

OIL & FAT INDUSTRIES

The Editor's Page

Simplified Practice Benefits

EVERY progressive manufacturer will appreciate the economies resulting from the campaigns of the Division of Simplified Practice of the Bureau of Standards, Department of Commerce for fewer and better package specifications. A survey of the packages used in the vegetable shortening industries revealed that there were thirty-five varieties of containers in use, but that 97 percent of the total volume of goods packed was shipped in only eleven of these container varieties.

The Division has recommended, therefore the elimination of the remaining twenty-four varieties of container as stock containers, and the recognition of the principle that shipments made in such containers are on special order and not part of the general business procedure. Practically the entire vegetable shortening industry has adhered to the principles of the reduction in number of container varieties, as recommended by the Division. The Associated Cooperage Industries of America have also signified their adherence to the plan. The value of such simplification practice to the manufacturers, jobbers and dealers in vegetable shortening are immediately apparent. The reduction in inventories of empty and filled packages would alone repay the cost and effort of making the change, without consideration of the savings accomplished in accounting and purchasing departments.

This is but one of many examples of constructive cooperation of Government with industry inaugurated in the Department of Commerce by our present President.

Tariffs and . . . Taffy

YEARS ago when we were just little fellows, our fathers often designated buncombe as "Taffy." This word has lost some of its popularity for use in this connection having been replaced by such stronger terms as "Bunk," "Hooey," "Apple sauce," and the like. Nevertheless the older term seems to us particularly applicable to a large percentage of the cloying wordiness which has been so characteristic of Capitol Hill this Spring. All of this sugar-coated material is manufactured for the delectation of constituents, mostly rural, for

the solons are commencing to awaken to a realization that the White House is occupied by a Man. A man who is, besides, an Economist, and who is not willing that the entire Foreign Trade of the United States shall be destroyed in a futile effort to subsidize a selected portion of our population. In this connection, we wonder if anyone, even has actually heard a farmer say, "Times are good and I am prosperous." We have known many farmers in our time, seen many of them riding in expensive motor cars, but we have yet to hear one of them make that admission, even when cotton was forty cents a pound and wheat "way out of sight." In spite of the fulminations which preceded its appearance, the Smoot-Hawley Proposed Tariff Act appears to be the product of careful consideration and sane reasoning applied to the problem of giving American farmers and manufacturers some additional protection, without overburdening the consumer or destroying the tediously-woven fabric of our Foreign trade. The fatty oil industries in particular are to be congratulated that the outrageous suggestions of the dairy lobby have not been permitted to prevail, and that the industry as a whole has been very fairly treated. Let us hope that the Senate Radicals, who are at the moment engaged in pulling more "Taffy" for *their* constituents, will get the job over with in a reasonably short time, so that business may resume its confident upward swing, secure in the knowledge that our good customers abroad will retain the opportunity of selling us some part of their production of necessities and luxuries, thereby obtaining the wherewithal to purchase from us those necessities, luxuries and automobiles which they need so badly, (according to our Export Sales Staff).

Cottonseed Crushings Gain

COTTONSEED crushed during the seven months ended with February totaled 4,230,549 tons against 4,028,539 tons in the same period a year ago, according to figures made public by the United States Census Bureau. Receipts during the period totaled 4,858,266 tons, against 4,422,412 tons, and stocks on hand at