It takes more than a good resume to get a government contract.

Clarence W. Ide (1860- )

From: “An Illustrated History of Spokane County.”

Hon. Clarence W. Ide United States marshal for the district of Washington, was born in Buffalo County, Wisconsin, September 10, 1860. When eighteen years of age he came to Dayton, Washington, thence, in 1879, to Spokane County. He passed a year on the farm, then moved into this city, where he was employed by F. R. Moore & Company for about a twelvemonth. He next entered the service of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, in their engineering department, and worked for them for a number of years, among other things assisting in the removal of the town of Yakima to North Yakima. Upon leaving their service he opened a real estate and mining broker’s office in Spokane, maintaining it until 1888, when he was elected county surveyor. He laid out numerous additions to Spokane and Cheney. In 1890 he retired from the surveyor’s office to accept an appointment from President Harrison as special examiner of public land surveys. He was elected to the state senate in 1892 and during his four years of service in that branch of the legislature distinguished himself as a man of unusual legislative ability. He introduced and secured the passage of a very important bill making it unlawful for any state officers or trustees to incur liability in excess of the amount appropriated, and providing a penalty for violation of its provisions. Previous to the passage of this act deficiencies of from one hundred thousand dollars to two hundred thousand dollars annually had to be met. Since July 1, 1897, Mr. Ide has been serving as United States marshal under appointment by President McKinley, and he is discharging his duties as such officer in a highly creditable manner. Mr. Ide has long been a leading man in political matters, having served as delegate to many county and state conventions. In fraternal affiliations he is a prominent thirty-second-degree Mason. He was married in Oscoda, Michigan, February 19, 1896, to Miss Dora M. McKay, a native of that town, and they have one daughter, Irma. Mr. Ide’s father, C. D. Ide, is a pioneer of this county of 1879, and is universally
esteemed and respected as a man of integrity, and one who has contributed much toward the general progress.

From: “Washington, West of the Cascades”

Clarence W. Ide, superintendent of the courthouse of King county, has held various public positions in which he has ever proven himself a faithful official, loyal to the best interests entrusted to his care. He was born in Buffalo county, Wisconsin, September 10, 1860, a son of Chester D. Ide, who was born in Vermont, October 18, 1830. In the year 1856 he removed to Wisconsin, where he resided until May, 1878, when he brought his entire family to Washington, making the trip by wagon train over the old Union Pacific trail to Ogden, thence by way of Boise and Walla Walla to Spokane. In the family were three sons, Clarence W., G. I. and Ernest W., but the last named passed away May 2, 1903. The wife and mother was called to her final rest on the 10th of March, 1903, but Mr. Ide is still living, hale and hearty at the age of eighty-five years. The younger of the living sons, G. L. Ide, was born August 27, 1870, and was brought by his parents to Washington in 1878. His education was largely acquired in the common schools of Spokane and in 1897 he was appointed deputy United States marshal, in which position he continued until he was made cashier of the Puget Sound customs district in 1903, since which time he has occupied that position. He was married in 1896 to Miss Edith Hull, of Spokane, and they have two children, Wilson G. and Helen. With the removal of the customs headquarters from Port Townsend to Seattle, Mr. Ide brought his family to this city, where he still resides.

The elder son, Clarence W. Ide, acquired his education in the public schools of his native town, being eighteen years of age when he accompanied his parents across the plains to the northwest. He first resided at Dayton, Washington, but after a year removed to Spokane with his father, who took up a claim in Spokane County. The next two or three years were spent upon a farm and in 1881 he began work in the engineering department of the Northern Pacific Railroad, which was then being constructed across the continent to Puget Sound. Although he had received no technical training in that line, experience brought him knowledge of surveying and he remained with the Northern Pacific in that capacity in Montana, Idaho and Washington for about five years, being first engaged on the line of construction and later in town site work. He afterward became interested in real estate and in 1888 was elected county surveyor of Spokane County, but in a short time resigned that position to accept an appointment from President Harrison to the position of examiner of surveys in the interior department. Two years later he was elected to the state senate from Spokane county on the republican ticket and was a member of the upper house for four years, during which time he
carefully considered all vital questions which came up for settlement and used his influence in behalf of public improvement and progress. In July, 1897, Mr. Ide was appointed United States marshal of the district of Washington by President McKinley and while occupying that position made his headquarters at Tacoma, where he established his home. He continued in the office until March, 1902, when he was appointed collector of customs for the Puget Sound district by President Roosevelt. His confirmation was held up by Senator Foster on several frivolous charges which were finally withdrawn and he was confirmed by the United States senate in June, 1902. During the four years which he occupied the position of collector he resided at Port Townsend but June, 1906, returned to Seattle and engaged in the contracting business. His first work in that line was the construction of the 'Green Lake reservoir and in November, 1913, he was appointed superintendent of construction of the Cedar River masonry dam, in which connection he served until the dam was completed in June, 1915. On the 1st of December of the same year he was appointed superintendent of the King county courthouse, which position he now fills.

In February, 1896, Mr. Ide was married to Miss Dora M. McKay, of Michigan, by whom he has six children, namely: Irma, Margaret, Elizabeth, Dorothy, can and Edna. The family is well known in Seattle, where they have many friends, and Mr. Ide also has a wide acquaintance throughout the northern part of the state, his activities having brought him into prominent connection with affairs of public importance.

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i Rev. Jonathan Edwards, *An Illustrated History of Spokane County*: W. H. Lever Publisher, 1900