

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 This word has lost some of its popularity for use in this connection having been replaced by such stronger terms as "Bunk," "Hooey," "Apple sauce," and the like.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

the close of February totaled 646,849 tons, against 483,157 tons February 29, 1928.

Texas mills received by far the greatest quantity of the country's cottonseed during the period, receipts totaling 1,650,265 tons, against 1,484,928 tons in the same period a year ago, followed by Mississippi mills with 600,372 tons, against 525,206 tons; Georgia, 384,777 tons, against 411,510 tons; Arkansas, 383,033 tons, against 301,916 tons; Oklahoma 376,948 tons, against 358,386 tons; Tennessee, 295,537 tons, against 260,796 tons; North Carolina, 290,739 tons, against 285,095 tons; Alabama, 258,254 tons, against 286,371 tons; Louisiana, 203,720 tons, against 154,457 tons and South Carolina, 197,618 tons, against 194,208 tons.

The output of cottonseed products during the period included 1,323,254,856 pounds of crude oil, against 1,263,036,767 pounds in the same period a year ago; 1,100,475,389 pounds of refined oil, against 992,089,257 pounds; 1,901,701 tons of cake and meal, against 1,795,998 tons; 1,141,249 tons of hulls, against 1,143,722 tons; 890,783 running bales of linters, against 747,373 bales; 53,885 five-hundred-pound bales of hull fiber, against 59,734 bales and 35,346 five-hundred-pound bales of grab-bots, notes, etc. against 28,723 bales.

Exports of cottonseed products for the six months ended with January 31 included 13,687,856 pounds of crude oil, against 27,665,229 pounds in the period ended with January, 1928; 4,797,334 pounds of refined oil against 4,650,018 pounds, 214,202 tons of cake and meal, against 255,628 tons, and 104,014 running bales of linters, against 99,713 bales.

Oil Chemists' Golf Tournament

THE Annual Golf Tournament of The American Oil Chemists' Society was held on the Links of The Metairie Golf Club, New Orleans, on the afternoons of May 13 and 14. There was an impressive list of prizes, headed by the Challenge Cup donated by Industrial Chemical Sales Co. Other prizes included a gold medal, from Louisiana Gas Co., a zipper golf bag, from Darco Sales Corporation, a matched driver and brassie, from Bennett Clark Company, a leather traveling bag, from Arthur H. Thomas Co., a dozen golf balls, from Peerless Clay and Minerals, Inc., and a Chemists' slide rule, from E. H. Sargent & Co.

The winners of prizes were as follows:

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| Low Gross: | Cup and Medal..... | E. R. Barrow |
| Second: | Golf bag..... | L. B. Forbes |
| Low Net: | Golf clubs..... | W. H. Irwin |
| Second: | Golf balls..... | R. W. Perry |
| Blind Bogey: | Traveling bag..... | Lehman Johnson |
| Second: | Slide rule..... | J. J. Vollertsen |

Protest Iodine Test for Starch

SOME manufacturers of mayonnaise have been attacking competitive products which contain starch, and advising the general public of methods of testing mayonnaise and mayonnaise products for the presence of starch by the addition of iodine. In this connection, Frank Honicker, Executive Secretary of the Mayonnaise Products Manufacturers Association has addressed the members as follows:—

“Entirely aside from the ethics of advertising which has appeared in some newspapers relative to the iodine test for starch in mayonnaise, or the use to which some salesmen have put this to in an endeavor to sell their own brand of mayonnaise, you will be interested in the reply received from Dan Gray, Chairman of our Standards and Research Committee, to a letter from the Chairman of our Trade Practice Committee. Mr. Gray, as you know, is an experienced chemist, and his reply is interesting:

“In all of the technical reference books which were consulted, and which had any bearing on the reaction between iodine and starch have no definite chemical reaction between starch and iodine, except for the fact that starch was the only material so far as is known which gives this blue reaction with iodine.

“Apparently the compound formed is of such complex chemical nature that no definite formula can be ascribed to it, in fact the exact chemical nature of starch itself is most complex. Several reference books refer to the blue compound formed as iodised starch.

“Page 420, Volume 1, Allen's Commercial Organic Analysis, states, that the only organic compound liable to interfere with the iodine test is erythro-dextrin, which itself causes an intense reddish brown coloration with iodine which is apt to mask the starch reaction. Allen goes on to state that the affinity of iodine for starch is, however, greater than its affinity for erythro-dextrin, and hence, if a very little iodine solution be employed, a blue, due to starch alone, will become apparent, brown becoming apparent on further dilution of the reagent. By cautiously adding very dilute ammonia or gradually heating the liquid, the brown color can be destroyed, while the blue remains.

“With regard to the test itself on mayonnaise, it indicates only that the product contains some starch. The amount need not be great, as the test is very sensitive. It does not indicate inferiority, unless the addition of starch could be construed as such.