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\*\*\* START OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK THE IMMIGRATION OFFICES AND STATISTICS FROM 1857 TO 1903 \*\*\*



ARGENTINE REPUBLIC

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

Immigration Department

**The Immigration Offices**  
AND  
**Statistics from 1857 to 1903**

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INFORMATION

FOR THE

UNIVERSAL EXHIBITION OF ST. LOUIS (U. S. A.)

The Head Offices are situated in Alsina Street N<sup>o</sup>. 624 Buenos Aires, where information can be obtained either verbally or by correspondence in different languages by those who wish to establish themselves in the Argentine Republic.

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BUENOS AIRES

Printing Establishment of the Argentine Weather Bureau

1904

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**Duties of the Immigration Department subject to which immigrants can avail themselves of the benefits of the Immigration Law**

The Immigration Department under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture, has the direction of all relating thereto in the Argentine Republic, and is organized to correspond to the special services related to it, which are ruled by the organic Law of 16<sup>th</sup>. October 1876.

#### MANAGING STAFF IN BUENOS AIRES

The managing staff is composed of a Chief and a head clerk, and further more the Secretary's Department, Archives, Accountants Department, Treasury, Statistics, Interpreters office for verbal information and foreign correspondence, Disembarking office, Labour and Forwarding office, Immigration Hotel, Hospital and Medical service, and Post and Telegraph office, all of which are established in Buenos Aires.

#### AUXILIARY COMMISSIONS IN ALL THE ARGENTINE TERRITORY

To attend the requirements of the service in the Interior, there are 42 Auxiliary Commissions established in the principal cities and towns of importance.

(Articles 6, 7 and 8, Chapter III of the Law.)

#### ARCHIVES

In the Archives of the Department, a careful Register is kept of all administrative papers, studies, observations and documents of ships transporting immigrants, and a list of all those entered since the year 1857.

#### ACCOUNTANT'S AND TREASURY DEPARTMENTS

The Accountant's Department and the Treasury have under their charge the financial part of the administration and keep account of all amounts spent in lodging and transport of immigrants and their baggage, payment of wages to employés and other expenses. (Article 3 paragraph 13.)

#### STATISTICS

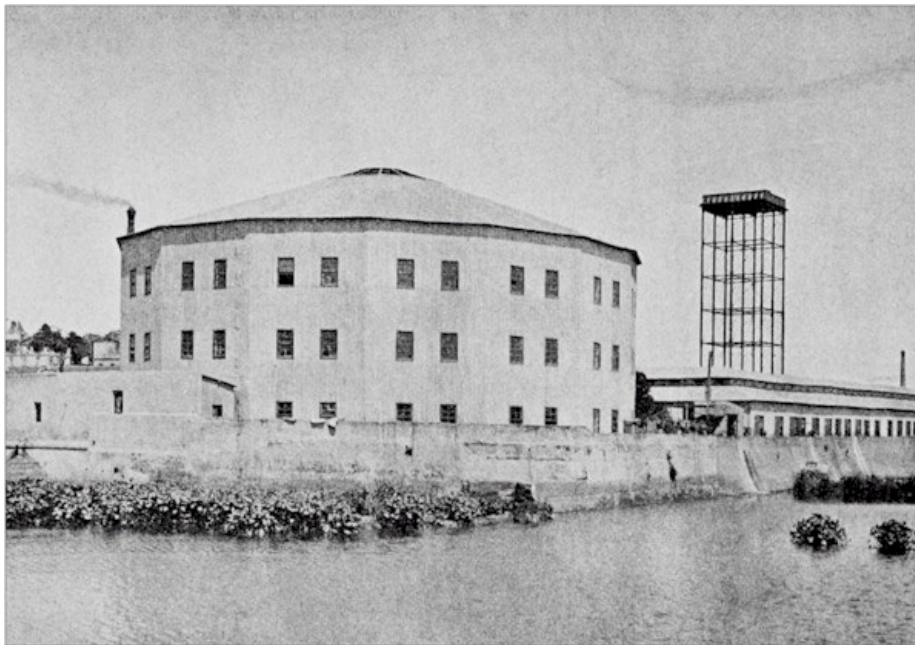
The Statistical Office keeps minute statistics of the immigrants arriving in the country, classifying annually and monthly the arrivals and departures of steamers, stating date, flag, number of passengers and immigrants with a summary of the immigration movement; steamers inspected, ports of procedure, classification of immigrants according to nationality, profession, sexe, age; monthly, annually and quinquennially; sexagenarians entered; births and deaths on board, immigrants entered at the Hotel and settling of immigrants in the interior.

#### INTERPRETERS OFFICE

In the Interpreters office there are employés who speak several languages: verbal information is given to all immigrants who ask for it. It provides information regarding lands offered for sale and has charge of the foreign correspondence.

#### LABOUR AND FORWARDING OFFICE

The Labour and Forwarding Office receives inquiries for workmen from all parts of the country, and, according to such inquiries, undertakes the placing of the immigrants who come to the Hotel, asking for lodging and employment. This office provides the immigrants with the information they solicit about the different districts of the country, means of communication, wages etc. It undertakes the forwarding of the immigrants and their distribution in the regions to which they desire to be sent, and all other work connected with these services. (Articles 9, 10 and 11 and 48 to 54 of the Law.)



**Immigrants Hotel in Buenos Aires  
View taken from the River**

#### LANDING SUPERINTENDENTS

The Disembarking Office consists of Inspectors who go on board the vessels to receive and classify the immigrants, and see if the ships have complied with the conditions of the Law regarding vessels carrying immigrants, and also to impede the entry of those which said Law prohibits (Chapter VI, Articles 18 to 37 and the Regulation agreed upon of 4<sup>th</sup>. March 1880.)

#### IMMIGRANTS HOTEL OR HOME

Those who avail themselves of the benefits of the Law, are lodged in the Immigrants Hotel whilst work is procured for them, which is done immediately.

The Hotel is provided with the accommodation and service necessary to meet this requirement.

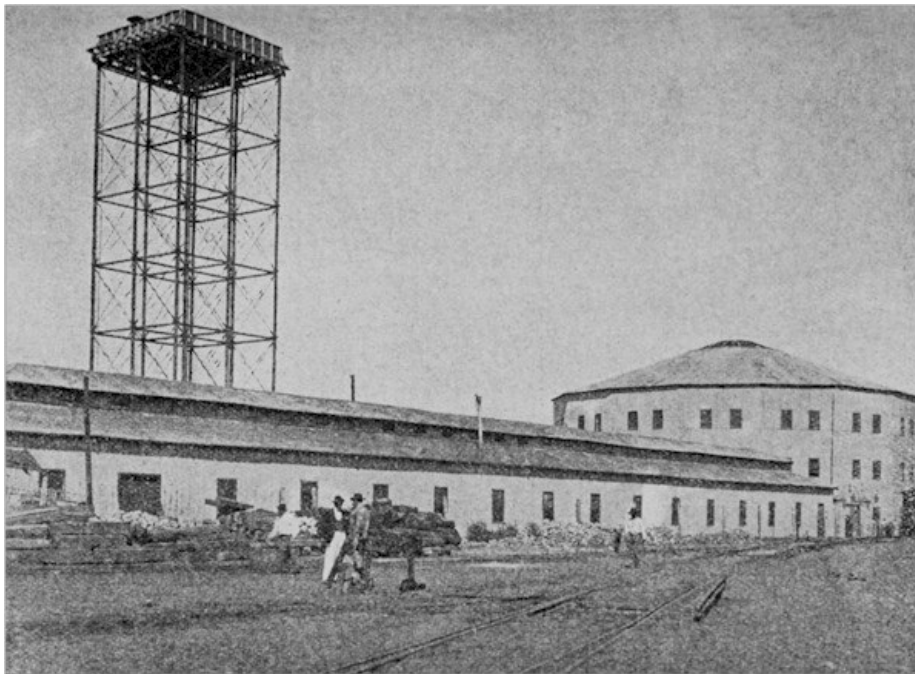
It has separate dormitories for each sex, ample dining rooms, lavatories, and a police service to contribute in maintaining order and also a corps of firemen to prevent conflagrations. (Chapter VIII of the Law, Articles 42 to 47.)

#### HOTEL INTERPRETERS

The Hotel is provided with interpreters of all languages, to mediate between the immigrants, and the Hotel employés and the Labour and Forwarding Office.

#### MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Sick immigrants and members of their families are attended at all hours by the Medical staff of the Hotel, which is further more provided with an Infirmary supplied with all the most necessary medicaments.



**Immigrants Hotel in Buenos Aires**  
**View taken from the City**

#### CUSTOMS SERVICE

To facilitate the despatch of immigrants baggage, the Custom House has an office in the Hotel which carries out all the corresponding operations.

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By means of this organization, which meets all the exigencies of the immigration in the Argentine Republic, the immigrants are given all the advantages accorded by the Immigration Law hereunder transcribed.

### ARTICLES OF THE IMMIGRATION LAW IMPORTANT FOR IMMIGRANTS TO KNOW

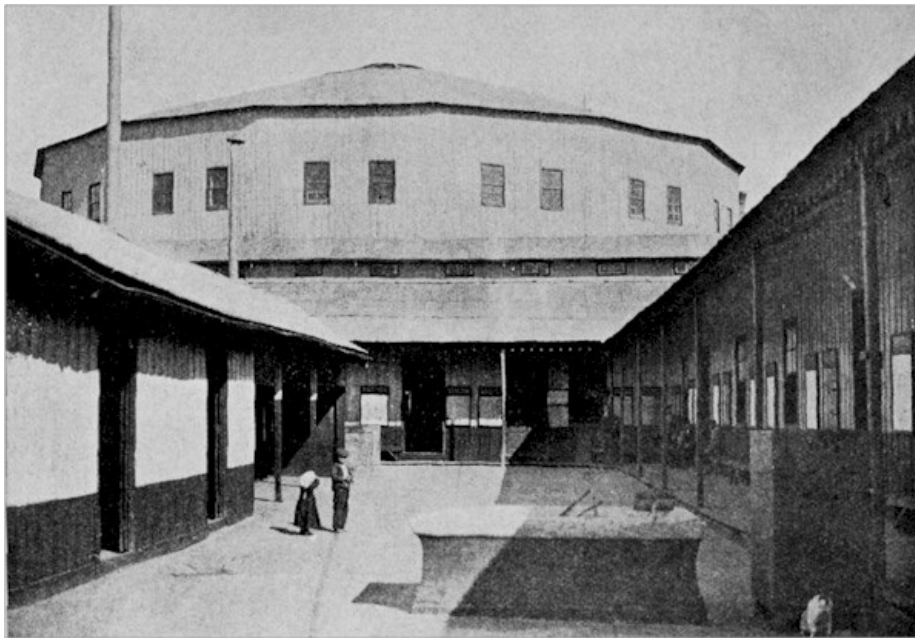
#### CONCERNING THE LABOUR OFFICES

Art. 9.—The Immigration-Office in Buenos Aires and the Commissions at their various head quarters shall, whenever it may be necessary, have placed under their direct control a Labour and Employment-Office to be served by such a number of clerks as may be fixed in the Budget.

Art. 10.—These Offices are bound and empowered:

1. To attend to such applications of teachers, artisans, journeymen or workmen as may be sent in to them.
2. To secure advantageous terms for the employment of immigrants, and to see that such employment be given by people of good repute.
3. To intervene at the request of the immigrants in such agreements as to work as said immigrants may make, and to see to their strict observance on the part of masters.
4. To write down in a special register the number of the procured employments, mentioning the date, the sort of work, the conditions of the contract, and the names of the persons that may have intervened in it.

Art. 11.—At such places where there are no Employment-Offices, the duties incumbent on these shall be carried out by the Commissions of Immigration.



**Immigrants Hotel in Buenos Aires**  
**Interior of a yard**

## CHAPTER V.

### CONCERNING IMMIGRANTS

Art. 12.—By the effects of this Law, every foreigner under sixty years of age, whether he be a journeyman, artisan, labourer, tradesman or teacher, who proves his morality and capacities, shall be considered an immigrant, on arriving in the Republic, to establish himself in it, either in a steamer or sailing vessel, paying his own 2<sup>nd</sup>. or 3<sup>rd</sup>. class passage, or having it paid by the State, the Provinces, or by private societies protecting immigration and colonisation.

Art. 13.—Those persons to whom these conditions apply and who do not desire to profit by the advantages offered to the immigrants, shall let it be known to the captain of the ship at the moment of their embarking, when he will note it in the ship's register, or communicate it to the maritime authorities of the landing port: in this case, those persons shall be considered as simple travellers.

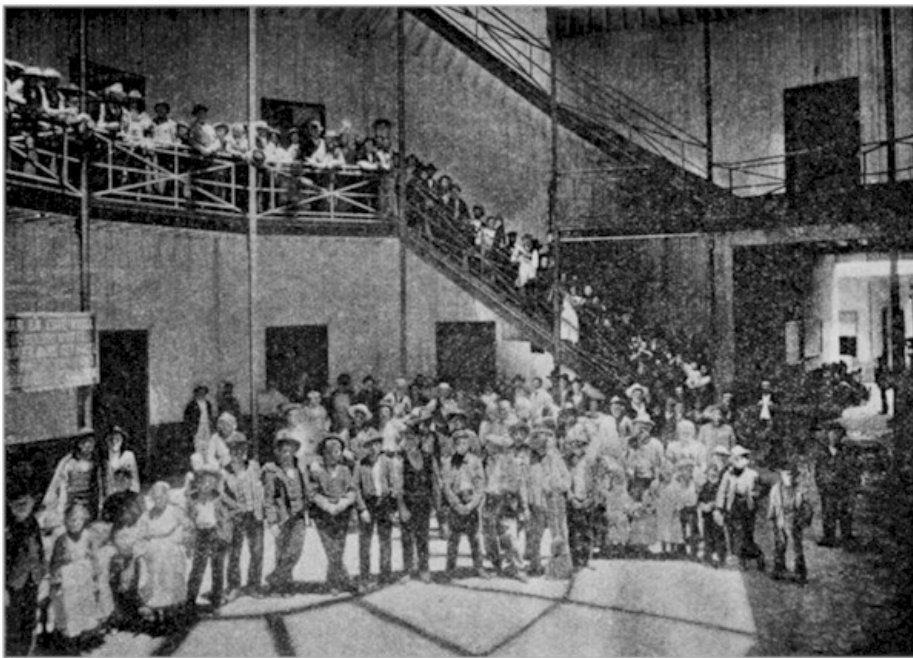
This disposition is not meant for those immigrants who may come engaged in this capacity for the colonies or other places in the Republic.

Art. 14.—Every immigrant on giving sufficient proof of his good conduct and fitness for any occupation, art or usefull trade, will be entitled, on his arrival to the following special privileges:

1. To be boarded and lodged at the expense of the Nation during the time fixed by articles 45, 46 and 47.
2. To have employment given him in such calling or trade as there may be in the country, and which he may prefer.
3. To be transported at the expense of the Nation to such locality in the Republic as he may select for his residence.
4. To import free of duty articles for personal use, clothing, furniture for domestic purposes, agricultural implements, tools, utensils, instruments of such arts and trades as they may exercise, and one fowling piece to each adult immigrant, of such value as may be fixed by the Executive.

Art. 15.—The dispositions of the preceding article shall be extended as far as they can be applied, to the wives and to the children of the immigrants, if grown up, provided they can give proof of their morality and industrious aptitudes.

Art. 16.—The good conduct and industrious capacities of the immigrants can be proved by certificates given by the Consuls or Immigration Agents of the Republic abroad, or by a certificate from the authorities of the immigrant's residence, legalized by the said Consuls or Immigration Agents of the Republic.



**Immigrants Hotel in Buenos Aires**  
**Interior of the yard of the dormitories**

## CHAPTER VIII.

### CONCERNING THE LODGING AND BOARDING OF THE IMMIGRANTS

Art. 42.—In the cities of Buenos Aires, Rosario, and at all such others where, owing to the number of immigrants, it may be necessary, there shall be a house for their temporary lodgment.

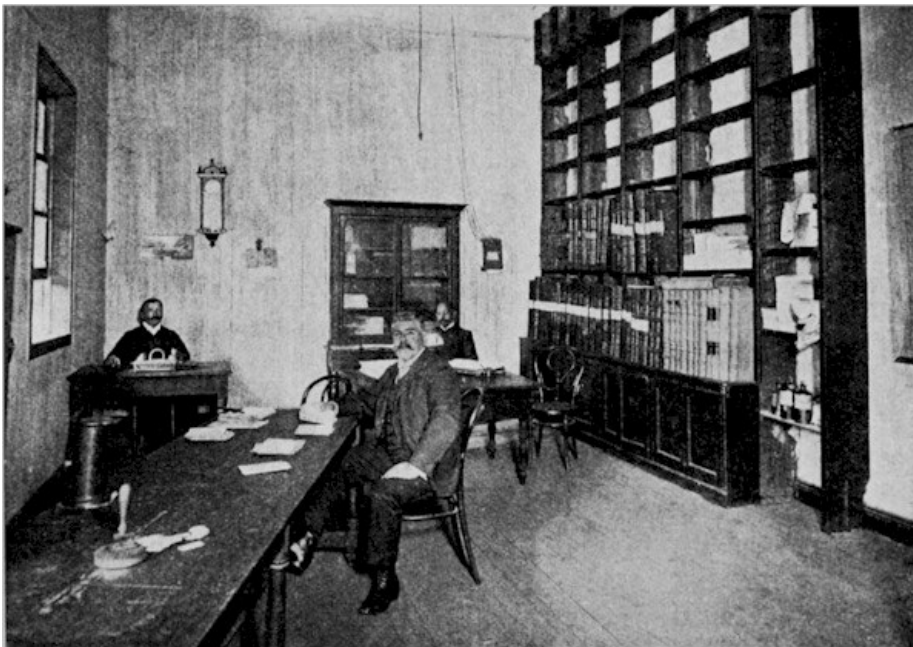
Art. 44.—At such places where there should not be any houses for the accommodation of immigrants, the respective Commissions shall proceed to board and lodge the same in public hotels or in other suitable ways.

Art. 45.—Immigrants shall be entitled to suitable board and lodging, at the expense of the Nation, for five days after landing.

Art. 46.—In case of serious illness which should render it impossible for them to remove to another habitation, at the expiration of the said five days, the expense of the succeeding board and lodging shall continue to be met by the State, as long as the said illness continues.

Except in such cases, the continuance of immigrants at the Establishment for more than five days shall be at their own expense, at the rate of half a national gold dollar a day for every person more than 8 years old, and 25 cents for every child under that age.

Art. 47.—The regulations contained in the preceding articles do not include immigrants having contracts with the Government in connection with the Colonies. All such will be entitled to board and lodging free of charge until transported to their destination.



**Immigrants Hotel in Buenos Aires  
Office for admittance and passports**

## CHAPTER IX.

### CONCERNING THE TRANSPORT TO THE PROVINCES AND THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE IMMIGRANTS

Art. 48.—The Employment-Offices or the Immigration-Commissions in their stead, shall use their best endeavours to provide immigrants with employment in such art, trade or calling as they may prefer.

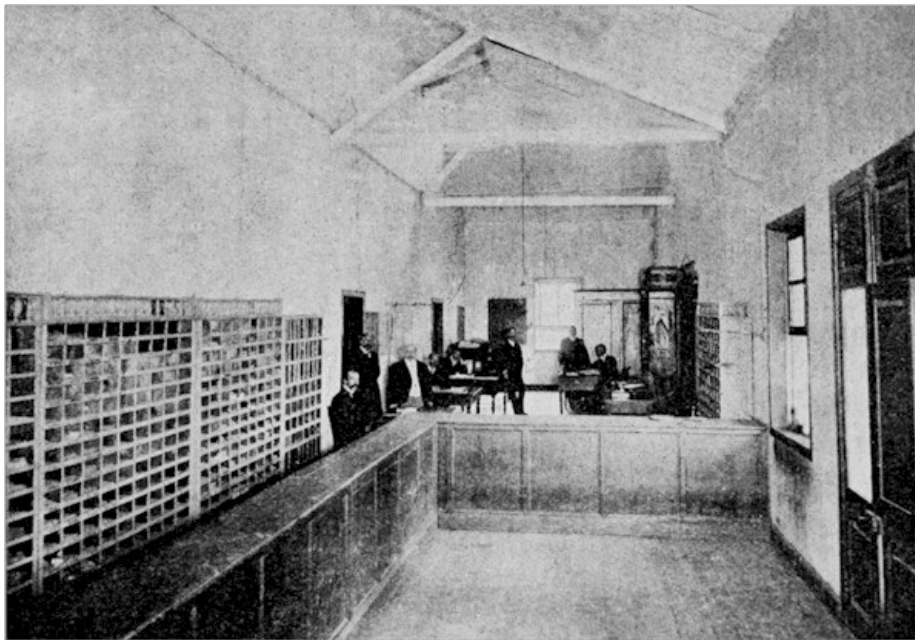
Art. 49.—Such employment shall be procured if possible within five days after the immigrant's arrival, and on as favourable terms as possible.

Art. 50.—The Employment-Offices or the Immigration-Commissions in their stead shall, at the request of the interested parties, intervene in such contracts for employment as they may make, with a view to securing their fulfillment for the immigrant.

Art. 51.—Any immigrant who should prefer to fix his residence in any of the interior Provinces of the Republic, or at any of its Colonies, will be at once transported with his family and luggage to such place, as he may select, free of all charge.

Art. 52.—In case of an immigrant going to the Provinces, he will be entitled on arrival at his destination, to be lodged and boarded for ten days by the Immigration-Commission. At the expiration of this time, he shall pay half a national gold dollar a day for every person over 8 years old, and 25 cents for every child under that age, except in case of illness, when he would continue to be maintained at the expense of the Government as long as the said illness lasts.

Art. 54.—The immigrants can on no pretence whatever, profit by the privileges granted by the preceding articles, to pass through the territory of the Republic to a foreign country, under penalty of repaying all the expenses that have been occasioned for their passage, landing, board, lodging and transport.



**Immigrants Hotel in Buenos Aires**  
**Office for employment and free transport of the immigrants to the provinces**

## **Reception of immigrants in the Argentine Republic.**

### THE IMMIGRANT INSPECTION AND ITS REASON

Each ship that arrives in the country bringing immigrants, 2<sup>nd</sup>. and 3<sup>rd</sup>. class passengers, according to Law, is visited and inspected by a Commission comprising the Immigration Inspector, Board of Health doctor and Coast Guard officer, who examine the hygiene and healthiness of the ship, accommodation, provisioning during the voyage, supply of medicines, and as to whether a doctor or chemist is carried; if or no a greater number of passengers were carried than the accommodation allows; if the measurements of the deck, sparedeck and of the berths are in accordance with the Law; if there is sufficient ventilation, supply of firehose and cooking utensils, life belts and life boats; if there are passengers with contagious diseases; if passengers have been embarked at ports where there is an epidemic; if any part of the cargo is inflammable or unhealthy, and, finally, receive any protest of the passengers of bad treatment and obtain from the Captain the documents he should deliver, showing cognoscence of the Immigration Law, and any incidents that have happened on the voyage. This is done in the interest of the immigrants.

### RECEIVING THE IMMIGRANTS

The immigrants are carefully questioned and classified to find out their trades and means, note being taken of those who do not wish to come under the Immigration Law, their passports then being stamped «passenger only», as also are stamped «former resident» the passports of those who come under that heading.

Once the passports revised by the officials, those immigrants admitted under the Law, are handed over to the receiving officials of the Immigrants Hotel who attend to them, placing them in trams, which take them to the Hotel. The baggage is taken on trucks to the same place by the Hotel porters.





**Immigrants Hotel in Buenos Aires  
Group of immigrants**

#### FREE LODGING

Arriving at the Hotel, the names of the immigrants are entered in the Hotel register and they are given a lodging ticket valid for five days, which can be prolonged in case of sickness. The immigrants are comfortably lodged, the women and children in separate rooms to the men. The baggage is taken by the Hotel porters to a deposit where it is revised by the Custom House Officers, specially.

#### FREE BOARD

The rations given to the immigrants are of the best, and in the following proportions per day, per adult: meat 600 grams, bread 500 grams, potatoes, carrots or cabbage (alternately) 150; rice, maccaroni, or beans (alternately) 100; sugar 25 and coffee 10 grams; milk is given to the children. The food is cooked by steam and is served by the Hotel attendants in a large dining room.

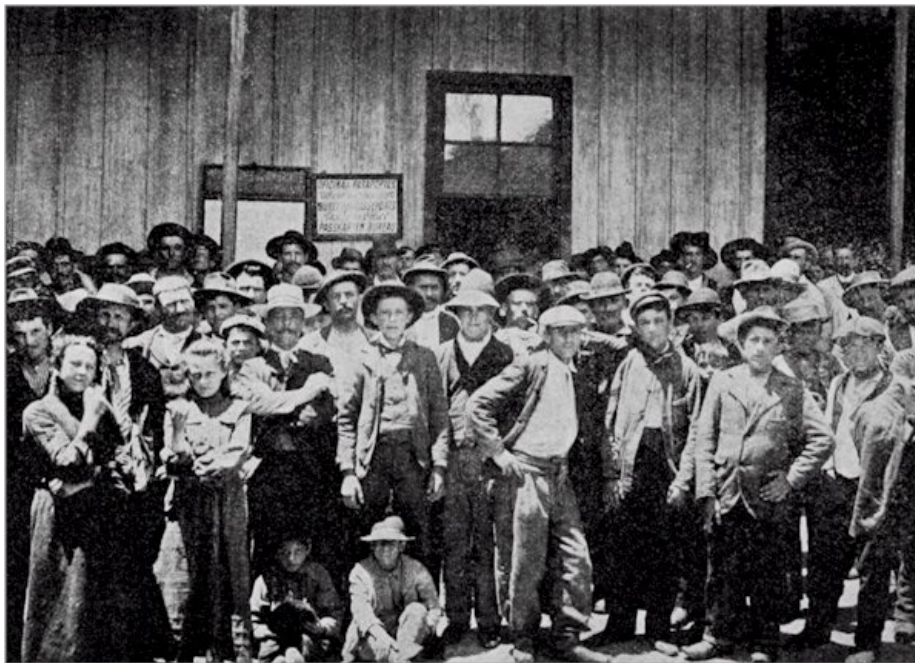
#### MEDICAL ATTENDANCE

There is an Infirmary in the Hotel where patients are carefully attended; children as well as adults can be vaccinated. There is a staff of doctors, students, sicknurses, and a chemist's fully equipped with medicines and disinfectants.

#### GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT OFFICE

On arrival, the immigrants are questioned as to what part of the country they wish to go, and are offered work by the Employment Office, in accordance with the inquiries for workmen received, full information of which, of wages paid and other conditions are carefully entered up in books kept for that purpose. If there are no enquiries for workmen in the particular trade of an immigrant looking for employment, this Office undertakes to find him work by either directing him to Works and Factories or by telegraphing enquiries to the Interior. Immigrants are warned, should they wish to go to any part of the country where there is no opening for one in their trade.

No persuasion is used to induce immigrants to go to any particular part of the country, it is left to them to decide.



**Immigrants Hotel in Buenos Aires  
Group of immigrants**

#### FORWARDING AND RECEIVING FREE

The immigrants placed up country or who wish to join their relations, are taken care of by forwarding Agents who remit their luggage properly labeled, note down the immigrants so forwarded, provide them with tickets and see them on to the train or river steamers.

#### ARRIVING AT THE PROVINCES AND POINTS OF DESTINATION

The immigrants who go to the Provinces or National Territories to be settled, are met on arrival of the train by the Secretary of the Branch Office, boarded and lodged for ten days until they are settled or leave for some fixed destination. If they should have to change trains, they are looked after by this Official in the same way as in the Federal Capital, from the arrival of one train until the departure of the one in which they continue their journey.

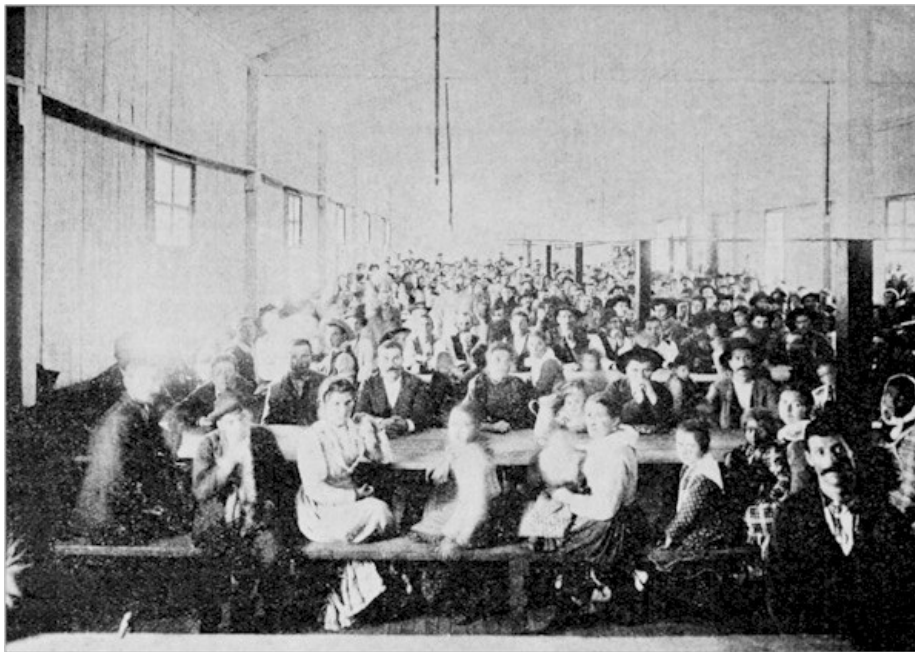
#### POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICE

For the better handing of the immigrants correspondence and in order that the Head Office and National Employment Office can transmit without delay, orders and instructions all over the Republic, there is a Post and Telegraph Office in the Immigration Hotel.

#### STATISTICAL RETURNS

The four following returns, summarize the Argentine Immigration movement from 1857 to 1903.

In those relating to the entry and nationality of immigrants, the information corresponding to the years running from 1857 to 1903 is given, and in those which refer to their trades and forwarding to the interior, the information has been taken corresponding to the last decade, this lapse of time being sufficiently demonstrative.



**Immigrants Hotel in Buenos Aires  
Part of the dining-hall**

**IMMIGRANTS PLACED AND FORWARDED TO THE INTERIOR OF THE COUNTRY BY  
THE NATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE DURING THE LAST DECADE FROM 1894 TO 1903.**

Provinces and Territories	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	Total
Federal Capital	545	683	1.209	589	876	1.736	3.077	2.739	635	449	12.538
Buenos Aires	3.071	4.212	12.028	8.471	7.503	9.991	10.213	12.982	9.828	13.447	91.746
Entre Rios	2.345	2.129	814	1.190	1.184	1.575	1.456	1.151	677	317	12.838
Corrientes	101	115	114	455	293	194	117	225	118	46	1.778
Santa Fé	11.801	10.143	13.077	6.273	6.577	9.647	9.336	12.628	7.440	10.115	97.037
Córdoba	2.413	2.198	2.995	1.958	2.659	3.951	3.581	4.002	1.768	2.973	28.498
Tucumán	802	387	898	1.173	456	514	590	1.576	366	366	7.128
Santiago del Estero	76	51	291	149	165	141	99	132	82	73	1.259
Salta	19	36	47	237	345	224	94	76	31	61	1.170
JuJuy	18	10	104	38	17	69	41	273	72	216	858
Catamarca	11	29	19	16	8	14	14	35	10	5	161
La Rioja	—	25	12	20	14	43	22	20	28	25	209
San Luis	46	91	183	207	95	129	129	159	124	76	1.239
Mendoza	566	665	1.973	2.569	1.365	1.695	2.183	4.160	1.521	757	17.454
San Juan	137	155	270	390	252	269	354	190	155	82	2.254
Chaco	34	6	20	105	112	21	24	41	27	12	402
Misiones	30	13	7	72	254	509	1.136	1.738	1.083	81	4.923
Tierra del Fuego	—	16	54	41	19	8	9	17	7	17	188
Chubut	11	25	10	84	22	13	56	75	153	239	688
Santa Cruz	11	1	40	44	18	24	54	85	59	54	390
Formosa	47	5	13	116	50	16	20	35	25	1	328
Pampa Central	7	17	63	160	93	117	145	181	173	349	1.305
Río Negro	1	—	55	293	69	34	42	198	73	63	828
Neuquen	—	—	27	13	—	16	17	29	39	11	152
	22.092	21.012	34.323	24.663	22.446	30.950	32.809	42.747	24.494	29.835	285.371



**Immigrants Hotel in Buenos Aires  
Part of the kitchen**

**IMMIGRATION FROM COUNTRIES  
BEYOND THE SEA AND MONTEVIDEO 1857  
to 1903.**

Years	Countries beyond the sea	Montevideo	Total
1857	4.951		4.951
1858	4.658		4.658
1859	4.735		4.735
1860	5.656		5.656
1861	6.301		6.301
1862	6.716		6.716
1863	10.408		10.408
1864	11.682		11.682
1865	11.767		11.767
1866	13.696		13.696
1867	13.225	3.821	17.046
1868	25.919	3.315	29.234
1869	28.958	8.976	37.934
1870	30.898	9.069	39.967
1871	14.626	6.307	20.933
1872	26.208	10.829	37.037
1873	48.382	27.950	76.332
1874	40.674	27.603	68.277
1875	18.532	23.534	42.066
1876	14.532	16.433	30.965
1877	14.675	21.650	36.325
1878	23.624	19.334	42.958
1879	32.717	22.438	55.155
1880	26.643	15.008	41.651
1881	31.431	16.053	47.484
1882	41.041	10.462	51.503
1883	52.472	10.771	63.243
1884	49.623	28.182	77.805
1885	80.618	28.104	108.722
1886	65.655	27.461	93.116
1887	98.898	21.944	120.842
1888	(a) 130.271	25.361	155.632
1889	(a) 218.744	42.165	260.909

1890	(a) 77.815	32.779	110.594
1891	28.266	23.831	52.097
1892	39.973	33.321	73.294
1893	52.067	32.353	84.420
1894	54.720	25.951	80.671
1895	61.226	19.762	80.988
1896	102.673	32.532	135.205
1897	72.978	32.165	105.143
1898	67.130	28.060	95.190
1899	84.442	26.641	111.083
1900	84.851	21.051	105.902
1901	90.127	35.824	125.951
1902	57.992	38.088	96.080
1903	75.227	37.444	112.671
	2.158.423	846.572	3.004.995

(a)—With assisted passages.

**General Total (including first class passengers) 3.685.430.**

**TRADES OF FOREIGN IMMIGRANTS, IN THE LAST TEN YEARS, FROM 1894 TO 1903.**

Agriculturers	312.723	Workmen	118.223
Masons	8.500	Gardeners	923
Upper cutters	898	Brickmakers	262
Surveyors	16	Lithographers	37
Architects	12	Marble-cutters	59
Fitters	81	Sailors	7.739
Sawers	127	Engine drivers	445
Barbers	1.332	Mechanics	2.113
Coal-men	99	Milliners	6.051
Butchers	725	Millers	605
Carpenters	7.142	Musicians	796
Coppersmiths	439	Miners	1.272
Cooks (male, female)	9.265	Physicians	41
Confectioners	500	Furniture makers	92
Merchants	30.996	Bakers	2.382
Dressmakers	28.194	Stone cutters	1.208
Tanners	691	Painters	926
Coachmen	149	Laundresses	8.749
Calkers	54	Fishermen	112
Quarry-men	255	Teachers	12
Clerks	10.755	Watchmakers	372
Gilders	99	Tailors	4.985
Draftsmen	41	Without trade (children)	113.433
Joiners	604	Without trade (women)	8.111
Electricians	711	Servants (male, female)	28.450
Bookbinders	77	Hatters	501
Sculptors	43	Weavers (male, female)	6.546
Firemen	793	Typographers	481
Apothecaries	352	Coopers	316
Photographers	65	Turners	103
Cattle breeders	690	Dyers	62
Engravers	113	Harness makers	133
Glovers	76	Viner, winemakers	403
Smiths	3.546	Veterinaries	33
Tinsmiths	548	Plasterers	100
Printers	38	Shoemakers	6.094



TRANSCRIBER'S NOTE: To make the following table easier to read on the screen it has been transposed to show YEARS as column headings and NATIONALITIES as row headings.

**NATIONALITY OF IMMIGRANTS FROM COUNTRIES BEYOND THE SEA,  
EXCLUSIVELY, from 1857 to 1903.**

Years	1857-59	1860-69	1870-79	1880-89	1890-99	1900	1901	1902	1903	Total
Italians	9.006	93.802	156.746	475.179	411.674	52.143	58.314	32.314	42.358	1.331.536
Spaniards	2.440	20.169	44.802	148.394	124.891	20.383	18.066	13.911	21.917	414.973
French	720	6.360	32.938	78.914	40.544	3.160	2.788	2.378	2.491	170.293
Austrians	226	819	3.469	16.479	8.681	2.024	2.742	2.135	1.378	37.953
English	359	3.603	9.265	15.692	4.691	421	439	405	560	35.435
Germans	178	1.212	3.522	12.958	9.204	760	836	1.029	1.000	30.699
Russians				3.837	15.665	2.119	2.086	1.753	1.429	26.889
Swiss	219	1.562	6.203	11.659	4.875	355	363	267	272	25.775
Belgians	68	519	628	15.096	2.654	117	117	148	174	19.521
Dutch				4.303	675	43	35	37	72	5.165
Portuguese				1.751	1.612	205	156	141	202	4.067
Danes				1.097	1.230	121	175	187	139	2.949
North Americans				1.094	794	89	151	132	93	2.353
Swedes				613	441	10	18	21	24	1.127
Others	1.128	6.282	7.295	8.330	13.659	2.901	3.841	3.134	3.118	49.688
	14.344	134.328	264.868	795.396	641.290	84.851	90.127	57.992	75.227	2.158.423

\*\*\* END OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK THE IMMIGRATION OFFICES AND STATISTICS FROM 1857 TO 1903 \*\*\*

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