

sive lobby in Washington to defeat a reduction of the tariff on lumber.

5. The wholesale prices of lumber are given in elaborate tables and the course of prices is graphically shown by numerous charts; a close correspondence is generally shown between the prices actually obtained and the list prices issued.

From 1897 to 1907 there was a remarkable advance in lumber prices, ranging from 80 to 200 per cent. While a large part of this advance was due to conditions of supply and demand and to general causes that affected the prices of all commodities, a part of it was undoubtedly due to the concerted efforts of lumber manufacturers.

Before 1906 concerted activities were openly promoted by associations as part of their official work, and instances of agreements—written or oral—to maintain uniformly a certain price list, or to restrict output, were common. Since 1906 the methods of combining to fix prices have been changed. The written agreement has usually been discarded, and a variety of new methods have been adopted to carry on, in essentials, the practices ostensibly abandoned by the associations. These changes were admittedly due to fear of the enforcement of federal and state anti-trust laws:

The evidence clearly shows not only combinations intended to increase the market price of lumber, but there is abundant evidence to warrant the conclusion that, as a result of attempts at artificial control, prices have been higher than they would have otherwise been. Indeed, this was asserted by officers of some associations prior to 1906 and used as an inducement for their support and for increasing their membership. That the lumbermen themselves believed in the success of these efforts is shown by the fact that after the alleged abandonment of certain practices in 1906 they were continued in virtually the same form, by subterfuge and indirection.

The facts revealed by this investigation indicate a serious economic and business problem. Not only lumber producers but manufacturers in many other industries and also wholesale and retail dealers in many lines of business have associations similar in character to those of the lumbermen. Part of the work done by the lumber associations is of a nature which benefits the lumber industry and does not injure the public. On the other hand, their activities in fixing prices and in restricting output have profited the lumbermen at the expense of the consumer.

The problem then is, how shall associations such as these be permitted to exercise functions that are legal and proper without perverting them into instruments of wrong or usurping wrongful functions? It may be both proper and desirable for producers in any line of business to establish standard grades, to collect and publish information as to output and current prices, and to cooperate in various proper ways for the common advantage; but it should be pointed out that the standardization of grades is the first step to price fixing, that the collection of information as to output, facilities, the curtailment of production, and that cooperation for harmless purposes affords a convenient basis for combination in restraint of trade.

BUREAU OF NAVIGATION

Secretary Redfield and Secretary Cormack, of the New York Yacht club, had a conference in the latter part of May to make preliminary arrangements for the international yacht races for the America's cup on September 10, 12 and 15, off Sandy Hook. It has been agreed that, as the success of the races depends upon a clear course, only one press boat, as in previous years, will be allowed within the lines, early notice being given so as to allow the press associations and newspapers to charter a suitable steamer and to arrange for the division of accommodations on board. The vessel for the purpose must be approved by the secretary of commerce and the New York Yacht club. Special arrangement will be necessary this year to insure the successful transmission of wireless bulletins from the course during the progress of the races and to prevent the interference with the necessary daily commercial service that would result from the indiscriminate use of wireless. Accordingly, wireless messages relating to the races during their progress will be restricted to the wireless apparatus on the press boat. The press and wireless will in all respects be under the control of an officer of the government, and Secretary Redfield will ask Secretary Daniels to detail Captain W. H. G. Bullard, U. S. N., superin-

tendent of the naval radio service, for this purpose.

The New York Yacht club has suggested, to meet the public desire this year on both sides of the ocean for moving pictures of the races, that one vessel be allowed within the lines for this purpose. Secretary Redfield has adopted this suggestion and the regulations will provide for one such vessel, which in all respects during the races will be under the control of an officer of the government.

FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

That branch offices of the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce are of great assistance to American merchants and manufacturers who are interested in foreign markets for their goods, is evidenced by the reports covering the work for the month of May in the four branches which have so far been established. These branches are at New York, Chicago, New Orleans, and San Francisco.

Each branch has in the course of compilation an index of the exporters in the district represented by it, the names being secured by the use of special forms sent to manufacturers and business houses which may be interested in export trade. The lists are utilized daily to distribute the bureau's various publications and to place with exporting firms the confidential information relating to "foreign trade opportunities."

Experienced commercial agents are in charge of the various branches and as rapidly as possible they are extending their personal acquaintance among exporting concerns in an effort to secure their cordial cooperation and support. Many visitors are received, the number at the New York office during May approximating 485, at Chicago 167, at San Francisco 87, and at New Orleans 33. As time permits personal calls are made on business concerns and associations and, when opportunities offer, conventions and commercial organizations are addressed relative to the work of the bureau and its branch offices.

Two publications, Tables 3 and 6 of Commerce and Navigation of the United States for 1913, prepared by the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce, are of great practical value to the American business man seeking information regarding foreign markets for the goods which he handles or the sources of imported raw materials and of goods competing with domestic products. They present details with respect to every important article exported from, or imported into the United States.

Table 3 shows the sources of more than 500 different classes of articles imported, which include such widely varied items as asbestos, beads, camphor, human hair, ivory, kapok, rattans, toys, mushrooms, and zinc. It shows also for example, that coffee is now supplied almost exclusively by Brazil, Central America, and other tropical countries of the western hemisphere; that sugar, formerly imported in large quantities from Java and the sugar-beet countries of Europe, is now chiefly supplied by Cuba, the Philippines, and the domestic product including Hawaii and Porto Rico; and that champagne shows constantly diminishing importations as a result of the rapidly expanding home output.

From Table 6, exports of merchandise from the United States to each foreign country, may be ascertained those parts of the world in which our raw materials, foodstuffs and manufactures are being successfully sold and those yet to be entered. Athletic and sporting goods, breakfast foods, aeroplanes, motion picture films, cement, chewing gum, confectionery and teeth are typical items chosen at random from the report, which also shows that we export large quantities of dynamos to England, of telephones to Canada, of optical instruments to Germany and France, of stoves and ranges to Kongo and other tropical countries, and of ice to Canada.

The aggregate value of articles imported is shown by Table 3 to have increased from 1,312 million dollars in 1909 to 1,813 million in 1913; while the value of articles exported, as shown by Table 6, has increased from 1,638 million to 2,429 million dollars in the same period.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

LABOR DIFFICULTIES ADJUSTED

On June 2, 1914, telegrams were received from employers and employees in the Kanawha coal-mining district of West Virginia, stating that differences had arisen which had caused a cessation of work at the mines, affecting from twelve to fifteen thousand employees. Secretary Wilson designated as commissioners of conciliation Charles W. Mills, a coal operator of Phila-

delphia, A. L. Faulkner, an employee of the department of labor stationed at Cleveland, Ohio, and Patrick Gilday, a member of the united mine-workers of Pennsylvania. The conciliators met representatives of the operators and representatives of the miners in the city of Washington, where hearings were held from June 8th to 18th. On the last named day an agreement was reached by which the check-off was conceded to the miners by the operators and all other matters in dispute were to be submitted to a commission of three members, one to be selected by the operators, one by the miners, those two to select a third within ten days, or, in the event of their failure to do so, the secretary of labor was authorized to appoint from a list of five to be jointly submitted to him, the third member of the commission. This agreement was subject to ratification by the mine operators and the miners and the latest information at the department is that the miners have accepted the terms of settlement and are again working.

Other controversies between employers and employees in which the department has been actively at work during the past month have been the Universal Bottle Washing Machine company strike in Detroit, Michigan, where a conciliator of this department adjusted the differences and the men returned to work; several controversies obtaining on branches of the New York Central, in Michigan and other western states, some of which have been adjusted, and others are in process of adjustment. The tugmen's strike on Lake Erie was also satisfactorily adjusted by a representative of this department, and a working agreement entered into extending well into the future.

DECREASE IN EMIGRATION TO CANADA

For several years the tide of emigration of United States citizens to Canada has increased to such proportions as to occasion anxiety among all who gave thought to our country's well-being. For the year 1912, 97,951 American citizens went to Canada, while but 38,317 American citizens returned from that country to the United States.

The division of information in the department of labor issued a series of seven bulletins giving well authenticated facts concerning the products, resources, and physical characteristics of all the states and territories.

On assuming charge of the department of labor Secretary Wilson decided that such facts as these bulletins contained should be made known everywhere as well as in the United States and large numbers of them were mailed to American residents of Canada. Then inquiries began to come in concerning more specific information than could be encompassed in a necessarily brief bulletin.

There is no longer any doubt of the wisdom of this practical step taken by the secretary of labor. For the eleven months ending May 31, 1914, it appears that 68,396 American citizens went to Canada while 44,127 American citizens returned to this country from Canada.

The tide of American emigration to Canada was cut down 29,555 in one year, while the returning Americans numbered 44,127 in eleven months as against 38,317 the year previous.

One gratifying feature of the return movement is that these who come back to the United States are, in great numbers, seeking full information from the department of labor relative to locating on the land.

THE TOLLS REPEAL VICTORY

The passage of tolls exemption repeal closes, at least for the time being, another stage in the perpetual fight against privilege. It saves the canal from exploitation. It heads off another subsidy grab.

That is its domestic significance.

But back of this, or perhaps it may be said above it, is its international significance, for in spite of the Norris amendment, a device legally without effect, it represents an assurance to the world that the American nation guards jealously its honor and its reputation for good faith. Rather than seem to go back on its bond, rather than to quibble or wriggle or seek defense in legal technicality, it has brushed aside doubts and taken the straight course.

This action, involving a withdrawal from a position hastily taken, a withdrawal in the face of jingoism, has been supported by American opinion, regardless of party. If in a parliamentary sense it is a victory most creditable to him, it is in a deeper sense a victory of the American people and we may say especially a victory of and for the middle west.—Chicago Tribune.