

But in 1927 the *Landsverzlun* passed out of existence, whereas *Áfengisverzlun ríkisins* (The State Monopoly of Wines and Spirits), established in 1922, has the exclusive right to import all the wines and spirits within the limits of the prohibition law.

In 1917 the merchants of Iceland established the *Verzlunaráð Íslands* (Iceland's Chamber of Commerce) with head quarters in Reykjavík, to act on their behalf abroad. It issues a Commercial Gazette (a monthly) and has set up a court of arbitration in commercial and shipping affairs.

There are two commercial schools in the country, both in Reykjavík and both partly supported by the State. One, having a three years course, is under the control of the Chamber of Commerce; the other, with a two years course, is managed by the Union of Cooperative Associations for the special purpose of training its pupils for cooperative business.

In 1928 an *Industrial Council* was established in Reykjavík, composed of representatives for the various branches of industry, for the purpose of protecting their common interests. But no general organization of this kind, embracing the whole country, has as yet been formed.

DUTIES

The duties which have gradually been imposed on imported goods, have been levied almost exclusively as a means of revenue, and not for the purpose of protecting Icelandic produce. They have, therefore, chiefly been run on such commodities as are more or less looked upon as articles of luxury, as e. g. all wines and spirits, tobacco, coffee, sugar, chocolate, and lozenges. When the law prohibiting the importation of spirits became operative (1912), import duties were levied on almost all kinds of imported goods (the Goods Tax), to make good to the treasury the loss of the Spirit Tax. But these duties were not heavy, and all taxable goods were divided into only 6 (later 7) groups. Since then these duties, which are all weight duties, have been somewhat raised. In 1924, owing to the unfavourable rate of the króna, taxes on all imported goods (except grain) were increased by 25 per cent., a measure which to some extent is to remain in force till the close of 1930. The same year an *ad valorem* duty of 20 per cent. was imposed on various articles on which a goods tax is payable. This duty has since been repeatedly altered, either for the purpose of raising or reducing it. But at present (to the close of 1930) it is in most cases levied at the rate of 15 per cent., while in a few instances it rises to as much as 30 per cent.

Though the Customs Act at present in force dates from 1911, most