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NEW IMMIGRATION BUILDINGS OPENED YESTERDAY



New buildings for the Immigration Bureau on Ellis Island are now ready for use. Officials of that department moved in yesterday. The employees reported early, and each was shown to his place by the superintendent or his chief clerk. Colonel Weber was on the island at 8 o'clock, and went on a tour of inspection to see that the department was ready to receive its first group of immigrants.



Immigrants arrived at Ellis Island with only what they could carry.

From 1892 to 1954, Ellis Island was America's main entry station for new **immigrants**. During that time, over 12 million immigrants entered the United States through the island. Some of them came to escape political **oppression** in Europe and Asia. Some came to escape war and violence. Others, like the characters of this story, came to escape **poverty** and an unfair **class** system. They came to find work, freedom, and a better life.

The United States government built Ellis Island so that it could control who was allowed into the country. The government was afraid that criminals and people with dangerous diseases might try to enter. At Ellis Island, such immigrants were sent back to their native countries. Very few people who passed through Ellis Island were sent away, but everyone worried about the possibility. Their time on Ellis Island was mixed with dreams of a new life in America, along with the fear that those dreams might not come true. For this reason, Ellis Island became known as the *Island of Hope, Island of Tears*.

The boat was crowded and stuffy. The only air came from a small door, or hatch, that led up to the deck of the ship.

It smells like stinky feet!





The food wasn't as good as Mama's, but there was always enough of it.

Meat and
boiled potatoes!
Yea!



But my sister Rosa couldn't eat. We thought she was seasick.

I'm so worried!
Anna, take care of
your brothers. I have
to stay with Rosa.