

# Notes of the Industry

## Olive Oil Tariff Hearings

Pursuant to the Resolution passed by Congress on July 22, authorizing a special investigation of the differences in costs of production of domestic and foreign olive oil; the U. S. Tariff Commission announces that public hearings will be held at the office of the Commission at Washington, or at such other place as may be later designated, covering the differences in costs of production of, and all other facts and conditions affecting the production of Olive Oil, being wholly or in part the growth or product of the United States, and of and with respect to like or similar articles wholly or in part the growth or product of competing foreign countries.

## Oleomargarine Production at Bergen, Norway

According to a report from Consul Pierce at Bergen, the oleomargarine industry in the Bergen consular district enjoyed an average year in 1929. The two largest oleomargarine factories at Bergen, namely, "Ornen" and "Bjorgvin," published their annual accounts in January and paid a ten per cent dividend to their shareholders. On the other hand, the smaller factories did not register any profit owing to the keen competition from the trust companies and the larger factories. At the close of the year there was reason for believing that the smaller factories would not be able to continue unless arrangements were made as to mutual selling prices in this industry. The oleomargarine trust, operated from Holland, has forced the Norwegian manufacturers into considerable reduction in prices. As butter is very expensive, Norway is a good market for the margarine industry. In this connection it is interesting to note that farmers manufacturing butter sell their products in town and buy oleomargarine for their own consumption. The majority of all raw materials for the oleomargarine industry are imported, the United States being the principal source of supply. Cottonseed oil, lard, and oleo stock are imported from the United States and smaller quantities are purchased from England. Norway's total production of oleomargarine in 1929 was 42,000,000 kilos of which about 12,000,000 kilos are estimated to originate in the eleven factories located within this district.

## Canadian Bean Oil Plant

Reconstruction of the Thorold, Ontario, plant which has been acquired by Anglo Canadian Seed Products, Limited, is going forward rapidly, it being expected that operations will begin early in September. T. Walsh is president of the new company, which will produce various soya bean oils. The beans for the first year's run will be imported from England, but officials of the company say experiments have shown they can obtain future supplies from crops grown in the immediate vicinity of the new factory. Thomas Kavanaugh will be assistant general manager of the plant, Mr. Walsh being in personal charge. Joseph Kavanaugh will be secretary and treasurer. Production will begin with a working force of 40 men and will be expanded as demand grows.

## Lower Coconut Oil Freight

Cut in the western railroad freight rate on coconut oil from the Pacific Coast to Kansas City has been permitted by the Interstate Commerce Commission. The commission on August 14 gave the carriers permission to make a 60-cent rate from the Pacific Coast to Kansas City, as compared with the present rate of 75 cents, and as against the rate of 55 cents sought by the railroads. In their request for lower rates, the railroads indicated that if granted permission they would file new schedules of 60 cents to St. Louis and 65 cents to Chicago.

## Linseed Oil Production

Twenty-five mills which crushed flaxseed during the quarter ending June 30, 1930, report a crush of 203,568 tons of seed and production of 130,863,405 pounds of linseed oil, according to preliminary census data collected by the Department of Commerce. The final production report for the first quarter was 145,969,802 pounds of oil from 233,036 tons of flaxseed. The figures for the second quarter compare with 278,933 tons of seed crushed and 187,018,538 pounds of oil produced in the corresponding quarter in 1929, 269,022 tons of seed and 179,532,207 pounds of oil in 1928, and 250,970 tons of seed and 167,232,121 pounds of oil in 1927.

Stocks of flaxseed at mills June 30 amounted to 65,173 tons, compared with 100,928 tons on

the same date in 1929, 84,964 tons in 1928, and 97,731 tons in 1927. Stocks of linseed oil reported by the crushers were 71,222,982 pounds March 31, compared with 83,544,918 pounds on the same date in 1929, 140,055,105 pounds in 1928, and 105,492,012 pounds in 1927. The record of imports of flaxseed during the quarter is not yet available, but up to and including June 17 119,649 tons were imported. The amount for the entire quarter in 1929 was 254,171 tons, in 1928 154,502 tons, and in 1927 213,303 tons. Imports of linseed oil to June 17 were 412,257 pounds, compared with 6,415,055 pounds in the entire quarter in 1929, 44,934 in 1928, and 388,652 in 1927.

Approval has been given by the Norwegian government to the proposed merger of De Nordiske Fabriker A/S (De-No-Fa), Fredrikstad, (hydrogenated oil), and the Lilleborg Fabriker A/S, Oslo (soap), in spite of the fact that the semi-official "Trust Kontrollraadet" advised against it. This means that the Unilever concern will have practical control of the margarine and soap industry in Norway, together with the usual provisions, including Norwegian management, Norwegian workers, Norwegian deliveries, etc., and that the companies bind themselves to maintain their production and export in that country.

The South Texas Cotton Oil Company has reported net income of \$237,438 for the year ended April 30, 1930, which was sufficient to cover the preferred dividends and equal to \$2.21 a share on the common stock. This was compared to a net income of \$444,190 or \$4.19 a common share, reported for the previous fiscal year. The company's balance sheet as of April 30, 1930, showed current assets of \$1,970,703 and current liabilities of \$524,160, which was a ratio of 3.7 to 1.

Coconut interests in the Philippine Islands have organized an association to be known as the Philippine Coconut Industries Association. Its aims are similar to those of the Philippine Sugar Association, according to information sent to the Department of Commerce by the trade commissioner at Manila.

This is the first attempted organization of the various interests in the Philippine coconut industry. Because of its representation of all interests concerned, it is expected to achieve

definite results. Coconut planters, copra crushers, American oil mills, copra exporters and manufacturers of desiccated coconut all have representatives in the directorate of the association. It is an incorporated body, but not a stock organization.

Ravages of the leaf miner pest have occasioned considerable concern to coconut planters in the Philippines, and a congress of planters was called to discuss measures for the effective control of the pest. The attendance was disappointingly small and indicative of the disinterestedness of many of the planters in the islands.

## New Books

THE CONDENSED CHEMICAL DICTIONARY, Compiled and edited by The Editorial Staff of the Chemical Engineering Catalog. Second Edition, Thomas C. Gregory, *Editor*, Isabelle M. Welch, *Assistant Editor*. Published by The Chemical Catalog Company, 551 pages, \$10.00: A old friend in a new dress, the second edition of the well-known Condensed Chemical Dictionary shows many improvements over the former edition, both in material and make-up. The extension of encyclopaedic data on many of the items listed in the dictionary increases the usefulness of the volume immeasurably. The quality of paper and type are much improved, and the addition of a thumb-index will assist users to quickly locate any data sought.

A CHEMICAL DICTIONARY, By Ingo W. D. Hackh, *Professor of Chemistry, College of Physicians and Surgeons, San Francisco*. P. Blakiston's Son & Co., 790 pages, \$10.00. This first edition of Professor Hackh's Chemical Dictionary appears to be a well-prepared comprehensive volume, giving quickly the salient facts concerning the chemical elements and compounds, as well as the major materials occurring in nature or prepared synthetically. Chemical theories are tersely explained, and a particularly interesting feature is the inclusion of biographical material concerning prominent living chemists as well as those of the past. The book is well illustrated, with portraits, cuts of apparatus, and charts. The presentation of graphic formulae of many organic products is an especially valuable feature.