

Dist # 5

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Department of the Interior.

Washington, D. C., February 26, 1907.

The Secretary of the Interior,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

There are two vacancies to fill in the positions of General Superintendents of Irrigation, occasioned by the resignations of Superintendents Meskimmons and Butler.

I have recommended that Mr. H. F. Robinson be appointed to succeed Mr. Butler, and I now have the honor to recommend that Mr. Alfred G. Smith, at present engaged upon work on the Isthmian Canal Survey, be appointed to succeed Mr. Meskimmons.

Mr. Smith has not had experience in irrigation work, and in this connection I might say that it is almost impossible to find an experienced irrigation engineer who is available for the salary allowed other General Superintendents of Irrigation. Mr. Smith has, however, had a large practical experience in other branches of engineering, and in my opinion will soon become a valuable man on the irrigation work of the Indian Bureau. He had applied for a position in the Indian service previous to accepting a detail on the canal zone.

The attached letter is self-explanatory.

In view of the large amount of work contemplated and provided for along irrigation lines in the Indian service, it is essential that Mr. Smith be appointed as soon as possible, hence, I respectfully suggest early action and advise that he be paid a similar

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salary to that allowed other General Superintendents of Irrigation, i. e., \$2,000.00 per annum and a per diem allowance of \$3.00 while on duty in the field. Also that he be appointed a Special Disbursing Agent, and be required to give the usual bond.

Mr. Smith, whose home address I understand is New York, can now be reached by addressing him at Empire, Canal Zone, Isthmus of Panama. He was in correspondence with the Indian Office and myself relative to employment in the Indian Service for sometime previous to his acceptance of the detail on the canal zone, and states in his letter, which I transmit herewith, that he can leave his present place at any time on giving ten days notice.

Very respectfully,

*A. H. Lunde*

Chief Engineer.

WHC(P)