

Notes of the Industry

German Lard Imports

Germany has offered in recent years a market for large quantities of lard, the greater part of which has been imported from the United States. Denmark, however, has been steadily increasing its lard exports to this country, and its competition is now keenly felt by American lard exporters. The largest importation of lard in recent years was in 1926, when 109,000 metric tons were brought into Germany valued at \$39,000,000. The importation since then has fallen off and in 1930 reached a total of 80,000 tons valued at about \$21,700,000.

In 1926, the United States supplied 87 per cent of the total amount of lard imported into Germany. The only other country of importance as a source of supply was Denmark which supplied 7 per cent. Since then, the proportion of lard imported from the United States has grown smaller while the part supplied by Denmark has steadily increased until in 1930, the importation from the United States had fallen to 79 per cent while that from Denmark had increased to nearly 19 per cent of the total. During the first five months of 1931, the importation of lard from the United States suffered a further reduction to 75 per cent of the total, while shipments from Denmark amounted to 20 per cent.

The law passed by the Colorado legislature and signed by the governor in May last, levying a tax of 15 cents a pound on margarine and shortening containing less than 45 per cent of animal fats, has been declared inoperative by the Secretary of State as result of the filing of a petition for a referendum on the tax. The petition had 21,487 signatures and provides for submission of the question to the voters at the next general election. If that course should fail to defeat the measure it will probably be fought on its constitutionality as confiscatory and class legislation.

A report from Trade Commissioner Hendren at Batavia, Dutch East Indies, states that the estimated production of palm oil for 1931 is placed at 38,902,400 kilos. The production for January amounted to 2,768,149 kilos. The Government placed 19 estates on the reporting list. The production of palm kernels for 1931 is put at 7,739,450 kilos. Production for January totalled 607,115 kilos.

Trade Commissioner Carlson, at Oslo, Norway, advises under recent date that a new law has been passed by the Norwegian Parliament authorizing butter as an ingredient for margarine, the exact quantities to be determined subsequently either by Royal Decree or the proper government department having jurisdiction over such matters. In the meantime, the Norwegian government is inviting suggestions from margarine churners in that country and no action will be taken until each manufacturer has had an opportunity of submitting his recommendations, inasmuch as there exists a belief that the government should make provision for varying proportions of butter to enable margarine to compete according to available supplies of the latter. An effort made to promulgate regulations making it mandatory that restaurants and other places of sale post notices to the effect that margarine was served or sold on the premises, failed of approval.

Spanish Exports of Olive Oil

The following table shows Spanish exports of olive oil during the first four months of 1931 and 1930:

	First Four Months	
	1931	1930
	Kilos	Kilos
Argentina	6,690,587	5,760,191
Cuba	2,238,004	3,354,958
Italy	5,483,264	3,971,721
United States	4,051,792	3,672,990
Other countries	8,041,873	10,941,463
Totals	26,505,520	27,701,323

In a report from Consul Langdon at Dairen, it is stated that the total carryover of stocks of Manchurian soybeans for last season (1930) is estimated as between one million and one and one-quarter million tons, about half of the tonnage in South Manchuria. In local trade circles, the carryover of the present season's crop is expected to be very small because of greatly increased domestic consumption owing to the higher cost of imported feedstuffs due to depreciated silver currency.

R. L. Stigler, formerly manager of the Buckeye Cotton Oil Co.'s plant at Little Rock, Ark., and recently in the brokerage business in that city has been elected assistant to General Manager P. F. Cleaver of the Rose City Cotton Oil Co. of Little Rock, succeeding W. H. Loflin, resigned.

Hankow Sesame Seed

The Hankow sesame seed market during the month of June was not as active as during May. There was a decline in price and a decrease in exports. Seeds of the yellow variety constitute the only type of sesame seed which enter in appreciable quantities into the export trade of this district. June exports of sesame seed to the United States and Europe from Hankow showed a 69.8 per cent decrease as compared with May due to movement of troops and supplies over the railways. Only small cargoes of seeds are being loaded on ocean carriers that are at present frequenting the port during the high water shipping season.

Exports of seed from Hankow during June amounted to 2,341 short tons, of which 1,803 tons went to the United States and 538 to Europe. Total shipments to the United States for the first six months were 23,824 short tons and shipments to Europe totaled 2,847 tons. From the most reliable information obtainable, it is reported that approximately 400 short tons of seed were stored in Hankow at the end of June. Stocks at Chiaokow, a suburb of Hankow, were reported to be 800 tons. Stocks at concentration points along the Peiping-Hankow railway were reported to be on June 30 approximately 20,000 short tons.

Recently the Government of Latvia submitted a new plan to Parliament to increase import duty on various commodities including lard, which has been one of the principal articles imported from the United States. The Government project provides for an increase in duty on lard from 0.10 Lats per kilo to 0.60 Lats per kilo net (\$0.019 to \$0.114.) (Report from Commercial Attache Morse at Riga.)

A report descriptive of the Egyptian cotton and cottonseed products industries, their progress in recent years, and their importance from the standpoint of furnishing a source of supply for the consuming markets of Europe has been prepared by Assistant Trade Commissioner Ferrante of the Cairo office for the benefit of the oils and fats industries of the United States. The report embraces considerable interesting statistical data. Copies of this report can be secured on request, from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Foodstuffs Division, Washington.

George S. Harris has been appointed manager of the Ashdown (Ark.) Mill of the Temple Cotton Oil Co., succeeding Frank E. Howson, resigned.

Manchurian Soybeans

The tone of the European market in June showed some improvement, although the volume of business was not large. Prices were weak in the first half, declining from \$26.55 per short ton to \$26.00 on the 16th of the month. However, the war debt moratorium had an effect on the market and prices advanced to \$28.47. Prices closed on the 30th at \$27.92 per short ton.

The Dairen market was quiet and uneventful and followed the trend of Europe. Japanese and Dutch East Indies demand was steady and constant for nearby shipment. Rather large up-country stocks were liquidated by the provincial government banks during the course of the month.

The turnover in the Dairen Exchange in the month of June totaled 252,714 tons, or 36,729 tons less than the turnover in the corresponding month of 1930. Deliveries amounted to 19,206 tons, consisting largely of provincial government stocks. June 1931 stocks at Dairen wharves totaled 114,932 tons as compared with 56,697 tons on hand in June, 1930.

American demand for soybean cake and meal continued dull, and total exports declined to 900 tons, as compared with 2,530 tons in the preceding month. The European demand for oil was weak during June, the market being depressed by low quotations on competing vegetable oils. The Dairen market was also colorless and uneventful.

It is estimated that the yield of oil from the present Spanish olive crop will amount to 180,000 tons, and that there are stocks on hand amounting to 300,000 tons making a total of 480,000 tons available for consumption and export. The quality of the oil is said to be poor, having a high acidity. The current demand for Spanish olive oil appears to be only fair. Demand in Spain is diminishing on account of the falling off of its use in cooking. Italy which is a large consumer of Spanish olive oil, is said to be making many of its purchases in Tunis, Algeria, Greece, and Turkey, where prices are lower.

Although the United States still maintained a lead in exports of lard to Czechoslovakia, imports from that country declined from 1,318 tons in April, 1930, to 623 tons in April, 1931. On the other hand, imports of lard from Holland increased from about 200 tons in April, 1930, to 596 tons in April, 1931. (Report from Assistant Trade Commissioner Woods at Prague.)

Tunisian Olive Oil Market

With a somewhat overstocked Mediterranean market the present situation in Tunis is calm. After the low yield of 20,000 metric tons registered in 1930 for Tunisian olive oil, expectations for the coming season foreshadow a but average crop of olives. Local market quotations reached \$23.52 to \$23.91 per 100 kilos for the first grade oil and \$19.99 to \$20.18 for the "masri" quality. Prices quoted at Sousse during the quarter were \$22.74 for the first grade and \$19.60 for "masri". These quotations are nearly identical with those of the March quarter, 1931. (*Report from Consul at Tunis, Tunisia.*)

Harry J. Mantia, a director of Leghorn Trading Co., New York, recently returned from a trip to Europe where he conferred with a number of the principals represented in the United States by his concern. The Leghorn Trading Co. specializes in olive oil and olive oil foots and also sells the "Spinelli" brand of Messina essential oils produced by Citrus Oils Co. On his return Mr. Mantia expressed himself as being optimistic on the business outlook both here and abroad.

J. Wrench, Sales Manager, Industrial Chemical Sales Company, New York, left on August 14th on an extended tour of the country as far as the Pacific Coast for the purpose of visiting the sales offices of the company in connection with the sale of their Nuchar activated carbon. After visiting the coast offices, Mr. Wrench plans to stop in Denver and Chicago enroute home to New York, where he is expected to arrive during the second week of this month.

The Tri-State Oil Mill Superintendents Association held the first of three regional meetings following a dinner at the Claridge Hotel, Memphis, recently. A. P. Holly, superintendent of the Perkins Oil Mill, Memphis, read an interesting paper on "The Merchandising of Cottonseed Products." It was decided that the second regional meeting should be held at Little Rock, Arkansas, and the third at Greenwood, Miss. There were 35 members present at the first dinner and meeting.

At the meeting of the directors of Procter & Gamble Co. held in Cincinnati the following were elected as vice-presidents of the company: Stockton Busby, R. K. Brodie and F. M. Barnes.

The United States Supreme Court has been petitioned to review decisions of the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in cases involving a question as to whether or not the product of the Standard Margarine Company of Florida is taxable as margarine. The Commissioner of Internal Revenue decided that it was artificially colored margarine and assessed a tax of \$5,000 on 50,000 pounds estimated to have been produced in January, 1929. The company declared the product was not margarine and obtained a preliminary injunction in the Federal district court for the southern district of Florida. Upon appeal to the Circuit Court of Appeals the decision of the lower court was affirmed. The government, in asking for a review, asserted that the question involved is of importance to the government in the administration of the revenue law.

The South Texas Cotton Oil Company reported a net income of \$171,947 for the fiscal year ended April 30, 1931, equivalent, after preferred dividends, to \$1.58 per common share, compared to \$237,438, or \$2.21 per common share, in the preceding fiscal year. As of August 1, 1930, the company disposed of its stock holdings in the Magnolia Gas Products Company to the Air Reduction Company, New York, and distributed the stock of the latter company received to its own stockholders. Current assets as of April 30 totaled \$1,776,544 and current liabilities were \$531,485. Total assets were \$4,800,060.

Robert Hebert, who is now associated with T. G. Cooper & Co., Philadelphia, arrived in New York, August 8th, on the *Staatendam*, after a five weeks business trip to London, Liverpool and the Continent. He sailed for Liverpool, July 3rd, on the *Britannic*.

A cable from Trade Commissioner Squire at Sydney, gives exports of unrefined tallow from Australia during June, 1931 as 5,772,144 pounds.

J. V. Madden, formerly superintendent of the Corinth (Miss.) Oil Mill has been appointed superintendent of the Osceola (Ark.) Cotton Oil Co.

Referee Applicant: A. G. Hayes, of Memphis, Tennessee, has applied for Referee Certification for all products covered by the rules of the National Cottonseed Products Association, (Second publication).