

TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE  
St. Thomas, V.I. U.S.

Re. IMMIGRATION LAWS.

4 August 1919.

Rear Admiral J.W. Oman,  
Governor of the Virgin Islands,  
Government House, St. Thomas.

Sir:

Very sincerely yours,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated August 1, 1919, relative to a request for cooperation with the Commissioner of Immigration at San Juan, Porto Rico, with regard to the enforcement of the Immigration Law, Rules and Regulations, etc.

In reply to your request for information as to who acts as immigration officer at this port, I have to say so far as I have been able to ascertain there are no immigration laws in operation at this port, other than a very superficial police supervision which from the view point of the intent and scope of the immigration laws of the United States is very inadequate.

I respectfully request that reference be had to a communication to the Governor of the Virgin Islands under date of March 8, 1919, in which I invited attention to a specific case which should not have occurred, and which would not have occurred under proper immigration supervision. The case referred to is only one among a great many that have come to my knowledge since I have been connected with the Custom service at this port.

I am very glad indeed to have the opportunity of offering a suggestion relative to the appointment of an inspector of immigration for this port: My opinion is that the immigration laws, rules and regulations as they are at present in operation in Continental United States and in Porto Rico, should be extended to these Islands. But in the event that this may not be practicable at this time, I suggest that steps be taken by the Governor looking to the enactment of such legislation as will put into operation the same kind of an immigration law as is in operation at this time in the United States and Porto Rico.

In this connection I might say that in some of the outlying districts in the United States, where there is not a sufficient amount of work to warrant the Department of Labor in appointing an Inspector of Immigration, a very satisfactory arrangement has been made whereby the Customs officer has been designated Immigration Inspector, and by an understanding with the two departments, Treasury and Labor, a small salary has



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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

...paid from the Immigration service to the Customs officer who was so designated. I say that this has been done in the past and could very likely be arranged so that the Collector of Customs here could serve in the capacity of an Inspector of Immigration with a salary of say from \$40. to \$50. per month from the Immigration service.

The above suggestion is made in order to overcome the feeling that the Department of Labor might have, that a regular inspector of immigration with the resultant expense of extending the immigration service to these islands at this time would not be warranted.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ Darwin O. Curry,  
Collector of Customs,  
Virgin Islands of U.S.