

New Orleans, La.,
January 2, 1929.

VALUE AND EMPLOYMENT OF BORDER PATROL UNITS ON SEACOAST.

(a) METHODS EMPLOYED TO SECURE BEST RESULTS.

The Act of February 27, 1925 contains two provisos: the first making available one million dollars for coast and land border patrol; the second outlining the scope and authority of Border Patrol officers and specifically setting forth that they may arrest without warrant any alien who, in their presence or view, is entering or attempting to enter the United States in violation of any law or regulation made in pursuance of law regulating the admission of aliens, etc. They are also authorized under the Act to search for aliens any vessel within the territorial waters of the United States; railway cars; conveyances, or vehicles in which they believe aliens are being brought into the United States, etc.

The foregoing constitutes all the law now existing re the Border Patrol division of the Service, and upon a casual reading of the law, it would seem that the activities of the officers should be confined to the immediate land borders and coast lines. However, the law does not define any particular zone along the lines within which operations of the force must be confined; therefore, the Border Patrol force in the New Orleans Immigration District, No. 17, which is a coast line district, employs a patrol force of thirty officers and one clerk, the majority of whom, stationed at New Orleans, cannot possibly patrol the immediate coast line on account of inland waters and marsh lands. New Orleans is located some sixty miles inland from the immediate coast, and the work of Patrol

officers, therefore, in Patrol Sub-district No. 1, is carried on along highways in and out of New Orleans; along the river front; along bayous and canals in and near the city; and within the city proper. Officers in Patrol Sub-district No. 2, headquarters at Gulfport, Miss., patrol the immediate coast and highways paraleling the coast, as well as those leading from the coast inland.

The law authorizes a Patrol Inspector to arrest, without warrant, aliens who, in his presence or view, are entering or attempting to enter the United States contrary to law. In this district, a liberal interpretation of the law has been made and, so far, has been sustained by the courts here and has not at any time been challenged by anyone. It is certain that no alien can be arrested by a patrol officer until he has succeeded in entering over the border line or coast line. It is further contended that, after crossing either line, an alien is entering so long as he does not feel safe to move in the open or so long as he is so near the line that he deems it necessary to guard his movements to avoid patrol officers; hence, patrol officers are within the law in arresting aliens who have entered clandestinely and who are trying to cover their movements to avoid the officers, regardless of the distance they may have traveled away from the line or coast, or point of illegal entry. Under this interpretation, the law does not limit the authority and activities of the Border Patrol force, as the first reading of same would suggest to the mind.

VALUE OF BORDER PATROL ON SEACOAST

With the foregoing justification and warrant of the Bureau and Department for the employment of the Border Patrol along the coast

line, it may be stated that the value of the force in such localities depends largely upon the volume of foreign shipping at ports in coast districts and the vulnerability of such districts to alien smugglers or smuggling organizations in such districts, the extent of which may be more or less definitely determined by the activities of rum runners and narcotic smugglers in the territory to be covered. Rum, narcotics, and aliens, if safely or successfully handled by the smugglers, result in large profits, and all smugglers will handle either one or all three if and when adequate plans have been formed and conditions for safe landing are satisfactory. In such districts Border patrol units are of inestimable value.

If other districts in which Border Patrol officers are employed have been as fortunate as District No. 17 in the selection of such officers, it may safely be stated that the different units are ever ready for duty, regardless of hours or weather, and that every call made upon them for service meets with a willing and hearty response, which is backed up by earnest and continued effort, closely akin to actual enthusiasm. In the New Orleans district, the entire force is daily striving for a record of efficiency and ultimate success.

USES OF BORDER PATROL OFFICERS IN COAST DISTRICTS.

Immigration and Border Patrol officers in District No. 17 are in harmony, one with another, and work together closely without the slightest friction or jealousy. All seem to be striving with one accord to enforce the immigration laws and are willing and anxious to work and even make sacrifices to that end. All are alike elated when some brother officer succeeds in a praiseworthy achievement, for the good of

the Service, as they well know that, in the end, each and every one must share equally in whatever success is achieved throughout the district. With this harmony and co-operation existing, Border Patrol officers, in addition to the specific duties they perform, as contemplated under their appointment, and when necessity requires, are called upon to verify the departure of deports; guard detained aliens who are intrusted to them for conveyance from the station to the city to obtain personal effects; request passports of consuls; remove deports held in prisons by the United States Marshal for delivery to Kline party movements, east or west; accept deports delivered here from other districts or by Mr. Kline for deportation, and convey them to the station for detention or to the ship for expulsion from the country. They are used with Immigrant Inspectors, when necessary or advisable, in making investigations. When required, Border Patrol officers are used to guard deports on vessels calling at New Orleans from ports in other districts before finally sailing foreign. Practically all the work performed by Border Patrol officers is in connection with contraband aliens they have previously apprehended. The officers frequently obtain evidence in connection with the smuggling of aliens which warrants the prosecution of the smugglers, and in all such cases the patrolmen are employed in conveying the smugglers and alien witnesses to and from court and, of course, are used, when appropriate, as witnesses in the courts.

Patrol officers are continually moving from place to place throughout the jurisdiction of the several units, under the direction of the two Chief Patrol Inspectors and their immediate assistants, or Senior Patrol Inspectors. They search vessels arriving from foreign;

patrol the river front, coast line, highways, canals, and bayous; search or inspect trains; watch depots and noted places where smugglers are known to congregate; and when proper arrangements can be made accompany Coast Guard or other government officials operating launches into the marsh section of the district to check up on fishing and shrimp camps. Vehicles, autos, and busses are checked on certain ferries and bridges, and small craft of seagoing capacity about the coast; fishing smacks and oyster luggers are searched at intervals, as deemed necessary.

From the foregoing, it will be seen that the value of the Border Patrol and the employment of the various units thereof in coast districts is great in the first instance and multifarious in the second. The value of these officers in this district cannot well be overestimated. Before the installation of the force, the district was overflowing with undesirables of all nationalities and new recruits were arriving daily. The slum sections of New Orleans were filled with aliens unlawfully in the country, who were crowding the night courts and jails. With the advent of the Border Patrol, permission was sought and obtained to use them in cleaning up the city. In a short time a change became manifest, and all City, County and State officials were heralding the good work of the organization and lending their aid wherever possible. The force worked quietly, unobtrusively and inoffensively. No blare of trumpets preceded or followed their movements or achievements, and in all matters their work was completed before it became generally known to outsiders. Newspaper notoriety was avoided as far as possible, and no complaints or criticisms on

account of the activities of the force have been made by anyone, official or unofficial. Many smugglers have been prosecuted and convicted and hundreds of aliens have been deported as a result of the accomplishments of the Border Patrol force in this district. As the force gains experience, its efficiency increases, and it may justly be claimed at this time that District No. 17 is being avoided by smugglers and also by aliens who are unlawfully within the country. Desertions from foreign vessels have greatly decreased, and shipping masters are complaining of "hard times", their explanation of or cause for the condition being that alien crewmen "stick to their ships" in New Orleans to keep out of the hands of immigration officials. Masters of vessels contend that immigration officers at New Orleans are more strict than at any other port they visit. Reference to these matters is not made as a boast or in the nature of self-praise, but to demonstrate the effectiveness of the Border Patrol in a purely coast district. The present condition within the district as to contraband aliens could not and would not exist but for the activities of the Patrol force.

The force is forever at it, and, as a result, the contraband alien is forever on the run or in secure hiding when in this district. The activities of the force are never idle but always purposeful and closely allied, unit with unit, from New Orleans-Baton Rouge eastward to Mobile, Alabama. Much depends upon the faithfulness, interest, and reliability or trustworthiness of the officers. The officers make or unmake the reputation of the Service, and if the organization establishes a bad reputation its effectiveness is seriously impaired, if not altogether destroyed. The New Orleans district is fortunate in that respect, and the force as now constituted enjoys the full confidence of officials and the

general public. Amicable relations exist between the Immigration Border Patrol and all other government forces operating in the New Orleans jurisdiction. Co-operation between the several forces is carefully maintained and fostered by fair dealing and unselfish acknowledgment of helpfulness accorded each other. This is highly necessary and very advantageous to all concerned, as there is strength in numbers.

METHODS EMPLOYED TO SECURE BEST RESULTS.

The remarks under previous headings herein have disclosed to some extent the methods employed to secure the best results from the activities of the Border Patrol. To be more specific on that point, it may be stated:

1st: That harmony and co-operation must be maintained throughout the various units of the organization and the organization as a whole. "A House divided against itself cannot stand".

2nd: Harmonious relations must be sought and maintained with all government forces employed within the same territory, engaged in similar work, and the confidence and trust of the public must be gained for the benefit of the moral support it affords.

3rd. Courtesy and consideration must characterize the official acts of the officers in the handling of all matters, because of the solely human element with which they are dealing. Kindness and consideration will bring success where rough or "strong-arm" methods often lead to failure.

4th. Executive and superior officers must be explicit in giving instructions to Patrol officers in connection with all details,

to the end that misunderstandings may not lead to difficulties, dissatisfaction, and finally friction in the force, and possibly criticism on the part of persons dealt with or the public.

5th. The organization as a whole must be kept of one mind and purpose; to wit: Success, or the good of the Service as a whole. Personal ambition is of little, if any, value in an organization such as the Border Patrol, and if the best results are to be obtained the force must work as a unit, or "One for all and all for one".

6th. As the organization must be divided into a number of units, each unit located at some strategical point within the district, it is highly important that contact points between the various units be carefully maintained, to keep the organization as a whole well linked, so that the entire strength of the force may be conserved and ready for concerted action when necessary, without loss of time or advantage.

7th. There are many different phases of alien smuggling, as has been disclosed from time to time through the efforts of Immigration and Border Patrol officers. To enumerate all such would greatly extend this paper but would not enlighten Service officers. Reference to the fact is made to prepare the way for the statement that foresight and initiative are necessary on the part of administrative, executive, and all officers having to do with Border Patrol activities, to enable them to devise ways and means to bring the smugglers to justice and to prevent the unlawful entry of aliens. It will be readily understood that no hard and fast rules

or methods can be adopted in this character of work. Action that would bring splendid success in one state of affairs would fail utterly in another. Thus, some new method must be adopted to fit each particular case if the best results are to be had. Officers of the force, therefore, must be developed; educated, so to speak; in their particular line of work and this education comes quickly and easily to him who is interested and willing to learn from the experience he gains in the performance of his duties from day to day.

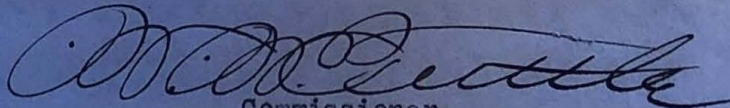
8th. Information at hand in advance is usually half the battle won in the work of Patrol Inspectors. There are different kinds of "contact", and when Patrol officers establish contact with reliable persons of the general public, who are in sympathy with their work, there is opened to them a great channel through which information of value flows to them in an endless stream. Such sources of information may be said to augment or increase the Border Patrol force by hundreds if they are carefully, intelligently, and discreetly used. Once fairly established in any district of the country, the endorsement and sympathy of the public is a great asset to the Service so long as the work is honestly and humanely carried on.

9th. It is highly important for executive and supervisory officers to back up the work of Patrol officers in every way possible. One of the greatest encouragements that can be afforded such officers consists in the prosecution and conviction of smugglers. Smugglers have nothing to lose so long as they can keep out of the toils of the law. They are never discouraged until they are haled into court to answer for their unlawful deeds. The conviction of smugglers not only

encourages border patrolmen to renewed efforts, but discourages the offenders, and, if convictions are of sufficient volume, will soon break up the unlawful practice entirely. Prosecutions are therefore instituted in every instances wherein the facts warrant such action.

CONCLUSION.

The Bureau and Department, and the gentlemen of the conference, will kindly overlook the personal strain running throughout this paper. Every mother's child is the smartest and best, no matter how "black" it is; hence, the Border Patrol baby of the New Orleans district has formed the basis for the paper with no intention of overlooking the organizations in other districts of the Service, where they, no doubt, have performed wonders equal to, if not exceeding, those performed by the force in District 17. Not being familiar with the methods employed in other districts, it was necessary to speak of those within our actual knowledge; therefore the intimate close-up re the New Orleans Border Patrol in this paper.


Commissioner.