

pleted in line with this purpose. This preliminary work has revealed that there are approximately 6,500 corporations, exclusive of those under the jurisdiction of the interstate commerce commission, which have a capital stock or bonded and other indebtedness amounting to \$1,000,000 or over, and which are engaged in interstate commerce, in addition to many smaller corporations which will likewise come within the jurisdiction of this commission. Over one-third of these corporations have voluntarily furnished to the bureau upon request reports as to their financial condition, organization, and other valuable facts, to be at the disposition of the commission upon its organization.

The full force of special agents, attorneys, statisticians and other employees are exerting every effort to complete the remaining work of the bureau before the organization of the trade commission. Final reports on the tobacco industry, on farm machinery associations, on state corporate taxation, and on competitive conditions in the retail lumber trade, are to be issued in the immediate future. Special reports on the fertilizer industry and on the investigation made under the resolution of the United States senate as to certain alleged discriminations in the Oklahoma oil fields are being rapidly brought into shape for publication. The investigation which the bureau has been making into the economic character and facts of the system of resale price maintenance, i. e., the practice of manufacturers and distributors to fix the price at which retailers and other dealers in their products shall sell to consumers or other purchasers—is rapidly advancing; and the investigation being made into the divergence in state laws relating to foreign corporations, with the purpose of securing a more uniform system, with its attendant benefit to the business world and to the public, is nearing completion.

With the completion of these reports, the eleven years' work of the bureau of corporations will close. During that time this bureau has made over forty reports on the various investigations of the largest industries of the country, and in addition has been of constant assistance to other branches of the government service and to congress—principally in connection with tariff and trust legislation.

BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

The appointment of Mr. William C. Downs, of New York City, to be commercial attache of the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce at Melbourne, Australia, has been announced.

Mr. Downs is a graduate of Phillips Exeter Academy and Harvard college, A. B. 1890. He has been for a number of years connected with various export interests and has traveled extensively, especially in South and Central America. Since 1908 he has been in charge of the South American export business of Wessels, Kulenkampff & Company, and resigned his position there to take up his work with the bureau. Mr. Downs has a very intimate knowledge of American sources of supply and methods of manufacture, shipping, marine insurance, foreign exchange and banking methods in addition to a general knowledge of foreign trade. He speaks the Spanish, Portuguese and French languages.

Mr. Downs has served as a special lecturer on "The Economic Resources of Central and South America" at the Graduate School of Business Administration of Harvard University.

The bureau has recently issued a pamphlet on "Wholesale Prices of Leading Articles in the United States Markets," which contains a record of the price fluctuations of the principal basic articles of industry, such as iron and steel, petroleum, cotton, wool, and tin, and of leading foodstuffs including wheat, corn, sugar, coffee, tea, rice, pork, and beef, by weeks from January 1, 1913, to October 31, 1914. The record indicates a downward trend in wholesale prices of leading articles of factory consumption and many of the staple articles of food in 1913 and 1914 down to the period of the European war and a rapid rise in prices of foodstuffs since that time.

Unusually large exports of sugar in recent months lend interest to a compilation regarding sugar consumption in the United States made by the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce and published in the "Statistical Record of the Progress of the United States, 1800-1914," recently issued. In 25 years the sugar consumption of the country has almost trebled and has increased from 50.44 pounds per capita in 1889 to 86.85 pounds in 1914. In that period Cuba

has increased its contributions to the domestic market from 1,032 million to 4,927 million pounds; and the noncontiguous territories of Hawaii, the Philippines, and Porto Rico has increased shipments of sugar into continental United States from 511 million to 1,873 million pounds; while Europe, the Dutch East Indies, and other foreign countries have decreased their sales to this country from 1,219 million pounds of sugar in 1889 to 23.4 million in 1914. During the same period the domestic product has grown from 349 million to 1,841 million pounds.

STEAMBOAT INSPECTION SERVICE

An interesting item illustrating the very high degree of safety in travel by water appears in the annual report of the supervising inspector general of the steam-boat-inspection service. The report states that during the past fiscal year, on vessels subject to inspection by the steam-boat-inspection service, there were 232 accidents resulting in loss of life and 582 lives were lost, of whom 105 were passengers and 477 members of crews.

There were 318,094,347 passengers carried on steam vessels that are required by law to report the number of passengers carried. Dividing this number by 105, the total number of passengers lost, shows that 3,029,469 passengers were carried for each passenger lost.

COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

Secretary Redfield has especially commended Mr. John H. Peters, an assistant in the coast and geodetic survey, for the remarkable record of 148.3 miles of precise leveling made by him in October, 1914, which exceeded the previous record by about 24 per cent. The previous record was also made by Mr. Peters. This accomplishment was particularly noteworthy because it was due to the efficient organization and management of the party and to Mr. Peters' skill as an observer, and not to excessive hours of work.

The triangulation along the western coast of Washington from the Strait of Fuca to Grays harbor, just completed by H. A. Seran, was an unusual piece of work. Owing to lack of roads, high timber and unfavorable weather conditions the work was most difficult. It was necessary in order to avoid heavy cutting to mount the instrument on signals built on standing trees at heights often as great as 185 feet. On one unoccupied station a lamp was shown from a height of 215 feet.

BUREAU OF NAVIGATION

According to the bureau of navigation, the American merchant marine was increased between September 8 and December 22, 1914, by the registry of 102 vessels having a gross tonnage of 365,281, under the ship registry act of August 18, 1914.

On December 14, 1914, Secretary Redfield sent a letter to Loren A. Lovejoy, wireless operator on the steamship Hanalei which was wrecked on November 22, commending him for his coolness and unselfish courage at the time of the wreck and more especially for the ingenuity and persistence with which he maintained communication with the shore during the day and night following the wreck. Also, Lovejoy's praise of the bravery of his assistant, Adolph J. Svenson, who was lost, received the endorsement and approval of the Secretary.

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT

With the beginning of its second year of existence, the Home club has gained acceptance and recognition as one of the institutions of departmental life in Washington. This club is unique in many respects. Its president and founder is the secretary of the interior, Franklin K. Lane. Its 1,700 members, who pay fifty cents a month each in dues, are all employees of the interior department—government clerks. Its club house, half a block from the White house, in Jackson place, is one of the famous old historic mansions of the capital, once the residence of a vice-president—Schuyler Colfax, and more recently the Brazilian embassy. The numerous rooms in this roomy mansion, all comfortably and even luxuriously furnished, are fitted up as parlors, lounging and reading rooms, game rooms, etc. There is a library, a dining room and kitchen, toilet and cloak rooms, a billiard room and private reception rooms. A ballroom, the largest private ballroom in the city, is the central idea around which the life of the club revolves.

For its members and their families, the Home club, with its rooms open every day and evening, provides a down town meeting or resting place for the women; a club rendezvous at night.

There is a lecture, a musical, a dance, a moving picture show or some other form of free entertainment for the members nearly every night. Some of the country's best known men and women have been its guests and entertainers. The president's daughter, Miss Margaret Wilson, sang for the Home club members one night last winter. Sir William Willocks, the famous British engineer and builder of the Assouan dam, made the first public speech of his life at the Home club. Several cabinet officers have attended its functions, and it is one of the gayest places in town, though those who participate are humble government employees whose salaries usually are \$1,500 a year or less.

Although the social and entertainment side of the Home club's work is that which gets oftenest into the newspapers, it is only one phase, and perhaps the least important, of the club's activities. The purpose of the organization was stated at the outset to be that of increasing efficiency in the department and adding zest to the lives of department employees. Here, in lectures and evening talks, heads of bureaus tell the club members, recruited from a half dozen bureaus, of the fields of work, experiments and accomplishments in each. Before the Home club was started, the employees in the patent office, for instance, knew in a vague way that there was a reclamation service and a bureau of mines under the supervision of the same department, and that was probably about all they did know of it, while the most the average employee in one of the other bureaus knew of the patent office was that it was housed in a big building which they passed on the way to work. Now there are few Home club members who can not discuss intelligently the varied activities of the department's many divisions. An esprit du corps has been created, a sense of personal pride in departmental achievements brought to the individual, which Secretary Lane and bureau heads say makes for better and more intelligent co-operation and service throughout the department.

Nor does the club's work stop here. At the club house, every afternoon and evening, are educational classes, where members, for a nominal fee, co-operatively hire teachers and study languages, stenography, basketry and other subjects. There is a children's dancing class on Saturdays, a club's orchestra in the making, a camera club, a political science club being organized, a current events society planned. Also, the club has started a monthly newspaper to tell its members of club activities, which have so increased as to have outgrown bulletin boards.

A manager has been hired, as the latest innovation, to organize the members into a purchasing group, for the purpose of reducing their cost of living by enabling them to buy co-operatively. Just what form this co-operative buying proposal will eventually take has not been definitely decided, but it is assured that the result will be to increase the purchasing power of the dollars found by the members in their bi-monthly pay envelopes.

A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

No better resolution could be made by any one than to follow the advice given in the following paragraph printed in the Milwaukee Journal, under the heading, "Folks' Good Opinion":

"Few persons do not value the good opinion of others. Pulling down the character of some one else is not the way to build up your own; the ruin of another does not mean your building up. There are some who appear to think another's possessions something taken from themselves. This is a mistake. To point out an error in another's character it is not to prove a corresponding virtue in one's own. If we decry another for being miserly, of disagreeable disposition, extravagant or stupid, and expect the hearer to see the corresponding virtue in themselves, we need to learn that this is not what the hearer usually sees. Rather he thinks how unkind such talk is and attention is called to failings in the speaker which would probably otherwise not have been noticed. Let your chief aim be to make yourself worthy of the good opinion of others. Belittling them is a plain acknowledgement of a conscious fault of your own. The way to win the good opinion of others is to be worthy of it. If you are you will not need to call attention to it."

A reader of The Commoner wishes to know the address of Mrs. Marjorie Brown, a portrait artist who formerly lived in Boston, but who seems to have removed from that city. Any one knowing Mrs. Brown's present address is kindly requested to advise The Commoner.