

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS

Italy Bars Imports of Common Soap

A recent ministerial decree prohibits the importation of common soap according to a report from Commercial Attache Mitchell at Rome.

On April 7, Mr. Benjamin Levitt, Chief Chemist for Chas. W. Young & Co., Philadelphia, delivered a lecture on the Manufacture of Soap, Disinfectants and related products, before the chemistry students of Temple University. Mr. Levitt was recently re-elected secretary-treasurer of the Pennsylvania Chapter, American Institute of Chemists.

M. K. Thornton, Professor of Industrial Chemistry, A. & M. College of Texas, has just had published a complete handbook on cottonseed manufacturer entitled "Cottonseed Products." With a historical preface of the cotton plant itself in seven interesting pages, the book gives a complete illustrated review of the technical and general problems of processing cottonseeds for their oil and other by-products.

The seed itself and its construction, the storage of the seed, conveying and elevating equipment, linting, hulling and separating, etc., are some of the chapter heads, while some of the specific uses in soap making, cattle fattening, etc., with illustrations of machines and best mechanical practice, are given considerable space in the latter part of the book. Altogether a very practical condensed and well written book. It is published by the "Oil Mill Gazetteer," Wharton, Texas. Price, \$3.00.

The Verona Chemical Co. of 26 Verona avenue, Newark, N. J., has now arranged with both its research and manufacturing departments to offer to interested parties a complete range of consulting chemical service, embracing all spheres of industrial chemical activity, from laboratory research to full scale factory production.

The public hearings of the Federal Trade Commission directed by the Senate in the cottonseed investigation were concluded, February 10, 1932.

The entire record of the testimony taken and exhibits received into evidence is being printed under direction of the Senate. Ten interim reports have been transmitted to the Senate containing evidence taken at Washington, Atlanta, Montgomery, Raleigh, Columbia, Jackson, Dallas, Houston, Oklahoma City, Shreveport, and New Orleans. Interim reports 11 and 12 covering testimony taken at Little Rock and Memphis are being prepared and will be transmitted to the Senate at an early date. The results of the investigation are being studied and analyzed by members of the Commission's staff. The text of the report on the inquiry into the status of competition among shellers and crushers of peanuts is now practically completed. Revisions and additions are being made and checked.

National Dairy Union, Washington, D. C., an association of butter producers, must stop publishing and distributing to retail dealers false statements purporting to be descriptive of the manufacture and sale of oleomargarine, according to an order of the Federal Trade Commission.

The Dairy Union is also to stop implying or asserting, that oleomargarine, in the ordinary and usual process of being manufactured, or the coconut oil contained in such oleomargarine, is foul, filthy, or unsanitary, or otherwise unfit for human consumption.

Direct statements implying that the sale of oleomargarine is a "rich man's graft" or any false information concerning the cost of making oleomargarine, is to be discontinued, according to the commission's order. The association has between 250 and 300 members throughout the United States, particularly in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Michigan.

AND NEWS OF THE INDUSTRY

Vegetable Oil Industry—Russia

Due to the shortage of butter and animal fats, the production of vegetable oils and margarine has assumed special significance. The area sown to oilseeds last year registered a 40 per cent increase over 1930, resulting in a correspondingly greater supply of vegetable oils for the population. The output of vegetable oils this year is scheduled to show a further gain of 55 per cent. Eight new margarine factories will commence operations during the year, and production is expected to be almost two and one-half times the figure for last year. The program for spring sowings this year calls for an acreage devoted to sunflower of 12,206,740 acres as compared with an acreage of 11,362,000 acres last year.

A cable from Trade Commissioner Christopherson at Mukden states that during January shipments of beans from Vladivostok and Dairen totaled 174,000 metric tons as compared with 233,000 tons shipped during the same period last year.

A cable from Trade Commissioner Harper at Batavia gives exports of copra from the Dutch East Indies during 1931 as 359,680 metric tons, or a drop of 4 per cent when compared with 1930 exports. Exports of palm oil amounted to 119,151,303 pounds, an increase of 21 per cent over 1930.

Trading in the oil seed crushing industry of England during 1931 was the most difficult in the history of seed crushing. Imports of most of the oilseeds increased over 1930, linseed by 100 per cent, but the linseed imports were poor in quality and the oil yields quite disappointing. Imports of castor seed and rapeseed declined.

A cable from Trade Commissioner Squire at Sydney states that meat exports are small as oversea prices are unsatisfactory. However, tallow exports to Japan are comparatively large.

The announcement is made by Commercial Attache Meekins, at Ottawa, by cable dated April 7, 1932, that effective that date the Dominion government removed from the exempt list the following commodities which have been free from sales tax duty in the past: Substitutes for butter; lard not produced in Canada; lard compound and similar substances made from animal or vegetable stearine or oils; materials for use solely in the manufacture of any substitute for butter or lard; extract of rennet.

Effective from April 7, the foregoing commodities will be subject to a six per cent sales tax (the sales tax previously has been 4 per cent). Domestic lard, that is, that which is produced in Canada, remains on the tax free list.

Exports of coconut oil from Ceylon last year, 953,640 cwt. (106,808,000 lbs.), were the largest of any year in the past decade and 25 per cent in excess of 1930. 1,888,338 cwt. of copra (211,494,000 lbs.) were exported during 1931, this quantity being 47 per cent larger than shipments for 1930 but approximately the average annual export volume of the ten year period 1922-1931.

The South Manchurian Railway Company plans to enter the soya bean oil industry. The company is looking for funds to finance the undertaking. Oil will be extracted from soya beans, according to the tentative plans of the railway company, by the use of alcohol instead of benzine, and the cake produced in the course of the extraction will be used for making yeast and feed for poultry. The company has a patent on the new method of extraction.

A letter from Consul General Dawson at Barcelona reports that exports of Castile soap from Spain to the United States during 1931 amounted to 1,019,954 pounds valued at \$93,268 as compared with 1,281,486 pounds and \$128,171 exported to this country last year.

Linters is the name given the fiber left on the seed after ginning. This is removed by a process of reginning before the seed is crushed—approximately 110 pounds of such lint being obtained from each ton of seed. Linters are used in the manufacture of mattresses and other feltings. During the war they were used largely by the Government in the manufacture of explosives. The production of linters for the year ended July, 1931, was 823,944 bales of 500 pounds gross weight each valued at \$8,969,000, compared with 1,038,170 bales in 1930 valued at \$20,149,000, and 1,085,766 bales in 1929 valued at \$27,793,000. There were 186,211 bales exported in 1929, 117,955 in 1930, and 111,969 in 1931.
