

Mr. Dohme : I had occasion together with my brother to visit Washington in relation to this Alcohol question a few days before leaving for Asheville, and we were received by the Commissioner, who was very anxious to get some information as to how to construe the law, as he had no idea how to arrange it, and no one else knows at the Department, nor have they any idea how they will be able to arrange any remission of the tax. He wanted to know because we are using alcohol in quite a quantity—what regulations could be adopted. But he could not get any information, nor could anyone in the department tell how it would be possible. This provision of the act was passed at the ninth hour, and the Department is left utterly in the dark, and would like some information. It is one of those questions that will never amount to anything. I don't think the tax will be remitted, but it would do no harm to reserve the stamps off the alcohol barrels, and finally make a claim for a rebate, but it is doubtful if you ever could get anything.

Mr. Ebert—I do hope that the retail druggists of this country through the A. P. A. will not mix up in this matter. Now do not do it; don't you ask Congress to remit any tax or do anything about it; don't put your hand on it; don't ask for any favor of that kind. You don't know what the outcome is going to be. Where are we going to be placed? The restriction may be of a character that we, as retail druggists, may never be able to take out a single gallon of spirits, while the manufacturers can take out all they want, and it is the death knell of pharmacy in this country. How are you going to make your tinctures? How are you going to compete? You will have to buy everything you want from the wholesale druggists. Don't ask for free alcohol; don't let us have any resolution in regard to it; don't ask for it; don't make any more whiskey rum-sellers of the druggists than you can help. We asked for the tax to be taken off on the proprietary goods. Look at the records at the time when I protested against that stamp tax being taken off; at that time what did the managers say?—The prices will be reduced to you, gentlemen. Were the prices reduced? No, no! The moment the stamp tax was taken off, and we asked for a reduced price, they replied that they were going to use the money for purposes of advertising, and you will sell more goods for it. We are to-day in the hands of the manufacturers as to this question. As a retail druggist, I beg of you to think what you are doing. It is not necessary for you to do anything of this kind. Don't do it. I know what I am talking about!

Mr. Crisswell—I would like to make a suggestion that it might be well to think of with regard to this alcohol tax, and it is this, that the Commissioner of Internal Revenue and the secretary of the treasury construes the bill in such a manner that it will require a retail druggist to

manufacture his preparations in a bonded warehouse, and if that is done the retail druggist will be in a pretty bad fix, because the government will not be at the expense of putting up that bonded warehouse, and there are a great many places where they do not have bonded warehouses at the present time. Of course, the wholesalers and the manufacturers will have an advantage over the retail druggists, who will suffer.

The Chairman—I would like to say that this is a very interesting and complicated question. The fact has already been presented to enquirers on this subject in such a way that the Treasury Department has been unable to give any solution to the question. In other words, they tried to do a good thing in their own way, and they made no provision whatever. It is flexible; it can be construed in half a dozen ways; and there are two sides to the question undoubtedly. There is in my mind; and yet at the same time, as far as the A. P. A. is concerned, I do not see where they would be. I think they would be justified in saying something in regard to this matter, and to bring out properly this matter before the section, without consuming too much time in debate. I would suggest that some member of the present meeting move the appointment of a committee of three to draft resolutions. Whether it would be to sustain the position which the government has taken or the position which the manufacturing chemists have taken, the committee might bring before the next session some resolution embodying their ideas on the subject. As it has been well stated by Mr. Dohme, the Department is at sea. They know little or nothing about the matter or about the present rulings on the alcohol question. I do not care to make any further remarks, as I shall have something to say on the other question, yet at the same time, if we can have free alcohol in arts, where it will be beneficial to the drug trade, and it can be so handled by the government, by prosecution or by fines, or by imprisonment or by a dozen different ways to compel men to be honest in the interpretation of the alcohol question, then I think it would be well. I think under the circumstances, if two or three of us, representing the three branches—manufacturing, pharmacists, retail pharmacists, and perhaps manufacturing druggists—if they could form themselves into a committee of three and talk this matter over, and offer the resolutions at the meeting to-morrow, we might get something in the way of help on this alcohol question. I myself believe that there is very little for us to do until the government itself takes a stand in the matter.

Mr. Goode—Unfortunately, Mr. Sheppard's resolutions will do us no good, according to my opinion. How those of us who have been in the habit of attending these meetings, and listening to these transactions from year to year, and the feeling that we threw into these resolutions which were sent to the government asking for free al-