

Rositer, formerly Chief Clerk of the Census, as special agents to study the present conditions of statistical work, particularly the unfinished work of the Thirteenth Census, and to make plans for the better organization and administration of the Bureau in connection with its future operations.

As a result of this study several recommendations have already been made the purpose of which is to insure greater progress in completing the final reports of the Thirteenth Census. It has been deemed undesirable to tabulate "Occupations" further than has already been done and stopping the work at this point will expedite the publication about six months and reduce the cost of completion by about \$65,000. The report on Native or "Mother" tongues has been limited to the chapter in the forthcoming final volume on population. The numerous tables relating to Mines and Quarries that were already in bulletins, proofs or manuscript have been printed, same to constitute the final report. The tables for the benevolent institutions and for prisoners in jails, the insane and feeble minded, and paupers are to be published without further derivative tables or explanatory text. The annual compilation of statistics on forest products has been abandoned, being without authority of law. The annual report on financial statistics of cities in 1912 is to be completed and published by January 1, 1914, and the report for 1913 is to be curtailed. Both reports are to be printed only with brief explanatory texts and no further attempt is to be made to elaborate future reports on municipal financial statistics. The reports on Mortality Statistics for the years 1911 and 1912 are to be published before the close of the present calendar year and the work upon the standardization of death rates, life tables and occupational mortality suspended until then.

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

In the Urgent Deficiency Appropriation Bill Congress has made provision for the establishment of a light station on Navassa Island in the West Indies. This island lies between Haiti and Jamaica in the direct route through the Windward Passage to the Isthmus of Panama and to Caribbean ports. For ships bound north it is the first landfall after leaving the Isthmus. The currents in this region are irregular and strong, and steamers sometimes have to stop until the weather clears sufficiently for them to pick up the coast of Haiti. The island has been occupied by American citizens. The increased traffic makes the establishment of an efficient aid at this point desirable and this traffic will be still further increased on the opening of the Panama Canal.

It is proposed to establish a flashing acetylene light in a second-order lens on a high tower so as to prevent obscuration by the plateau when passing the island close to, as well as to be equally visible on all sides. The proposed light on a 150-foot tower will be visible 23 miles. The light will be of about 20,000 candlepower, sufficiently bright to be seen at this distance in clear weather. It is proposed to equip this light with sufficient acetylene gas to operate for a year at a time, and it will probably require attention after a thorough preliminary watching at intervals of from three to six months.

BUREAU OF NAVIGATION

Two years ago John McNamara, of Williamsport, Pa., was shanghaied on an oyster boat on the Chesapeake Bay and after inhuman treatment endeavored to escape and was drowned. Twenty-two days later the master of the same boat was murdered and two members of the crew were killed. Crews of other vessels were ill-treated, forced to sleep in ill-ventilated and unsanitary quarters, and other appalling conditions were alleged to exist throughout the oyster fleet. To remedy these conditions during the winter months, the Department of Commerce purchased the motor boat Tarragon and placed her in charge of Mr. A. Lincoln Dryden, former State Senator of Maryland and Collector of Customs at Crisfield, with a crew of three men. Close supervision of the shipment of seamen, the quarters provided for them and their treatment was begun, and has resulted in a reconstruction of many of the crew quarters on oyster vessels and in the betterment of the conditions of not less than 3,500 men.

During the past summer the Tarragon was sent into the Philadelphia and New York customs districts where over 15,000 small motor boats were navigating dangerous waters and in many instances carrying large numbers of men, women and children. During the month of August in the New York district alone 1,574 inspections were made and 605 vessels were found

without the life-saving equipment required by law. One hundred and sixty-four of these vessels had no means for extinguishing burning gasoline and had the gasoline exploded or caught fire the safety of those on board would have depended on the vessel getting ashore or on the life-preservers. Two hundred and fifteen vessels carrying 1,284 persons were found without such life-preservers. Many vessels were navigated without lights after sunset and without whistles with which to sound passing signals if collisions threatened.

These figures furnish an outline of the beneficent work of the Tarragon in its mission of safeguarding life on small vessels. A campaign of education was conducted in which the owners and operators of vessels cordially cooperated and the efforts of the Department met with general approval. Penalties in most instances were mitigated to nominal sums and the owners of motor boats made to realize that the safe navigation of their vessels was the object of the Department and only such penalties were imposed as were necessary to that end.

As the motor boat season in the northern ports is closed, the Tarragon is again in the oyster fleet supervising the shipment of crews, their treatment and the quarters and food furnished. After this work is done the vessel will proceed through the sounds in South Carolina and as far south as Key West, Fla., admonishing owners of motor vessels as to the navigation laws, looking after the interests of the crews and seeing to it that vessels are equipped with every means of safeguarding the lives of those who travel on the water.

COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

The six vessels of the Coast and Geodetic Survey employed on the coast of Alaska during the summer have closed work for the season. The steamer Patterson is under instructions to proceed direct to the Hawaiian Islands and to continue the survey of the shores of those islands. The steamers McArthur, Gedney and Explorer will proceed to Seattle, while the Yukon and Taku are to be laid up in Alaska.

During the fiscal year 1913 and during the season just closed the principal work of these vessels in Alaska has been a survey of the entrance to the Kuskokwim River by the steamers Explorer and Taku; surveys in Kasook Inlet, Sukwan Strait, Tlevak Strait and San Cristoval Channel by the steamer Gedney; surveys in Cook Inlet, in the vicinity of Adalik Bay, between Afalik Bay and Resurrection Bay, at Nakat Harbor, Burnett Inlet and Iniskin Bay by the steamer McArthur; surveys of Clarence Strait and of the Shumagin Islands and in the vicinity of Unimak Pass by the steamer Patterson; surveys of the northwestern part of Prince William Sound between Naked Island and Port Wells, and in the north arm of Simpson Bay and thence to the southward and westward by the steamer Taku; and surveys of Turnagain Arm, Cook Inlet, and in the approaches to the Kuskokwim River by the steamer Yukon.

The Survey of Tlevak Strait by the steamer Gedney has made available a passage formerly feared and avoided by navigators. By its use the steamer route for vessels along that part of the coast may be considerably shortened.

The inspection of the 141st meridian boundary between Alaska and Canada has been completed. The two parties at work in the Mt. St. Elias region and the party on Portland Canal have closed work. In the course of the survey in the Mt. St. Elias region, that peak, which is at the southern extremity of the 141st meridian boundary, was ascended to within 1,500 feet of the summit.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT

For the benefit of the readers of the Commoner the following statement is made in regard to the more important appointments that come under the control of the Department of State.

The foreign service is divided into three classes. The Ambassadors and Ministers come in the first class. There are 11 Ambassadors and 32 Ministers. These are not under the civil service and appointments are therefore made directly by the President, with the approval of the Senate.

In the second class come the secretaries of embassies and legations. There are 66 secretaries. These are under civil service and entrance is by examination and appointment from the eligible list, the appointments being made by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

The consular service is made up of consuls

general, consuls, vice consuls, consular assistants, consular agents, and clerks. There are 57 consuls general and 241 consuls. The position of vice consul is honorary rather than one of pecuniary value; he receives no salary except in the absence of the Consul. These places are appointive and are not covered by the civil service; neither are the clerks and consular agents, but the salary for these places is so small that one can hardly afford to accept such a position unless he has some reason for desiring to acquaint himself with the country to which he goes. Consuls General, Consuls, and Consular Assistants are under the civil service. Entrance to this service is through examination, the President making appointments from the eligible list with confirmation by the Senate. The appointments, according to the regulations, are for the first and second classes, in which the salary is \$2,000 and \$2,500, respectively. Promotions are made in the service according to merit, all promotions being by appointment and with the confirmation of the Senate. The President has the right to appoint by special order, subject, of course, to confirmation, but has announced that this will only be done in extraordinary cases and when available men cannot be found in the service.

There is a long-standing dispute as to whether Ambassadors and Ministers should be put under civil service. In most European countries the diplomatic service is a career and men enter with the expectation of remaining in it for life. There are some in this country who favor the adoption of this plan but they have not thus far been able to alter the system. The President has changed considerably more than half of the Ambassadors and Ministers and the appointees will not suffer in comparison with the men whom they succeeded. The criticisms that have been made have not been directed against the character of the appointments; these have not only commended themselves to the American public, but the appointees have been well received abroad. Occasionally some newspaper complains that "experienced men" are being dismissed and that men without diplomatic experience are being substituted. It must be remembered that the Democrats have not had much chance during the last twenty years to secure diplomatic experience, and the fair minded will not give much weight to the Republican contention that the service suffers when a Democrat takes the place of a Republican. The Democrats who have received appointment have either been journalists or literary men of high standing or men of experience in political and business life. It is a great mistake to suppose that experience in the diplomatic service necessarily fits one for a diplomatic appointment. Experience may acquaint one with the formalities of such a life but these are of little importance compared with the more substantial qualities required. An ambassador or minister can soon learn enough of the formalities from the secretaries, whose positions, being under the civil service, are permanent, but he cannot absorb from others the things that make a successful diplomat. To properly represent one's country abroad the ambassador or minister must have a thorough acquaintance with his country, must be in sympathy with American institutions, and in harmony with the policies of the administration. No President can hope for great success in his foreign policies if he has to work them out through men who are at heart antagonistic to him. Moreover, long absence from home may greatly impair one's ability to properly represent his country's interest. If the civil service were applied to ambassadors and ministers the President would have to take those he found in office and make such use of them as he could, regardless of their fitness or unfitness for the particular work to be done, whereas, under the appointive system, which we now have, the President can select men who are especially qualified for the work to be entrusted to them. It is the difference between a ready-made suit and clothes cut to fit.

Before Nebraska passed a law requiring state banks to contribute to a fund which guaranteed the payment in full of depositors in any state bank that failed it was asserted with so much emphasis and repetition that it convinced a great many persons that it would mean that most of the banks would surrender their charters and become national banks. Nothing of the kind happened. This fact may be cited to allay any fears that might arise because the national bankers are now declaring their solemn belief that the passage of the Owens-Glass currency bill will force many national banks to become state banks.