

tion in strong contrast with the constitutions of the north Atlantic states, in which only a few fundamental principles are laid down. Recently it was necessary in one of the states of this group to amend the constitution before the simple duty of collecting taxes could be transferred from one comparatively unimportant local official to another.

BUREAU OF NAVIGATION

Between September 8 and October 2, under the amendment to the Panama Canal act of August 18, 1914, 54 foreign-built vessels with a gross tonnage of 217,207, took out United States registry and are now sailing under the American flag. The total present value of these steamships is not known but is probably somewhere between \$12,000,000 and \$15,000,000. The question or principle of prize has not in the opinion of Assistant Secretary Sweet been involved in any of these registers. The vessels were previously under British, Belgian and German registry and flags because, until the act of August, 1914, the fact that they were foreign-built prevented them from carrying on trade under the American flag between foreign ports and those of the United States.

Although their ownership was in reality American, they were obliged to have a foreign ownership of record, take out foreign registry and sail under foreign flags.

The change in our domestic policy begun by the Panama Canal act of 1912 and extended by the recent act of August 18, has brought these 54 vessels into the American merchant marine. Others are following daily, but just how many it is impossible at this time to say.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CHICAGO UNION STOCK YARDS QUARANTINED

On the last day of October notice was sent out generally announcing the quarantine of the Chicago Union Stockyards, which went into effect immediately. The secretary of agriculture has quarantined the stockyards because there is danger that cattle infected with the foot-and-mouth disease may have passed through them.

Under the provisions of this quarantine no cattle, sheep or swine can be moved from the stockyards in interstate or foreign commerce, except for the purpose of immediate slaughter and under permits issued by federal inspectors. In such cases they must be transported in sealed cars placarded "for immediate slaughter." The stock in these cars can only be unloaded into reserved pens which have been designated for this purpose by the chief of the bureau of animal industry. Cars used for the transportation of stock from the yards must be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected before they can be moved again in interstate or foreign commerce. Shipments of stock into the yards from uninfected areas must be unloaded through cleaned and disinfected docks and alleyways under the supervision of federal officials. When reloaded the stock must be placed in cleaned and disinfected cars and the cars officially sealed.

These measures are considered essential to the prevention of the spread of the disease. Foot-and-mouth disease is one of the most contagious infections known, and if it were possible to move stock from the Chicago yards to the country for feeding or dairy purposes, there is grave danger that the disease might be disseminated over large areas.

Up to the present time no cases of foot-and-mouth disease have been found in the union yards but there is some reason to believe that infected stock may have passed through. It is certain that shipments of stock to Chicago have been made from regions where the foot-and-mouth disease has broken out.

NEW REGULATIONS FOR MEAT INSPECTION

The new federal meat inspection regulations covering the slaughtering of cattle, sheep, swine, and goats, and the preparation of meat food products in inspected establishments, went into effect for domestic meats on November 1, 1914. In the new regulations are incorporated the latest discoveries of veterinary science and meat inspection, and also a number of practical changes suggested by eight years' experience under the present law. From the public's point of view the more important changes are requirements that animals which show symptoms of certain diseases shall be condemned prior to slaughter and never allowed to enter the killing rooms.

The post-mortem examination has also been made severe, new diseases added as reasons for

rejection, and new and complete tests prescribed for detecting prohibited diseases the presence of which is not clearly marked. The use of raw pork is also prohibited in food products which are to be eaten uncooked, complete regulations governing the cleanliness of establishments and employees are imposed, and rigid rules laid down for disposing of condemned meats, and safeguarding the use and integrity of the federal inspection marks.

In addition the new regulations, under certain conditions, permit the selling, in a cooked and canned condition, of certain meat heretofore wasted, as "Second-class Sterilized" meat.

The regulations governing imported meats do not go into effect until January 1, 1915.

ANTI-HOG-CHOLERA SERUM GIVES GOOD RESULTS

A report has been received from the United States department of agriculture's county agents in fifteen southern states, which gives additional evidence of the value of antihog-cholera serum. Although many authorities do not advocate the treatment after the hog has become visibly affected, this report seems to indicate that a considerable saving was effected in this way. Here is a resume of the report:

1. Number of hogs given single treatment	34,266
2. Number of hogs that were well when treated	27,226
3. Number died that were well when treated	608
4. Per cent died that were well when treated	2.22
5. Number of hogs that were sick when treated	7,040
6. Number died that were sick when treated	2,057
7. Per cent died that were sick when treated	29.21
8. Number of hogs given simultaneous treatment	7,713
9. Number of hogs that were well when treated	7,410
10. Number died that were well when treated	179
11. Per cent died that were well when treated	2.41
12. Number of hogs that were sick when treated	303
13. Number died that were sick when treated	160
14. Per cent died that were sick when treated	52.85
15. Total number of hogs treated	41,979
16. Total number of hogs died	3,004
17. Per cent of hogs died	7.15
18. Total number well when treated	34,636
19. Total number died that were well when treated	787
20. Per cent died that were well when treated	2.27

TO ENCOURAGE APPLE CULTURE

Apple clubs are being formed by the department in co-operation with agricultural colleges of northern and western states to interest the boys and girls of apple-growing sections in the possibilities of apple culture. The organizations for the young people on the farm are being planned and begun in the New England states, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. Any young people in these states wishing to find out the details of the new apple-raising clubs should write at once to the state agent in charge of club work at the state college of agriculture, or the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

TO AID COTTON FARMERS

In a circular sent out to farmers and business men in the cotton states, the department offers a series of suggestions to remedy the situation created by the falling off in the demand for cotton. Instead of attempting to obtain through cotton the cash required to buy other necessities, farmers are urged to raise these necessities themselves. Cotton is low and likely to remain so. Food products are high and also likely to remain so. A man, therefore, who has all his acreage in cotton finds himself compelled to exchange a low-priced article for a high-priced one. This is not profitable.

One way within the reach of all to cut down expenses is to pay proper attention to the home garden. A nice piece of good land, as near the house as possible, should be devoted to this; given extra care and well supplied with manure. In return the farmer will have an abundance of good, wholesome food throughout a large portion of the year which will cost him little or

nothing in cash. Vegetables and fruits should be canned for winter use. In this connection it is pointed out that summer is not the only time that work can be advantageously put into a garden. Farmers are advised, therefore, to get in touch at once, either with the county agents or with the state and federal departments of agriculture, if they wish information on this matter.

EUROPEAN DEMAND FOR WELL-BRED HORSES

During the next decade, according to one of the department's experts, there will probably be an increased demand for American horses in the countries now engaged in the European war. The demand may even continue much longer, as not only will horses be needed for armies, but when peace is restored more will be needed for agriculture. Already European agents are said to be endeavoring to purchase horses in this country and Canada, and there is an increased interest in many sections in horse breeding.

To meet this increased European demand, American farmers may well endeavor to raise well-bred horses, but the department does not advise them to purchase a surplus of horses merely for breeding purposes. It merely advises that ordinary farm work should be done whenever possible by good mares, which should be bred to good stallions. It also desires to emphasize the fact that only horses of high quality may be profitably raised today. Inferior horses are a drug on the market, and their production is to be discouraged as much as the production of good horses should be encouraged.

ALCOHOL AND FIGHTING EFFICIENCY

One of the remarkable features of the present European war is the adoption of liquor reform measures by practically all of the nations engaged in the conflict. On this subject an editorial in the New York World says:

"The relation of alcohol to industrial efficiency is still a moot question, but apparently the great commanders are convinced that alcohol does not improve an army's fighting efficiency. That the Kaiser has forbidden the 'treating' of German soldiers, while Earl Kitchener asks the British troops 'to abstain from drinking while abroad,' is significant of a new order of things in warfare. The suppression of the sale of absinthe in Paris, if not strictly a military measure, is prompted by the emergency of war.

"A temperate army was something not conceived of in the old theories of war. But, in fact, a drunkard is today as much out of place in an army as he would be on a battle-ship. A modern army is a fighting machine only less complex in its nature than a modern navy and equally dependent on sobriety in the ranks.

"Perhaps another Trafalgar or Waterloo could be fought on grog, but the military authorities today take no chances with 'Dutch courage.' It will seem singular that war, in which the worst passions of mankind find play, should incidentally serve the cause of moral reform. Yet the practical gain to temperance is the same whether men are kept sober on behalf of industrial efficiency or by the injunctions of army commanders."

Commenting upon the election returns, Postmaster Burleson emphasizes the fact that it is but rare that a political party retains control of the house after having revised the tariff. The reason is not far to seek. Those whose special privileges were curtailed or cut off started out with a fine array of knives, while those in whose interest the law was drawn accepted the new conditions as a matter of course. That the democrats escaped with a fair-sized majority left to them may be traced to the fact that the onslaught this year differed from that made on the republicans after each of their tariff laws in that the attacking force was not made up of outraged consumers.

When a political party really desires to redeem a solemn pledge made to the people in its platform there is no difficulty about doing it. For years the republican national administrators talked about what they were going to do with Alaska in the conservation of her great natural resources and in protecting these from spoliation. At the first session of congress at which it was possible to reach the matter, the democratic administration passed a bill providing for the construction of a government railroad in Alaska and for the leasing or the public coal lands there, ending for all time the question of who is to profit from her great natural wealth.