

law nation in Oklahoma. Arrangements have been made for the sale of 1,279,000 acres of timber land in the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations in tracts of 160 acres for agricultural lands and 640 acres for timber land.

The patent office has in round numbers received 37,183 applications for patents, re-issues, designs, trade marks, appeals and notices, prints and labels, and it has issued 17,963 patents, trade marks, etc. Cash receipts have amounted to \$925,086.64, and receipts for certificates have amounted to \$24,465.30, making a total of \$949,551.94.

New governors have been appointed in the territories of Hawaii and Alaska, and in Alaska instructions have been given to more rigid enforcement of the laws protecting game and suppressing liquor traffic among the natives. Automobiles have been allowed to enter the Yosemite and Sequoia national parks in California, and a part of the Yellowstone park in Wyoming.

The general land office has made arrangements to open to settlement and entry under the homestead laws in the Fort Peck Indian reservation in Montana 486,667 acres of agricultural lands and 737,181 acres of grazing land. Arrangements have also been made to open 15,040 acres, or ninety-four tracts of 160 acres each under the general provisions of the homestead laws of Fort Niobrara lands, at Valentine, Nebraska, and 29,440 acres, or forty-six farms of 604 acres each under the Kinkaid acts. Provisions have also been made to sell 37,000 acres of land in Tripp county, South Dakota. No bid for less than \$2.50 per acre will be received.

There have been restored to entry and settlement from reclamation projects 458,090 acres; from national forests, 1,177,695 acres; released from temporary withdrawals for forestry purposes and restored to entry, 111,743 acres.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

A number of important changes and improvements have been effected since March in the department of agriculture. The aim of these is to increase the department's usefulness, unify and correlate its activities, bring home to the individual farmer on the land the results of its investigations along agricultural lines, and render more effective the enforcement of the laws passed for the protection of the public from adulterated, impure and unwholesome products.

A rural organization service, the object of which is to investigate rural conditions with a view to providing a basis on which to develop a scientific economic rural country life and to stimulate those agencies which will lead to better business methods and better living on the farm, has been established. One of the chief divisions of this work has to do directly with investigating the marketing and distribution of farm produce. The object is to aid farmers and others to work out more economical methods for the transportation, marketing and handling of such products. This, it is believed, will lead to somewhat better prices for the producer and while the consumer will benefit by reduced costs and better products when expense and waste in the handling of these products from the farm to the consumer have been eliminated, studies of the underlying principles which make for the success or failure of rural organizations and rural federation co-operative and otherwise are now being carried on by specialists in this field.

The character of many of the publications of the department has been radically changed in order to make information more quickly accessible and to provide information in a simple form which the actual producer will be able to apply to his own immediate profit. The number of popular bulletins giving results of researches in simple non-technical language will be increased. Scientifically stated matter heretofore incorporated in bulletins for the reading of laymen will hereafter be published in the newly established Journal of Research, in the journals of the scientific societies and in monographs to be issued by the department. In order to bring its communication more directly into the hands of the individual producer, the department has established a weekly news letter for crop correspondents through which it will communicate its most important practical discoveries each week directly to the leading farmers of the 2,800 counties of the United States.

In the administration of the food and drugs act, decisive steps have been taken to afford greater protection to the people of the United States, from impure, unwholesome and adulter-

ated meat, food and drug products entering into interstate commerce or offered for entry into the country. The regulation of the three secretaries, of the treasury, agriculture and commerce, in force since the passage of the food and drugs act, which exempts meat and meat food products from the application of that act, was revoked on June 16, 1913. As a result the food and drugs act has been made fully applicable to these products in interstate commerce. Expert veterinarians, sanitarians and animal physiologists not connected with the department have been selected to inspect and report to the secretary on conditions prevailing in the principal meat packing centers and establishments with the object of effecting improvements in the meat inspection service. Other experts have been dispatched abroad to investigate the method of handling and inspecting of meat and meat food products in countries which export these things to the United States.

The work of the weather bureau has been the subject of much study and consideration. A reorganization has been effected which will result in the direction of the attention of the staff of the bureau to the necessity of dealing with every problem on its merits and along strictly scientific lines. In particular the relation of its work to the agricultural interests of the country which has heretofore not been given sufficient thought will be thoroughly studied. There is little doubt that much greater efficiency will characterize the work of this bureau.

Similarly, a careful examination has been made of the organization and operations of the bureau of statistics, and plans have been developed which will place it on a much sounder basis.

A determined effort is being made to bring about more effective co-operation between the department and the state agricultural colleges and experiment stations. The end sought is that of securing a better understanding, more effective co-operation, and a correlation of the operations of the different agencies in attacking the many problems having to do with the advancement of agriculture in the United States in which the states and federal government have interests in common. It is believed that as a result of the understanding thus far arrived at duplication of effort, friction and waste will be reduced to a minimum.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

It is not easy to condense in a few words the outlook of the department of commerce, covering as it does all our coasts and the navigation upon our seas, rivers and lakes and the fish beneath the surface of the sea. The agents of the department are actively working in the Philippines, Hawaii, Alaska, throughout the continental union, in Porto Rico, in China, in South Africa, in South America and in parts of Europe. Briefly, however, the one word which best expresses the ideals of the department today is "forward." How this is working out will appear in the following case:

In the bureau of navigation not only is a special vessel constantly at work enforcing the navigation laws providing for the safety of all who navigate whether in small boats or large, and another force guiding the development of radiotelegraphy, but special attention is being given to preparing in definite statements American ideals of what is required for preserving safety at sea.

These statements, covering all phases of maritime life, will be presented to the international conference for safety at sea to take place next spring in London. It is believed that the American delegates there will present clear and sound suggestions the adoption of which would make a repetition of the Titanic disaster impossible hereafter.

The bureau of corporations is reaching out into a broad and deep study of the laws underlying industrial production. It will try to determine whether giant combinations do not violate economic laws as well as statute laws, and as to whether the profits sought by promoters are not gained at a double cost to the people, namely, first the cost of the promotion itself which is undoubtedly imposed upon industry, but also and perhaps more important a further continuing cost in the shape of an excessively high price for production. Many thoughtful men there are who believe the trust an economic mistake as well as a legal wrong. An effort will be made to find out.

It is intended that the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce shall reach out as never before to represent legitimate American industry

throughout the world. In a plan of reorganization which the president has approved and which will be submitted to the next congress, it is hoped to put commercial attaches, accredited by the department of state but under the instructions of the department of commerce, into some of our more important legations. These officers will be charged with the sole duty of studying continuously the industry and commerce of the nation to which they are accredited. They will supplement and aid the consular force, giving to this latter the general outlook added to the particular interest which the consul must chiefly feel. This will further be supplemented by the commercial agents who travel throughout the world on special lines of industrial and commercial inquiry and who will be instructed to personally put before American chambers of commerce and business men the results of their study in writing, in addresses and face to face. It is expected also to establish a representative of this important bureau in each of several important commercial and industrial cities that so far as possible the results of this work may be made available everywhere.

In the bureau of the census an administrative head has been substituted for a statistical one with beneficial results which are already clear. It is intended that the statistical work coming under the scope of this great office be brought more closely up to date. It will no longer do to publish facts and figures three and four years back. They must be made available as quickly as possible after the facts and figures are themselves developed. On this great stress will be laid. It is not our purpose to treat statistics so much as a refined science as it is to deal with them as working tools finished, indeed, and sharpened for use, but tools meant for use and not to be put in cases for the admiration of men.

The bureau of fisheries aims to develop largely that food supply of the people which it has in charge. One or two additional sources of fish food have already been found. The preservation of the food supplies in Chesapeake bay are now in conference between the bureau and the states of Maryland and Virginia. The saving of the supply of fish food where it exists, its propagation where it does not exist, the increase of the fur seal herd under the wise legislation of the last congress, these are among the leading duties of this important branch of the department.

The work of the coast and geodetic survey in making our shores safe to the navigator will be continually pushed as a part of the broad duty of making the department a servant of the plain people.

The bureau of standards will develop further studies into the causes of the railway accidents which occur from broken rails, broken car wheels and broken axles, and the definite purpose of making it safer for citizens to travel. It will continue also in many ways which space does not permit detailing, its deep and broad studies into facts underlying all our industries and our engineering construction.

The discipline and efficiency of the lighthouse service on which so many lives nightly depend will be maintained and increased, and so far as funds permit, the warning eye of the lighthouse and the warning voice of the "siren" will be seen and heard more fully than before. An experiment is making in wireless signals to vessels approaching shore in fog from which it is hoped greatly to reduce the dangers arising under such conditions.

Finally the steamboat inspection service which has for its prime duty the caring for the safety of passengers on our rivers, lakes and harbors and seas will be kept free from all questions of partisan politics. It is not and cannot be a political service. It is a human one. It has under its care women and children often in conditions in which they are helpless to care for themselves. Honor does not permit allowing to enter this service any considerations save those of loyal, faithful, firm, strong and kindly enforcement of the law provided for the safety of the people. Everything that can be done to increase the efficiency and certainty of this service will be done. Nothing that seems likely to decrease its efficiency, to open the door to pressure or temptation, or to weaken the safeguards thrown around the innocent by law will be willingly permitted.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The department of labor, created in the closing days of the Taft administration, but the first head of which was named by President Wilson, took over from the department of com-