

LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE.

JOINT RESOLUTION—METRIC BILL.

Relating to the establishment of commodity quantity units for general use in merchandizing after 1935.

WHEREAS the Constitution of the United States of America provides in Section 8, Paragraph 5, that Congress has the power to fix the standard of weights and measures; and

WHEREAS there now exists a lack of uniformity in the weights and measures of the United States; and

WHEREAS these are not standardized with the weights and measures used by the vast majority of nations of the world: Therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Department of Commerce be authorized and directed to conduct, within one year, a thorough investigation and study to determine the advisability of adopting metric weights and measures for general use in the United States. This department, after making such investigation and study, is hereby authorized to initiate and carry out, to such extent as may be deemed advisable, plans to encourage the general and common use in the United States of such system of weights and measures.

CAPPER KELLY BILL—S. 1418.

A Bill to protect trade-mark owners, distributors and the public against injurious and uneconomic practices in the distribution of articles of standard quality under a distinguishing trade-mark, brand or name.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled. That no contract relating to the sale or resale of a commodity which bears (or the label or container of which bears) the trade-mark, brand or name of the producer or owner of such commodity, and which is in fair and open competition with commodities of the same general class produced by others, shall be deemed to be unlawful, as against the public policy of the United States or in restraint of interstate or foreign commerce or in violation of any statute of the United States, by reason of any agreement contained in such contract:

(1) That the vendee will not resell such commodity except at the price stipulated by the vendor; and/or

(2) That the vendee will require any dealer to whom he may resell such commodity to agree that he will not in turn resell except at the price stipulated by such vendor or by such vendee.

Section 2.—Any such agreement in a contract in respect of interstate or foreign commerce in any such commodity shall be deemed to contain the implied condition that such commodity may be resold without reference to such agreement:

(1) In closing out the owner's stock for the purpose of discontinuing dealing in such commodity;

(2) With prominent notice to the public that such commodity is damaged or deteriorated in quality, if such is the case; or

(3) By a receiver, trustee or other officer acting under the orders of any court.

Section 3.—Nothing contained in this Act shall be construed as legalizing any contract or agreement between producers or between wholesalers or between retailers as to sale or resale prices.

Section 4.—No suit arising out of any such agreement shall be brought in any court of the United States in any other judicial district than that in which the defendant is an inhabitant, or in which he has a regular and established place of business. If such suit is brought in a district in which the defendant has a regular and established place of business, service of process, summons or subpoena may be made by service upon the agent or agents engaged in conducting such business in the district in which suit is brought.

Section 5.—As used in this Act:

(1) The term "producer" means grower, packer, maker, manufacturer or publisher.

(2) The term "commodity" means any subject of commerce.

(3) The term "interstate or foreign commerce" means commerce between any State, Territory, or possession, or the District of Columbia, and any place outside thereof; or between points within the same State, Territory or possession, or the District of Columbia, but through any place outside thereof; or within any Territory or possession or the District of Columbia.

Section 6.—If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or the applicability thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of the Act and the applicability of such provision

to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

Section 7.—This Act may be cited as the "Fair Trade Act."

COPELAND COSMETIC BILL.

Senator Copeland, of New York, introduced a bill to regulate the manufacture and sale of toilet articles, January 4th.

The bill would prevent the shipment of preparations containing arsenic, lead salts, paraphenylenediamine, paratoluenediamine, paraphenyldiamine, mercury and all compounds of mercury except calomel, or phenol in excess of ten per cent by weight in a fatty or other solid or semisolid base, or in excess of three per cent by weight in any solution. It also provides that the name and address of the manufacturer, packer or distributor be printed on the label. Retailers are to be exempt from the penalties of the act if they have a guarantee from the producer or jobber that the goods are not misbranded.

FEDERAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD.

The Federal Narcotics Control Board met in Washington, February 1st, to discuss revision of the quotas for importation of narcotic drugs. The board has under consideration the proposed draft of new regulations under the narcotic drugs import and export act.

PENNSYLVANIA OWNERSHIP LAW.

The constitutionality of the Pennsylvania Ownership Law was upheld by a decision filed in Court of Common Pleas, No. 4, Phila-

delphia. The George B. Evans Corporation operating a chain of drug stores, petitioned the Court for a declaratory judgment defining the rights of the corporation.

In a formal decree, entered January 7th, the Court found the new law which is supplementary to the act of 1917, requiring the employment of registered pharmacists in each pharmacy to be "within the police power of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; that said act does not violate any of the prohibitions expressed or implied of the Constitution of Pennsylvania or United States of America."

UNITED DRUG COMPANY WINS SUIT IN WHICH NAME "UNITED DRUG" WAS INVOLVED.

In the District Court for Eastern New York, United Drug Company won a suit involving the right to use the words "United Drug." The full title used by defendants was "United Drug Exchange."

CHEMICAL FOUNDATION GIVES \$195,000 FOR COLDS STUDY.

The Chemical Foundation has given \$195,000 to the School of Hygiene and Public Health of Johns Hopkins University, for a study of the origin, nature and possible cure of the common cold.

The fund is to be known as "The John J. Abel Fund for Research on the Common Cold" in honor of the professor of pharmacology of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, and will provide \$25,000 in the first year, \$35,000 in the second and \$45,000 in the third, fourth and fifth years of the research work.

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

Laboratory Manual for the Detection of Poison and Powerful Drugs. BY DR. WILHELM AUTENRIETH, professor in the University of Freiburg. Authorized Translation by WILLIAM H. WARREN, Ph.D., professor of Organic Chemistry in Clark University, Worcester, Mass. Sixth American edition from the 5th German edition, completely revised with extensive additions. 60 illustrations, 700 + pp. xxvi. P. Blakiston's Son & Co., Publishers, Philadelphia, Pa. Price \$6.00.

This authoritative work is known wherever laboratory investigations are made of potent drugs and, especially, when the effects of them

result injuriously or fatally—the latter suggests the need of the former.

The preceding edition has been thoroughly revised and new matter included. The author points out that information relative to the physiological action of the more important poisons and potent drugs and knowledge of the changes which these substances undergo in the animal body is necessary for the chemist who undertakes to detect and determine poisons that have been taken by man or animal.

The translator states that by far the greater part of the new matter is to be found in the last three chapters of the book. Among the