

recent year as a base will permit the inclusion of a considerably larger number of stores and thereby make the indexes somewhat more representative.

Further details with regard to the work of the Federal Reserve Board touching the collection of statistics in the field of distribution can be obtained from Federal Reserve Bulletins for July and October, 1925.

### Special Inquiry Into Statistics on Distribution Gathered By State Governments

In an effort to ascertain just what Distribution Statistics, if any, are now gathered currently by various State governments, your Committee during the early spring requested the Domestic Commerce Division of the Department of Commerce to address a letter of inquiry to the State governments. This inquiry was instituted primarily because it had been discovered that one or two States, notably, Pennsylvania, had statistical information available as to numbers of retailers, collected by the State for a very different purpose of taxation, but suggestive of a class of census data which might already be available in each State. The summary of this specialized inquiry is presented herewith. The proper department in each State was first addressed a letter inquiring for publications issued on various phases of domestic industry and trade. A careful examination was then made of these publications, which indicated that only a small number were gathering data of particular interest. This smaller group were then addressed individually.

The significant question in the letter and the replies are presented in the tabulation below.

To conserve space in this report, only the information collected from the second inquiry is included, although there is much suggestive material in the responses to the preliminary inquiry. In addition to the special query the following question was asked in each case: "If your own department does not gather any mercantile statistics, could you ascertain for me whether there is any department of your state government which does secure such facts?"

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Q.—Does the state law requiring proprietors of business houses, etc., employing more than five people to report labor statistics apply solely to manufacturing establishments or is it also a requirement for wholesale and retail mercantile establishments?