

COPY

Box "B"
Dannemora, N.Y.
October 8th, 1936

Mr. Nicholas Roerich
310 Riverside Drive,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Roerich:

I sincerely hope and trust that you will not think the very worst of me when I state that I am writing this letter from Dannemora prison. I was sent here in 1925. Eleven long years ago. I was quite guilty of the charge. I received a large sentence as I refused the offer of a lighter one that was offered if I would plead guilty. But I thought myself too smart and stood trial. It is just about all finished now and I am to meet the parole board in a few months. I wish now only to prepare myself for the future, which at the present time looks none too bright. I am sure I can get further by being quite frank in my statements.

I am now past 30 years of age and if I am ever to make good it has to be now. My crime was not a vicious one. I was little more than a boy at the time and a youngster is prone to commit impetuous acts with full realization of their true meaning or terrible consequences. Still, the fact remains I was quite guilty and I am sure that I have paid tremendously for it. I was out of work and as the boys used to phrase it "dead broke". I knew a fellow who had a revolver, I borrowed it and went out on a one man hold-up and as was to be expected it was anything but a huge success. No doubt it was for the best that I was stopped before I had a chance to go too far.

I have not wasted these many years. I have always tried to be assigned to work where I could learn something that will be a benefit to me. I took up different school courses and tried to get a fair education. I am sure I'm better fitted to take my place in the outside world should I be fortunate enough to secure an offer of employment.

I have saved my prison earnings and have sufficient funds to support myself for a few months. But after that - what? That is what troubles me. I'm afraid it might be the same old story over again. Yes, freedom is a great asset, still I would like to insure mine, that is the reason I want to get an offer of employment. When I go out I want to stay out. I'm all caught up on doing time. I want to make good. I've got to.

I have no one outside besides my Mother who could help me in any way. She works 7 days per week at the City Hospital at very small wages and I do not intend to go out and sponge off of her. It is solely my fault that she has to work now. It all comes down to this. I just must have a job to go to and this is the only way I have open to me of getting one or getting into contact with someone who may think I might be worth helping. I assure you, Mr. Roerich, that I am quite in earnest in this matter, otherwise I wouldn't be wasting your time and postage expenses. I just have to make good.

Sir, I am not afraid of real hard work. I like farm and dairy work, am an experienced gardener and hothouse man, an excellent cook and baker. Experienced at Auto and truck painting and lettering and general garage work. Fast on a typewriter and clerical work, good press feeder. I like factory work, am very apt in the handling and operating of machinery. Experienced elevator and switchboard operator, experienced fireman. I am willing to work at anything as long as it gives me a chance to start out on a honest effort to support myself and my Mother. It may seem small to a person outside but this job means everything to me. Surely Mr. Roerich you do know of something or someone who will give me my great chance to become a man again. Please do try to help me. Won't you? Please do.

I am, most sincerely, William Francis Gordon. #19315

October 6th, 1933
 Baltimore, Md.
 Box 154