

ed that passenger accommodation be included in the scope of the Shipping Committee.

PROFITEERING IN SUGAR CHARGED IN INDICTMENTS.

CHICAGO, Sept. 6. — Officials of Bunte Bros., confectioners, and three wholesale grocery houses have been indicted by the Federal Grand Jury charged with profiteering in sugar. The grocery houses named are the Empire Grocery Company, Hadesman Bros. and the Henderson-Taylor Company.

Bunte Bros. were charged with selling 60,000 pounds of sugar, which cost \$7,800 for \$17,400 and with selling for \$48,000 two other lots which cost \$20,800.

The Empire Grocery Company was charged with selling 600,000 pounds of sugar to the W. H. Edgar Company, of Detroit, for \$162,000, while the cost price was set at \$81,420.

Hadesman Bros. were charged with selling sugar which cost \$8,118 to the Syman Muffet Company, of Flint, Mich., for \$15,800.—*Journal of Commerce.*

In our case the question is: How much did the sugar actually cost the Sugar Factory? Is the price of \$40.80, demanded by the Factory, in accordance with the principles of public price-regulation? i.e., is the price of \$40.80 based on actual cost plus a fair profit? Which is the condition to which the balance of the trade is subjected; or does the price of \$40.80 give an undue profit to the Factory? Is labor in St. Croix so well remunerated, that such a price should be necessary?

Or have the Sugar Factories placed themselves outside and above the general principles which it has been found necessary, just, and reasonable to introduce and maintain to the common benefit of our islands? If so, then it is only reasonable to expect that similar consideration will be shown the factories on the part of the population, should opportunity arise.—*St. Thomas Mail Notes, Sept. 18th.*

FINGER PRINT SIGNATURES FOR COLONIAL BANK CHECKS

Bank Provides System for Depositors Who Cannot Read; Several Deposits, no Withdrawals.

For the convenience and protection of depositors the American Colonial Bank has installed a finger-print system for those who cannot sign their names to checks or deposit slips. Finger-prints instead of signatures will be used as a means of identifying checks.

The finger-print method has only recently been provided but already several savings depositors have taken advantage of it in opening their deposits. The means of identification is explained to

them and then their finger-prints are taken and filed away in the signature file for future reference. So far none of the depositors with finger-print signatures have made any withdrawals.

While the finger-print system of identification has been used by banks elsewhere it is believed that the American Colonial Bank is the first bank in Porto Rico to adopt it.—*Porto Rico Progress, Sept. 10th.*

FIRST SHIP HERE FROM PACIFIC COAST DIRECT.

With the arrival of the steamship Point Bonita, of the Pacific Mail S. S. Co., at Ponce, P. R., on Tuesday, the first direct steamer service with the Pacific coast to Porto Rico was established. F. E. Wood, of the Nitrate Agencies Co., general agents for the Pacific Mail S. S. Co., said that there was a steamer scheduled to sail from San Francisco every two weeks and that there was cargo enough offered to warrant the statement that the service would be permanent.

Porto Rico receives chiefly food products from the Pacific coast and in the past these products have been shipped by rail across the United States to either New Orleans or New York. This has involved both excessive expense and generally a considerable delay in delivery, which it is predicted the new steamship service will eliminate.

The "Point Bonita" sailed from San Francisco on August 14 and arrived in Ponce on Tuesday September 7, making the trip in approximately three weeks. The agents of the steamship line believe that they will be able to guarantee delivery of freight from San Francisco to Porto Rico within four or five weeks.

At present the steamers which are being sent to Porto Rico are freight steamers only and they will carry cargo not only for Porto Rico but for the mainland and will accept cargo from Porto Rico for Baltimore and Norfolk. Later it is possible that some of the steamers coming from the Pacific coast will have passenger accommodation, at least for a limited number of passengers.

With the recent increase of railroad freight rates it is said there will be a considerable increase in the volume of water freight from the Pacific coast to the Atlantic and return. This service is expected to benefit Porto Rico in the more prompt delivery of food products, such as canned vegetables and fruits, beans, California rice, canned fish from the Pacific north-west and other food products, while it also gives the Pacific coast an opportunity to compete with the Atlantic coast markets for other commodities in this market.—*Ibid.*

TO BUILD AGAINST RATS.

Washington, D. C., Sept. 1.—Plans for radical changes in the construction of business buildings, dwellings and wharves are being drawn up by the United States Public Health Service as part of a nationwide campaign for rat extermination, it was announced today.

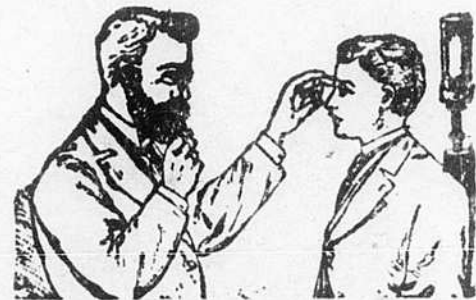
Health Officers from various states and the larger cities, at a conference in Galveston and Beaumont, Texas, to study bubonic and rat extermination, recommended to Surgeon General Hugh S. Cumming that standard specifications for rat proof buildings be drawn up by the Public Health Service. These are to be furnished to the different states and cities in order that they may be incorporated in the building codes throughout the country.

"While bubonic plague is under control in this country, there will always be scattered infection until the rat can be exterminated", said Surgeon General Cumming. "The most effective measure is permanent rat proofing of all buildings. Plans for this may easily be incorporated in any new construction. While the Public Health Service can concern itself directly only with the problem of plague prevention, there is an important economic problem that enters into this situation, due to the fact that at the present time, according to authoritative estimates, there is one rat for every one person in the United States. To maintain this huge number of rats costs the people of this country approximately one cent a person every day for rat food, an intolerable and unnecessary burden for the people to carry."—*Ibid.*

ALLOTING THE CREDIT.

Doctor—"You have been at death's door, and only your strong constitution has saved you."

Patient—"Remember that when you send in your bill."—*Ibid.*



Optical Service

YOUR prescription filled, and special ground lenses promptly duplicated through the mails.

Consult our refractionist, moderate charge for consultation.

F. M. CORNEIRO
St. Thomas, U. S. V. I.