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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Minnesota House Bills 669 and 1384 providing for formula labeling, licensing and registration of paint, water paint, enamel, lacquer and varnish. Registration fee, \$5 for each product but not to exceed \$25 annually. H.B. 1384, a substitute for the earlier bill, defeated in Committee. This leaves the old formula labeling unchanged. It applies only to paint.

Montana Senate Bill 88 providing for formula labeling of paint and varnish. Defeated in Committee.

North Dakota House Bill 196 providing for licensing and examination of painting contractors and journeymen, and registration of apprentices by Commission of 5 appointees, one of whom would be nominated by master painters and 2 by journeymen. Annual license fees. Surety bonds of \$1,000 required of contractors to protect public against fraud and incompetency. Bill indefinitely postponed in Committee. Legislature adjourned.

Maryland House Bill 102 requiring toys, playthings and children's furniture to be labeled if the finish contains lead or other substances of a poisonous nature. Passed.

Connecticut Senate Bill 604 provides for registration and licensing of painting contractors. No examination. Senate Committee reported unfavorably. Killed.

Arizona Senate Bill 63 proposed to license and examine contractors and subcontractors and to revoke licenses. Reported favorably, but no action taken before adjournment.

Utah - Three bills to license contractors and subcontractors and to require bonds. All died in committee or adversely reported before adjournment. (S. 86, 111 & 145)

Oregon House Bill 182 provides for licensing of general contractors and subcontractors. Would deny unlicensed contractors benefits of Mechanics' Lien Law. Still pending.

Florida House Bill 331 to impose tax of 50¢ per ton on any titanium bearing ore mined.

Trade-Mark Legislation requiring state registration to secure protection, introduced in Indiana, Washington, New Mexico, Ohio, Maryland and New Hampshire. Doubtful constitutionality. Opposed vigorously by Trade-Mark Association with various industries including ours supporting the opposition. Three of these 6 bills killed or withdrawn. One unlikely to be reported out. Maryland legislature adjourned. No action reported from New Hampshire.

Tung nuts and oil are the subjects of several bills before Congress. H.R. 29 by Colmer and H.R. 3041 by Gathings would provide parity for tung nuts. The bills are identical. A hearing before a subcommittee of Committee on Agriculture will be held May 9. Senate Bill 1644 introduced by Senators Pepper and Holland, a companion to the Colmer - Gathings bills is before Committee of Agriculture and Forestry.

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H. R. 30 by Colmer would impose a duty of 5 cents on tung oil, now on the free list. Before Committee on Ways and Means.

S. 1594 introduced by Senators Gillette and Wherry is to provide aid in stabilizing agriculture prices by an equalizing fee on imported fats and oils, and an offset on exports of fats and oils.

Whenever the average wholesale price of the principal domestic fats and oils is less than the average parity price, there would be collected in addition to any other duties and taxes when imported, the difference between such average wholesale price and average parity price, but not exceeding 10¢ per pound. Before Senate Committee on Finance.

Related, generally, to regulations affecting the labeling of paint is a report to be made at the Annual Meeting of the National Fire Protection Association as follows:

"During the year only a few comments and criticisms of the Recommended Standard for Labeling of Containers of Flammable Mixtures have been received. (See Advance Reports 1948, page 67; Proceedings 1948, page 118) It is the recommendation of the Committee that the tentative status of this standard be continued for another year."

M. Q. H.

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