

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

IMMIGRATION SERVICE

DISTRICT No. 1

IN REPLYING REFER TO

No. 748

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RECD. BU. OF IMMIGRATION
JAN 10 1927
DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS
U. S. COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION
MONTRÉAL, CANADA
MAIL AND FILES

Jan. 7, 1927.

Commissioner General of Immigration,
Washington, D. C.

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Practically all patrol cars have been or will shortly be placed in storage for at least January, February and March.

During these three months a part of the Border Patrol force will be assigned to junction points at a considerable distance from the border and will inspect trains arriving at those points. A large proportion of the patrol force, however, will continue to operate immediately adjacent to the border and should be provided with some means of transportation.

Col. Bierny, the Commandant at Fort Ethan Allen, has offered, subject to the consent of the War Department, to loan us twenty horses or less, together with the necessary equipment. This with the understanding that they must be returned to Fort Ethan Allen when the spring manoeuvres begin Apr. 1st next. We understand that these horses and equipment can be spared without detriment to the army. It will be necessary for our Service to pay the expense of transporting the horses by rail from Burlington, Vt., to the sub-district headquarters at Rouses Point and Massena. As all those intended for these two sub-districts can be carried in one car, it is believed a reduction in freight charges can be secured by taking a car at the carload rate and unloading the Rouses Point horses enroute.

In connection with proposals for maintaining these horses at various places we have also had inquiry made as to what it would cost to rent horses, there being some doubt in our minds as to whether we can expend the funds of the Department of Labor on property of the War Department. We find nothing in our files which bears directly on this point; but Bureau letter No. 55448/838 of June 15, 1925, says the Comptroller-General had ruled that the only funds available for the upkeep of vehicles confiscated by the Customs and Prohibition Services are those appropriated for those services.

The number needed, together with the comparative cost of rented horses and army horses, is set forth in the following table:

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<u>Port</u>	<u>No. Horses</u>	<u>Rental</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Maint. Army Horses</u>	<u>Total</u>
Morristown	2	\$90.00	\$180.00	\$75.00	\$150.00
Fort Covington	2	240.00	480.00	60.00	120.00
Alburg	2	180.00	360.00	90.00	180.00
Chateaugay	2	180.00	360.00	68.00	136.00
Mooers	2	120.00	240.00	60.00	120.00
Rouses Point	2	120.00	240.00	60.00	120.00
Massena	2	130.00	260.00	75.00	150.00
Hogansburg	2	130.00	260.00	70.00	140.00
<u>Sub-total</u>			<u>\$2380.00</u>		<u>\$1116.00</u>
Houlton	2	120.00	240.00	Freight on army horses	361.00
Calais	1	120.00	120.00		
Ft. Fairfield	1	120.00	120.00		
Vanceboro	1	80.00	80.00		
Newport	2	60.00	120.00		
Soo	1	240.00	<u>240.00</u>		
			<u>\$3300.00</u>		
Rental six last mentioned ports					920.00
					<u>\$2397.00</u>

None of the prices for the rental of horses contains any mention of liability for injury sustained by the animals while in our service. Presumably we would be obliged to restore the horse to its owner in the condition in which we received it and if we failed to do so we would be held responsible for any loss or damage.

No figures are shown for army horses in the Newport and Houlton sub-districts. The figures on rented horses at Newport are so extraordinarily low that it would be folly to ship army horses there. The freight on army horses from Burlington to Houlton would be prohibitive and none are available from any army post in Maine.

Horses will also be needed at the Soo and the officer in charge at that port has been asked to ascertain whether or not they may be secured from the army post there. Privately owned horses can be hired for \$4.00 a day.

A few days ago in response to the Bureau's request for information as to the additional amount that would be needed to properly carry on the work, I submitted an estimate of \$5500.00 in connection with this activity. Our estimate was based on the assumption that rationing of horses would cost at least

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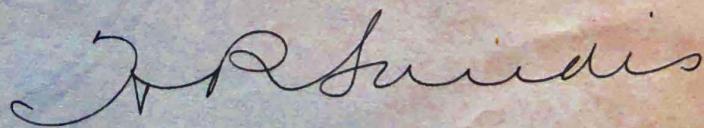
\$3.00 per day. Definite bids had not been secured. These are now on file here and the cost runs from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per day. This matter was taken up with the commanding officer at Fort Ethan Allen on Sunday, Dec. 26th, and when our letter to the Bureau was prepared reports from the field offices had not been received. It is realized, however, that if the Bureau deemed it advisable to submit the proposition to the Appropriations Committee for additional funds this expense should not be under-estimated.

I would strongly recommend that, provided funds are available, the matter be taken up with the War Department to ascertain whether or not consent can be obtained from that department for the loan of sixteen horses and all equipment during the months of February and March, and that I be advised by wire if and when the consent of the War Department is obtained. If we are to cope with the smuggling situation I am confident our men will need transportation, and I do not know how cheaper transportation can be had. Aliens will come down to towns just inside the Canadian border and will attempt surreptitious entry by every available means. A patrol inspector on foot can do very little to prevent illegal entries.

At every port in this district we have several ex-cavalry men who can teach the other patrol inspectors to ride and care for their horses.

If the Bureau and Department believes that patrol units should be mounted as herein described, I would urge that everything possible be done to expedite the matter. We need these mounts now and we should, at the very latest, have the equipment on hand by Feb. 1st. The Bureau will be furnished with the bids submitted by liverymen at the different points where it is proposed to assign these mounts if this recommendation is favorably acted upon.

We respectfully request authority to rent horses in the Houlton and Newport sub-districts and to maintain them and also to transport and maintain the army horses in the Rouses Point and Massena sub-districts.



H. R. Landis
Commissioner.