

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION
WASHINGTON

ADDRESS REPLY TO
COMMISSIONER GENERAL OF IMMIGRATION
AND REFER TO

No. 5001-Gen.

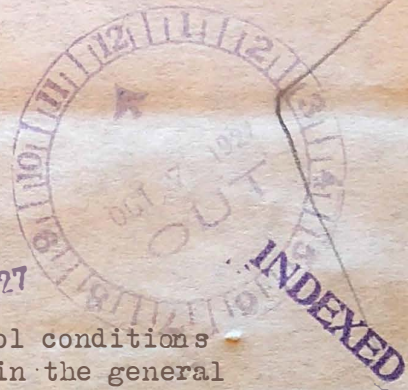
October 5, 1927.

Commissioner General of Immigration, **DEC 19 1927**
Washington, D. C.

JAN 18 1928

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DEC 15 1927

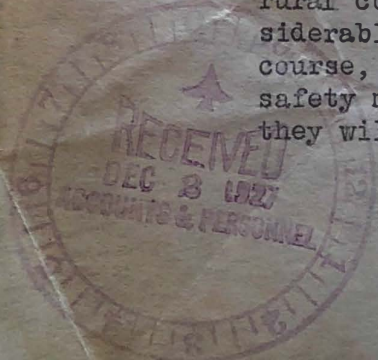


In reviewing my recent survey of Border Patrol conditions throughout the entire country, the great strides made in the general efficiency of the Service draws first attention. From a somewhat doubtful and hesitant force it has developed into one now sure of its ground, convinced of its necessity and positive in its action.

The emphasis placed by the Bureau and Department on the necessity of exercising good judgment and courtesy in dealing with the public has indeed accomplished the desired result, until complaints against officers of this Service are the rare exception rather than the rule. Also the efforts made to secure officers of the better class have proven highly successful and District officers are inclined to exert themselves to weed out the unfit. This weeding out process has had the effect of educating the public, generally speaking, to the fact that this Service does not tolerate triflers or grafters within its ranks.

In the past considerable antipathy was shown in certain sections of the country toward our officers, by persons who were not fully acquainted with their mission. By striving constantly to correct this impression both by words and by improving certain faulty methods of operation, the Bureau has succeeded until this antipathy has practically disappeared and instead there is being shown a real spirit of cooperation.

Perhaps the most important of these changes is the discontinuance of openly wearing side-arms or handcuffs on the belt during the day, particularly in cities, villages, or thickly settled rural communities. It is found that this practice has caused considerable adverse criticism and seems entirely unnecessary. Of course, during the night or on special occasions, where personal safety may depend upon quick use of a weapon, it is understood they will be carried in the most convenient manner.



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Much emphasis has been placed on the importance of training new men before permitting them to assume any real responsibility with the result that probational appointees have the benefit of advice and instruction from experienced officers, thus eliminating the danger of ill-advised action in cases handled by them.

Efforts to maintain the close contact between patrol units and individual officers, desired by the Bureau, now show definite results, and it was noticeable that in the majority of Districts it was possible to gain contact without undue delay. This is the result of carrying out the Bureau instructions as regards regular duty assignments with definite meeting or calling points at regular intervals.

The spirit of cooperation between officers of the Administrative and Patrol branches of the Service shows decided improvement, officers of each realizing that the success of one means the success of the other. Emphasis has always been placed upon the need of the closest relationship between the two.

Inspection of motor vehicles in the various Districts develops that, after a few months service, they require frequent repairs, principally of a minor nature, but in Districts which do not have the services of a motor mechanic, regularly appointed, these small repairs become an item of considerable expense in the course of a year. It occurs to the writer that it would probably be in the interest of economy were each Border Patrol sub-district to be allowed a qualified motor mechanic.

Much improvement is noticeable in the care of motor equipment by patrol officers in general and still greater improvement would, no doubt, result were they to have the benefit of expert instruction from qualified mechanics. This mechanic could act for the officer in charge in conducting periodical inspections of motor transportation throughout the sub-district.

The matter of uniforms deserves some consideration as in my circuit of the country several instances were observed in which officers were somewhat careless in their appearance, principally as regards the style and color of the shirts worn. To correct this fault it might be well to specifically designate the type of shirts to be worn by officers on duty. On the Southern Border a very light serge or tropical worsted, and on the Northern Border a heavier grade, is suggested.

The manner of wearing the Sam Brown Belt also deserves some comment. The cross strap of this belt is worn over the right shoulder in some sections and over the left in others. In order that there may be uniformity in this matter it is suggested that instructions issue from the Bureau requiring these belts to be worn with cross strap over the left shoulder thus supporting the weight of the revolver on the right hip, where it is most generally worn.

The lack of any insignia of rank for ranking officers of the Patrol Service is also noticeable. In this connection, I might say that some time ago the writer offered certain recommendations to care for this point, but at this time does not know if any action was taken in the matter.

The matter of identification cards for Patrol Inspectors was brought up several times and it is the writers belief that they would be of considerable value. In his opinion, they should be worded in such a way as to make them of value only when carried in addition to the official badge. Such a card would serve as identification for officers not in uniform, but on official business, conducting investigations, etc.. Also it would serve as a medium to identify the wearer of a badge to local peace officers, who have frequently questioned the truth of our officers' claim when supported by a badge only. As a suggestion regarding the form of card please find sample attached hereto.

Because of complaints from certain sources that information reaching our officers has not been furnished other services, resulting in the successful attempts of smugglers of liquor to operate, the writer advised all Patrol Inspectors, whenever possible to relay such information verbally, immediately, but in every instance to confirm same in writing, retaining a copy for future reference - this for self-protection.

The policy of granting officers one day off in lieu of Sunday is generally followed in Districts and by assigning patrol units of three, five or seven men to stations the odd man acts as relief. Two-men stations seem impractical in that the absence of one prohibits the other from operating through the more important hours of darkness, thus leaving the station unmanned so far as actual patrolling is concerned.

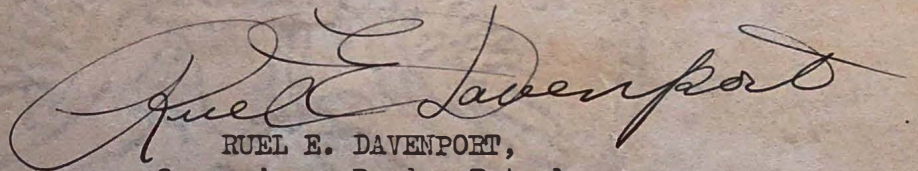
With our land forces becoming more effective the im-

portance of our maritime borders becomes greater and increasing vigilance is necessary to defeat the smuggler. The East and West Coasts, the shores of the Gulf of Mexico and our waterways on the Northern Border all afford excellent opportunities for smuggling of all kinds. The many islands and so-called Keys are convenient stepping stones to our mainland and to combat these conditions with any degree of success requires the use of water craft in order that Patrol officers may reach and search such points, inaccessible by land.

The recent inspection trip of the Congressional party along the Border has proven a wonderful stimulant to the entire Service and there is no doubt in the writer's mind that every effort will be made to prove to this committee that their confidence has not been misplaced.

In conclusion, I desire to say that the Department and Bureau has reason to feel proud of the Patrol organization, both as regards its personnel and its accomplishments, and I do not hesitate to predict that another year will see still greater improvement. The interest of all, from the District Officers down to the newest Patrol Inspector, is deserving of commendation.

Respectfully submitted,



RUEL E. DAVENPORT,
Supervisor, Border Patrol.

Patrol Inspector
U. S. Immigration
Service

Attach
photo
here.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
The bearer of this card, whose like-
ness and signature appear hereon
is a regularly appointed Patrol
Inspector in the United States
Immigration Service, and as such is
authorized to enforce all Laws per-
taining thereto.

Official Badge is required to be
worn in connection with this card.

Officer in Charge