

## COST OF WAREHOUSING

Your committee has not conducted a study into the cost of warehousing because of the evident futility of attempting to even estimate what this function adds to the total cost of distribution.

Costs of warehousing differ in the various sections of the country; but the most important factor in any study of this nature is the character of the commodity.

In the most efficient warehouses, unloading, storing and reloading are done ordinarily by machinery, while in the less efficient warehouses hand-labor is employed almost exclusively.

It is obvious that different rates apply to merchandise received crated or in uncrated form; while the kind of container such as barrels, boxes or crates, has a direct influence on the charges. To carry these distinctions a step further, merchandise is perishable or unperishable; inflammable or non-inflammable; easily- or not easily damaged; light or heavy in weight; and large or small in size.

All of these factors affect the cost of warehousing; and these differences in merchandise might be enlarged indefinitely. Hence, the intangibility of the problem makes a practical classification of costs impossible.