

centages of free fatty acids will quickly attack the metal of any container constructed of other than non-corrosive material. Edible oils stored in silicated barrels are likewise liable to deterioration, particularly if the silicate lining is not given time to dry thoroughly before the barrels are filled, or if the oil is filled into the barrels at too high a temperature, thus softening the lining.

It may be regarded as a determined fact that the most successful manufacturer and refiner of fine oils will be the one who devotes considerable study to the proper method of storing his products after manufacture, as well as to the problems of quality production in the refining operations.

The Tariff Questionnaire

THE intense interest throughout the oil, fat and associated industries and the consuming groups in the proposed 45 per cent tariff on all imported fats and oils, has been reflected in additional replies to the questionnaire of *Oil & Fat Industries* which have been returned to us since the February issue was published. A number of returned questionnaires, too late to be included in the results which were analyzed in the February number, reveal results in much the same proportion of divided opinion as those which were included in the original discussion.

Of the questionnaires received late, 47 per cent were in favor of the tariff and 53 per cent were against. Those in favor included chiefly cotton and peanut oil crushers; those opposed were cocoanut oil crushers and refiners, margarin and lard compound manufacturers, several manufacturers and refiners of fish oils, animal oils, and a producer of stearic acid and red oil. The split up is much the same as in the original group of questionnaires received by us.

The manner in which opinion is divided and the way in which diversified interests are involved in this tariff question only emphasizes the fact, pointed out a month ago, that careful study and consideration is more needed than hasty legislation. While one crusher of cotton oil states that the higher tariff would bring better prices and encourage the production of more and better seed and oil, a refiner of the same oil sees in the tariff a cause for materially curtailed consumption because of the higher prices. Thus it goes.

The diversity of the opinions on the fat and oil tariff question and the evenness with which opinions for and against are split, leads us to

believe that the readjustment of any tariff is the job of a special committee or commission and not the work of a legislative body or a general legislative committee such as the Ways and Means Committee. From the innumerable angles from which the tariff is viewed by various factors in the industry, as revealed by the replies to our questionnaire, we believe that any broad sweeping legislation carrying a single rate of duty on all oils and fats would be eminently unfair, and in the long run, would not be of any permanent value to American oil crushers. We again urge all factors involved in this tariff controversy to act slowly and deliberately after due study and consideration, and not to be actuated wholly by what seem to be immediate interests.

THE Twentieth Annual Convention of The American Oil Chemists' Society will be held at The Roosevelt Hotel, New Orleans, La., on the 13th and 14th of May, 1929. All members are urged to make their hotel reservations early, as an exceptionally large attendance is expected at the meeting this year. Full details, including the program of the Convention, will be published in the next issue of *Oil & Fat Industries*.

The Mayonnaise Products Manufacturers Association held a series of informal meetings in Chicago during the Cannery Convention in the last week of January. Monday and Tuesday were devoted to Committee meetings. The Committees which met were the Standards and Research Committee, the Trade Practice Committee, the Glass Container Committee and the Transportation Committee. Wednesday morning was occupied by a Board Meeting, presided over by Richard Hellman, and in the afternoon a general meeting was held for active and associate members, which was well attended. Vice-President E. P. Kelly presided over the latter meeting, in the absence of President McCormick, who was prevented from attending by illness in his family.