

bill, but the bill will not be reported out for several days. The prohibition of price discrimination was modified to apply only to efforts to create monopoly. Fraternal and consumers' associations have been eliminated from the provision exempting labor and farmers' organizations from trust prosecution. Instead a provision has been put in forbidding restraining of members of such organizations from lawfully carrying out their purposes. Another change makes orders of the Interstate Commerce Commission or of the proposed Interstate Trade Commission subject to appeal to the courts. Originally the courts were requested to enforce the orders of the commission. [See current volume, page 683.]

The House Committee on Patents ordered a favorable report on July 18 on the Oldfield bill regulating the patent monopoly. This bill puts a stop to the practice by which applicants for patents hold up their applications indefinitely, and thus practically extend the life of the patent far beyond the legal limit of seventeen years. The bill provides that the term of patents granted more than two years after filing of an application shall be considered as starting at the expiration of this two year period. The two year period thus becomes the longest time possible for which a patent may through subterfuge be extended. Mr. Oldfield calls attention to the fact that applications for patents are now pending which were filed from fifteen to thirty years ago. Another section forbids the fixing of standard prices for retailers, and renders void all contracts requiring users of the patent to purchase unpatented articles of the holder of the patent. Another clause is designed to prevent deliberate suppression of the use of inventions. It allows any person to apply to the Federal court for a license to manufacture the patented article whenever it appears that the intention of the patent holder is to suppress the invention.

The Senate Committee investigating the use of Senate stationery in promotion projects reported on July 14. It exonerates all Senators concerned in the investigation. [See current volume, page 659.]

The Interstate Commerce Commission.

Under the recent decision of the United States Supreme Court declaring pipe line companies to be common carriers, the Interstate Commerce Commission on July 17 issued notice to all of these companies doing an interstate business to file their tariffs of rates and charges for carrying oil. They were given until July 22 to comply. The Standard Oil Company and all of its subsidiary organizations are included in this order, as well as the companies presumed to be inde-

pendent. The Commission will also make arrangements for a physical valuation of the lines. [See current volume, page 610.]

In response to a Senate resolution passed in 1906, the Interstate Commerce Commission on July 20 made a report regarding connection of railroads with coal mining corporation in the Illinois and Indiana coal fields. The report shows ownership by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad of all of the bonds but none of the stock of the Toluca Coal Company. The Chicago and Northwestern owns all of the stock of the Superior Coal Company and of the Macoupin County Railway Company. The Chicago, Indianapolis and Louisville owns nearly all of the stock of the Chicago and Indianapolis Coal Company which is leased to the Monon Coal Company. The Missouri Pacific owns the Western Coal and Mining Company. The Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul owns all of the St. Paul Coal Company. The Illinois Central owns the Madison Coal Corporation. The Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific owns the Coal Valley Mining Company. The Chicago and Eastern Illinois owns the Brazil Block Coal Company and The West Jackson Coal Mining Company. The Cleveland, Chicago, Cincinnati and St. Louis owns the Chicago and Harrisburg Coal Company. The Illinois Traction Company owns the Danville Consumers Company and the Kerns-Donewald Company. The Vandalia owns the Vandalia Mineral Company. The Chicago and Alton is indirectly interested in coal acquired by subsidiaries of the Union Pacific, the Union Pacific Coal Company and the Illinois Union Coal Company. Nearly 400,000 acres of land in Illinois and Indiana is shown to be under railroad control of which about half is coal land. The report further tells of the payment of a \$60,000 rebate to the O'Gara Coal Company of Illinois by the New York Central and of discriminations against independent coal mines.

A report that the Interstate Commerce Commission will partly grant the request of the railroads for a rate increase was published by many papers on July 19. The report is that on certain commodities an increase will be allowed but will be denied on others. The increase to be allowed is said to amount to \$16,000,000 while a complete grant of the railroad's request would have amounted to \$50,000,000. The Commission has not confirmed this report.

The Price of Beef.

In a letter on July 17 to the acting Secretary of Agriculture, Dr. B. T. Galloway, and also to the Interstate Commerce Commission, A. H. Benjamin, a New York representative of South American independent packers, charged that the condition of the beef market is "due to the manipulation