

European Oil Imports Decline 9,000 Tons

Net Available in Most Important Countries Materially Lower During First Quarter 1931 Than a Year Ago.

THROUGH the Foodstuffs Division of the Department of Commerce, *Oil & Fat Industries* is enabled to offer its readers comprehensive figures on the oil and oilseeds trade of the major countries overseas.

It is believed that this feature will prove of great interest and benefit to the majority of our readers, and if the feature meets with their approval, it is planned to publish a quarterly resumé of these figures.

Every producer and consumer of oil and fat products must realize the inescapable effects upon his business of world conditions in the fatty oil trade, particularly in these days when the progress of invention and discovery makes the various oils and fats more and more interchangeable for almost any useful purpose. The development of hydrogenation, improvement of refining and bleaching processes, new economies in the application of destearinization, the production of glycerine from sugar by fermentation methods, advances in the arts of oil extraction, oil blowing, fatty acid distillation, and sulfonation, all affect the demand in certain quarters for certain oils, and thus inevitably react upon worldwide markets for all fatty oils.

In this initial compilation we shall not endeavor to supply detailed figures covering the imports and exports of the various countries of Europe during the year 1929, but shall direct our readers' notice particularly to some of the outstanding characteristics of the world's trade and the important changes in trend from the experiences of former years.

Of paramount importance is the rapid growth of the consumption of whale oil and other fish oils in Continental countries, where hydrogenation has been utilized to make this class of oils available for edible purposes. In Germany for example, the imports of whale oil and other fish oils in 1929 exceeded those of 1928 by 20,471 long tons and those of 1927 by 39,910 long tons. (Ed. Note: Wherever the word ton is used below it will indicate a long ton of 2240 pounds.) Holland, likewise,

showed a great increase of imports of whale and fish oils in 1929 over each of the two previous years, the 1929 excess over 1928 being 32,599 tons and over 1927, 31,587 tons. The exports of hardened fish oils from both these countries also showed great gains in 1929.

France, on the other hand has not taken so kindly to the consumption of the fish oils, her imports of whale oil having increased only slightly in 1929, while those of other fish oils fell off slightly as compared with 1928 and 1927. The oil of greatest popularity in France at present seems to be peanut oil, imports of which, as represented chiefly by importation of the nut itself, increased in 1929 by approximately 20,000 tons (total oil plus oil equivalent of seeds imported) over 1928 and 50,000 tons over 1927. It is of interest to note that France is predominantly an oil-producing country, her imports of all fatty oils in 1929 being less than one-fourth of her imports of oil-bearing seeds expressed in their oil equivalent. French exports of oils, except of olive and peanut oils, are comparatively negligible, indicating that the French nation consumes most of the fatty oils produced in the country, from domestic and imported oil-bearing materials.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland imported in 1929 8,000 tons more whale and fish oil than in 1928 and 18,000 tons more than in 1927.

The figures for the first quarter of 1930 show a similarly increasing trend in the imports of whale and fish oils for all of these countries during the quarter.

In line with these increases in the European consumption of whale and fish oils there has been an even greater decrease in the available imports of the chief competing oils (as oils or seeds) available for domestic consumption in those countries. This is shown most clearly and concisely by the following table, from which it will be seen that the total imports available for domestic consumption of the seven leading oils and their corresponding oil-

seeds in Germany, the United Kingdom, Holland and France declined about 31,000 tons in the first quarter of 1930 as compared with the corresponding period in 1929. The total increase in the net available imports of fish oils and whale oil for the same comparison periods and countries was 22,000 tons, which indicates displacement of the other oils by fish and whale oils in European oil and fat economy to the

extent of approximately 85,000 tons or 190,000,000 pounds annually, considering only the four leading countries. The net decrease in imports available for domestic consumption of all the important oils and fats would thus appear to be about 9,000 tons, or 20,000,000 pounds for the four leading European countries, for the first quarter of 1930, as against the same quarter of the previous year.

Statement Showing Comparative Figures of Net Available Imports of Various Oils in Certain European Countries

3 Months Ending March 31st, 1930 with Comparisons for 1929.

	GERMANY		UNITED KINGDOM		HOLLAND		FRANCE		TOTAL FOUR COUNTRIES	
	1930 Tons	1929 Tons	1930 Tons	1929 Tons	1930 Tons	1929 Tons	1930 Tons	1929 Tons	1930 Tons	1929 Tons
COPRA										
Oil Equivalent Seed Imported	29,182	34,554	13,512	15,785	19,122	20,599	24,818	28,561	86,634	100,499
Oil Imports	2,227	2,997	9,981	15,518	1,586	904	1,471	901	15,265	20,320
	31,409	37,551	23,493	32,303	20,708	21,503	26,289	29,462	101,899	120,819
Less Oil Equivalent Seed Exported..	—	—	3,453	5,173	51	227	5	53	3,509	5,453
Less Oil Exports	4,558	4,836	1,019	1,567	10,999	12,609	2,984	4,174	19,550	23,186
NET AVAILABLE	26,851	32,715	19,021	25,533	9,658	8,667	23,300	25,235	78,830	92,180
PALM KERNELS										
Oil Equivalent Seed Imported	34,327	24,158	9,851	21,705	1,764	160	1,355	914	47,297	46,937
Oil Imports	415	178	735	90	235	36	340	155	1,725	459
	34,742	24,336	10,586	21,795	1,999	196	1,695	1,059	49,022	47,396
Less Oil Equivalent Seed Exported..	—	—	—	61	6	—	18	—	24	61
Less Oil Exports	11,083	9,719	4,434	4,218	1,082	156	512	431	17,111	14,524
NET AVAILABLE	23,659	14,617	6,152	17,516	911	40	1,165	638	31,887	32,811
PEANUTS										
Oil Equivalent Seed Imported	83,572	69,869	14,336	15,807	13,793	12,595	55,263	59,995	166,964	158,206
Oil Imports	376	335	—	—	5,901	6,845	1,408	1,346	7,685	8,526
	83,948	70,204	14,336	15,807	19,694	19,440	56,571	61,341	174,649	166,792
Less Oil Equivalent Seed Exported..	—	—	84	117	140	53	364	784	588	954
Less Oil Exports	17,887	12,285	—	—	4,255	3,553	8,859	9,524	31,001	25,362
NET AVAILABLE	66,061	57,919	15,252	15,690	15,299	15,384	47,448	51,033	143,060	140,476
SOYA BEANS										
Oil Equivalent Seed Imported	45,939	32,697	8,047	14,132	1,910	1,038	3	79	55,899	47,945
Oil Imports	1,384	13	5,435	993	14,466	6,524	3,214	1,273	24,499	8,803
	47,323	32,710	13,482	15,125	16,376	7,562	3,217	1,352	80,398	56,749
Less Oil Equivalent Seed Exported..	—	—	—	324	7	—	—	—	2	331
Less Oil Exports	7,914	9,988	3,826	4,790	2,519	1,952	—	72	14,259	16,802
NET AVAILABLE	39,409	22,722	9,656	10,011	13,855	5,603	3,217	1,280	66,137	39,616
RAPE SEED										
Oil Equivalent Seed Imported	429	1,111	425	2,432	277	572	697	1,252	1,828	5,307
Oil Imports	430	104	1,831	382	48	68	—	1	2,309	555
	859	1,215	2,256	2,814	325	640	697	1,253	4,137	5,922
Less Oil Equivalent Seed Exported..	88	81	14	46	141	193	34	43	277	323
Less Oil Exports	70	126	2,122	1,753	28	172	51	103	2,271	2,154
NET AVAILABLE	701	1,008	120	1,055	156	275	612	1,107	1,589	3,445
COTTONSEED										
Oil Equivalent Seed Imported	13	1,291	27,860	29,220	—	—	—	694	27,873	31,205
Oil Imports	1,472	1,363	3,981	1,908	115	1,678	978	1,241	6,545	6,150
	1,485	2,654	31,841	31,128	115	1,678	978	1,935	34,419	37,395
Less Oil Equivalent Seed Exported..	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	9	—
Less Oil Exports	—	—	5,704	6,316	31	607	15	1	5,750	6,924
NET AVAILABLE	1,485	2,654	26,137	24,812	84	1,071	954	1,934	28,660	30,471
LINSEED										
Oil Equivalent Seed Imported	19,446	27,360	14,774	29,196	17,048	32,390	9,712	15,254	60,980	104,200
Oil Imports	3,982	1,502	14,637	5,040	1	165	200	599	18,820	8,306
	23,428	28,862	29,411	35,236	17,049	32,555	9,912	15,853	79,800	112,506
Less Oil Equivalent Seed Exported..	87	116	46	47	985	821	65	55	1,183	1,039
Less Oil Exports	839	678	4,179	4,898	21,929	13,678	2,201	613	29,148	19,807
NET AVAILABLE	22,502	28,068	25,186	30,291	5,865	18,056	7,646	15,185	49,469	91,600
NET AVAILABLE ALL OILS	180,668	159,703	100,524	124,938	34,098	49,545	84,342	96,412	399,632	430,599
x Balance of Exports over Imports.									Net available decrease	30,967