WORK OF COUSULAR SERVICE

ABOUT $10,000,000 a year is spent on the consular and diplomatic service, which represents the United States in foreign countries. Why?

No need for alarm over taxes need be felt, for the Consular Bureau earns twice as much as it costs—earns enough to support the entire diplomatic corps, to pay all the $10,000,000 and leave a surplus over. It will earn, it is estimated, nearly that sum this year from visas on passports, now that those cost $10 each, instead of $1.

A glance at the accompanying chart shows that some 2,500 men are attached to the service. The duties of a consul are defined as follows:

Consular officers are expected to endeavor to maintain and promote all the rightful interests of American citizens, and to protect them in all privileges provided for by treaty or conceded by usage; to visa and, when so authorized, to issue passports; when permitted by treaty, law or usage, to take charge of and settle the personal estates of Americans who may die abroad without legal or other representatives, and remit the proceeds to the Treasury in case they are not called for by a legal representative within one year; to ship, discharge, and, under certain conditions, maintain and send American seamen to the United States.

Consuls are empowered to settle disputes between masters and seamen of American vessels; to investigate charges of mutiny or insubordination on the high seas and send mutineers to the United States for trial; to render assistance in the case of wrecked or stranded American vessels, and, in the absence of the master or other qualified person, take charge of the wrecks and cargoes if permitted to do so by the laws of the country.

The consular officer receives the papers of American vessels arriving at foreign ports and delivers them after the discharge of the obligations of the vessels toward the members of their crews, and upon the production of clearances from the proper foreign-port officials; to certify to the correctness of the valuation of merchandise exported to the United States where the shipment amounts to more than $100; to act as official witness to marriages of American citizens abroad; to aid in the enforcement of the immigration laws, and to certify to the correctness of the certificates issued by Chinese and other officials to Chinese persons coming to the United States.

Another duty is to protect the health of our seaports by reporting weekly the sanitary and health conditions of the ports at which they reside, and by issuing to vessels clearing for the United States bills of health describing the condition of the ports, the vessels, crews, passengers, and cargoes; and to take depositions and perform other acts which notaries public in the United States are authorized or required to perform.

A duty of prime importance is the promotion of American commerce by reporting available opportunities for the introduction of our products, aiding in the establishment of relations between American and foreign commercial houses, and lending assistance wherever practicable to the marketing of American merchandise abroad.

In addition to the foregoing duties, consular officers in China, Turkey, Siam, Morocco, and a few other so-called non-Christian countries, are invested with judicial powers over American citizens in those countries. These powers are usually defined by treaty, but generally include the trial of civil cases in which Americans are parties, and in some instances extend to the trial of criminal cases.

HEADS U. S. CONSULS

Clinedinst.

UNDER direction of Wilbur J. Carr lies the world-wide machinery of the United States Consular Service. To him come reports from every nation where the service is maintained and these afford an accurate gauge of conditions political and commercial With the growth of this country's international connections an augmentation of the personnel and power of the Consular Service is anticipated.

THE features of the commercial work of a consular officer may be described as follows:

He is sent to a post and assigned a given district in the country. He is expected to study that district in its economic and commercial aspects until he is thoroughly familiar with its natural resources, its industries, its transportation systems, its commercial resources, its trade routes, its export and import markets, and its laws. He must acquaint himself with its political sympathies and tendencies and their effects upon his district's economic life.

From time to time he renders voluntary reports to the Department of State upon subjects of a commercial nature, indicating possible markets for American mrechandise. He renders an annual report which is a summary of the commerce and trade of his district. He is frequently called upon by the Department of State for reports on special subjects of commercial nature. All these reports are transmitted by the Department of State to the Depatrment of Commerce for publication by it in the daily commerce reports.

A consular officer receives many letters from American exporters requesting information concerning the market in his district, names of importers, rates of duty, and, in general, suggestions for the extension of their trade relations. His replies to these letters are transmitted through the Department of State and represent a very valuable feature of his commercial work.

Many so-called "trade opportunities" come to the observation of a consular officer. These may be important contracts to be let, construction work of various kinds to be undertaken, concessions to be granted, or requests from merchants in his district who desire to get into touch with American exporters of a certain commodity. He renders these trade-opportunity reports on a special form, and they are transmitted to the Department of Commerce and published in the daily commerce reports.

A most important function and one which will demand an increased share of consuls' time when they are located at seaport towns, will be the necessary attention to American shipping and seamen. Building up the American Merchant Marine depends in no little measure on the ability of our consular officers to serve the interests of American shipping with promptness.

Consular officers are often used to safeguard American interests in purely political situations. For some years this was the case in Mexico. Almost at any moment, in time of peace there may be foreign situations which are primarily political, and the State Department maintains contact without accrediting ministers or ambassadors, by working through the consular offices.

The consul general has the duty of supervising the work of all the consuls in his district, as well as handling the duties of the highest grade of consul. In a large country there may be several consul generals, each of whom reports directly to the State Department. Great Britain, for example, has thirteen consul generals, scattered over the immense territory under that flag. Only one of these is located in the British Isles proper.

A vice consul has duties slightly less responsible than the consul, except in those places where he is put in complete charge. The consular ranks are generally recruited from the vice consuls who have made good in the minor positions and are given the opportunity to advance along the grade to the higher places.

There are nine grades of consul, the last three of which are gradually being cut off, to be replaced by vice consuls. There are three grades of vice consul of career, that is, for those men who seriously intend to make the government consular service their life work. And there are, finally, five grades of consul.

Next Sunday an article on the domestic activities of the Consular Service will appear in The Weekly Review.

SECRETARY OF STATE

42 CONSULS GENERAL
210 CONSULS
120 VICE CONSULS, INTERPRETERS, ETC.

1924 CLERKS, MESSENGERS, ETC.
89 AGENTS

EUROPE

United Kingdom, 1 CG, 22 C, 4 A
England Total 14
Scotland Total 5
Ireland Total 6
Wales Total 2
France 1 CG, 16 C, 2 VC, 1 A
Spain 1 CG, 11 C, 1 VC, 2 A
Italy 2 CG, 8 C
Belgium, 1 CG, 3 C
Netherlands 1 CG, 1 C, 1 VC, 1 A
Switzerland 1 CG, 4 C, 2 VC
Norway, 1 CG, 3 C
Sweden 1 CG, 2 C
Denmark 1 CG
Finland 2 C
Portugal 1 CG, 1 C, 1 A
Greece 1 CG, 2 C, 1 A
Poland 1 CG
Czecho-Slovakia 1 C
Jugo-Slavia 2 C
Roumania 1 C
Bulgaria 1 C
Russia 2 C (Esthonia)
Malta 1 C

WEST INDIES

Cuba 1 CG, 5 C, 1 VC, 3 A
Dominican Republic 2 C, 4 A
Haiti 2 C, 3 A
All others 11 C, 2 VC, 5 A

CG—Consul General
C—Consul
VC—Vice Consul
A—Consular Agent

NORTH AMERICA

Canada 5 CG, 27 C, 1 VC, 22 A
Mexico 1 CG, 24 C, 6 A

CENTRAL AMERICA

San Salvador 1 VC
Nicaragua 2 C, 1 A
Honduras 3 C, 4 A
Costa Rica 2 C, 1 A
Guatemala 1 C, 1 VC, 1 A
Panama 1 CG, 1 C, 1 A
British Honduras 1 C

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina 1 CG, 1 C
Brazil 1 CG, 6 C, 5 A
Chile 1 CG, 5 C, 5 A
Ecuador 1 CG, 2 A
Peru 1 C, 5 A
Bolivia 1 C
Colombia 3 C, 2 A
Venezuela 3 C, 2 A
Paraguay 1 C
Uruguay 1 C
Guiana 1 C, 1 A

PACIFIC ISLANDS

Java 2 C, 1 A
Sumatra 1 C
Samoa 1 C
Tahiti 1 C

ASIA

China 6 CG, 10 C, 2 VC
Japan 2 CG, 5 C
Indo-China 1 C
Siam 1 C
Straits Settlements 1 CG, 1 C
Siberia 1 C
Turkey 2 CG, 5 C
Persia 1 C
Arabia 1 C

AFRICA

Cape Colony, 1 CG, 3 C, 2 A
Portuguese East Africa 1 C
Portuguese West Africa 1 C
Algiers 1 C, 1 A
Tunis 1 C, 1 A
†Egypt 1 CGA, 1 C, 1 VC, 2 A
Madagascar 1 C
Coony of Kenya 1 C
†Morocco 1 CGA, 1 C
*Liberia 1 CGA
Senegal 1 C

AUSTRALIA

Australia 1 CG, 3 C, 2 A
New Zealand 1 CG, 1 VC, 2 A

†Diplomatic Agent and Consul General.
*Minister Resident and Consul General.

THE chart is an organization plan of a "typical country." The consul general is the responsible head, reporting to the Secretary of State.

Under him are various consuls, located in cities of sufficient importance to warrant the expense of keeping someone permanently stationed there. The consuls report to the consul general.

Under the consuls may come the vice consuls, who handle various work at the consulate, and report to their consul. The number may vary for any consulate, or there may be no vice consuls at all.

Where the work is not important enough to warrant the establishment of a consulate, or keeping a vice consul detailed to travel back and forth, to some of the smaller places, a consular agent is appointed, who handles the tasks locally, as they come up, reporting to the consul for his district.