

Department of Commerce and Labor
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

No. 14981/1
CHINESE

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR IN CHARGE
TUCSON, ARIZ.

March 25, 1907.

Commissioner-General of Immigration,
Washington, D. C.

S i r:

In reply to your letter of the 19th instant, No. 14,981-C/1, which is herewith returned, as requested, in which you inclosed a copy of a letter addressed to the President, signed by Dave Black, of Nogales, Arizona, in which he charges Inspector J. D. Milton of this service with drunkenness and threatening murder, shoving a gun with hammer back against quiet and unarmed people, I beg to advise that Black is personally known to me; that no credit can be given to the statement made by him, he being a professional saloon loafer, and alleged to be addicted to the morphine habit, and no doubt resorts to illegal means by aiding in the illegal importation of Chinese from Mexico (He being a Chinese mason); yet we have been unable to apprehend him.

It was through the efforts of Inspector Milton to apprehend him that caused a difficulty between them a little over three years ago.

Black being a man with a record as a gun fighter, was induced while under the influence of liquor by his confederates

to pick a row with Milton, with the hope that Milton would get killed, thus preventing him from apprehending them while they were actually engaged in smuggling. Black picked a row with Milton, and Milton called him down. Naturally hard feelings existed between them from that time on.

Shortly afterwards, while Milton and I were on our vacation, we went to Nogales, and Milton was met by some friends and warned to watch out for Black; that he (Black) was making threats that he would kill Milton on sight; to which Milton replied that Black was a very foolish man.

Milton and I went to Casabon's restaurant and ordered supper. I, knowing the disposition of both men, left before the meals were served to find Black, with the view of pacifying matters between them if possible. I found Black in a saloon, he being somewhat under the influence of liquor or morphine. I had the bar keeper introduce me to him, at which Black said to me that he hoped "you are not a murderer," to which I replied that I was not if I knew myself. He then said that Milton, who was working under me, was a "son-of-a-b", and that he (Black) proposed to kill him (Milton) on sight. To which I replied that he was mistaken; that I was confident from what I had been told Milton had been a friend to him (Black) on many occasions, giving him money to eat on when he (Black) was hungry.

Black replied "Tell me nothing about it; don't I know Milton better than you? Only a few days ago I was asleep in the

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Patagonia mountains, and when I awoke he (Milton) had a cocked revolver at my head, and I only escaped with my drawers and one shoe. Milton is a murdering son-of-a-b , and I will kill him. I care nothing for bullets."

Seeing I could do nothing with him, and to prevent Milton from being murdered, as I could clearly see that Black had thoroughly made up his mind to kill him, I told Milton that I had seen Black and could not pacify him; that he should keep on his guard but say nothing to Black. At which Milton said he would settle the trouble right then. Arising from the table, he went into the saloon where Black was standing leaning over the bar. Milton threw up his crippled left arm on Black's shoulder, and with his right hand pulled Black around, asking him what was the matter with him; that he (Milton) had got tired of being called a "murdering son-of-a-b ," and having his life threatened by a man of his (Black's) character; that he (Milton) was no murderer, and would give him (Black) a fair chance for his white alley, if there was any fight in him (Black). Black said he had no gun, but refused to raise his coat.

The sheriff and two Arizona rangers came in and took Black into custody, and placed him in jail, where he remained until he promised to leave Nogales; which he did as soon as discharged from custody, and remained away until after Milton was transferred to Quitovaquito. He now has returned to Nogales, and,

in my opinion, engaged in crooked work, as heretofore. Fearing Milton will return to Nogales, he has resorted to this means of trying to injure his standing with the Department, by addressing charges against him to the President of the United States, which, in my opinion, should be a credit to Milton rather than a discredit, being preferred by a man of his (Black's) standing.

The charges preferred by Black against Milton are absurd. The people of Nogales, who are quiet and law-abiding citizens, are not fools, and if Inspector Milton had pointed a gun at any of them, they in turn would have had him placed under arrest, and reported his conduct to the proper authorities, which they have not done.

As to the portion of Black's letter in which he states Milton shot up the town of Nogales in the month of December, 1906, the allegation is false, not a shot being fired by Milton. He, however, was there a few days during said month, being on his annual vacation, and one night got drunk, but did nothing to cause his arrest. He reported his conduct to me, stating that he had made a fool of himself and got drunk, and would resign his position if I would say so. But as no complaint had been preferred against him, and he being on his vacation at the time, I told him to proceed to his official station and to be more careful in the future.

While Milton was stationed at Nogales, I made several trips there, and never heard of him being under the influence of liquor, except while on his vacation. His standing as an

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officer in this community is as good as that of any other officer along the Mexican border, and a better officer could not be secured to perform the duties to which he is assigned.

The names of the parties referred to by Black, to verify the charges made by him against Milton's character, are all friends of Milton's, with the exception of Charles Hood, who is known to be a Chinese smuggler and a fugitive from justice.

To verify Milton's standing, attention is respectfully invited to my letter of April 11th, 1906, in which affidavits of many business men of Nogales were inclosed as to Milton's character, a statement from James Mix appearing among the same.

Milton has been an officer along the Mexican border for many years, and is thoroughly known by all business men in each town along the same; and I feel confident that but few of them would hesitate to make oath as to his good standing and qualifications as an officer for the duty to which he is now assigned; while there is not a reliable man who knows Dave Black, of Nogales, who would hesitate to swear that he is unreliable, and the greater portion of his time he is under the influence of something (liquor or morphine) which renders him not responsible for his actions or deeds.

I will defer submitting affidavits to verify the above statements unless otherwise directed by the Bureau, as, in my

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opinion, it would be a discredit to both Milton and the service to cause an investigation to be made as to the conduct of an officer of this service where the charges are preferred by a party whose character and reputation are as bad as those of Dave Black.

Respectfully,

Geo. W. Webb
Inspector in Charge.

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