

COMMITTEE REPORTS

NATIONAL LEGISLATION.

To the Members of the House of Delegates: As chairman of the Committee on Legislation I herewith respectfully submit the following report:

There has been much activity at Washington since the convening of the Special Session and the regular Session of the seventy-second Congress. During the Special Session many bills were introduced of interest to the drug trade, but nothing but Farm Relief and the Tariff were considered. The Farm Relief Bill was passed and has become the law of the land; the tariff is still being considered—it has passed both Houses of Congress and is now in Conference, some day an agreement, no doubt, will be reached; many articles coming within the purview of this bill will affect the drug trade; it would be impossible at this time to enumerate them, however, increased prices on many commodities may be looked for.

The Parker Bill—providing for re-organization of the Public Health Service—vetoed by President Coolidge, and re-introduced in a different form to overcome objections—contains a provision for commissioned pharmacists in this Service. The Bill is now a law. There are 36 pharmacists in the Service, grouped as pharmacists and senior pharmacists, the greater number of whom are eligible for commissions. The activities of the ASSOCIATION with the splendid coöperation of Surgeon General Cumming, recognizing the value of educated trained pharmacists in the Service, was sufficient to convince Congress of the necessity for such legislation.

For years pharmacists in the Government Service have received little or no recognition, they were classed as sub-professional. During the past winter when the Classification Board started a survey looking to re-classification of Government employees the question of the status of pharmacists was taken up with the proper representative of the Classification Board by Secretary Kelly and myself looking to have the pharmacists transferred to the professional class; later, we were granted a hearing by the Board and also filed a brief—President Dunning, Secretary Kelly, Dr. DuMez, Editor Eberle, Dr. Swain and myself were heard; we received every courtesy possible and the Board seemed to show much interest in the arguments presented. After a lapse of several weeks, I am pleased to report—that the Preliminary Class Specifications of positions in the Field Service, submitted by the Field Service Division of the Personnel Classification Board, to the various Government departments interested—that pharmacy is now placed in the professional and scientific service. Two classes are recognized, the pharmacists and the senior pharmacists are in the professional class and assistant pharmacists are classed as sub-professional. The minimum qualifications for pharmacists and senior pharmacists require graduation from a college of pharmacy meeting the requirements of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. The salaries of each of these classes have not yet been determined. We feel confident that the decision of the Personnel Classification Board to place pharmacy in the professional and scientific service will be followed in the final report to Congress. Duties and responsibilities are carefully set forth in the report for both classes. We are, I am sure, proud and elated that we have been able to convince the Board of the necessity of such action and this change will accomplish much in placing pharmacy in the position wherein it properly belongs.

The success we have obtained by securing the enactment of the Parker Bill and the recognition given pharmacy by the Personnel Classification Board will be a material help in securing a pharmacy corps for the Army and convincing the Surgeon General of the Army of the necessity for such a corps. Our position to-day is much better than ever before and we believe we can use these accomplishments with telling effect to bring about a pharmacy corps in the U. S. Army in the near future; our next move will then be to secure legislation for the pharmacists in the U. S. Navy.

A bill having for its purpose the re-organization and re-classification of the Veterans' Bureau, has been given careful attention. President Dunning, Secretary Kelly, Dr. DuMez, Dr. Swain, and myself appeared before the House Committee having this bill in charge and presented arguments favoring the establishing of a pharmacy corps in the Veterans' Bureau; evidence was presented showing that the present service was in need of such improvement;

data were given to show that pharmacists in civil life, performing duties corresponding to those proposed for the officers of the pharmacy corps were no higher than the salaries now received in civil life, while the present salaries were much lower. Attention was drawn to the educational requirements now in effect, and the professional status of pharmacy, the requirements of our colleges of pharmacy and the Boards of Pharmacy and that unless recognition is given to pharmacy in the Bureau they would find that the Service would not be sufficiently attractive to induce present-day graduates of our schools and colleges of pharmacy to enter the Service. The members of the Committee gave us the closest attention and assured our representatives that the entire question of pharmaceutical service would receive careful study by the Committee and the officials of the Bureau, but as yet they have not made a report.

The Capper-Kelly Bill has been favorably reported out of Committee and the same is now on the calendar; it will be reached shortly and we are looking forward to favorable action by the House of Representatives; we should again go on record favoring this measure.

The Williamson Bill and several other bills providing for the transfer of the Prohibition Bureau from the Treasury Department to the Department of Justice have been considered by the House Judiciary Committee, and the House of Representatives has passed a bill in a modified form which is unsatisfactory to the drug interests; the bill is now in the Senate Committee, but so far no action has been taken. President Hoover in a special message has urged prompt action be taken by the Senate before adjournment.

The daily press recently published (April 27th) an article stating that the bill had been reported to the Senate; inquiry on April 30th, from good authority, elicited the fact that it had not been reported by the Judiciary Committee. The sub-committee of the Judiciary Committee have held two hearings, the drug trade was represented, heard and offered a number of suggestions and filed briefs covering the features to which they objected. What the final outcome will be is problematic; it is proposed to place the enforcement of the Volstead Act in the Department of Justice while the permissive part is to remain in the Treasury Department. Whatever happens, it is reasonably certain that the drug trade will have many worries for some time and until they learn the new language of the Attorney General. It is more than possible that new regulations will be promulgated for the enforcement of the amended Volstead Act.

Federal Narcotic License Bill.—Several bills proposing to amend the Harrison Narcotic Law have been introduced in Congress; hearings were granted on the final draft of a bill sponsored by Congressman Porter, by the Ways and Means Committee; opposition to many parts were made by the American Medical Association and representatives of the drug interests. April 7th the bill passed the House of Representatives and is now in the Committee of the Senate; the terms of the bill place the administration of the Harrison Narcotic Act, amendatory acts and the Narcotic Drugs Import and Export Act, in the hands of the Secretary of the Treasury with the appointment of a Commissioner of Narcotics—appointed by the President—completely in charge and divorcing the administration of all narcotic laws from the Prohibition Bureau.

A recent news article published by Universal Service, makes a statement that advertisements appeared in a Japanese trade paper and also in London, that a Japanese firm offered a large amount of cocaine to a buyer in the Orient; this shows a huge supply of narcotics. It further reported that a complete report of the above was forwarded to Narcotic headquarters in Washington from which Universal Service was permitted to quote. It further states that this is only one source of supply for illicit dope, much of which is smuggled into the United States.

It should be gratifying that the records of the Narcotic Bureau show less than 1 per cent of violations by the drug trade; I am, therefore, of the opinion and do recommend that the ASSOCIATION assist the Bureau in obtaining necessary legislation and at the same time give its whole-hearted support in any move whereby illicit traffic in narcotic drugs can be stopped. Officials of the Narcotic Bureau have advised me that the article above referred to was a reprint in a London journal from a Japanese trade paper as above stated, but they cannot vouch for it being official.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. HILTON, *Chairman.*

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Williamson Bill has been passed, and it is regretted, that Congress adjourned without passing the Capper-Kelly Bill.