

revenue and tariff matters until after the treaty of peace had been acted upon.

During the hearings on the bill the Tariff Commission prepared a report entitled *Information concerning scientific instruments*, which has been recently published. The report brings together a large number of opinions and arguments concerning the tariff on scientific supplies, received from various sections of the Bureau of Standards, from manufacturers and instruments of all kinds and from universities and organizations.

Two distinct questions are involved: (1) Should Congress repeal the privilege, now granted to institutions of learning, of importing supplies free of duty? (2) Should the present rates be increased and imported articles now on the free list be taxed?

The opinions quoted are not analyzed in the report, but the following brief outline will indicate that those interested are still far from being in agreement. (Definite recommendations only are counted.)

1. Of eleven university professors quoted, one favors and ten oppose repeal of the duty-free clause. Of twelve opinions from the Bureau of Standards, five favor and seven oppose repeal. Of seven manufacturers quoted on this subject six favor and one opposes repeal. The Council of the American Chemical Society is quoted in favor of repeal of the duty-free clause, "for a reasonable period of years, at least."

2. Opinions on the subject of the imposition and increase of tariff rates on scientific supplies are quoted as follows: Ten manufacturers, all in favor of higher tariff; eleven sections of the Bureau of Standards, seven in favor and four against. The commission believes that "the extremely diverse nature of the products falling under such a general designation as 'scientific instruments' renders general statements concerning the entire group of little value for the purpose of deciding on any rates of duty related to the competitive conditions which affect individual instruments."

The report also discusses in a general way the status of the domestic industry, imports and exports, tariff history, competitive conditions and war developments.

#### THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

THERE was formally opened at the New York Botanical Garden on November 8 a new Central Display Greenhouse, the gift of Daniel and Murray Guggenheimer, erected at a cost of \$100,000. The gift includes, besides the main house, an adjoining orchid house. The main building is approximately 140 feet long, forty-five feet wide and thirty-five feet high. Among its new features is the glass, which is frosted, thus doing away with the use of screens, previously considered necessary in glasshouses, although more or less of a disfigurement, as they become quickly defaced. The new building has an open concrete floored center, where lectures are to be given.

The central display house will contain plants from South Africa, the southern part of Japan, from South America and from some of the southern states in this country. A special exhibition of plants and flowers was shown. The Horticultural Society of New York held a large flower show in the new greenhouse which is now open to the public. It is on the eastern end of the grounds, near the Allerton Avenue subway station, and will aid in distributing the crowds visiting the gardens, the other group of greenhouses being at the western end of the grounds.

W. Gilman Thompson, president of the board of directors of the garden, opened the exercises and told of the educational work of the garden, a part of which will now be done in the new building. The gift of the greenhouse, he said, with the exception of one by Mrs. Russell Sage, was the largest ever made to the garden. Dr. N. L. Britton, director of the Botanical Garden, and Dr. D. T. MacDougal, director of botanical research, Carnegie Institution of Washington, formerly assistant director made addresses.

#### GIFT TO THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

ANNOUNCEMENT is made that Mr. John D. Rockefeller has added \$10,000,000 to his previous endowment of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. This gift, the largest made by Mr. Rockefeller at one time to the institution, is to meet rapidly growing needs in its many lines of research and in