To Distant Climes

GRADUATES OF THE NEW CONSULAR SCHOOL HAVE NO CHOICE AS TO WHERE THEY GO.

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By JOHN ELFRETH WATKINS.

raduates of our new consular school not consulted as to where they are ake up their abodes to guard the rests of Uncle Sam.

or example, the other day there was ed off, bag and baggage, to distant zibar, Arthur Garrels, a young St. is actor, who, after tiring of the and buskin, the wig and grease y yearned for a sight of foreign ds. This young thespian, who we e seen with James O'Neill and Nat dwin and who brought thrills to the of the matinee girl when also various stock companies, got the der-lust when a few years ago he ed the far east and Australia with Frawley company. Being a linguist qualification now prerequisite to en ce in the consular service—and be versed also in passing the stiff com tive examination which Secretary t has lately substituted for the form ple counter" or "plum tree" sys of filling consular berths. This g man of many parts, who was born St. Louis thirty-five years ago, got taste of commerce while engaged in father's export business prior to his t before the footlights, and inas ch as he has had experience also in investment and brokerage business, was deemed the right man for a for berth. In Zanzibar, away around the far side of the big leg of mut of Africa, he will have ample op tunity for gathering data for stage ings strictly wild and savage should wish to do some play-cobbling be en writing of ship's papers. He will hot weather the year round in this nd of Zanzibar, which lies in the In ocean, but a few degrees south of equator. Although a British posses it is off German East Africa. To it Mr. Garrels will have a sail of 9000 miles, requiring upward of months. Not having contracted the ian habit of marrying early and of Being, in fact, a bachelor, he will have to maintain a very large estab ment in this paradise of crocodiles pickaninnies.

Editor Goes to Mauritius.

t if this young man's post is a ry from home, what about that of al C. Reat, editor of the Tuscola Journal, who has passed his com tive examination, finished at the nsular school and packed his baggage sailing September 1. Southeast of bar lies the vast island of Mada car, and southeast of that there dots Indian ocean the British islet of ritius, known to us all as the home al and Virginia. At Port Louis, the high cliffs from which these gnomed the tropic seas, this lili editor will fly the Stars and es above his consulate. He has ered his mileage from his Illi home to this post—and it is for 8,000 miles farther than ar, and like Mr. Garrels, he will lowed three months in which to ve. There are only two other with this maximum time allow ninety days. This is the most of the present assignments, and t was somewhat dazed when he ld where to hang out his consular But he is game, and while I am this he is back home saying to relatives and friends in where he was born and bred, e he has served as city attor and corporation examiner. His ge of law, as well as the fact is a linguist, fit him well for our service, as does the further fact is a university man. Like Mr. , he is a bachelor, so he goes to nd of Paul and Virginia with whole and fancy free.

ther Editor for South Africa.

ther editor just departing on a nsulate is Edwin N. Gunsaulus of bury, O., who ran a weekly paper city before entering the service. spite he has served as consul to Rosario, Brazil; Toronto, Cork and Hull, Quebec. He is now off to Pretoria in the Transvaal, where State department will for the first ne a consulate this fall, or what Gunsaulus will be another "this" for down there on the lower t Africa the seasons are reversed hile this Yankee consul will not r autumn this year—not until next March—he will be compensated by two spring seasons within the twelve-month. Johannesburg, the land of the Boers, lies just south of Pretoria, the capital of the Transvaal, where Oom Paul Kruger ruled before the Boer war, and just north of the Orange Free State frontier. It is in the heart of the country so vividly pictured to us all by that masterpiece of modern fiction, "The Story of an African Farm."

Goes Down on the Congo.

And down where the Congo rolls to the sea goes, to a much wilder country, another Yankee consul, W. W. Handley, a native of Washington, D. C., who was in the trading and shipping business in the West Indies and South America before entering the consular service. He has been at Matanzas, Cuba, and at Trinidad, West Indies, and it is a big jump for him to go now to Boma, just within the mouth of the Congo, in Congo Free State. He will be in a land of perpetual midsummer, but a few degrees south of the equator, but, having endured many Washington summers, is well seasoned for the undertaking.

Another just sent to Africa is William Coffin, a young Brooklyn man, only thirty-one, who has lately been consul to Mascat. He goes now to open a new consulate for us at Tripoli, the capital of the land of that name, which lines the northern or Mediterranean coast of Africa, between Egypt and Algeria. Although in a land of white-sheeted Moors and bloodthirsty pirates, he will be more comfortably situated than in Mascat, to which vacant post, in Oman, the northeast corner of Arabia, some fresh graduate of the consular school will probably be dispatched this summer. To reach his new post Mr. Coffin will have an interesting trip through the Gulf of Oman, the Arabian sea, the Gulf of Aden and through the Red sea and the Suez canal, into the Mediterranean.

Three Going to India.

And in this grand reshuffling of berths three men are being dispatched to India. At Rangoon, a city of 180,000 souls, lying on the Gulf of Martoban, Lower Burma, a new consulate will now be opened for us by Ernest A. Wakefield of Gardiner, Me., who since the Spanish war has been at Orillia, Ontario. This is another far leap across the map, and Mr. Wakefield is a married man with four children. But he will be accompanied to India this summer by his eldest son only. Just across the gulf from him, at Rangoon, Burma makes a very narrow neck, and Siam lies just to the eastward, while directly south are the long Malay peninsula and, below that, Sumatra.

Another new Indian post will be opened this fall at Madras, a great city of 453,000 population, lying down near the southernmost tip of the Kipling continent, but a little way around to the east, in Adras presidency, across the Bay of Bengal from Rangoon. Below hangs the island of Ceylon, like a drop of ink having fallen from the point of India. The new occupant of this new post will be N. B. Stewart, a new graduated from the consular school, a young man from Butler, Ga., who since his graduation at the university of that state has served the government in the Cuban and Philippine service.

Other Editors for Distant Posts.

Another newspaper man to go far is Wallace C. Bond of Louisville, Ky., who was private secretary to the governor of Wyoming and for four years connected with the Cheyenne Daily Leader. He goes to Karachi, India, a pretty big town (105,000) on the very easternmost corner of the big continent, where its coast line rubs against that of Baluchistan. The country here is the Sind, or the Bombay presidency, and is more Kiplingesque than the other new Indian consulates mentioned.

Still another newspaper man, and a new graduate from the consular school, is Douglas Jenkins, managing editor of the Greenville (S. C.) News, who will shortly become consul at St. Pierre Island, off the southernmost tip of Newfoundland. This will be quite a change of climate for a Southerner. Mr. Jenkins, who is only 28, worked in a law office as a typewriter and clerk until admitted to the bar. But he had practiced out a short time when he got printer's ink on his fingers and has been unable to get rid of it until entering the consular school. He left the law to become a reporter on his paper, and in a few years worked up to be managing editor. He will take a wife and baby with him to St. Pierre Island.

Preacher for Straits of Magellan.

Punta Arenas, bottommost town of the earth, is now, for the first time, to have an American consulate, which will be the most isolated post in the service. The occupant will be John E. Rowan of Thompsonville, Conn., who has had quite a varied career, first as minister of the gospel, then as newspaper man and later as politician—State Senator in Iowa for four years. When President McKinley came in he appointed him consul to Port Stanley, Falkland Island. His new position in the Straits of Magellan is, as intimated, further south than any town in the world. There he will find a strange aggregation of adventurers, representing about every race of mankind. It is the center of the wool export business depending upon the great sheep ranches which are now crowding out the wild Fuegans and Patagonians of the district above Cape Horn.

In the general reshuffling which he is giving to the consular service, in his effort to put it on a business basis, as well as to take it entirely out of politics and make it permanent, like the army and navy, Secretary Root is closing twenty-eight of the old posts and establishing in their stead seventeen new ones, six of which will be opened in Asia, two in Africa, two in Europe, six in Latin America, and one in British Columbia.

Things are certainly different from what they used to be in this business of dealing out consular plums. The powers that be used to ask the boys where they wanted to go, and if it could be arranged they went or stayed at home. Now it is a civil service examination which gives all native-born citizens an equal chance to get their names upon the eligible register and into the consular school. And they go where they are sent or resign.

JOHN ELFRETH WATKINS.

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WILL OPEN LANDS UNDER THE CAREY ACT

Thousands of Acres in Bannock County, Idaho, Will Soon Be Ready for Settlers.

The Portneuf-Marsh Valley Irrigation company, Limited, acquired through purchase from the Portneuf-Marsh Valley Irrigation company, a co-partnership, said co-partnership was entered into between the state of Idaho and itself for the irrigation of about twenty thousand acres of arid land, twelve thousand of which being what is known as Carey act land, together with other rights and interests pertaining thereto owned by said co-partnership, the land being more completely described in Carey act list 19, and a certain contract entered into between the state of Idaho and the government of the United States for the reclamation of arid land.

This land is located in Bannock county, state of Idaho, in townships 10, 11 and 12, range 37, E. B. M., and in township 11, range 36. It begins at a point on a main line of the Oregon Short Line railroad, about thirty miles from Pocatello, county seat of Bannock county, and extends south about twelve miles along the railroad right-of-way. This land is beautifully situated in a valley, inclosed on all sides by high mountains and is well protected from storms of a serious nature. The railroad company has three stations on this tract of land, the first one being Marsh-Valley, at the extreme northern edge. The next is Virginia station, in the center of the tract, the last and most important station being Downey, situated about two miles from the southern boundary.

* * *

This land is beautifully situated for irrigation, having a gentle slope toward Marsh creek, sufficient for perfect drainage. The lay of the land is such that all points can be reached by the irrigation ditches without flumes, or having to level off the ground. There is no rock to be found on the tract, the soil being made up of volcanic ash mixed with fine gravel. The quality of the land, together with its naturally protected location, makes it one of the finest locations for fruit raising that can be found in the country. It is close to market, being situated the best of any tract in the state of Idaho, for the reason that Downey, the principal town, is only four hours from Ogden and five hours from Salt Lake. There are three passenger trains a day each way, all of which stop at Downey, besides one mixed train, which carries freight and passengers.

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The climate is very mild, zero weather being almost unknown. In the summer the days may be sometimes hot, but the nights are always cool. There is now under cultivation around this tract about ninety thousand acres of bench land, which produces a crop without water of from twenty to forty-five bushels of wheat to the acre, and is the finest wheat raised in the intermountain country. The land under the canal was never taken up for dry farming, for the reason that they get practically no snow, and therefore there is not sufficient moisture to raise crops without irrigation. Relative to water rights, this company owns a permit from the state of Idaho for a perpetual right to irrigate about twenty thousand acres of land, the water to be taken from the Portneuf river, at a point about twenty-seven miles east of Pocatello. It also owns a reservoir right-of-way near the headwaters of the Portneuf river, which will store about twenty-eight thousand acre feet of water, which would be sufficient in itself to irrigate all of the land under the company's canal. This reservoir will be built during the coming year and the entire system will be completed within a year and a half. The company expects to turn the water on the land ready for the irrigation season of 1909. The company is under contract with the state for the completion of the irrigation system, the reservoir, it being especially stipulated, being a part thereof.

* * *

The state and government have both passed on the water right of the company, and have deemed it sufficient for the complete reclamation of this land. This land will be thrown open to settlement on the 7th day of September, 1908, the sale of land being under control of the state. The price for land will be 50 cents per acre, the price of water right $35 per acre. The allotment of the land being as follows The entryman is required to file his application for allotment either in person or by proxy, any time before the hour of 12 noon on the day of the opening. He must state that he is a citizen, or has declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States; he must pay to the state 25 cents per acre for the land he wishes alloted to him, and to the company $3 per acre. The balance of the payments for the water right being divided into nine equal annual installments. The annual installments to pay 6 per cent interest until paid. The said deferred payments, however, do not draw interest until the water is ready for the first irrigation season, so that the settler has to pay no moneys or interest until after he has had a chance to raise his first crops.

* * *

To get his title to the land the settler must within one year from the time that he is notified that the water is ready for use, place one-sixteenth of his allotment under cultivation, build a house thereon, not smaller than 10-14 feet, and make continuous residence thereon for thirty days. The second year he must have one-eighth of the land under cultivation, and then by appearing before the commissioner of the state land board, and proving by two witnesses that he has conformed to the provisions outlined above, and by paying another 25 cents per acre he will receive a patent for his land the same as in homestead entries. The settler may, however, make his final proof within one year by doing the required amount of work. He also has the right at any time to pay up all deferred payments on his water right and receive a perpetual right and clear title thereto.

* * *

When the Portneuf-Marsh Valley Irrigation company, Ltd., has completed the irrigation system, and the said system and works have been approved by the state engineer, and the state board of land commissioners, it will then turn same over to the settlers, theirs to own and to hold forever, the same being a part of the rights and interests pertaining to said land. One share of stock in the irrigation works being represented by each acre of land owning rights therein.

The legal subdivision of this land will be forty acres and no entryman will be allowed to take over eighty. This does not impair his right to take Carey act lands at such other places or time as he may wish to the extent of another eighty acres.

* * *

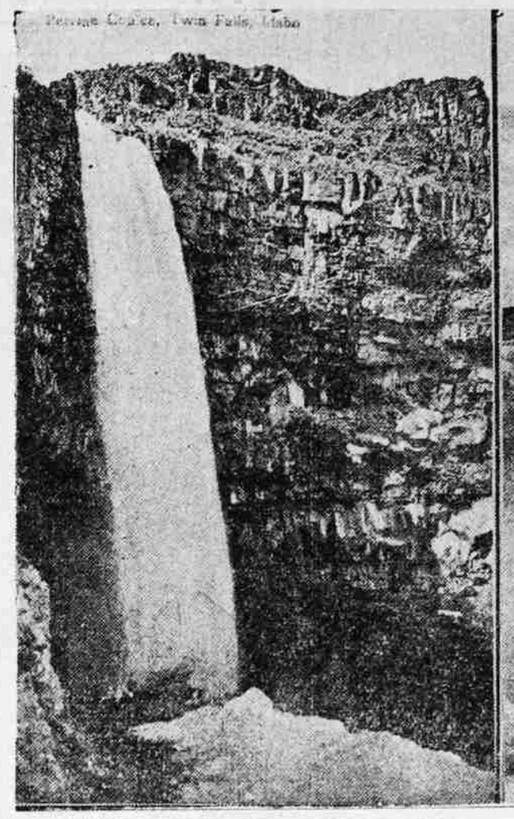
The land under this canal system will produce all kinds of small fruits, such as strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, etc., and also the larger fruits, such as apples, pears, peaches and cherries. It will produce wonderful crops of vegetables, potatoes running to 500 bushels to the acre. Being only a few hours from market, it is the most desirable section to the homeseeker in the intermountain country. The extreme edge of the land is but three miles from the railroad, and it is impossible to get over four miles from a railroad station on this tract of land. The land in this valley should be worth from $400 to $1000 per acre within the next four or five years. The climatic conditions are ideal, the natural beauty of the surroundings are exceptionally fine, and the homeseeker will find his time well spent in the investigation of this project.

* * *

And further information which the prospective settler may desire will be gladly furnished to him by his calling on or writing to the Portneuf Marsh-Valley Irrigation company, Ltd., or the Downey Townsite & Development company, Ltd., Downey, Idaho.

OPENING A NEW EMPIRE

By HENRY W. UNGER.



PERRINE COULEE, TWIN FALLS, IDAHO.

SHOSHONE FALLS.

In the southern part of the state of Idaho a transformation has been taking place in the last four years of which the world as a whole is little acquainted. Something more beneficial than war or political strife is the turning of a million acres of the Great American desert into producing farms.

The Snake river, which is the seventh largest river in the United States, has cut an immense canyon through the desert in ages past, and in places the canyon widens and many farms lie along its course. Here in the early eighties the hardy pioneers found water and a little shade; a place to rest and to plant the necessary crop. Pure spring water and fertile land gave them confidence to build their homes and plant their trees, and today this valley is a wonderland of fruit and shade, pretty lakes, cosy homes and fragrant alfalfa fields. But on top there was the desert. The prairie schooner took its slow and solitary course, the hot sun drank the scant moisture and animal life was easily crushed out and lost. The ocean of prairie, high with sagebrush, is a historic land. The old Oregon trail, washed deep by the years and floods, is a well known landmark, and shows the struggles of the early seekers of the Ocean of Peace.

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But there were a few among these pioneers who have since won the title of "Veritable Wizards of Foresight." Among them are the Perines, Milners and others, who, though they may have been lost for many years to the civilized world, never lost their faith and confidence. They lowered their meager possessions down the steep cliff by means of ropes. They planted their orchard, which is now the pride of the valley, among the large rocks and boulders. They ranged their stock on the sagebrush waste and drove them hundreds of miles over it to the nearest railroad station. They knew every foot of it, and they spared no effort to proclaim its possibilities and to bring capital for its development.

* * *

Under the Carey act, each state of the Great American desert is given a million acres of arid land to be irrigated by public or private capital. The land and water is then sold to actual homeseekers at the real cost. In the first segregation the land and water sold for $25.50 per acre. In the subsequent segregations the cost is as high as $50 per acre. But the entire system is the best that brains and money can make. The terms are $3.25 per acre cash, remainder in ten yearly payments. One may prove up at any time after thirty days' residence and one-eighth placed in cultivation. All rights can be transferred before proving up and powers of attorney can be given to file upon land for another. On account of these liberal provisions 70,000 acres were filed upon in seventy-two hours after a recent opening. There are 325,000 acres to be opened soon, known as the Bruneau tract, which by exact count makes over a million acres. The booming town of Buhl is the closest railroad and supply point for this new land, and the Buhl Immigration association answers all inquiries of homeseekers. This last project represents a cost of $12,000,000, and the entire project of over $100,000,000.

* * *

A few words must be said of the electric power which this land possesses. It has many different falls, the Shoshone, the Twin falls, the Upper and Lower Salmon falls, all of the large Snake river. Electric car service will begin this fall, and will be extended until the entire tract is a network of electric lines. This power is very plentiful, and is used for heating, lighting and cooking purposes.

Any person, poor or rich, who is looking for a farm, small or large, improved or raw land, will do well to investigate openings of what was once the Great American desert.

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