

Assignments—Near and Far

While many Iowans were representing the United States in all corners of the world, others were helping to run the State Department in Washington. Still others were carrying out interesting and important special assignments.

The first Iowan to serve in the Department was Samuel Kendrick, who was appointed clerk in 1870. Four years later the Consular Bureau was organized into three divisions, and Kendrick was named the first chief of Division B, thus becoming responsible for all correspondence with consulates in Latin America as well as Italy, Spain, and Portugal. He held the position two years.

Another Iowan, Henry O'Connor, became examiner of claims and head of the Law Bureau in the State Department on February 9, 1872. O'Connor examined the evidence and arguments in support of claims of United States citizens against foreign governments. He also handled questions of law growing out of activities of State Department officials. In these matters he acted as general legal adviser to the Secretary of State and as liaison with the Attorney General on cases being prosecuted or defended in court.

Quite a different type of assignment was that

given to George H. Scidmore, vice consul at Kanazawa, Japan, in 1892. Pursuant to instructions from Washington, Scidmore was named special agent to investigate claims of American citizens for land they had acquired in the Fiji Islands during the 1870's. British authorities, the Americans claimed, had unjustly deprived them of the lands. Scidmore was authorized to confer with the British Governor of Fiji regarding the claims.

It was soon evident that an agreement could not be reached. Therefore, Scidmore's task became one of inquiry only. When he arrived at the Fiji Islands, he found that the only means of travel often would be an open native canoe. Shortly afterwards, Scidmore hired a larger vessel to reach the many islands. Altogether he investigated nearly one hundred claims totaling more than 170,000 acres. In his report, made in 1893, he presented the many reasons why the claims should be honored.

Another Iowan, George L. Brist, was a map distributor for the Weather Bureau in Dubuque in 1897. In order to advance himself he took a civil service examination and received the highest grade. Supported by the Iowa delegation in Congress, he was appointed a messenger in the State Department.

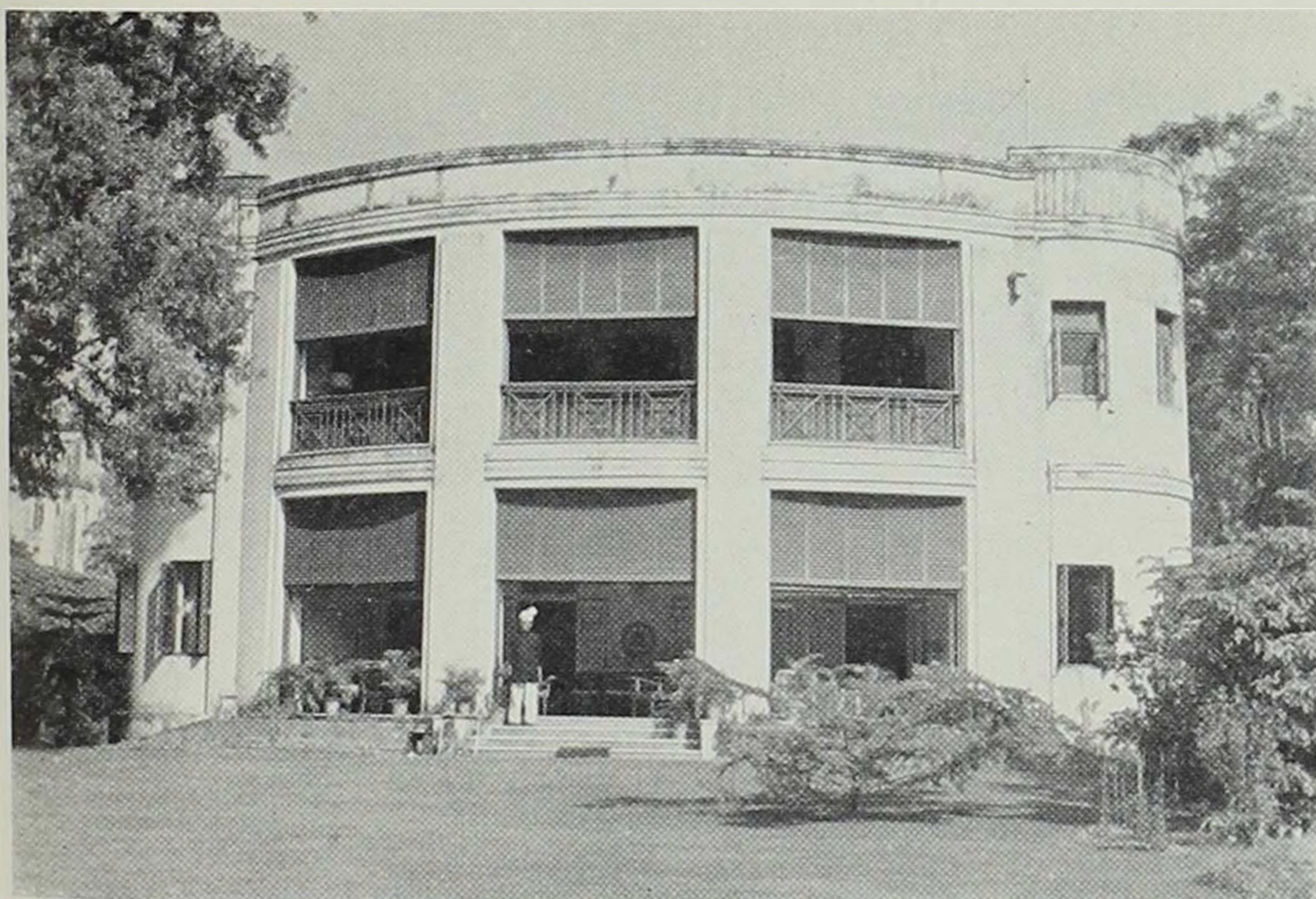
Two years later his father, F. M. Brist, wrote the Secretary of State in behalf of his son for a promotion to the Passport Division. The elder

Brist had purchased the *Southern Vindicator*, a Democratic newspaper in Hammond, Louisiana, for "the purpose of Republicanizing it" and needed the additional financial assistance from his son in order to keep it going. George Brist advanced steadily until 1923 when he became head of the Division of Passport Control, which issued passports to American citizens for travel abroad and registered Americans living in foreign countries.

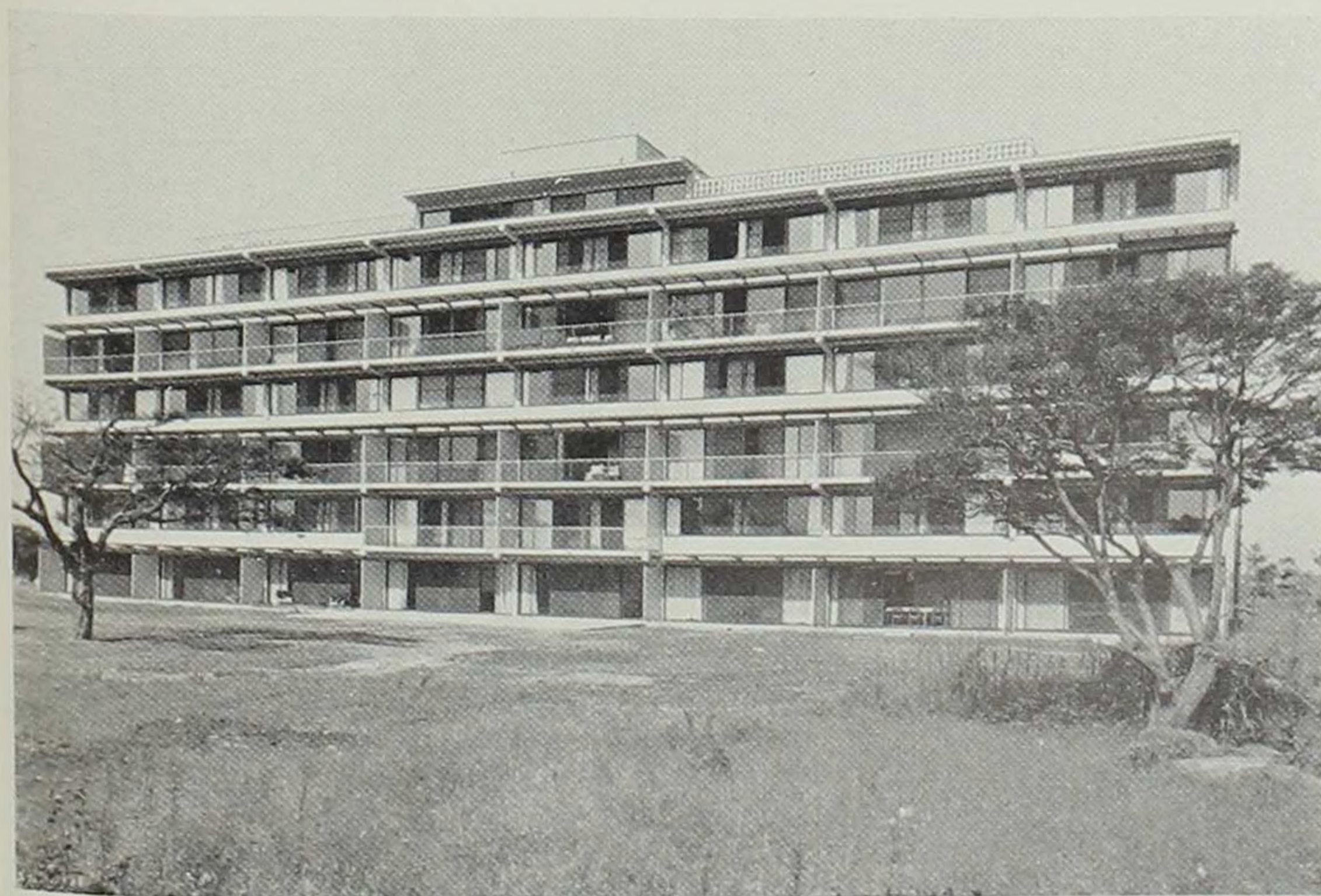
William H. Michael, editor of the *Sioux City Journal*, was appointed Chief Clerk of the Department in 1897. Born in Ohio, Michael attended the State University of Iowa and taught school during the 1850's. He volunteered for service at the outbreak of the Civil War and was injured at the battle of Shiloh. Discharged, he later re-entered service in the Mississippi Squadron of the United States Navy.

As Chief Clerk, Michael had general supervision over all clerks and employees of the Department. He read and distributed mail to the Assistant Secretaries and met all persons having business with the Department other than those requiring the personal attention of the Secretary or Assistant Secretaries. Although he was a political appointee, Michael held his post for eight years, after which he became consul general at Calcutta.

In 1909 the Division of Latin American Affairs and the position of Resident Diplomatic Officer



Consul General's Residence, Calcutta, India



Harris House, Tokyo, Japan

POINT FOUR ACTIVITIES: I

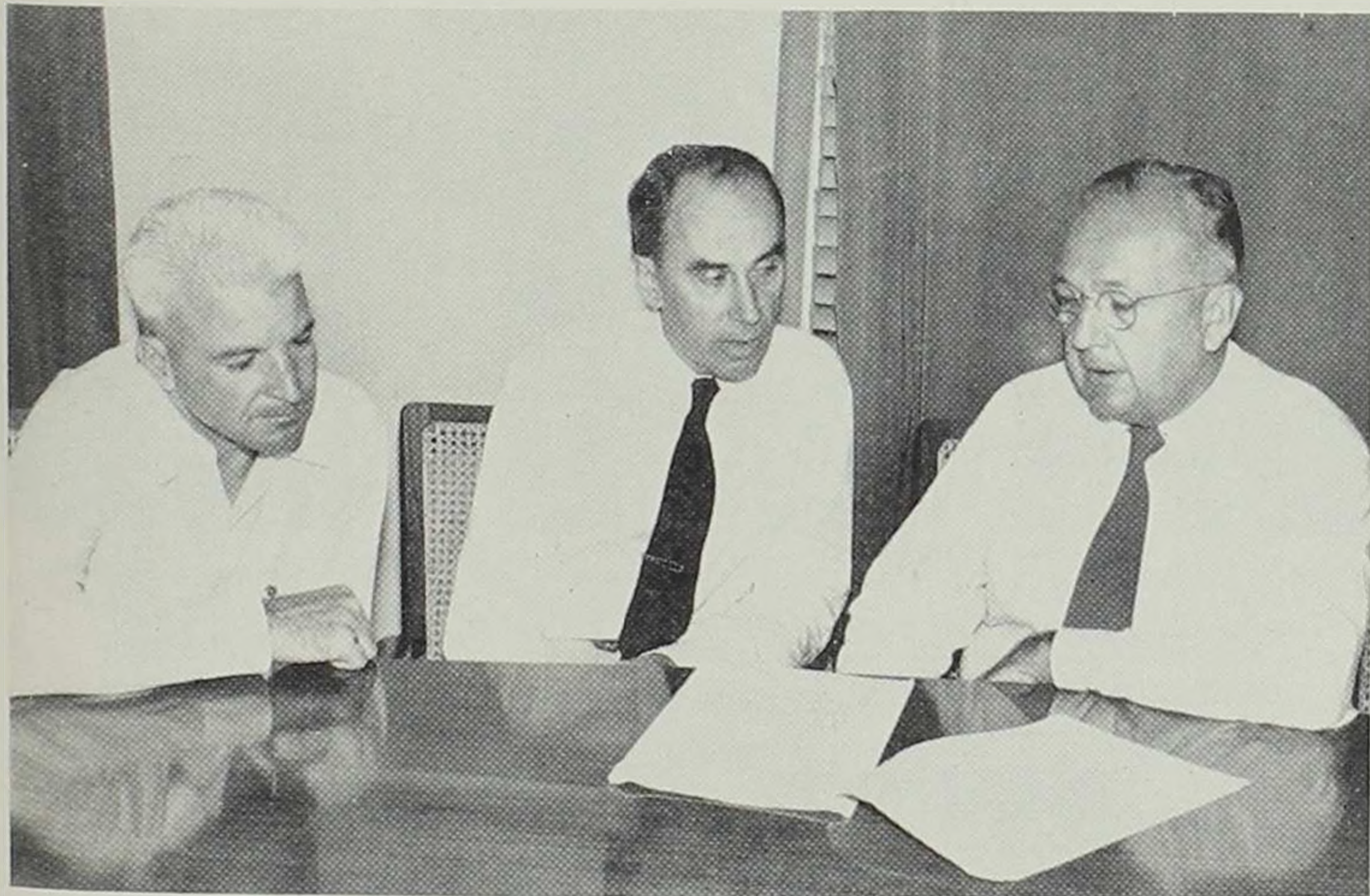


Marion E. Olson (left) of Mason City trains Ahmed al-Ghaib Joffer of Iraq to become one of that country's first agricultural extension experts.



Everett Weigle of Decorah, a Point 4 farm extension official in Iraq, inspects the cow of a tenant farmer living near Basrah.

POINT FOUR ACTIVITIES: II



Ralph R. Will (right), Ottumwa, director of Point 4 in Pakistan, receives a report of his associates on a survey of one of that country's provinces.



Dr. Warren P. Jurgensen (in the jeep), Sioux City, a public health official, talks to a family in Iran where he is helping establish a clinic and training medical aides who will be able to give better care to their people.

POINT FOUR OFFICIALS



JOHN M. AIKMAN
(Ames)
Ecuador



MARION BOCK
(Dubuque)
Paraguay



DONALD CARTER
(Sac City)
Thailand



WILLIAM GAMBLE
(Shenandoah)
India and Burma



WARREN JURGENSEN
(Sioux City)
Iran



BRADFORD KNAPP
(Clarion)
Egypt



EVERETT MCCREE
(Madrid)
Nicaragua



RALPH R. WILL
(Ottumwa)
Pakistan

were established in the Department. The Division handled all diplomatic and consular correspondence on other than administrative matters in relation to Central and South America and the West Indies. Thomas C. Dawson was the first person to hold both positions, acting in these capacities from 1909 until June, 1910, and again from June, 1911, until his death on May 1, 1912.

Dawson dealt with such diplomatic questions as revolutions in Nicaragua and Honduras, the mediation of a boundary dispute between Costa Rica and Panama, and various difficulties arising out of the Mexican insurrection.

In 1909 the Division of Information was also created to provide every diplomatic post with pertinent information regarding United States diplomatic negotiations, to prepare a summary of current news of importance for departmental use, and to compile the annual *Foreign Relations* volumes. The first chief of the Division, Philip H. Patchin of Des Moines, began his newspaper work there, later becoming a correspondent in Brazil, Cuba, China, and other countries.

In 1917 the Division was renamed the Division of Foreign Intelligence with the added duty of preparing news items for the press and handling the Department's publicity. Patchin, who had become head of the Associated Press in London, was asked to return to head the enlarged Division. At various times Patchin was also executive secretary

of the American Peace Commission under President Woodrow Wilson, secretary of the Disarmament Conference, and assistant to Secretary of State Charles Evans Hughes in 1921.

During the 1890's numerous complaints regarding the United States consular service were brought to the attention of the Secretary of State. One result was the establishment in 1906 by Congress of a corps of inspectors for the consular service. In 1913 Stuart J. Fuller of Keokuk was named Consul General at Large as a member of the Inspection Corps. His first assignment was to inspect all posts in Canada, a total of 53 cities, extending from Whitehorse in Yukon Territory to St. John's, Newfoundland.

Because of his knowledge of the Far East, Fuller's next assignment was the inspection of all posts in the Orient. The territory he had to cover was enormous, including Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti, China, and Japan, as well as Bangkok, Hong Kong, and Vladivostok. After six years as an inspector, Fuller was assigned as consul general at Tientsin, where he remained until he resigned in 1923.

Iowa Foreign Service officers were frequently given many special tasks. Between 1919 and 1929 Elbridge Rand of Burlington served four different legations or consulates. In addition, he was President of the International Sanitary Council in Morocco in 1924, technical assistant to the special

commission dealing with the manufacture of arms and ammunition in 1928, secretary at the International Conference of Economic Statistics in Geneva the same year, and delegate to the International Conference for the Suppression of Counterfeiting Currency in 1929.

World War II and its aftermath brought new and different tasks to Iowans. Edward S. Mason of Clinton was vice-chairman in 1945 of the Executive Committee on Economic Foreign Policy, which examined problems and developments affecting the foreign policies of the United States in the field of economics and formulated recommendations for the guidance of the government.

From 1949 to 1952 Maxwell Hamilton of Sioux City was chairman of the Far Eastern Commission, a body made up of representatives of the thirteen nations that fought against Japan during World War II. The Commission formulated policies for Japan to follow in meeting its obligations under the terms of surrender. The Commission also reviewed directives issued by the Supreme Command of the Allied Forces in the Pacific to make certain they conformed with the general policies decided upon.

Occupation of conquered nations creates special needs. To reorganize the Japanese educational system, an Education Mission was sent to Japan in 1946 to study and make recommendations regarding the aims of Japanese education,

language reform, the general administration of the primary and secondary levels, adult education, the teaching and education of teachers, and higher education. The State Department assigned Paul Stewart, a native of Tingley, to act as secretary general of the Mission.

After years of Japanese occupation, the economy of Korea had reached a low ebb. To learn what steps should be taken to prevent the return of this economy to a primitive state and to make the country more self-sufficient, an Economic Mission was organized in 1946. One of the economic analysts in this mission was Edith Royce of Mt. Ayr.

Following World War II it became more evident that personnel engaged in formulating foreign policies must have training in national defense problems. Also, these policies and problems were not confined to the United States but took into consideration our allies. As a part of this program of closer cooperation, Paul E. Paddock, Jr., of Des Moines was detailed in 1950 to the Canadian National Defense College at Kingston.

The list of those who contributed could be expanded greatly. However, all had but a single aim — to serve in whatever capacity they could to the benefit of their country.

HOMER L. CALKIN