

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

IMMIGRATION SERVICE

DISTRICT No. 1

IN REPLYING REFER TO
No. 11098/239

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS
U. S. COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION
MONTREAL, CANADA

June 15, 1922.

PERSONAL.

Hon. W. W. Husband,
Commissioner General of Immigration,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Husband:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of the 13th inst., No. 54261/276, wherein you refer to the meetings of the committee made up of members from the various departments interested in guarding the land boundaries.

I note the suggestion that a separate and distinct border patrol service ought to be established on the Mexican border, to do purely police duty, leaving officers of the regular Service free to attend to their regular duties.

It would seem that a patrol service, to be of practical value, would have to be of a size to cover practically the entire border, which would mean the introduction of an entirely new and very costly service.

While this change may be demanded by conditions prevailing on the southern border, I am personally unable to feel that conditions are yet of such disturbing character as to warrant the establishment of an extra patrol service along the Canadian frontier.

It has been my understanding that coordination is desired, not only for the general betterment of the various Services involved and the more efficient protection of the Government's various interests along the land boundaries, but that economy in expenditures may also be conserved.

Should the scheme be found practicable under the Civil Service Rules, I would favor the plan of immigration officers and representatives of the Department of Agriculture working along the border, being clothed with the same authority as that held by the Customs Inspectors, for I feel confident such step would be decidedly in the Government's interest.

JUN 19 1922

OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER GENERAL

As for our Immigrant Inspectors, though they have never been given any special appointment to encourage them to enforce laws other than those pertaining to Immigration and Chinese, I am nevertheless quite certain that our officers quite uniformly do not hesitate to assume the authority necessary to enable them to prevent violations of U. S. laws, other than those with the enforcement of which they are directly charged, whenever occasion may call for such action.

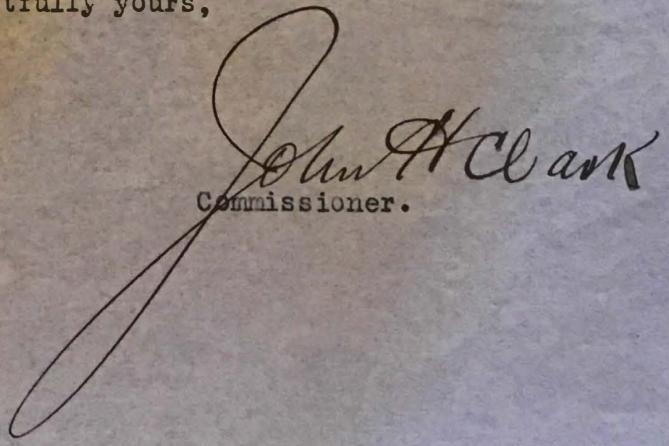
Not only would I favor Immigration and Agricultural representatives being given the power of Customs officers, but I would also strongly favor the idea of all Customs Inspectors employed along the land boundaries being given the same authority as that now held by Immigrant Inspectors; and no doubt benefit would be derived from giving the representatives of the Department of Agriculture authority to act as Immigrant Inspectors whenever conditions may demand.

With whole-hearted cooperation among the representatives of these three Services along the Canadian border, I am certain our defensive lines would be greatly strengthened, and it would seem that thereby the Government's various interests would be well guarded, and that the establishment of a new and costly police patrol service would be entirely obviated.

It is believed that the details as to the cooperation necessary between Immigration officers and members of the other Services referred to, to care for our Immigration statistical records, could be worked out without difficulty.

Very respectfully yours,

JHC/sj


Commissioner.