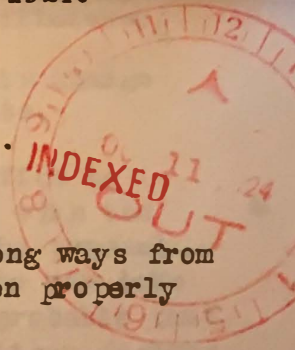


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Commissioner General of Immigration,
Washington, D. C.

I find that the border patrol service in this district is a long ways from being up to standard, due principally to the fact that it has not been properly supervised.

In the Ogdensburg district the border patrol operated more or less at haphazard and performed no effective service whatever.

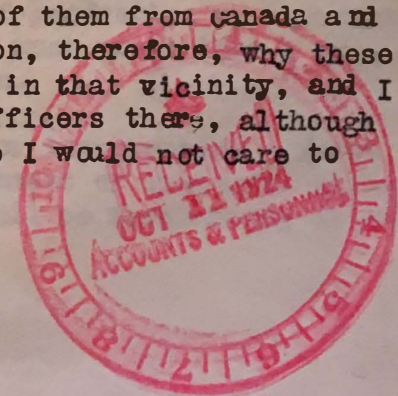
In the Newport district the force of nine border patrolmen was distributed as follows: four at Newport; three at Richford; and two at Island Pond. At Richford, vt., aside from these three patrol inspectors, we have two regular immigrant inspectors, one at Richford proper and another at East Richford, which makes a total of five officers at a port where for a number of years there was no inspector whatever, although it remained a port of entry.

I have had a personal interview with Inspector Nolan, stationed at East Richford, and find that during all the time he has been stationed there he has admitted one alien who could easily have been referred to Inspector Ayer at Richford, which is only a few miles distant, for examination.

The patrol force at Richford has picked up one alien on the streets in the vicinity of Richford and two at Swanton during all the time that they have operated from that point.

The four patrol officers operating out of Newport have done some effective work, but the necessity is very much doubted of maintaining four patrol inspectors at that point.

At Island Pond, vt., we have two regular immigrant inspectors and there are only two trains being inspected daily at that point, one of them from Canada and another which is made up at Island Pond. There is no reason, therefore, why these two officers cannot take care of any smuggling operations in that vicinity, and I doubt very much whether it is necessary to maintain two officers there, although until the situation can be more thoroughly inquired into I would not care to express a definite decision in regard thereto.



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Oct. 1, 1924.

I have no knowledge as to how effective is the border patrol force under Patrol Inspector in Charge Gray, but there is nothing of record here which would justify the conclusion that it is operating with a maximum of efficiency.

In fact, it appears that the force under Patrol Inspector in Charge Bonazzi is the only one which has accomplished any considerable results.

I have directed Inspector in Charge Ford of the Newport Office to transfer two of the border patrolmen now at Richford to Swanton, vt., with the idea of having them operate between that point and Richford and for the present intend to leave the third border patrolman at Richford in order that he may take care of the work which has been handled by Inspector Nolan, it being probable that after the close of the present month there will be no necessity for either Customs or Immigration Officers to remain at that point, as there is only a very limited highway traffic through East Richford even during the summer months, and practically none after the tourist season is closed.

I have also directed that the two patrol inspectors now at Island Pond be transferred to North Stratford to cover the highways between that point and Island Pond; also operating to the west towards Newport.

The patrol force in the Newport District will not, however, to my mind, render satisfactory service until some officer is placed in charge of it who can devote more time to the prevention of smuggling than it has been possible for Inspector in Charge Ford who has attempted to serve in that capacity in addition to the handling of his regular duties of Inspector in Charge of the Newport office.

So far as I am able to determine Patrol Inspector Alvin H. Fuller is the only officer in the Newport District who possesses the proper qualifications for a patrol inspector in charge, and while I realize that it is the policy of the Bureau and Department to place inspectors in charge of border patrol forces, in view of the fact that Mr. Fuller will, eventually, be appointed an inspector, and in order to take care of the existing situation, I beg to respectfully recommend that Mr. Fuller be designated as Acting Patrol Inspector in Charge.

A few months from now when the roads become impassible the border patrol force on the Canadian border will be of little or no value, and if we are to obtain results, something should be done immediately in the way of perfecting an organization, and, although it is not desired to criticize any person, I must admit that I am thoroughly dissatisfied with the present existing situation.

Incidentally, I might add that I have plans for inaugurating a force in the Ugdensburg District and am only awaiting the appointment of Inspector Thomas as Inspector in Charge in that District, which, I trust, will be forthcoming at an early date.

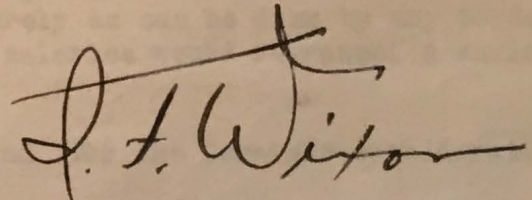
Oct. 1, 1924.

One of the greatest handicaps to the establishment of any effective organization is the lack of motor equipment, and in all fairness to those who have previously dealt with the situation, it should be stated that a conscientious effort undoubtedly was made to so distribute the force as to make the best use of such motor equipment as is available.

These machines are distributed as follows: three at Newport, including the one at Richford, three at Houses Point and one at Ugdensburg.

Owing to the inexperience of the officers who have operated the machines, they are quite frequently out of repair, which adds a further handicap to any effective patrol work.

I believe, however, that the changes which are suggested will work an improvement, but, to my mind, it is inadvisable to keep a force at any one point, and I have instructed all the officers in charge of these forces to move their men about from place to place, as I am satisfied that those engaged in smuggling operations soon obtain a line upon our officers and govern themselves accordingly.



I. F. Wixon
Acting Commissioner.

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