

AMERICAN CONSULAR BULLETIN



A SPRINKLER IN SINGAPORE

How they lay the dust in the streets of the hottest place on earth

Vol. V January, 1923 No. 1

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The American Consular Association

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The American Consular Association is an unofficial and voluntary association embracing most of the members of the Consular Service of the United States. It was formed for the purpose of fostering *esprit de corps* among the members of the Consular Service, to strengthen Service spirit, and to establish a center around which might be grouped the united efforts of its members for the improvement of the Service.

AMERICAN CONSULAR BULLETIN

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

JANUARY, 1923

Letters from Bangkok

By Maurice P. Dunlap, American Consul, Bangkok, Siam

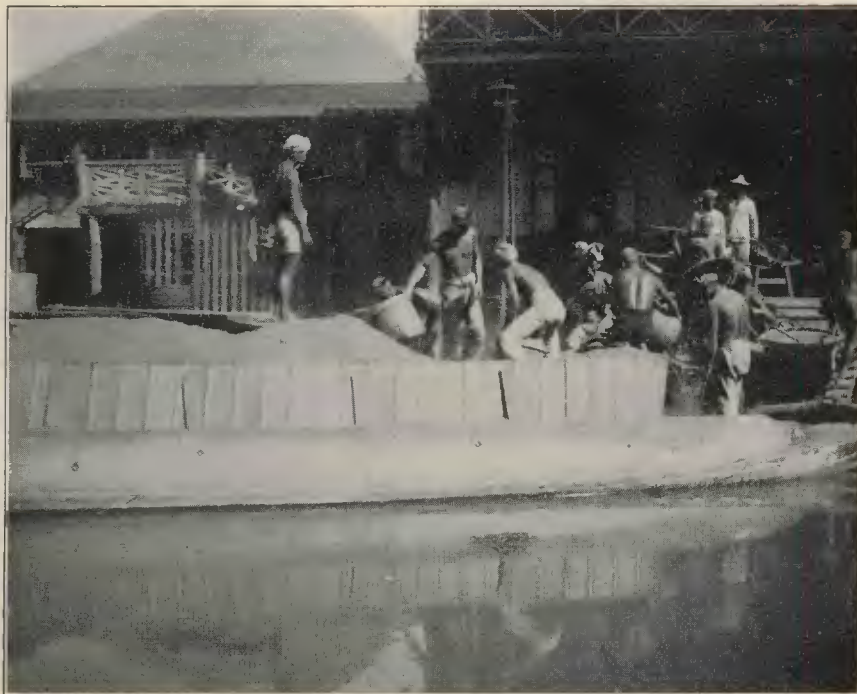
1 Kanyayon, 2464 B. E.
(Or September 1, the year 2464,
Buddhist Era.)

IT is nearly six weeks since goodbyes were said to friends in Copenhagen and a new drink was concocted on the occasion of my departure for Siam—namely, the *Bang-kok-tail*. I have been traveling almost continuously since, by train to Esbjerg, by boat to London, on a P. and O.

steamer to Singapore and then four days on a comfortable little steamer up the Gulf of Siam. It sounds unreasonable but I have figured out that Bangkok is as far from Washington as one can possibly be on this hemisphere—*plus* a four days' journey.

At first I doubted about our finding it on the map at all. I knew that the Siamese capital lay some twenty-five miles up the river but as we

coasted along the islands and it grew dark with no river in sight, I feared the worst. Then the rocking pilot boats that mark the "bar" twinkled at us, then the lights of other craft. All the larger steamers sailing up or down the Me-nam must line up along the bar and wait for the tide. Gradually the water rises. As the proper depth is reached, anchors are weighed and the ships move on. And soon I discern the mouth of the "Mother of Waters"; between low lying banks of shadowy forest and swamp land, the dark, coffee-colored stream surges forth. A sampan or two drift by; the sails of a heavy junk are silhouetted against the



LOADING PADDY RICE



moonlit clouds; there is a gleam from the depths of trailing vegetation—a lonely house on stilts comes into view: it is a fascinating entrance to a weird New World. Then the boat anchors for the night and late watchers must to bed.

With the first crack of day (the day does not “peep” here but “comes up like thunder,” you know) the steamer was “chunking” again and the watchers were almost immediately on duty. More strange craft—masses of floating vegetation, more quaint houses on stilts; then a continuous row along both banks, rice-mills, floating stores where short-haired women and Buddhist priests in boats are making purchases; teak mills, go-downs, until finally a great sweep of water is visible swarming with life, boats bumping against ours, naked coolies calling and shoving off with poles, and rows of amphibious-looking buildings stretching on into the distance above which rise the graceful lines of a pagoda like a bell—We are THERE.

In a few moments everyone on board has been captured by someone or other and I am being motored by the clerk from the Consulate, along highways and by-ways and over the numberless canals which interlace the city like a net—to the Royal Hotel. The Royal Hotel is an institution in Bangkok. It is a handsome, oriental-looking structure surrounded by beautiful grounds, with the dining-room and kitchen in open pavilions, quite separate except for a covered walk running to the main buildings. At the gate a tall Sikh watchman in uniform salutes each car as it enters. The hotel, I am told, was formerly the palace of some Chinese merchant-prince, built for a bevy of fascinating wives, but he was murdered in one of the rooms (the guests still speculate as to who has the “ghost room”) and now an Italian lady—a clever and capable woman—has made such a good hotel out of it that royal permission has allowed her to call it the “Royal” and over the doorway shines a golden Garuda, the fabulous bird which has displaced the elephant as the national Siamese emblem. There are electric fans and lights; the latter all wink off a second precisely at eight every evening so that Bangkok may set its watches. There is a French cook who left Marshall Joffre’s party here some months ago and obsequious China boys shuffle everywhere with cooling drinks. The rooms are very pleasant with high ceilings and polished floors, the walls being combinations of window, lattice work, balcony or Venetian blinds every inch g-a-s-p-i-n-g for air, for, let the truth be known, Bangkok is hot. The thermometer has rarely registered under 80 degrees since last March! Life is like one jolly round of Turkish bath.

The office of the Consulate is in a good-looking concrete building situated only a few steps from the main street which runs for miles parallel to the winding river. The office consists of two enormous, airy rooms and a store-room. It is immaculately kept with polished teak-wood floors, the trim furniture sent out by the Department being tastefully supplemented by teak cabinets, tables and screens, all finished to match the oak tone. One notices this fine wood everywhere in Bangkok; it is very decorative and seems to take light, dark, dull or glossy finish equally well. There are two Siamese clerks and a coolie who acts as janitor. The Vice Consul, Dr. Carl C. Hansen, has apothecary’s business in town but has been for many years connected with the office and still assumes charge in the absence of a Consul. Dr. Hansen is an American citizen, of course, but was born in Denmark and first came to Siam many years ago in connection with mission work. He consequently is most familiar with the country and of very valuable assistance to the office.

It has been a pleasure to find so many Americans associated with different interests in Siam. They meet in goodly numbers every Monday at the Legation when the Minister’s wife, Mrs. Brodie, has her afternoons at home. Real American ice cream is a prominent feature of these gatherings. It is quite easy to imagine one back in Manila; in fact, quite a number of the American colony seem to know the Philippines. In spite of the warm weather and the rather ubiquitous insect life, almost everyone seems in good health and contented and there is a “boost Bangkok” spirit which is most suggestive of the attitude of the Manila American.

The Government of Siam has in its employ a number of foreign advisers, most of them British, but several of them are Americans and none is more esteemed and respected than Dr. Eldon R. James, Adviser in Foreign Affairs. Another American whose influence is most practical and salutary is Dr. Ralph W. Mendelson, Medical Inspector for Bangkok. The capital boasts of its sanitary water supply and a daily test of its purity is made under Dr. Mendelson’s direction, so you may safely drink the water from the faucet—that is, if you’re taking water. In similar work, but not connected with the Government officially, is Dr. M. E. Barnes, sent out by the Rockefeller Foundation of New York, assisted by another American, Dr. H. R. O’Brien. Dr. Barnes is especially interested in the investigation and cure of hookworm and other tropical diseases. And another professional man of considerable importance to the entire foreign community is the American dentist, Dr. T. B. McArthur.

AMERICAN CONSULAR BULLETIN

Business interests are represented not only by several permanent residents attached to important oil companies, but by agents who cover Siam from other centers, such as China, Java or Singapore. One or two others handle certain American lines, but many of the most important articles that sell abroad (especially certain brands of motor cars) are handled by British, Danish or Italian houses. Among the oldest American residents are those who are or have originally been interested in the religious, educational or medical work of the missions. The most important activities of this kind are the American Presbyterian Mission of which Dr. W. G. McClure and Dr. J. B. Dunlap are senior members, and the American Bible Society whose Siam and Laos Agency is in charge of the Reverend Robert Irwin.

The foreign community in all numbers about 2,000, and that it is a very cosmopolitan collection can be seen from a glance into the Bangkok Sports Club any Saturday afternoon about five o'clock. It was a pleasure to see the veranda, lawn and golf course fairly swarming with smartly clad ladies and men, younger or older in light suits or sport togs; Britishers, Danes, Italians, Hollanders, Japanese, Americans; members of Legations and Consulates, professional and business men, an occasional Siamese official. In an open veranda an orchestra plays for a "tea dance"; upstairs a number of bridge tables are going. A Rugby football game is posted between "Rice and Teak" and "The Rest." In other words, the rice and teak team is composed of members of firms interested in these two exports while "The Rest" draws on the rest of the foreign community for its members. It is but an indication of how rice and teak overshadow every other interest in business, just as in football. There is a good race course and much interest is taken during the season in this sport. There are also numerous amateur theatricals, concerts and evening dances.

2 Tulakhom (October 2).

For the first time in years an American boat has been here—the *Victorious*, one of the Shipping Board vessels, with Captain O'Brien as master. The ship has been loading rice for the West Indies and will return via Panama. The voyage may lead to a regular freight route being established between Bangkok and American ports on the Atlantic Coast.

It is surprising how many Americans find their way to this distant corner of the world. Certain important firms have had representatives here to offer bids on locomotives and materials for the



BANGKOK'S BUSIEST CORNER

Siamese railways. An enterprising salesman for a well-known American chewing gum arrives and hopes to teach the young Siamese Idea to chew his product and eschew the native "betel-nut." The Chefalo-Palermo Magician Company, an American-Italian theatrical organization, have just given a successful season, ending with a private exhibition of magic for His Majesty the King. And then there is the energetic young man just out of college "walking around the world!" Richard Halliburton, Princeton, 1921, turns up engaged in this interesting business. He has just walked across the Malay Peninsula where he was

(Continued on page 15)

The Conference of Inspectors

THERE has rarely been a gathering of so small a group that has aroused so much interest throughout the Service as the Conference of Consuls General at Large, which convened in the Department on July 31 and terminated its work on August 14, 1922, as mentioned in the September issue of the BULLETIN. Although it was liberally suspected that the agenda of this conference dealt with purely technical questions relating to the work of inspectors, there was, nevertheless, an air of deep mystery about what was going on.

At the Consular dinner, when, as Mr. Carr said, the Consular Inspectors were put on inspection, each one in turn at some point in his remarks pretended that he was about to expose the secrets of the conference, but in every case this allusion proved to be only the preliminary of a good joke.

The BULLETIN is now enabled to reveal the facts by printing the following slightly abridged text of the report, which comprises the body of recommendations and conclusions reached by that august corps of friends of efficiency:

PART I

INSPECTION DISTRICTS

The Conference recommends that the following delimited territorial divisions be approved by the Department as the seven inspection districts now necessary in order that all consular officers in the Service may be inspected biennially as required by law:

1. *Western Europe*
The British Isles, France, Belgium, Spain, Portugal and Gibraltar.
2. *Eastern Europe*
All of Europe not included in the District of Western Europe.
3. *Central Asia and Africa*
The Continent of Africa and the Islands adjacent thereto, Asia Minor, Arabia, Iraq, Persia, India and Ceylon.
4. *The Far East*
Eastern Asia, Australia, Oceanica and the Islands of the Pacific.
5. *Central America, South America*
All countries of Central and South America.
6. *Mexico and West Indies*
Mexico, West Indies, Bahamas and Bermuda.
7. *British North America*
Canada and Newfoundland.

It is the belief of the Conference that one Consul General at Large should be on duty at the

Department much of the time. This could be accomplished by having the Consul General at Large assigned to British North America remain on duty in the Department, except at such times as it may be desirable that he make inspections in the district.

MOBILITY IN INSPECTIONS

It is the further belief of the Conference that the work of the several Consuls General at Large should not be definitely limited to the districts to which they are respectively assigned, but that, in the interest of mobility, elasticity, and economy in travel, any one of them should be required, at the pleasure of the Department, to inspect any offices not in his immediate district.

ROTATION OF DISTRICTS

In order that the Department may have the benefit of the opinion of several Consuls General at Large in regard to the efficiency of each officer in the Service and also in order to maintain the maximum interest of each Consul General at Large in his work, the Conference recommends that, subject to the exigencies of the Service, a system of rotation of assignments to Inspection Districts be adopted, under which the same Consul General at Large would not inspect the same district twice consecutively.

TO SECURE A HIGHER TYPE OF CONSULAR OFFICERS

1. It is recommended that the Board of Examiners for the Consular Service exercise the utmost care in the examination of all applicants for entry into the Service, and that only those applicants shall be passed who unquestionably possess the requisite qualifications for developing into efficient officers.

2. That a consular officer of high grade, and of broad field experience, be designated to sit during examinations with the Board of Examiners to give the members thereof the benefit of his experience in determining the fitness of those examined.

3. That recruiting be carried on largely through the leading universities of the country and through important chambers of commerce in order to reach the highest type of young men to interest them in entering the Service, and that personal visits to these institutions by administrative officers of the Department and by representative consular officers be authorized from time to time as may seem necessary for recruiting purposes.

4. That the physical examination of applicants for the service be made sufficiently rigid to pre-

vent the entry of any person unfit to serve at any post to which it might be desirable to send him.

5. That the classes of vice consuls be reduced from three to two, at \$2,500 and \$3,000, respectively; that greater compensation be paid officers in the higher grades; and that the number of high grade officers in the Service be increased.

6. That a retirement system be established for the Service which will permit the President to retire superannuated officers, and those who may become incapacitated in the line of duty, with a pension sufficient to enable them to live in comfort thereon.

TO INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE EXISTING PERSONNEL

7. It is recommended that inspection work shall be standardized, in so far as that is possible, in order that the relative efficiency of all officers in the Service shall be definitely known; and that for the purpose of bringing about such standardization each Consul General at Large, before he takes up his duties as an inspector, shall be made thoroughly acquainted with the Department's policies and desires in regard to such work.

8. That the form of inspection or rating questionnaire in use by Consuls General at Large and other rating officers be modified in regard to the leads given under the questions thereon to conform to the appended model in order to render the meaning of the questions entirely clear; and that the appended "Memorandum for Consuls General at Large and Other Rating Officers on the Rating Questionnaire," which has been approved by the Conference, be adopted by the Department, printed, and furnished all rating officers to assist them in arriving at the correct ratings of officers inspected by them.

9. That every officer in the Service be made fully aware of the fact that his efficiency rating, which establishes his relative efficiency to that of every other officer, definitely determines his eligibility for promotion under the provisions of rule 10 of the "Regulations Governing Appointments and Promotions in the Consular Service," proclaimed by Executive Order of June 27, 1906.

10. That no officer in the Service whose rating is below "Average" shall be promoted; and that all officers rated "Poor" as a result of causes other than superannuation, or disability incurred in the line of duty shall be recommended to the President to be removed from the Service for inefficiency.

11. That consular conferences, national or international, to be presided over by the Director of the Consular Service, be held abroad annually, at such times and in such places as the Department

may determine, for the purpose of interpreting the Department's policies to the field and stimulating morale in the Service.

12. That Consuls General at Large, during their inspections of officers, suggest to them courses of reading, when such seem desirable, to broaden their culture, and to increase their knowledge of conditions in the district or country in which located, world affairs, international business methods, etc.

PART III

OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

The Conference has given careful study to the subject of office administration in the Service and submits the following recommendations thereon:

1. It is recommended that Section II of the Inspection Report Form be amended, in accordance with the draft herewith appended, in order to conform to the requirements of inspection work as it should now be carried out.

2. That the Department call to the particular attention of all officers in the Service the necessity for the proper accounting for all official funds coming into their possession, and the prompt rendition of accounts covering such funds.

3. That the Department adopt as an official record book, for use throughout the Service, an account book to take the place of the transcript of accounts now made in the Miscellaneous Record Book as prescribed in Paragraph 540 of the Consular Regulations.

4. That the Department enforce the strictest compliance by all consular officers with the requirements of G. I. C. No. 801 regarding assistance to be rendered Americans, and that all officers be instructed that they must at all times show the utmost courtesy and obligingness to all persons calling at the consulate, whether Americans or foreigners.

5. That memorandum instructions, explaining in detail the manner in which each record book in use at a consulate should be kept, be printed by the Department and attached to the flyleaf of the respective books.

The following resolution pertaining to office administration was adopted by the Conference:

Resolved, That while the mechanics of office administration and evidence of adherence to form are matters of importance, it is realized by the Conference that, if the Government is to avail itself of all of the advantages intended to be derived from the greater mobility furnished by the classification of the Service, great care must be exercised in giving due and proper weight to the broader aspects of office administration in rating

(Continued on page 23)

A Consul's Wife

An Efficiency Report By One Who Knows

SHE acquired a prime qualification for her position by being born in the United States of parents, grandparents and other ascendants also born therein. She married into the Service young and went something more than half way round the world to take charge of an oriental household of fourteen turbaned and mostly bearded servants. She met various Sirs, Sahibs and Ladies, learned their tea ceremonial and something of their language, watched cricket games with real or well-feigned enjoyment, visited the Sultan's harem and made friends with the inmates, distributed pice to the lepers sitting in long lines beyond Seyyid Yusuf's mosque and went to visit certain cultured friends who lived amidst the ancient squalor of the Khoja fort seeing nothing strange about any of these things.

Accompanied by two armed guards and a missionary lady, she went to the bazaar, followed its dark and winding passages for a quarter of a mile, sat down cross-legged on the carpet before the bunnia's booth and bought muslin in as matter of fact a manner as she would have shopped on "F" Street. The fact that two fuzzy-wuzzies from the hills, armed with hand-made swords and hippopotamus hide shields, were buying the glands of a civet cat at the next booth did not disturb her at all. Eventually, when she started back home, Sir Herbert and Lady Mary, His Highness, the Sultan; five American missionaries, the fourteen servants, including the Goanese cook, were all at the boat to say goodbye; Mohammed bin Turki, agent of the Standard Oil Company, brought a pair of hand-hammered bracelets for a parting gift and Jumma, the ancient head puttiewallah, had tears rolling down his cheeks as he said farewell to his Memsahib. To her they were all just people whom she liked.

After a long and lonely journey, a glimpse within the grisly portals and a first acquaintance with misfortune and grief she again crossed the Atlantic alone, met her husband and proceeded to some islands where her tea tables formed a neutral ground for warring factions and nationalities. After months, with a baby in her arms, she was again upon the ocean now under the stark terror of the submarine. In a hot, ugly and dirty tropical town her home was for four years the only spot where a wandering American could get a hearty welcome and decent food. When the fort blew up and bullets rained upon the roof and it was feared that the stores of dynamite would go off

and wreck the town she was interested but unafraid. This time with two babies, she was again upon the sea and not far away when a submarine downed the *Carolina*. She came back after the armistice and the Collector of Customs had her baggage sent directly from the steamer to her home—a thing that never happened in that port before. She took up her regular routine of teas, tennis, teaching the children to read, rushing them to the street on earthquake midnights, visiting the sick and feeding shipmasters on chocolate pie until it was time to move to a larger city.

Here her home became the rendezvous for lonely young Americans; she made more friends for her husband than he ever made for himself. In another port she made some scanty social life grow where none had grown before; because she had been kind to a bank bookkeeper's wife her husband was warned to withdraw his little all and did it two hours before the bank failed.

She speaks one foreign language with amazing fluency and has a store of useful words in several others.

On an income of about \$4,000 she has kept her end up with acquaintances spending from three to ten times that and *has saved some money*.

She is a good mountain climber, almost an expert at tennis, a fair swimmer and diver and can beat lots of men at chess, but her best game is friend-making at which she is a champion.

But are these the best things that can be said about her? Not and decidedly not. She has looked after the Consul's food, cared for his health, fought him to make him buy new clothes and keep his old ones pressed, but the finest manifestation of her genius is that she has never taken any interest in the business of the Consulate. She has never liked unduly nor disliked at all any Vice Consul nor clerk nor the wife of any. She has never expressed an opinion on any of the political or international questions that have been raging around her nor seemed to know that they existed. She has never asked what income Jones declared nor what age Miss Ann put on her registration. She lived in a Consulate for four years, passed the office door some forty times a day but never crossed its threshold except when she was invited and has never been heard to say, "Other Consuls get promoted through political influence."

Yet the law says, "The Government cannot accept services gratuitously rendered."

Curios from Marseille

By Wesley Frost

MR. ALLAN Macfarlane, who has been chief clerk of this office since he was discovered by Robert P. Skinner, in 1900, is custodian of our archives, which date back to 1796, more than a century and a quarter ago. Parenthetically it may be said that "Mac," who would be a leading contestant for the title of the best accounting officer in the Service, enjoys the personal acquaintance and esteem of innumerable members of the association whose transit through Marseille he has facilitated during his long service here. As custodian of the records of this office, he recently brought to light two interesting entries, of which photographs are enclosed; and has been good enough to have them photographed for the benefit of the BULLETIN.

One presents an excellent autograph of Washington Irving, who reached France in the midst of the Napoleonic wars and was suspected by the French authorities of being an English spy. The passport which was visaed (certified) by this office on August 22, 1804, accordingly was by no means an incumbrance; and I dare say the genial author of the *Alhambra* would have valued it at a good deal

more than a ten dollar fee at present in force. The other photograph shows the oath of Stephen Cathalan, the incumbent of this office during nearly two decades, to the ownership of a certain consignment of mustard and vinegar by

D.D. January 1804

I Stephen Cathalan Port. Commercial Agent of France agents of the port of Marseilles do hereby attest and have made oath on the holy Evangelists of Almighty God that the Goods shipped in the Port of Marseilles which I have shipped in the American Ship Franklin of New London Captⁿ Rob^t M Avery bound for New York are by order and for the sole account of the President of the U. S. of A. being for his own use that no citizen or subject of any of the Belligerent Powers have any share or concern in the same either directly or indirectly = ~~And to wit remain the sole property~~

Thomas Jefferson. It is evident that in the early days it was a consular function to invoke the sanction of the Holy Evangelists when necessary in order that the Presidential palate at Washington might be titillated by the wonderful French condiments for which this region is still famous.

22 August 1804

Received a Passport from Bordeaux delivered by the Comptroller of Police in favor of Mr Washington Irving Merchant of New York Citizen of the United States & legalized the Signature of De Witt Clinton Esq^r Mayor of New York to his passport of he has signed

Washington Irving.

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The American Consular Bulletin is published monthly by the American Consular Association, and is distributed by the Association to its members gratis. The Bulletin is also open to private subscription in the United States and abroad at the rate of \$4.00 a year, or 35 cents a copy, payable to the American Consular Bulletin, c/o Consular Bureau, Department of State, Washington, D. C.

The purposes of the Bulletin are (1) to serve as an exchange among American consular officers for personal news and for information and opinions respecting the proper discharge of their functions, and to keep them in touch with business and administrative developments which are of moment to them; and (2) to disseminate information respecting the work of the Consular Service among interested persons in the United States, including business men and others having interests abroad, and young men who may be considering the Consular Service as a career.

Propaganda and articles of a tendential nature, especially such as might be aimed to influence legislature, executive or administrative action with respect to the Consular Service, or the Department of State, are rigidly excluded from its columns.

Contributions should be addressed to the American Consular Bulletin, c/o Consular Bureau, Department of State, Washington, D. C.

ROGERS BILL HEARINGS

Hearings have actually begun on the Rogers Bill. On Monday, December 11, the Secretary of State appeared before the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives to present his views with respect to H. R. 12543 for the reorganization and improvement of the Foreign Service. His statement was a full endorsement of the provisions of the bill, which he stated had been referred by him to the President and had received the entire approval of the Chief Executive. The testimony of the Secretary of State will appear in the February issue of the BULLETIN.

Following the Secretary of State, Consul General Robert P. Skinner was called to the stand and made a short statement which was continued by further testimony from him on December 15.

In the meantime, the Committee concluded that it would be desirable to run through the entire bill with Mr. Carr on the stand in order that its various features might be thoroughly explained with respect to their technical bearing on the service organization. Mr. Carr's testimony consumed three days. It is understood that the hearings will be extended to include the testimony of one or two others on December 19, following which the Committee will likely proceed to the consideration of the bill. It may be stated that there is an encouraging prospect of a favorable report.

MORE KIND WORDS

A recent issue of "The Grace Log," the house organ of W. R. Grace & Co., reprints a part of Mr. Carr's article "What Your Consuls Do," which appeared in the BULLETIN for January, 1922. By way of introduction, the editors of "The Grace Log," say these pleasant things about the service:

"At a time when, as a rule, the operations of government are being more censured than praised, it is a pleasure to bear testimony to the efficiency of the United States Consular Service. Business men generally, during the period of expansion of foreign trade, have come to know what has long been patent to American merchants overseas, namely, that the Consular Service consists of a body of public servants unexcelled anywhere for industry, experience and desire to forward the interests of their country.

It is not so long since the Consular Service was the field of the political spoilsman, but the merit system of appointment and promotion has been so firmly and faithfully maintained since 1906 that the comic tradition of the Yankee Consul has faded into the limbo of forgotten things.

The Consular Service is today a career for Americans but there can be no greater error than the idea that it is a career of leisure. The functions of the Consular officer are primarily commercial. With the increase in volume and complexity of our foreign trade relationships the business of the American consular establishments has vastly grown, and as they are almost always understaffed for lack of adequate appropriations, the Consul and his assistants have been anything but leisured onlookers at the foreign scene.

Mr. Wilbur J. Carr, Director of the Consular Service and who for twenty years has been an effective worker for the establishment of the Service upon its present non-political basis, has written for the AMERICAN CONSULAR BULLETIN an article entitled "What Your Consuls Do." It is a complete but modest enumeration of the functions discharged by these representatives of the American Government abroad. We reproduce a part of Mr. Carr's article below but there will not be found therein those other ceaseless activities of Consuls which spring from an ever alert desire to cultivate friendship with other nations, promote mutual trade interests and protect the rights of American citizens everywhere. The prestige of the United States throughout the world is daily raised by the presence among foreign people of the dignified and able gentlemen of the American Consular Service."



Mason Mitchell, American Consul at Valetta, Malta, was shot and wounded by an unidentified assailant on December 6, near Baracca, Malta. Mr. Mitchell's wound was, fortunately, only slight, and, as the *BULLETIN* goes to press, his rapid recovery is predicted.

Reports from Malta concerning the shooting emphasize Mr. Mitchell's popularity on the island, and attribute the act to a madman.

Mr. Mitchell has been under fire before, having been a member of the Rough Riders. He was wounded at the battle of Santiago, and was cited for bravery in action. His career has been varied and interesting. Before entering the Consular Service in 1902, he was a lecturer and writer, a theatrical manager and actor, and chief of scouts under the Canadian Government during the Riel rebellion of 1885. His consular posts have been Zanzibar, Campbellton, Chungking, Apia, Queens-town and Valetta.

Ralph Chesbrough, formerly Student Interpreter and Consul in Turkey, paid a flying visit to the Department on December 7, 1922, in the interests of his company, Edgar B. Howard, Registered, of Philadelphia, which concern conducts extensive import and export operations in the Near East.

"Chez" renewed many old Service friendships on the trip and, during short conferences, enjoyed swapping experiences of adventure. He stated that Lewis Heck, a former Student Interpreter and Turkish secretary in the Embassy at Constantinople, is now holding down the job as their manager in Turkey. With a happy glitter in his eye, he reported the arrival on May 6, 1922, at Springfield, Mo., of Chester Wayne Chesbrough, who, he declares, is a chip off the old block. Incidentally, this is his second son.

The following transfers, appointments and resignations have occurred in the Service during the period from November 10 to December 10, 1922:

Maynard B. Barnes, now assigned to Smyrna, assigned to Constantinople; Sydney E. O'Donohue, now assigned to Athens, assigned to Saloniki; William P. George, now detailed to Athens,

assigned to Teneriffe, and Frank A. Henry, now assigned to Teneriffe, detailed to Barcelona; Edward E. Silvers, now assigned to Almeria, assigned to Seville; Clarence A. Castle, now assigned to Vigo, assigned to Barcelona; Richard P. Butrick, now assigned to Valparaiso, assigned to Iquique; Randolph B. Carroll, newly appointed Vice Consul of Career, Class 3, assigned to Rotterdam, and Joseph A. Marquis, now assigned to Rotterdam, assigned to Cherbourg; Felix Cole, recently reappointed Consul, Class 5, detailed to the Department; Howard Bucknell, now Vice Consul and Interpreter at Changsha, transferred as such to Canton; Carl D. Meinhardt, now Vice Consul and Junior Interpreter at Changsha, promoted to be Senior Interpreter; David C. Berger, Flavius J. Chapman and Maxwell M. Hamilton, Student Interpreters at Peking, have been transferred as Vice Consuls and Interpreters at Tientsin, Harbin and Canton, respectively.

The following newly-appointed Vice Consuls of Career of Class 3 have been assigned: Nelson R. Park to Guatemala, William L. Peck to Stockholm, Austin R. Preston to Melbourne and Conger Reynolds to Halifax.

Among the subordinate personnel the following clerks have been appointed Vice Consuls and assigned to their present posts: Frederick A. Bohne, Toronto; Gordon L. Burke, Changsha; Ernest L. Monroe, Harbin, and William T. Veach, Colombo.

The following Vice Consuls and Clerks have been transferred in the same capacities: Davis B. Levis from Boulogne-sur-Mer to Cherbourg; H. Armistead Smith from Bristol to Berne; Verne G. Statten from Amoy to Swatow; Herman C. Vogenitz from Lisbon to Oporto (temporary), and Ben C. Matthews from Arica to Antofagasta.

The following clerks have been transferred as Vice Consuls and Clerks: Stephen F. Colladay from Cherbourg to Bristol; Roger W. Davis from Quebec to Winnipeg, and George W. Richardson from Wellington to Auckland.

John H. Lord remains at Singapore, as his commission to Penang has been cancelled, and Marshall Y. Mayo remains at Wellington, as his commission to Auckland is cancelled.

The following Consular Agents have been ap-

pointed: Eugene J. Lieder, of New York, at La Romana, and Francis J. Wilson, of Connecticut, at San Pedro de Macoris.

The following officers have resigned: Austin C. Alden, Consular Assistant, Vice Consul at St. Michael's; Sample B. Forbus, Consul, Class 6, detailed at Paris; Cathey M. Berry, Consular Agent at San Pedro de Macoris, and James M. Sheahan, Consular Agent at La Romana.

A daughter, Joan Eleanor Mitchell, was born on Hallowe'en, October 31, 1922, at Mexico City, to Consul and Mrs. W. M. Parker Mitchell.

A daughter, Liselotte Ruby Wagner, was born on January 21, 1922, at Ludwigsburg, Germany, to Mr. and Mrs. Otto Wagner. Mr. Wagner is clerk in the Consulate at Stuttgart.

Miss Florence Isabelle Kirch, of Florence, Italy, and Mr. W. Roderick Dorsey were married at the Palazzo Vecchio, Florence, on October 26, 1922, by the Mayor, Antonio Garbasso. Mr. Dorsey is Consul at Florence.

Miss Olga Alexandrovna Lamkert and Mr. William L. Perk were married on October 28, 1922, by the Rev. Valdue Bengston, in the parsonage at Oskars Forsamlings Church at Stockholm. Mr. Perk is clerk at Stockholm.

A son, Llewelyn Withey, was born to Consul and Mrs. Howard Francis Withey on November 8, 1922, at Tahiti, Society Islands.

A daughter was born on November 19, 1922, to Consul and Mrs. Irving N. Linnell. Mr. Linnell is now detailed at London, England.

Consul and Mrs. George A. Makinson announce the birth of a son, Robert Taft Makinson, on November 16 at Valparaiso, Chile.

A son, Richard Hempstead Donald, was born to Consul and Mrs. G. K. Donald on November 3, 1922, at Johannesburg.

The consulates at Brest and at Rouen, France, have been formally closed.

During the period of November 1 to 30, 1922, inclusive, 1,316 miscellaneous and general letters were received in the Department from Consuls for transmission to addresses in the United States. The office at Riga led with 216 letters, while Constantinople, with 87, and London, with 82, followed in the order named.

The following consular officers registered at the Department during the period from November 11 to December 15:

Robert P. Skinner, Consul General at London;

[12]

Alphonse Gaulin, Consul General at Rio de Janeiro; Evan E. Young, former Commissioner at Riga; Arthur Garrels, Consul General at Large; Alban G. Snyder, Consul General at Christiania; Benjamin F. Chase, Consul at Messina; Thomas H. Bevan, Consul at Bahia; Homer Brett, Consul at Iquique; Robert R. Bradford, Consul at Casablanca; J. E. Jacobs, Consul at Shanghai; Lawrence P. Briggs, Consul at Riviere du Loup; Ilo C. Funk, Consul at Genoa; M. L. Stafford, Consul at Barranquilla; John F. Simons, Vice Consul at Paris; Knox Alexander, Vice Consul at Puerto Cortez; Herbert S. Bursley, Vice Consul at Sofia; John A. Scott, Vice Consul at Dresden; Frederick C. Johnson, Vice Consul at Frederickton; Harry L. Troutman, Vice Consul at Milan; Charles M. Gerrity, Vice Consul at Prague; Curtis F. Everett, Vice Consul at Stuttgart; John Newton, Vice Consul at Kobe; Joseph F. Burt, Vice Consul at Vienna; Franklin C. Gowan, Vice Consul at Leghorn; Ernest E. Evans, Vice Consul in Albania; Cyrus B. Follmer, Vice Consul at Lyon; Sheldon H. Tolles, Jr., Vice Consul at Shanghai; John S. Williams, Jr., Vice Consul at Bucharest.

From Consul General Halstead at Montreal come these kind words:

"Permit me, who was a newspaper man before going on Uncle Sam's pay roll, to congratulate you upon the November issue of the BULLETIN. It brings to us gratifying information of the progress made toward the re-organization of the Foreign Service. I had feared some months ago that the BULLETIN would be too heavy, but every now and then there is a light touch that helps to brighten a hard hour. The combination of information and amusement seems to be properly adjusted."

During the month of October, 1922, the Department was able to rate "Excellent" 24 of a total of 2,345 Commercial and Economic Reports received during that period. The "Excellent" reports originated in the following offices: Kobe, 2; London, 2; Mexico City, 2; Trinidad, 2; Aleppo, Auckland, Bahia, Berlin, Buenos Aires, Cape Town, Colombo, Goteborg, Habana, Huelva, La Paz, Lisbon, Rome, Santos, Sydney and Tampico 1 each.

Of the above total, 435 Reports were rated "Very Good"; 1813 "Average," 66 "Fair" and 3 "Poor."

There has been a gratifying increase in the number of reports which can be rated "Very Good."

AMERICAN CONSULAR BULLETIN

The following promotions in the diplomatic service were confirmed by the Senate on December 4:

To Class 2: Williamson S. Howell, Jr., Cornelius Van H. Engert.

To Class 3: Frederic D. K. LeClerq, Harold H. Tittman, Jr.

Mr. Norman Armour has arrived at the Department from the Legation at Montevideo and is now on duty in the office of the Under Secretary.



The appointment of Miss Lucile Atcherson, of Columbus, Ohio, to be a third secretary of embassy or legation was confirmed by the Senate on December 4, 1922. Miss Atcherson is the first woman to be appointed to a career post in the American foreign service. She is a graduate of Smith College. She was secretary to a college president in 1917, and

from 1917 to 1921 served with the American Committee for Devastated France, being general secretary of the Committee, 1918-21.

Consul Henry B. Hitchcock at Taihoku, Taiwan, Japan, has evolved a very practical method of disseminating commercial information to Americans in his consular district.

"As the number of American business men resident in Formosa is too small to form a Chamber of Commerce," Consul Hitchcock writes, "I have made it a practice, in order to keep them informed of general business conditions in the United States, to send around with a circular letter a copy of each Commerce Report as it was received, together with any other commercial publications, such as are issued by the large banks in the United States, as might have been received at the same time, binding them all together in a Shipman binder.

"Every one of the chief representatives of the firms to which I have been sending these circulars has expressed his appreciation of the service. The frequency with which the firms draw one another's attention to noteworthy articles shows that the service is of real value and genuine interest. It has the added advantage of requiring very little of the consulate's time to maintain."

During the month of November, 1922, there were 3,268 Trade Letters transmitted to the Department as against 3,462 in October.

The Consulate General at Habana, Cuba, took first place in the number of Trade Letters submitted, having 115, followed by Buenos Aires with 60, Mexico City with 58, Callao-Lima 50 and London, England 42.

Assistant Secretary of Commerce Huston, who has been on a world tour, sailed from England on the S. S. George Washington December 14, en route to the United States.

Trade Commissioner William L. Irvine, who has been investigating the markets for automotive products in the Far East and Europe, returned to the United States December 12.

Mr. Alexander M. Walker, who has been on duty for the Department of Commerce in Madrid for the past year, has returned to the United States, and Assistant Trade Commissioner Owen S. Payne, formerly at Berlin, has been transferred to Madrid.

Mr. Robert R. Bogenberger, formerly at Riga, has been transferred to Rome.

Trade Commissioner Leighton W. Rogers, who has been at Riga, is returning to the United States.

Trade Commissioner Carl J. Mayer and his secretary, Mr. Emil A. Kekich, formerly representing the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce at Harbin and Vladivostok, Siberia, have been transferred to Riga, Latvia.

Trade Commissioner H. Lawrence Groves, formerly at Riga, who has been on leave in the United States for the past three months, sailed from the United States Wednesday, December 13, en route to his new post at Prague, Czechoslovakia.

Trade Commissioner Vladimir A. Geringer, formerly at Prague, is returning to the United States.



Miss Marjorie Iris Wookey and Mr. H. Armistead Smith were united in marriage on November 20, 1922, by the Reverend L. Roadhouse in St. Paul's Church, Bisto, England. Mr. Smith is Vice Consul at Bristol.

Mrs. Alexander McDonald Walker, wife of the assistant to the Commercial Attaché at the American Embassy, Madrid, died on October 26, 1922, at Madrid.

A total of 2,300 reports were received in the month of November, 1922, as compared with 2,345 in the month of October, 1922. Of this total the Department was able to grade 12 as excellent, as compared with 24 in October.

The excellent reports emanated from the following stations:

Alexandria	1
Antwerp	1
Buenos Aires	1
Dairen	1
Goteborg	1
Hamburg	1
London, England	1
Pernambuco	1
Rotterdam	1
Trieste	1
Valparaiso	1
Vladivostok	1
Total	12

Three hundred and twenty-five reports were rated very good, 1,947 were rated average, and 16 could be considered very fair.

An interesting change in procedure in connection with the certification of invoices is noted in the Tariff Act of 1922, Section 482 f. Under section 2844 of the Revised Statutes the Department of State has from time to time placed certain cities on the so-called "No Consul" list; that is, places at which there is no American consular representative and which are so remote as to be inaccessible by mail to any consular office. In such cases the statute heretofore authorized the certification of invoices by the consular officer of a friendly nation or by two resident merchants. The new Tariff Act changes this and provides that the certification shall be made by "a consular officer of a nation at the time in amity with the United States or if there be no such consular officer available such invoice shall be executed before a notary public or other officer having authority to administer oaths and having an official seal."

[14]

The BULLETIN has been informed that complimentary copies of the *American Economist* are hereafter to be supplied to American diplomatic and consular officers by a private agency.

Vice Consul Ernest E. Evans, who recently returned to the United States after a tour of duty with the former American Commissioner to Albania, Maxwell Blake, brought with him interesting accounts of life in Tirana, the little-known and remote capital of the new nation. Housing conditions in Tirana are almost unbelievably difficult, according to Mr. Evans, and it was only with the greatest pains that quarters were found for the American mission. Tirana is reached only by road, and during the winter the roads are practically impassable for automobiles. The new American Minister to Albania, U. Grant-Smith, has now arrived at Tirana, and Mr. Blake is returning to the United States on leave.

Consular officers who have seen service in the Consulate General at Calcutta will learn with regret of the illness during a part of the past year of Babu J. C. Bose, who has been an employe in the office for nearly fifty years. Babu Bose is described by Consul General Weddell as "a conscientious and valuable member of the office staff."

An American Consul, in describing the annual Thanksgiving festivities of the American colony at his post, remarks:

"A few American citizens residing here, one of whom happens to be in jail, did not take part in this function, since they are not of such standing in the community as would warrant their being present as guests of honor."

The National Foreign Trade Council has announced the establishment of a permanent Trade Adviser Service. Inquiries from Americans interested in foreign trade, presenting problems needing expert advice for their solution, will be received by the Trade Adviser Secretary at the office of the Council, 1 Hanover Square, New York City. The problems will then be submitted to three or more of the Council's trade advisers, and from their replies one answer will be compiled in as concise and clear a form as possible. The list of Trade Advisers contains the names of some of the most experienced and prominent business men of the United States. The new service is to be rendered free of charge to bona fide inquirers.



SIAMESE SOLDIERS

(Continued from page 5)

compelled to follow a partially inundated elephant trail. As he stepped aside to avoid one pit-fall, his foot caught in something and there was a cobra several feet long winding itself around his leg. It raises its head to strike, Mr. Princetonian gives himself up for lost but he is traveling with a forked stick and lifting this up—but as the young man is going to write a book, it is a shame to steal his copy!

17 Tulakhom (October 17).


The connections between Consulates and Legations in Bangkok are very close, as most of the ministers or *chargés d'affaires* are also in charge of the consular activities. The American Consulate (then Consulate General) was until recently in the Legation building, the Secretary of the Legation often acting as Consul General. At that time the office had extra-territorial jurisdiction, but this has been given up under the new treaty and Americans have no longer access to a consular court. The nationals of other countries strongly represented in Siam as the Britishers and Danes are similarly situated while certain other governments still have the old arrangement. There is a great deal of calling to be done in Bangkok and there is considerable official entertaining. Our American Minister, Mr. Brodie, presented me at the Foreign

Office to His Royal Highness Prince Devawongse, the Foreign Minister. Later I have called on the heads of other ministries and departments as well as the representatives of the different foreign governments.

An important Siamese festival, called the *Phra Kathin*, has just been in progress where His Majesty Rama VI on several days has visited various monasteries and temples with presents for the Buddhist priests.

Members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps had special opportunity to view this spectacle which was most dignified and colorful,

having special seats on the lawn opposite the Banumas-Chamrun Palace.



1905 -

- 1923

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A Meeting of Ministers

By William R. Castle, Jr., Chief of the Division of Western European Affairs, Department of State

IT may have been the meeting of Consuls in Berlin which suggested to Ambassador Houghton the idea of a conference of American Ministers from the surrounding States. Certainly the Ambassador was very enthusiastic over the Consular Conference. He told me that he had seldom seen a group of men who seemed to him to average better; that every Consul had something worth while to report and that all seemed to have a spirit of real cooperation among themselves and with the Embassy. Whatever the original suggestion may have been, Mr. Houghton, with the consent of the Department, suggested that the Ministers from some of the surrounding countries meet in Berlin as his guests, to talk over the problems which each had to meet. Mr. Grew came from Switzerland, Mr. Washburn from Vienna, Mr. Brentano from Budapest, Mr. Gibson from Warsaw, and General Allen from Coblenz.

I happened to be in London on leave at the time and it seemed to me too good an opportunity to miss. I was quite sure that by going to this conference in Berlin I should get the latest information about the various countries in the Western European Division. I arrived just in time to dress for the get-together dinner—and it must be remembered that from a gastronomical as well as an intellectual point of view any dinner at the Embassy in Berlin is well worth going to.

The next day we spent in Mr. Houghton's delightful library, grouped quite informally and talking quite informally except that the Ambassador, to open the meeting, leaned on the mantel and talked for an hour about conditions in Germany and his own personal feeling as to what remedies might be applied, and after he had finished each, in turn, summarized the important events of interest in the country where he represented the United States. Mr. Gibson, in his own inimitable way, made us understand the somewhat hectic life of the American Minister in Warsaw. Mr. Washburn told with quiet accuracy and astonishingly clear knowledge of the disastrous conditions of Austria—conditions which he felt, however, might be improved when the League of Nations plan is put into effect. Mr. Brentano spoke of the difficulties which the Hungarian Government was strenuously and often effectively meeting in Budapest. General Allen told us all what an excellent effect, in his opinion, the small body of American troops on the Rhine had, as it affected the whole

Rhineland area. Mr. Grew gave a vivid and extraordinarily interesting picture of conditions in Switzerland, where life is difficult on account of the high exchange and on account of troubles almost invariably precisely the opposite of the troubles in Germany. Exaggeration, either upward or downward, seems to bring disaster. Mr. Grew was also able to add to what the various men had said of Central European affairs by outlining the acute observations of the Swiss Government on these conditions. I discreetly refrained from making any speech and contented myself with absorbing all that I could possibly hold.

This conference was a new idea. Everyone present felt that it was an exceedingly valuable experience and that it ought to be repeated twice a year, the men meeting in different countries. Of course, since it was the first conference of the kind, the press was very excited. One paper referred to the meeting as the "New Congress of Berlin," and it was only the Ambassador's tact which finally persuaded the correspondents that the Ministers had not met to regulate the affairs of the world, but merely to get to know each other and to discuss the many problems which they have in common. One sensational sheet, when I arrived, made the amazing statement that the Department did not want to have the Ambassador act as chairman of the meeting and had therefore sent me over to take the place. As a result, Mr. Houghton and I were always struggling over that age-long question of precedence. My one interview with reporters in Europe occurred in Berlin, the Ambassador feeling that without such an interview the reporters could not possibly be persuaded that I was a person of no significance.

When the meeting broke up it was with the determination to meet again, in Vienna, in the early Spring, possibly bringing in for that meeting other Ministers—for example, Mr. Dodge, from Belgrade. Later in the year they will probably meet further to the north in order that our representatives in Scandinavia may take part.

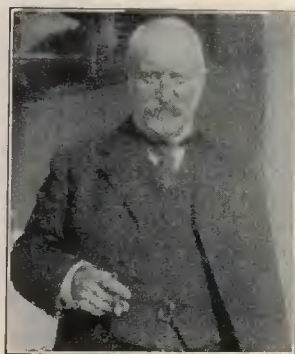
In addition to the feeling that the day was quite the most informing I have ever spent, I was convinced that nothing can be better for American representatives, diplomatic or consular, than occasionally to get together to learn from each other's experiences the best way to handle questions which arise from time to time.



Necrology

GEORGE H. SCIDMORE

George Hawthorne Scidmore, American Consul General at Yokohama, died on November 27, 1922, at the age of 68. His death was due to a sudden attack of heart failure.



Mr. Scidmore's death brought to a close a long and distinguished career in the American Consular Service. In 1876 he was appointed, after examination, one of the first consular clerks (now known as Consul Assistants), positions created by Act of Congress of that year. During the succeeding thirty years he was stationed at Liverpool, Dumfermline, Osaka and Hiogo; Shanghai, Lanagawa and Yokohama, in addition to service

as special agent to investigate claims of American citizens to lands in the Fiji Islands in 1891, and as legal adviser to the American Legation at Tokyo, 1904 to 1907.

The Consular Service having been reorganized in 1906, Mr. Scidmore was one of the earliest appointees, being commissioned Consul at Nagasaki March 30, 1907. Subsequently he was Consul at Kobe, Consul General at Seoul, and, finally, Consul General at Yokohama since 1913.

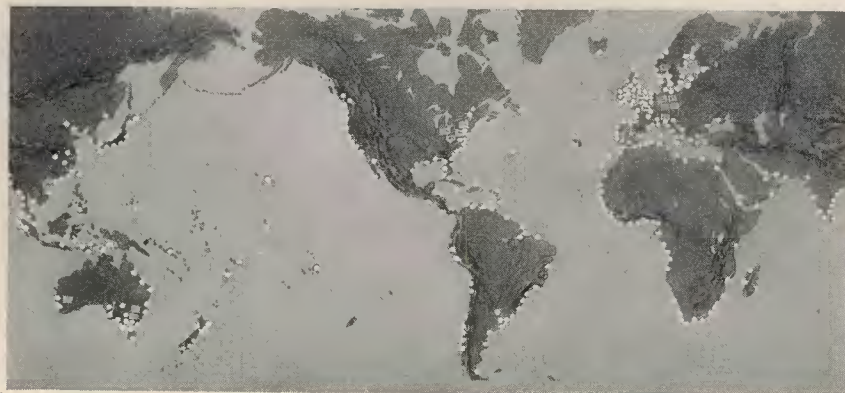
Mr. Scidmore is survived by a sister, Miss E. R. Scidmore, well known in literary circles.

The BULLETIN hopes, in an early issue, to be able to present to the Service a full account of the career of Consul General Scidmore.

JOHN L. CALDWELL

On December 6, 1922, John L. Caldwell, American Minister to Persia, 1914 to 1921, died at Sibley Memorial Hospital, Washington, D. C., at the age of 46, following a brief illness. He is survived by his wife and three children.

Mr. Caldwell was a native of Kansas, having been a school teacher, member of the bar, State Senator and prosecuting attorney for Bourbon County. He was a thirty-second degree Mason.



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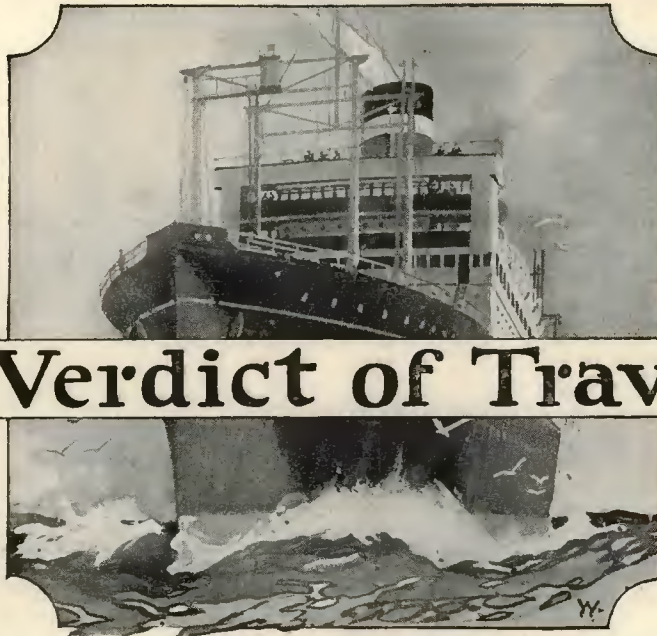
AMERICAN FLAGPOLES

*By Thomas Sammons, Consul General
at Melbourne*

I regret that I am unable to supply you with a photo of the "tallest flagpole in the world," which friends of mine among the American lumbermen of the Pacific coast donated to me for official purposes here. As we had no American Government building or premises we had no place to put the magnificent flagpole and ultimately I arranged to present it to the Australian Federal Government, the day for the actual presentation being our Decoration Day in 1921, and the American flag was flown for the first time in history in this country over the Federal buildings here. But Australia's day, which is similar to our Decoration Day, is called Anzac Day, and occurs in April of each year.

The presentation of the flagpole which was received by me in Australia was the result of a previous presentation at Shanghai, where, through the assistance of two foremost members of the American Chamber of Commerce of China (Mr. Dollar and Mr. Seitz), the flagpole, said to be the tallest in the world, was presented to me for official purposes by Oregon lumbermen. Shortly after the pole became available, I was transferred to Melbourne and the pole was subsequently erected on our Government-owned premises at Shanghai. I then stated to my lumbermen friends that, inasmuch as I was proceeding to Melbourne, I could not continue to admire their magnificent donation, and I presume they felt so badly about this that they decided to present me with the really "tallest flagpole in the world" for use by me at the capital of Australia.

There is another chapter to this flagpole business, because the Australian Federal authorities wished to erect the one donated in this country at the new capital, Canberra, approximately midway between the great Australian cities of Sydney and Melbourne, but "all the king's horses and all the king's men" could not convey this long pole—nearly 200 feet long, you should understand—to the new capital city without cutting it into pieces. This resulted during the present month in the flagpole being ordered shipped to the entrance to the Sydney Harbor, at Kirribilli Point, where it can be seen far out to sea and where its tiptop light at night will be the first land signal to be sighted by all vessels, both from the United States and elsewhere.



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A NOTE FROM DAWSON

Consul General at Large Dawson, on his way up the Amazon, finds time to send back the following word:

"If I recollect correctly, the wish was expressed in a recent number of the BULLETIN that more might be heard from the inspectors. This, together with the belief that the pleasantest and most interesting of the inspection districts has fallen to my lot, leads me to place myself on the map.

We arrived at Para on November 2, and, although not advised of my presence on board, that most genial of colleagues, Consul Pickerell, was at the dock to meet me, take me to dinner and to the cemetery for the evening's entertainment. (By way of explanation, one should add that, it being All Souls' Day, the cemetery was illuminated and well worth a visit.)

Para, aptly described by Mr. Pickerell as the "mango city," is a health resort, the best living advertisement for which is our colleague himself. At the age of sixty-four (see the Register), and after sixteen years at Para, Mr. Pickerell plays tennis all morning without turning a hair. It

sounds a bit fishy, but is none the less true, as I shall take occasion to report officially. The journey up the Amazon is an experience (see any standard work on the subject) for which one would willingly put up with any amount of inconvenience, but, fortunately, it can be made most comfortably, so much so, in fact, that I do not hesitate to recommend the trip to all persons desiring to escape the Washington summer. I no longer wonder at the stories told at the Department of Consuls from the tropics prostrated by the Washington heat. Speaking for Para and the Amazon, the days are not bad and the nights are delightfully cool.

While I have just started, my initial experience has proved so pleasant and so destructive of prejudice, that I feel quite justified in stating that I have not only the most interesting but also the most agreeable of the inspection districts. In my enthusiasm I have perhaps gone too far and overlooked the fact that I am seriously diminishing any chances I might have for sympathy and credit for hardships endured. However, from whom is frankness to be expected if not from an inspector?"



JOHN L. MERRILL, *President*

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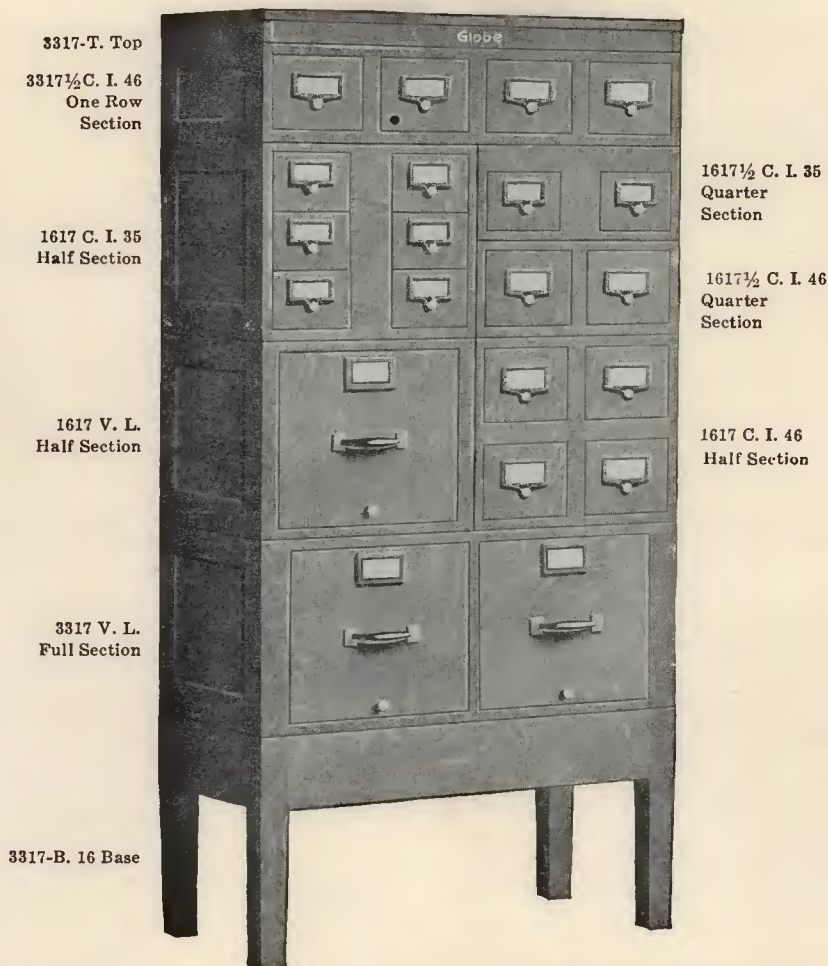
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Valparaiso, Bilbao, Calcutta,
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There's Bagdad in Irak to charm you
With Arabian Nights mystic lore,
Aguascalientes to thrill you,
But Chicago you'd never explore.

From Sydney you might step to Santos,
From Patras to Prague or Penang,
But just as you're thinking of Charleston
A cipher will say, "to Hong Kong."

Syracuse, Omaha, Denver,
Their streets may oft pass in review,
Yet you'll have to forego them for Dakar,
Aleppo, Foochow or Chefoo.

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May take you from Brest to Bombay,
You'll never be cheered save in transit
By the sky-line of good old Broadway.
—D. C. Woods.

The fifteenth annual convention of the Southern Commercial Congress was held at Chicago on November 20-22, 1922, where a committee of prominent Illinois business men, headed by Julius Rosenwald, honorary chairman, and former Secretary of War Jacob M. Dickinson, chairman of the executive committee, conducted the details of the sessions and acted as hosts to the delegates.

The Congress was attended by the diplomatic and consular representatives of a number of foreign countries and by representative men of various branches of American industry. Edward J. Norton, Consul General at Large, was the delegate of the Department of State.

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CONFERENCE OF INSPECTORS

(Continued from page 7)

individual officers upon their administrative efficiency.

PART IV
COMMERCIAL WORK

The Conference, with the assistance of officers on duty in DC-2, has carefully studied the commercial reporting and trade extension work of the Consular Service and respectfully submits the following recommendations which, if put into effect, it is believed will materially strengthen such work:

1. It is recommended that Section III of the Inspection Report Form be amended in accordance with the suggestions contained in the appended draft, and that the replies to the questions asked be made in the form of a multiple copy report in order that the information contained therein will be available to DC-2 and to supervising Consuls General.

2. That the Office of DC-2, the creation of which as a branch of the Office of the Director of

the Consular Service has the unqualified approval of the Conference, be strengthened in every way possible, and that consular officers be required to cooperate with it to their fullest extent. The Conference recognizes the importance of consular trade work in general, and the need for strengthening it, and desires to emphasize in particular the necessity for improvement in the preparation of replies to trade inquiries.

3. That consular officers should be directly charged with the settlement of all trade disputes abroad which come within their jurisdiction, and that DC-2 should act as a clearing house for these cases.

4. That consular officers be required to encourage all subordinates who are officers of career in the preparation of trade reports, and in other trade work, in so far as their other duties will permit, and that foreign clerks should not be permitted to submit trade reports over their own signatures.

PART V
MISCELLANEOUS

The Conference desires to express itself as in entire accord with the legislative program which



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the Department has in contemplation for the reorganization and unification of the foreign services as outlined to it during its sessions, and heartily endorses the plans concerning which the Secretary of State has given public expression on several recent occasions.

There is hesitation on the part of a number of consular officers to do political work because of an impression that exists in both the Diplomatic and Consular Services to some extent that such work is the peculiar province of the Diplomatic Missions. For this reason it is believed that the Department should invite the attention of both Services to the importance and value of the political work of consular officers called for in G. I. C. No. 536, not only to the Department, but particularly to Diplomatic Missions.

Service morale was investigated by the Conference, particularly with regard to the responsibility of Inspecting Officers to the Department concerning it, and the following resolution was adopted as representing the views of the Conference on the question:

Be it resolved, That the Consuls General at Large, now sitting in conference, realize the necessity of considering the effect of good morale

upon efficiency in the Service and will have it in mind when discussing service matters with the officers in the field. It is also realized that the responsibility for rewards, commendations, promotions and censures in the Service rests with the Department and an effort will be made to bring this home to the men in the Service in order that they may understand that such matters lie entirely in their own hands depending as they do upon the records which each officer establishes for integrity, loyalty and general efficiency.

The Conference desires to put itself on record as endorsing the action of the Department in establishing the Office of Consular Personnel, and submits the following resolution as expressing its views on the subject:

Resolved, That the establishment of the Office of Consular Personnel within the Department and the scope of the work which that office is doing have the full approval of the Consuls General at Large attending the Conference. It is their hope that the office and its work may be continued, and that it may become a permanent section of the Department's organization for the handling of matters relating to the Consular Service, its welfare, and personnel.



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In each case, the State Department, to which all articles from consular writers are submitted, has been glad to approve publication.

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