

measure of control. The same necessity for control now that we had last year does not exist. Unquestionably the permit system will be in effect at eastern seaboard and possibly to some extent at interior large centers if conditions so require, tho there is nothing in sight at present justifying the fact that such conditions will exist. Occasionally as roads become somewhat congested with general traffic, as is always likely to happen under certain conditions, the permit system will be brought into use as a means of getting out of the difficulty.

**TRADE COMMISSION ELECTS CHAIRMAN**

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 7.—Following its usual rules of procedure the Federal Trade Commission yesterday held its annual election of a chairman. The chairmanship for the commission rotates annually and as it was impossible for Vice chairman John Franklin Fort to come to Washington, because of a recent illness, the commission, in order to comply with its rules, went to his home at Newark to hold the election. Governor Fort was unanimously chosen chairman and Victor Murdock of Kansas, vice chairman. As vice chairman Mr. Murdock will sit as acting chairman during the absence of the chairman. John Franklin Fort was at one time judge of the Supreme Court of New Jersey and previously had long practiced law in the East. He preceded President Wilson as governor of New Jersey.

**SERIOUS FOREST FIRES IN THE WEST**

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 7.—Reports reaching the Forest Service indicate a bad fire situation in District No. 1, Montana, where more than 1,000 men have been constantly fighting fires since June 15. A killing frost occurred early in June, shriveling up the vegetation that had started and adding to the fire hazard. Little snow fell in this country last winter. The flow of water over the falls is so limited that the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad is seriously considering the temporary withdrawal of its electric locomotives and the substitution of steam engines. The season is dry, hot and windy.

In District No. 2, the Big Horn country of Wyoming, the situation also is bad, but not yet as critical as in District No. 1. A good many fires are burning in District No. 2 and a large number of men are engaged in fighting them.

Dry weather with several fires also is reported from Colorado, altho the situation has not yet become critical. Chief Forester Graves is now on his way to Denver. He will later meet Secretary of Agriculture Houston in San Francisco. Considerable fire damage has occurred in the Arizona and New Mexico forests.

Officials of the Forest Service, finding some odds and ends of funds left over June 1, were planning the purchase of additional equipment, when the fire situation developed in Montana and knocked all plans into the proverbial cocked hat.

**SETS DATE FOR HEARING COMPLAINT**

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 7.—The Federal Trade Commission issued a formal complaint against the North American Construction Co., otherwise known as the Aladdin Co., bringing against that concern several allegations involving unfair methods of competition.

The hearing has been set for Aug. 11 in the offices of the commission in the War Trade Building. The hearing will begin at 10:30 a. m., unless temporarily delayed by some other proceeding. Notice is given the company that it has the right to appear on that occasion and show cause why a formal order should not be issued, requiring it to "cease and desist from the violations of law charged in this complaint."

In accordance with Rule 3 of the "Rules and Practice" before the commission, a period of thirty days is given the North American Construction Co. to file an answer to the commission's complaint.

The specific charges of the commission follow:

That the respondent in the course of its said business makes use of circular letters to the trade and other advertising matter which contains certain false statements derogatory of the so-called "regular dealers" in lumber and also false and misleading statements concerning its own business methods and alleged benefits which the public might derive from trading with the respondent. That among such false and misleading statements are statements to the effect that purchasers of lumber and building materials from respondent may effect a full saving of 35 percent to 45 percent of the cost of such commodities; that local retail lumber dealers add \$300 to a \$700 bill for lumber; that lumber purchased from respondent is "direct from forest to the home"; that a house built from materials purchased from respondent costs the purchaser no more than it would if he went direct to the mill at the edge of the forest and purchased such materials; that in buying such materials from the respondent the purchaser is not required to pay the profits which usually go to the jobber, wholesaler and local retail dealer; that the respondent by a system of measuring, cutting and fitting employed by it, gets 18 percent more out of a given quantity of lumber than any builder, which results in that much saving to its customers, thereby enabling them to avoid rising prices on lumber and building materials; that the respondent sells a better quality of building materials than that sold by local retail dealers; that the respondent does not belong to a trust, thereby imputing to local or regular dealers that they do belong to a trust.

**PLANS TO STIMULATE HOME BUILDING**

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 8.—Information reaching the United States Housing Corporation from all sections of the country emphasizes the shortage of dwellings. In many communities the need for additional dwellings is serious. Direct word has been received from hundreds of cities thruout the country concerning the fact of the housing shortage.

A statement issued by the corporation today says:

While the cities are mostly of the industrial class, they are scattered thruout the country and represent thirty-eight States. The most pronounced shortages, of course, occur in the larger cities, such as New York, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Detroit, Milwaukee and Seattle. But even in cities of a more moderate size the situation is acute. Particular efforts to ameliorate these conditions are being made in South Bend, Ind., New London, Conn., Atchison, Kan., St. Joseph, Mich., Kansas City, Mo., Niagara Falls, N. Y., Hamilton, Ohio, Youngstown, Ohio, Harrisburg, Pa., and Kenosha, Wis.

One of the most surprising features of the present housing shortage is the extent to which this obtains in even the towns and smaller cities, having perhaps a single industry or several small industries. The division of homes registration and information also receives daily requests from localities of 4,000 to 8,000 for information concerning ways and means for overcoming the shortage and for the means of establishing local housing or financing corporations and for copies of the forms used by the division in the making of housing surveys and the establishment of registries.

Blueprints exhibiting plans and specifications of typical houses constructed by the United States Housing Corporation are being sent to all of the offices of the United States Homes Registration Service and to the "Own Your Home" committees. The purpose is to stimulate home building and to give assistance in selecting plans that will result in homes that are attractive as well as economical. Cities have become conscious of the fact that unless their housing is ample and satisfactory they can not expect to grow or prosper. For some months, therefore, "Build Now" or "Own Your Home" campaigns have been promoted thruout almost all of the cities of the country. As a result much building has already begun. For the most

**To Consider Railroad Legislation**

[Special telegram to AMERICAN LUMBERMAN]

Washington, D. C., July 10.—A subcommittee of the Senate interstate commerce committee, consisting of Chairman Cummins and Senators Poindexter, of Washington, Kellogg, of Minnesota, Pomerene, of Ohio, and Robinson, of Arkansas, has been appointed to consider general railroad legislation.

part, however, individuals are still uncertain whether to build, just when to start building or what particular type of house would best suit them.

It is with a view to reaching this class of people that the blueprints have been sent out. They are being displayed effectively and individuals are invited, thru the daily press, to inspect and make use of them. They will come to the attention of many thousands of prospective builders.

**TO SELL SURPLUS SHIP LUMBER**

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 7.—The Emergency Fleet Corporation of the United States Shipping Board is preparing to dispose of its surplus and salvage property including supplies, material and equipment for which it will have no further use owing to the adoption of the restricted shipbuilding program. In a statement outlining plans for the sale, Chairman Hurley of the board said there would be no "unloading" upon the general or local markets. Included in the sales list are marine railways, housing and transportation projects, allotments of machinery equipment and supplies, including woodworking machinery, machine tools and fixtures, electrical machinery, boiler and forge shop equipment, marine equipment and accessories, air compressor equipment, contractors' equipment and supplies, bridge and gantry cranes, steel plates, shapes and bars, pumping machinery, scrap metals, lumber, deck equipment, galley equipment, hospital and commissary supplies etc.

Sales will be made by open bidding on advertised items or from price lists made after careful study of existing market conditions and approved by the Sales Review Board. To prevent speculation, every effort will be made to confine sales to those having actual use for the property offered. Where, however, sales clearly will cause no disturbance of market conditions, they may be made even tho it be known that the items are bought for resale.

The corporation will cooperate closely with other Government departments and the Chamber of Commerce of the United States in ascertaining market conditions. No sale amounting to more than \$5,000 will be final until approved by the Sales Review Board, but where a sale is made at prices not lower than the minimum fixed by the board for such items, its approval will not be necessary. Other departments of the Government will be apprised of projected sales. The sales of the corporation will be advertised widely and information regarding the needs of manufacturers and other possible buyers as obtained thru the Chamber of Com-

merce will be utilized. Firms that are deemed possible buyers will be circularized and upon request the name of any person or concern interested in the sale will be placed upon the list to receive notices of contemplated sales.

District managers of the supply and sales division have been appointed to devote their attention to warehousing and sales problems in their districts and general information regarding sales activities can be obtained from them or from the home office of the supply and sales division at Philadelphia. These representatives will be located in Philadelphia, New York, Chicago, and Portland, Ore. Sub-offices and warehouses are to be established in Boston, Jacksonville, San Francisco and Seattle. All sales will be made for cash on delivery unless of such a nature that guaranty of payment can be secured by mortgage or the conditions affecting the sales are such as to make short time credit advisable. The American Steel Exports Co., 233 Broadway, New York City, after competition, was awarded the contract to handle foreign sales until September 1.

**REVOLT SAVES TARIFF COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 8.—The successful revolt of so-called progressive Republican senators during consideration of the sundry civil bill against a committee amendment cutting off all appropriations for the tariff commission is a rather striking illustration of what may be done in the Senate when a number of determined men combine their forces.

Senator Warren, of Wyoming, chairman of the committee on appropriations, tried in vain to explain that the only purpose in omitting the item of \$300,000 allowed by the Republican House was to furnish "trading ground" on other items. The explanation did not satisfy many senators, even on the Republican side, as evidenced by the fact that when the showdown came only Senators Warren and Smoot voted for the committee amendment.

A good many senators refrained from voting, but more than a majority of the entire membership voted to restore the House item.

The fact seems to be that the ways and means committee of the house has found the present tariff commission quite useful and its reports decidedly helpful. Its members have kept in close touch with economic developments thruout the world—as close as it has been possible to keep during abnormal war conditions. Its experts have gathered a mass of valuable material on a great variety of subjects.

Debate in the Senate made it clear that Republicans who led the fight to preserve the commission thought the so-called Old Guard leaders were trying to "submarine" that body, just as the Democrats cut off the Taft Tariff Board, which was non-partisan if any board ever was.

It is becoming increasingly apparent to observers here that the general revision of the tariff will be slow in coming. Months are likely to pass before general hearings can begin. Every time a tariff matter is gone into the fact develops that there are greater or less complications due to war conditions and the uncertainties which have followed the cessation of hostilities.

No further attempt has been made to get action on the bill repealing the luxury taxes. This measure would clip \$350,000,000 from the federal revenues, a loss which must be made up from some other source. Besides, many members have let it be known that if anything is to be taxed it should be luxuries.

That the 66th Congress will revise the tariff is certain. When a general revision will come is anything but certain. The revenue laws also will be revised, and this, in the opinion of many Republicans, should precede any general tariff tinkering.

**NO CHANGE IN LUMBER CLASSIFICATION**

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 8.—Edward Chambers, director of the division of traffic, Railroad Administration, has authorized Frank Carnahan, traffic secretary of the National Lumber Manufacturers' Association, to announce that after further consideration of the opinion of the Interstate Commerce Commission (four opinions, to be exact) he and his associates have finally concluded not to take action and therefore will not change the present classification on lumber in line with the suggestions of the majority of the commission in Docket No. 8131.

**TOO MUCH OF ANYTHING IS DISGUSTING**

Old negro Frank showed up at the yard on Monday morning in a very mutilated condition, and was asked by the yard foreman the natural question. He said, "I done went out to a little party last night down on Beale Street and got in a argument with a big nigger over a crap game. Well sir, Mr. Jawn, dat nigger hit me in the face, throwed me down the steps and come out in the yard and stomped me. Boss, I never got so tired of a nigger in my life."