

destination, we were taken to the ‘shantee’ where we were introduced to two long open bunks filled with straw. These were to be our beds. The “storo” of which we had been told was at one end of the shanty. The next morning we were taken out to work. It was a sultry autumn day. The “peek” seemed to grow heavier at every stroke and the “shuvle” wider and larger in its capacity to hold the gravel. The second day was no better than the first, and the third day was worse than the second. . . . The “padrone” whose magnanimity had so stirred us was little better than a brute. We began to do some simple figuring and discovered that when we had paid for our gro-

ceries at the “storo,” for the privilege of sleeping in the shanty, and the fifty cents to the “padrone” for having been so condescending<sup>2</sup> as to employ us, we would have nothing left but sore arms and backs. So on the afternoon of the third day Louis and I held a solemn conclave [meeting] and decided to part company with “peek and shuvle,”—for ever. We left, without receiving a cent of pay, of course.

<sup>1</sup>make gestures

<sup>2</sup>generous, but in a superior, haughty way

From *The Soul of an Immigrant* by Constantine Panunzio. The Macmillan Company, 1921.

**UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ** After you have finished reading the selection, answer the following questions in the space provided.

1. What housing conditions did the writer and his companion find upon their arrival in America?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. In what ways did Panunzio try to adapt to life in America?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What jobs were available to Panunzio and Louis?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What kind of working conditions did the two friends find?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How did their new boss take advantage of their ignorance?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How could this account be used to support the progressives’ call for reform in America?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ASSIGNMENT**

Write a brief essay about immigrating to another country. Base your essay on personal experience, stories of friends and family members, or information found in the reading. Include descriptions of the thoughts and feelings of the immigrant.

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