

No. 52070

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS
U. S. COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION
MONTREAL, CANADAHoulton, Maine,
October 11, 1927

Officer in Charge,
Patrol District 1,
Montreal, Canada.



I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of October 8, No. 729, and in reply quote this office letter of August 22, as follows:

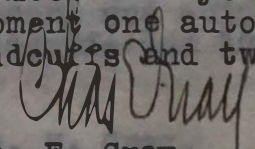
"At present we have four stations, Calais, Vanceboro, Houlton and Fort Fairfield.

To maintain anything approximating an efficient patrol five men should be placed at each post. This would permit of a twenty-four hour service, two 2-men shifts and one 1-man shift at each post.

In addition to these four posts there should be established at Van Buren a 5-man post for the purpose of patrolling the 77 mile stretch of border extending from Limestone to St. Francis, Maine. This section has not been patrolled for lack of men. Along the Canadian side of the St. John river which forms the larger part of the boundary, the Canadian Pacific Railway runs from Grand Falls, which is three miles below Hamlin, Maine, to Edmundston which is opposite Madawaska. The Canadian National Railway parallels the Canadian Pacific for the same distance. On the American side of the river the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad has terminals at Fort Kent, Van Buren and Limestone, also St. Francis. Aliens can easily cross the river by small boat in summer and on the ice in winter and take trains to inland points.

Many highways also lead from the river section into the interior, affording means for aliens to work their way into the interior of the country without interference. The patrol at Houlton, 80 miles South, apprehend what they can of those that gain illegal admission along the St. John River. However, it is a difficult matter, for by the time they arrive that far South, they become well posted on what to say if questioned.

If these recommendations meet with your approval, we should have in the way of additional equipment one automobile, one stop sign, 15 flashlights, 15 pair of handcuffs and twelve revolvers. "


Chas. E. Gray,
Chief Patrol Inspector