



## "cap" tobin and the boat pool

Having retired from service this year and with nothing to do but sail his catboat off the shores of Staten Island, it wasn't difficult to obtain an interview with Chief Warrant Machinist J. W. Tobin, former Maintenance Officer and "head man" of the Boat Pool on Ellis Island. Here is what the reporter learned as the sailboat skimmed along:

Mr. Tobin first entered the Immigration Service in 1909, but in May 1912 resigned to accept a position in the Customs Service as Marine Engineer and served as operator-navigator of the only boat the Customs had in N. Y.

During World War I Mr. Tobin was dispatched to Hoboken to take over the patrolling of piers and German ships that were secured there. He

was in charge of this detail until he was relieved by the Navy on the water and the Army on the docks.

Next he was detailed in Quarantine at Rose Bank, Staten Island and with his boat acted as a dispatch boat from anchorage to the Barge Office for the duration of the War. (His job was to check any suspicious papers of passengers and crew aboard any incoming vessel). This was the second boat he had in his command.

After the War, Mr. Tobin returned to his regular Customs routine which was the enforcing of the Prohibition Act. All liquor and other contraband seized on board any vessel was first appraised by Mr. Tobin before final court action.

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