

previous years in the expense of conducting these two branches of the Indian service.

The controversy regarding the enrollment of the Mississippi Choctaws is compromised by omitting the Choctaws of Oklahoma from the per capita payment made to Chickasaw and Cherokee Indians of \$100 and \$15, respectively.

A long contest regarding the water rights of the Yakima Indians is finally settled by giving these Indians a free water right to forty acres of their allotments in perpetuity.

Another question which has been in dispute for a number of years is settled by providing for allotting the remaining unallotted Indians on the Bad river reservation and the distribution per capita of the remaining tribal timber to the unallotted Indians.

Out of the funds of the confederated bands of Ute Indians in Utah and Colorado this bill appropriates about \$800,000, \$100,000 for the purchase of stock for the Navajo Springs band of said Indians in Colorado, \$200,000 for the Uintah, White River and Uncompagne bands in Utah, and the balance to be expended among all of said Indians for the promotion of civilization and self-support among them, one of the chief purposes of which is to protect the water rights of the Ute Indians from being forfeited within the period fixed by law, and all of which is to give them much needed help in industrial progress.

\$100,000 is appropriated for determining the heirs of deceased Indian allottees so that title to these lands may be certain. There are now 40,000 of these cases pending in the Indian office, in which land valued at \$60,000,000 is involved. The \$15 charged to each estate for the payment of this expense has during the past year recovered into the treasury \$80,000, which is \$30,000 more than the appropriation on which this work was accomplished by the commissioner of Indian affairs.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BUREAU OF CORPORATIONS

Parts II and III of the report on the lumber industry have been submitted to the president by the commissioner of corporations.

Part II, continuing the subject of standing timber discussed in Part I, treats of the concentration of timber ownership in selected portions of the timber area, in detail. The concentration is illustrated by elaborate ownership maps of large regions in Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, and Louisiana, covering 68,000 square miles. The mapped areas contain 755 billion feet of timber, or one-third of all the privately owned timber in continental United States, exclusive of Alaska.

Ownership in the important timbered regions covered by the maps is highly concentrated. Thus, in the southwestern Washington map area two holders have 49 per cent of the timber; in the western Oregon area, five have 36 per cent; in the northeastern California area, six have 70 per cent; in the redwood area, ten have over half; and in the north central Idaho area, four have 59 per cent.

Incidental to its study of the concentration of timber ownership, the bureau has found a corresponding concentration of land ownership, which is suggestive enough to merit presentation, and which is dealt with in Part III. The main fact is that 1,694 timber owners hold in fee over one-twentieth of the land area of the entire United States from the Canadian to the Mexican border. In many states these 1,694 own no lands at all. In the 900 timbered counties investigated they own one-seventh of the area, which amounts to 105,600,000 acres. This is an area four-fifths the size of France, or greater than the entire state of California, or more than two and one-half times the land area of the six New England states. Sixteen holders own 47,800,000 acres or nearly ten times the land area of New Jersey. Three land-grant railroads own enough to give fifteen acres to every male of voting age in the nine western states where almost all their holdings lie.

Lavish land grants and loose, ill-enforced land laws are the historical background of the concentration of land and timber ownership shown in this report.

This marked concentration in the ownership of land has two important aspects. The first is the concentration of control of the natural resources, other than agricultural, in the area comprised in these great holdings. Besides its timber now standing, part of the land must be depended on, together with the national forests,

to supply future crops of timber. Furthermore, some of it has valuable resources of ores, oil, gas, water power, etc.

The second is the possibility that these holdings, which will form a considerable proportion of the future area used for agriculture in this country, may be retained under concentrated control. Such a condition suggests the following potential effects upon the public: High prices for land sold to settlers, increase of the tenantry system, or direct farming by large corporations.

The data obtained by the bureau, so far as land is concerned, are not sufficient for a study of the land problem as a whole. They cover only one class of owners, the timbermen, and only part of the country. They show conditions only at the time of the investigation, and do not show whether concentration is increasing or decreasing. They are not typical of present conditions in agricultural communities, where the average size of holdings is, of course, much smaller. Though thus incomplete, these data are nevertheless suggestive and worthy of serious consideration.

BUREAU OF STANDARDS

For some time the bureau of standards has been working on safety rules to be observed in the operation and maintenance of electric generating stations and sub-stations, and on the overhead and underground distributing wires in connection therewith, and a set of rules has been prepared for publication by the bureau. In this work the bureau has consulted a large number of operating companies, workmen actively engaged in the different lines of work covered by the rules as well as state industrial and public service commissions. The rules have been formulated so as to be complete and simple, and as easily understood as possible. These rules have been highly commended by a number of very competent critics. It is believed that they will be of great value to state commissions, city authorities, and operating companies, and will tend to reduce accidents in this important industry.

FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

The secretary of commerce and the secretary of agriculture have completed plans whereby their two departments will combine in a constructive study of the supply and exploitation of timber in the United States, which has now become one of the big conservation and industrial problems. The study is to be undertaken in the belief that the methods used in exploiting timber resources and the restoration of normal and healthy conditions in the industries which convert their timber into usable products, vitally concern the public at large.

One of the conditions which, in the opinion of the secretaries makes this study of immediate importance, is the fact that the United States, which contains some 3,000 billion feet of standing timber, is now reducing its stock of stumpage at the rate of sixty or more billion feet annually. In spite of this limited timber supply, lumbermen are now unable to market much of the poorer grades. They therefore leave in the woods or burn in their mills from one-third to one-half of the material in the trees. Poor varieties of timber often are not cut at all, but are left to be burned in the slash fires which usually follow logging. Some of this waste, it is believed, is preventable, and much more, it is hoped can be saved under improved conditions of marketing and use of wood.

The studies will seek to establish the essential facts relating to supply, exploitation and marketing timber at home and abroad, and to analyze the underlying causes of present unsatisfactory conditions. The studies will be conducted directly by the forest service of the department of agriculture and the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce, with the cooperation of the bureau of corporations and bureau of standards of the department of commerce, within their special fields. All the information hitherto gathered by these different agencies as to the standing timber, the manufacture and marketing of lumber, the quality of various timbers, and the more economical and more profitable utilization of wood will be correlated with any new data gathered and used to indicate improvements.

The inquiry has to do not only with the thrifty use of the present timber supply, but also with the possibility of applying forestry in the future management of private timber lands.

Reports from the four branch offices of the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce, which are already in operation in New York, Chicago, New Orleans and San Francisco, recently received, indicate increasing interest among busi-

ness concerns in the work of the bureau and its branch offices. Results tend to show that the branch offices will be of even greater benefit to American manufacturers than was at first anticipated. Many who heretofore have made no effort to engage in the export trade, now appear anxious to engage in that business, and the lists maintained at the various branch offices of business houses which are to receive the information distributed are being augmented daily by the addition of new names.

Secretary Redfield has authorized the establishment of branch offices of the bureau at Boston, Mass., Seattle, Wash., and Atlanta, Ga., under commercial agents experienced in the work of the bureau. These are additions to the four branch offices already established which have rendered such useful service in promoting commerce. Mr. F. L. Roberts will direct the work at Boston and Mr. William B. Henderson will supervise the office at Seattle. The office at Atlanta is to be in charge of Mr. W. A. Graham Clark, who has had long experience in the bureau and with the former tariff board, and who is an expert in foreign markets, especially for cotton textiles. It will be his duty to make investigations for the promotion of commerce in all the southern territory from Richmond to New Orleans.

Probably other offices in important commercial centers will also be established at a later date.

The bureau has sent one of its commercial agents, Mr. Ralph M. Odell, an expert on cotton textiles, to the Orient, India, Straits Settlements, Java, Sumatra, French Indo-China, Australia and New Zealand with a view to promoting the interests of that important industry.

BUREAU OF FISHERIES

The secretary has been informed by the commissioner of fisheries that advance reports received from the fish-cultural stations of the bureau in all parts of the country indicate that during the fiscal year which closed June 30, 1914, the number of food and game fishes propagated and distributed by the bureau was considerably in excess of that of any previous year. The output was approximately four billion, of which 485 million represented the migratory fishes of the Atlantic coast streams, one billion the commercial fishes of the Great Lakes, two and one-quarter billion the important food fishes of the North Atlantic coast, over 200 million the salmon of the Pacific seaboard, and the remainder the fishes of the minor interior waters.

Distribution of fishes suitable for stocking barren public waters, or for restocking public waters which have become depleted, were made in practically every state of the union and in Alaska, while thousands of small inland ponds and lakes, the majority of them located on farms, were stocked with black bass, crappies, sunfishes, catfishes, and other desirable species.

Of the enormous output for the year, 98 per cent represents the commercial food fishes and a very large percentage of these were hatched from eggs which would have been entirely lost had it not been for the activities of the bureau of fisheries.

Coincident with the augmented output there has been a decided improvement in the effectiveness of various branches of the fish-cultural work, as an example of which may be mentioned the rearing to the fingerling and yearly stages of many millions of fish formerly distributed as fry. This feature of the work is to receive even greater attention hereafter, as most decided advances may be made along this line.

THE SILENCES

The silences are these: The twilight gloom,
The calm before the dawning when earth waits
The life-flood surging through the morn's
pearl gates,
The solemn brooding of a cell of doom,
The slumber shrouding round the crumbling
tomb
Of some great queen of long ago, who mates
No more with conquerors, whose loves and
hates
Are one with her dark hair's rose-sweet per-
fume.
In silence of the peaks white-crowned with
snow,
Of mountain lake whose midnight mocks the
sky—
There weary hearts a silence sweet they know;
But more than these, far more serene, sublime
The restful sleep of those who nobly die!

—Arthur Wallace Peach.