

be of accumulated surplus through a more extended, a more satisfactory and a cheaper service.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BUREAU OF CORPORATIONS

The annual report of the commissioner of corporations just issued affords an interesting insight into the work now being conducted by the bureau of corporations.

In addition to the investigations of several industries continued through the year, the bureau is initiating, with the approval of the president and the secretary of commerce, a general, constructive program of investigation, which it is hoped will be of constructive benefit to the business world and to the general public.

With a view to providing useful material in connection with proposed legislation regarding trusts and corporations, the bureau is making a study of existing legislation, judicial decisions, pending bills, foreign laws, and all other data which may be helpful in a consideration of this problem.

An investigation has also been commenced to determine the relative efficiency of the monopolistic form of industry and the independent, competitive unit. One of the alleged advantages claimed by monopoly, by which it is claimed that monopoly is justified as an ultimate fact in industrial evolution, is the alleged cheapness of its production. The question is whether the trust form of organization is really efficient. If it be found that smaller competitive units in industry can produce commodities more cheaply or as cheaply as monopolistic units, and that they have other and equal advantages claimed for the monopolistic or trust system, then the problem is finally settled in favor of the competitive system, and the chief argument for the regulation of monopoly is destroyed. This is a scientific question of fact, which the bureau will investigate both from the standpoint of the cost of production and distribution and the ultimate effect upon the price to the consumer.

The question of a fixed price for the resale of commodities, that is, the fixing by the manufacturer or jobber, with regard to the commodities in which he deals, of the prices at which retailers must sell such articles is another subject of present inquiry by the bureau, with the view of determining the economic advantages or disadvantages of permitting such a practice.

For the purpose of aiding in the attainment of more uniform legislation, the bureau is also conducting an extensive inquiry into the laws of the various states regarding the admission and regulation of corporations organized in other states and countries.

The commissioner, in his report, urges strongly that the bureau of corporations or some federal governmental agency be provided with the power to obtain and keep as a public record annual returns from corporations doing an interstate business, regarding such items as the kinds and amounts of capital stock, names of directors, holdings in other corporations, and allied matters.

BUREAU OF FISHERIES

For a number of years the bureau of fisheries has been investigating the food qualities of several unutilized sea products and certain of them have been recommended to the public as of edible value. The practical results of this work, however, were negligible until very recently, when an opportunity occurred for making an actual demonstration of the merits of the sea-mussel at the Hotel Brunswick, in Boston, Mass. This experiment, which has been repeated at the same hotel, met with immediate approbation from the patrons and arrangements are being made to provide other hotels in Boston and vicinity with mussels for similar demonstrations, and to spread an acquaintance with this cheap and excellent food.

The bureau is now preparing a list of sea foods used in various foreign countries but wasted in the United States, which will be placed in the hands of an agent to locate centers of population already familiar with the products and to determine the means and commercial avenues through which they can be introduced most effectively.

BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

In furtherance of the plan of the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce for the promotion of the foreign trade of the United States by

bringing American manufacturers and exporters into personal touch with consular officers and with its commercial agents, certain consular officers have visited branch offices of the bureau and some of the bureau's agents, in addition to visiting its branch offices, have attended conventions and addressed commercial organizations in various cities.

The superintendent of documents has consented to receive subscriptions to the Daily Consular and Trade Reports at a price of \$2.50 a year. This publication, which is issued each day by the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce, contains current reports from United States consuls throughout the world and a list of foreign trade opportunities for manufacturers and exporters. It has never before been sold to the public but has been distributed gratis, and the demand has been such that the legal limit of 20,000 copies was long since reached, there being at the present over 1,000 requests on the waiting list. Under the new arrangement whereby it is sold at a nominal subscription price, it becomes available to all firms and individuals who may be interested.

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The department of labor the youngest of the executive departments of the federal government, celebrated its first anniversary on March 4th. During the first year of its existence much has been accomplished. For the first few months after the creation of the department, due to insufficient appropriations, the department was handicapped in the work of mediation and conciliation, but even without the necessary funds to carry on this work, men were detailed from other branches of the service, and were successful in adjusting many trade disputes. With increased appropriations provided by congress, the department will be enabled to extend its activities along this line, and can accomplish effective work in the settlement of industrial disputes, and in bringing employers and employes into closer relations.

BUREAU OF NATURALIZATION

The bureau of naturalization of the department of labor celebrates this week the anniversary of its creation as a bureau having for its sole object the federal supervision of the naturalization laws of this country. Previously it was a division of a bureau which administered both the naturalization and immigration laws.

Substantially all of the frauds perpetrated upon the elective franchise through the naturalization laws have been eradicated by this federal supervision, and the standard of citizenship is raised because of the knowledge of our institutions which the alien is required to have in order to pass the examination specified. This great reform has been accomplished through the close scrutiny given to the examination of applicants for citizenship by the bureau of naturalization, under the direction of Secretary Wilson, of the department of labor. With but slight exception the naturalization laws of today are what they were during the greater portion of the century when the proceedings for obtaining certificates of naturalization were left to the tender mercies of those whose end to attain was principally the production of voters. Probably about twenty per cent of those obtaining title to the "priceless heritage" were prompted by patriotic motives, while the remainder were actuated by the interests of others.

This great work of reform, although of vital importance to all those to whom the title of American citizen belongs, whether by right of nativity or by favor of law, does not find its limitation within the boundaries of this country, but each patent of citizenship carries with it a bearing upon the greater question of international relationship in the recognition of our citizens by foreign sovereignties.

BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION

Commissioner General Caminetti has recently issued a circular relative to the distribution of hook-worm infection. Few realize the prevalence of this disease in foreign countries and the facility with which the infection is carried by immigration into regions where the disease has hitherto been unknown. Hook-worm infection practically belts the globe between the parallels of 36 degrees north and 30 degrees south latitude, affecting, to a greater or less extent, all countries lying between those limits. Of the whole population of Columbia, lying between sea-level and an altitude of three thousand feet, ninety per cent are infected, according to

information furnished by the Rockefeller sanitary commission. It also affects fifty per cent of the total population of British Guiana. In Egypt a general estimate places the infection at fifty per cent of the laboring population. In Natal fifty per cent of the coolie laborers on sugar and tea estates are infected; with the disease spreading among natives and Europeans. In many plantations in Ceylon, ninety per cent of the laborers are infected. Of the 300,000,000 people in India, 60 to 80 out of every 100 harbor the parasite. It also obtains in the Philippines, in Samoa, southern Mexico, and Central America. In Europe it does not exist to any great extent.

The attention of the scientific world was first directed to the serious character of hook-worm infection by an outbreak of the disease among the workmen engaged in the St. Gothard tunnel, in 1880. The presence of the disease in the southern part of the United States is well-known, the indications being that it was originally brought from Africa. Experts of all countries are agreed that the anemic condition caused by the hook-worm parasite is an enormous economic loss. In our own country, Dr. Herbert Gunn, special inspector for the California state board of health, in his report on hook-worm infection in the mines of that state, says: "There is no question that the general efficiency of the men is noticeably impaired."

The commissioner general of immigration is bending every effort to cope with this most serious situation.

On March 4th the chiefs and employees of the department of labor banqueted at "The Raleigh" in celebration of the anniversary. The pleasure of the occasion was much enhanced by addresses by the secretary of labor, Mr. Wilson; Assistant Secretary Louis F. Post; Solicitor John B. Densmore; Commissioner General of Immigration, Mr. Caminetti; commissioner of naturalization, Mr. Campbell; commissioner of labor statistics, Mr. Meeker; and Miss Julia C. Lathrop, chief of the children's bureau.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

The first annual report of the secretary of labor has been made public.

Particular attention in the report is called to the activities of the department. During the eleven months it has been in existence, in the work of mediation and conciliation. Through the good offices of the department, under section eight of the organic act, a great many impending trade disputes have been amicably adjusted, without resorting to any strikes or suspensions. Men from other branches of the service were detailed during the first few months, as conciliators notwithstanding that no appropriations were made for carrying out this most essential work. If ample provisions are made by congress in the appropriation bill for the coming year, this feature of the department's activities promises to become a great factor in the promotion of industrial peace, and in the establishment of closer relations between employers and employees.

During the fiscal year, 1,197,872 immigrant aliens entered the United States—an increase of 359,720 as compared with the 838,172 that entered during the preceding fiscal year.

It is observed that immigration is heaviest in April, May and June, 1913, the arrivals for these months ranging from 106,000 to 176,000 per month.

In addition to the number of immigrants arriving, over 225,000 aliens of the non-immigrant class entered, making a total of 1,427,000, compared with 1,017,000 for the previous fiscal year. During the same time 611,900 aliens departed from the country, of whom 308,000 were of the emigrant class, and 303,000 were of the non-immigrant class. The actual increase, therefore, in the alien population for 1913, was 815,000, compared with 401,000 for the fiscal year 1912.

It is interesting to note that the ages of 986,000 ranged between fourteen and forty-four years, 147,000 were under fourteen, and 64,300 forty-five or over.

Of the arrivals 269,000 could neither read nor write. It thus appears that over twenty-six per cent of the aliens over fourteen years of age, who were admitted, were illiterate.

Each year is shown an increase in the number of aliens declaring their citizenship intentions, in the number petitioning for naturalization, and also in the number admitted to citizenship. During the fiscal year closing June 30, 1913, 181,632 declarations of intention were issued, and 82,017 certificates of citizenship granted; an increase in certificates over 1910 of more than 100 per cent. The average number of alien declarants for the first six years, excluding