes all that part of New York State from Albany and Syracuse north to the St. Lawrence River and is designed to meet the needs of the rapidly increasing number of persons who annually make use of the Adirondack region and the St. Lawrence Reservation for recreation purposes.

Every lake, every stream, and every mountain are shown in color on the new map as well as towns, villages and county lines. All railroads, steamboat routes and highways are indicated, macadam roads being in red, and other highways and wagon trails differentiated. The boundary of the Adirondack

Park, which contains the largest part of the State Forest Preserve, is shown in blue. The location is also indicated of every mountain observation station maintained by the Conservation Commission, where those who are mountain climbers are always welcomed by the fire observer in charge. The map is designed to accompany the series of Recreation Circulars, issued by the Conservation Commission, describing the scenic and vacation advantages of the lands under the jurisdiction of the commission.

For the motorist, the trapper, the canoeist and the camper, as well as for the hunter and the angler—or one who, as often, combines several of these tastes—the new map will prove an invaluable guide. It is being distributed free by the Conservation Commission.