

WOMAN IN MALE GARB GAINS HER FREEDOM

Mary Johnson, Who Has a Mustache, Will Earn Living Attired in Trousers.

A DESIRABLE IMMIGRANT

So Say Ellis Island Officials—She Says Women Are Slaves to Fashion—Starts for New Orleans.

Mary Johnson, who has lived fifteen years of her life as Frank Woodhull, and whose sex was discovered when she was held up on Ellis Island, was discharged yesterday by the immigration authorities after landing from the American liner New York and allowed to go out in the world and earn her living in trousers. The Board of Special Inquiry came to the conclusion that Miss Johnson was a desirable immigrant and should be allowed to win her livelihood as she saw fit.

The woman, whom nature has endowed with a mustache of proper proportions, left the station on Ellis Island yesterday afternoon very much elated. She did not land in New York, but went direct to Newark. There she took a train for New Orleans, where she will make her home. She left the building wearing her neat black sack suit and with her overcoat hung over her arm.

"Women have a hard time in this world," she said. "They are the walking advertisements for the milliner, the dry goods stores, the jewelers, and other shops. They live in the main only for their clothes, and when now and then a woman comes to the front who does not care for dress she is looked upon as a freak and a crank. With me how different. See this hat?" and she leaned over and picked up the black slouch hat. "I have worn that hat for three years, and it cost me \$3. What woman could have worn a hat so long? Bah! they are the slaves to whim and fashion.

"What could I do when fifteen years ago I faced the crisis in my life? There was only housework to which I could turn, and I had been subject to rheumatism. Men can work at many unskilled callings, but to a woman only a few are open, and they are the grinding, death-dealing kinds of work. Well, for me, I prefer to live a life of independence and freedom."

Before she went out again to face the world as Frank Woodhull Miss Johnson was asked whether she feared detection of her sex. She replied that she feared nothing from grown-up persons, but strangely enough her experience had told her to beware of children. They have been the only ones who have seen through her disguise or had an inkling of the truth concerning her, she said.