

Notes of the Industry

Vegetable Oils Tariff

The United States Tariff Commission has issued notices, pursuant to Section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930, that a public hearing will be held at the office of the United States Tariff Commission in Washington, D. C., at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the 17th day of February, 1931, at which time all parties interested will be given opportunity to be present, to produce evidence, and to be heard with regard to the investigation instituted by the Commission for the purpose of ascertaining information concerning the cost of production and transportation to the principal consuming markets of the United States on the following articles: Coconut oil and copra from the Philippine Islands and from other principal producing centers, palm oil and palm kernel oil, whale oil, rapeseed oil, perilla oil and sesame oil.

This Public Hearing will be undoubtedly of momentous interest to all American producers and refiners of edible and inedible oils and fats, animal as well as vegetable, and likewise to all soapmakers. The present low prices of all oils and fats will undoubtedly cause interest to be centered upon the effect of the existing tariffs upon those prices and the possible effects of revisions of duties upward or downward upon certain oils.

The hearing will also be attended by representatives of certain outside interests who will take the opportunity of recommending higher tariffs on imported oils, not for the protection of their own industries, but for the actual exclusion of certain imported oils, if possible. The oils which will be the targets for such effort are not produced in the United States and cannot be produced here, so that those who are interested in their importation and in the manufacture of their developed products will without doubt be present at the hearing to combat the efforts of those who would further prohibitive duties.

Stocks of crude cottonseed oil on hand December 31, 1930, in United States, totaled 114,248,422 pounds as against 115,884,530 at the close of the previous year. Stocks of refined oil were 428,609,270 on December 31, 1930, as against 425,459,221 on the same date in 1929.

Mayonnaise Committees

President W. R. McKeldin has announced the appointment of the various committees of the Mayonnaise Manufacturers Association. The chairman of the committees for the current year are as follows: Alvertising, E. J. Bannvart; Container Simplifications, H. S. Wade; Cost Finding, Ellis R. Meaker; Legislative, B. S. Pearsall; Membership, C. P. McCormick; New Uses, Anna Schlorer Smith; Publicity, John T. Ogden; Standards and Research, Dan Gray; Traffic, V. L. Garbesi; Trade Practice, Frank Honicker; Research Fellowship, John Glassford.

Henry W. Galley, who was general sales manager for the American Linseed Company several years ago, has become manager of the oils division of the Staley Sales Corporation, Decatur, Ill. The Staley company manufactures various products from corn and soybeans.

Batten, Barten, Durstine & Osborn, New York, advertising agents, recently installed a kitchen for use in making tests and preparing advertising copy for its clients. Most of the equipment and materials used in furnishing and stocking the kitchen were secured from clients of the agency.

The Federal Trade Commission has dismissed a complaint charging the Blanton Company, St. Louis, with unfair methods of competition in the sale of margarine.

The Annual Convention of the National Cottonseed Products Association will be held at the Roosevelt Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana, on May 18, 19 and 20. The Rules Committee of the Association will meet at the same place on the 15th and 16th of May.

British imports of linseed oil increased by 14,561 tons in the first eleven months of 1930, and exports decreased by 3,970 tons. This condition was attributable to the fact that the Margarine Union, which controls the larger part of the crushing of flaxseed in the United Kingdom, has found it more economical to produce linseed oil in its plants in Germany and the Netherlands.

Procter Buys Baltimore Mill

The Procter and Gamble Company have announced the completion of negotiations for the purchase of the copra crushing mill of the Oil Seeds Crushing Company, in the Canton district of Baltimore. The plant of the Oil Seeds Crushing Company is one of the finest and best equipped copra mills in the country, having been built in 1920 at a cost exceeding a million dollars by the Coconut Products Corporation.

Although the equipment installed in the plant was of the latest modern design, the early years were marked by part-time operation only, and by several reorganizations of the company's finances, due chiefly to unfavorable market conditions and to alleged inexperience of the promoters of the business. In the hands of the Procter and Gamble organization, this plant will undoubtedly become a substantial addition to Baltimore's industries.

This mill will prove a valuable unit of the Procter and Gamble Company, as it will provide a source for coconut oil for the new soap plant of the company recently completed at Baltimore. The company officials announce that the new copra mill will be operated at capacity, giving employment to more than 100 men.

A measure has been introduced in Congress by Representative Aldrich, of Rhode Island, to postpone for twenty-four months from its passage, the effective date of the amendment to the oleomargarine act which places the oleomargarine tax upon so-called cooking compounds which are so manufactured as to bear a certain resemblance to butter in color and texture, though not in flavor. The amendment was enacted last year and is scheduled to take effect July 1, 1931.

The Mexican sesame crop is estimated to be only about 50% of normal this year. Production in 1929 amounted to 10,900 metric tons.

Preliminary indications of the cod liver oil situation in Norway indicate a fairly promising season, although fishing for cod does not start in earnest until after the beginning of January.

The olive oil production of Greece for 1930-31 is estimated to amount to 26,445,700 gallons. The quality of the oil is expected to be excellent on account of the good condition of the olives in most districts. Two or three districts only were attacked by the dacus borer.

Total shipments or deliveries of oleomargarine and other butter substitutes in 1929 by manufacturers in the United States amounted to 310,622,331 pounds, valued at \$51,578,644 at factory prices. This was an increase of 5.6 percent in quantity and a decrease of three-tenths of one percent in value, as compared with the figures for 1927 the last previous census year, when shipments were 294,066,722 pounds, valued at \$51,751,757.

The following table contains comparisons of the oleomargarine and other butter substitutes production and values by kind and quantity for 1927 and 1929:—

	1929	1927	Percent increase
Oleomargarine and other butter substitutes made in all industries—			
Total pounds	310,622,331	294,066,722	5.6
Total value	\$51,578,644	\$51,751,757	*0.3
Made in "Oleomargarine and other butter substitutes" industry—			
Pounds	170,804,526	180,103,026	*5.2
Value	\$30,113,829	\$33,024,819	*8.8
Made in the meat-packing industry—			
Pounds	108,173,643	86,651,746	24.8
Value	\$16,521,785	\$14,501,799	13.9
Made as secondary products in other industries—			
Pounds	31,644,162	27,311,950	15.9
Value	\$4,943,050	\$4,225,139	17.0
† Reported according to materials used (exclusive of production in the meat-packing industry)—			
Composed of a mixture of animal and vegetable oils and fats—			
Pounds	71,291,565	72,933,077	*2.3
Value	\$14,046,704	\$15,080,480	*6.9
Composed solely of vegetable oils and fats—			
Pounds	131,157,123	134,481,899	*2.5
Value	\$21,010,175	\$22,169,478	*5.2

* Decrease.

† Oleomargarine made in the meat-packing industry was not reported according to materials used.

A new list of organic chemicals that it has manufactured or purified has been issued by the Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, New York. The new list contains, in regular classification, 116 items not previously cataloged by the company and thirteen additional items added too late for classification. This list will undoubtedly prove of the greatest value to research and control laboratories.

Vice-Consul Williams in Nueva Laredo, Mexico, reports that a lard refinery owned and operated by an American packer is now in operation in that city. The plant has a capacity of 60,000 pounds per day and an estimated annual output of 5,000 tons. The lard will be packed in cans manufactured at the refinery.

Armour & Co., Chicago, reports an income of \$21,388,104 for the year ended November 1, before deducting for depreciation and interest requirements, this comparing with \$29,383,209 for the previous year. After deductions and before dividends, the earnings total \$4,741,027, as against \$9,810,518 in the previous year.

At the 13th Exposition of Chemical Industries which will be held in Grand Central Palace, New York, May 4 to 9, there will be a special section of the exhibit devoted to the container industry. Numerous types of containers and apparatus for filling, weighing, measuring, sealing, labeling, packaging and handling will be demonstrated.

Armour & Co. has taken out \$35,000,000 additional group insurance, the cost of which it will share with its employees, bringing its total coverage up to \$100,000,000.

Procter & Gamble Co. paid a regular quarterly dividend of \$1.25 on its 5% preferred stock on December 15 to stock of record November 25.

Procter & Gamble Co. recently opened two new district offices. The Cleveland office will be in charge of John Z. Heizer, formerly of Cincinnati. E. Z. Zimmerman will manage the Omaha office.

Dr. George W. Hoover, consultant on foods, drugs, insecticides, formulas, labels and application of State and Federal Laws, has recently moved his office to Shoreham Building, Washington, D. C.

According to the U. S. Census of Manufacturers the total production of soda ash in United States during 1929 totaled 2,682,216 tons. The figure for silicate of soda was 591,345 tons. Total caustic soda production, exclusive of the material made and consumed in the wood pulp and textile industries amounted to 758,800 tons.

The first annual "Fueling Party" of the Westchester Oil Trade Association was held at the Hotel Astor, January 31. Dinner was followed by an extensive program of entertainment. M. J. Gilday was chairman of the committee in charge of the affair.

A recent act of the Australian Parliament provides for the payment of bounties on the production of flax and linseed in Australia.

Brucine alkaloid has been added to the list of permissible denaturants for vegetable oils, duty free, when inedible, by order of the Bureau of Customs. The material is to be used in the proportion of one-half ounce to the gallon of olive, palm-kernel, rapeseed, sunflower or sesame oil.

A recent ruling of the Commissioner of Customs declares that castor oil meal, because its poisonous properties make it unfit for use as a foodstuff, is classifiable as a fertilizer and may be imported free of duty. The Bureau of Customs is investigating the dutiability of ground cocoa shells and cocoa residue, a question having been raised by the importation of cocoa residue mixed with ground cocoa leaves.

T. George Lee has been elected President of Armour and Company succeeding the late F. Edson White. Mr. Lee has been in the service of Armour and Company for more than thirty-five years, starting as a stenographer in the beef department and advancing steadily to become Vice-president in charge of that department in 1926.

According to figures reported to the Bureau of Internal Revenue by margarin manufacturers, production in December, 1930, compares with December, 1929, as follows:

	Pounds 1930	Pounds 1929
Production of uncolored margarine	*28,066,303	31,226,440
Production of colored margarine	†902,489	1,655,465
Total production	28,968,792	32,882,905
Percent decrease.....	12%	

*Of this amount 16,577 pounds were reworked.
†2,004 pounds reworked.

Balfour, Williamson & Co., and Balfour, Guthrie & Co., Ltd., importers and exporters with offices in New York and on the Pacific Coast and with agencies and representatives in various foreign countries have merged. The merged firms will continue business under the name of Balfour, Guthrie & Co., Ltd.

The Colonial government authorities of Trinidad, British West Indies, have recently approved a new tariff schedule which provides for British preferential rates of 50c per 100 pounds on lard as contrasted with a general rate which applies to the imports from the United States of \$2.00 per 100 pounds.