

# Notes of the Industry

## British Prices Decline

One of the largest British vegetable oil operators has published a chart depicting the course of the market during 1930 in Great Britain for oilseeds, oils, fats and oil cakes. On a basis of prewar averages, in each case considered as 100, there was a definite downward trend exhibited by all of the commodities named month by month throughout the year. The high price level of the year for oilseeds, and oils and fats, was 114% of prewar levels in January 1930 which offers a marked contrast with the average of 75% for oilseeds in December and 81% for oils and fats. Palm kernels and palm kernel oil had the lowest price index in December when they stood at 55% and 61% respectively of prewar levels. Copra at 58% for December and coconut oil at 62% the same month were second lowest. Among the principal oilcake items, Egyptian cottonseed cake had the lowest index at 78% in December and Bombay cottonseed cake was 83%. Price average on cake ranged downward from 117% in January to 87% in December. (The charts from which this summary was based were secured by American Trade Commissioner Messenger, London, England.)

By estimating the catch of a few ships not reporting, the total production of whale oil by Norwegian companies up to the end of 1930 amounted to about 1,135,000 barrels. At the same time last year the total stood at 828,000 barrels. The production for companies other than Norwegian equalled about 670,000 barrels as compared to 410,000 at the end of 1929. Of these foreign companies, those with strong Norwegian interests represent 270,000 barrels. The total for antarctic catch up to December 31st makes an impressive figure of 1,805,000 barrels as compared to 1,238,000 for 1929.

Cottonseed oil trading on the New York Produce Exchange has been broadened in scope by the inclusion of prime summer yellow oil in the prevailing futures contracts by an amendment to the trading rules. Trading on the exchange has formerly been restricted to bleachable prime summer yellow, and now for the first time the prime oil can be offered on tank-car contracts.

## Color Specification Group

During the joint meeting of The Optical Society of America and The American Physical Society, recently held in New York, first steps were taken toward the formation of an Inter-Society Committee on Color Specifications. The first conference of those interested was held at the Museum of Science and Industry on the evening of February 26, under the chairmanship of Lloyd A. Jones, President of The Optical Society of America.

Among many Societies and Associations represented at the conference were: The American Optical Society, American Chemical Society, American Institute of Architects, American Oil Chemists' Society, American Physical Society, American Psychological Association, American Railway Association, (Signal Section), American Society for Testing Materials, American Standards Association, Illuminating Engineering Society, Society of Motion Picture Engineers, Technical Association of Pulp and Paper Industry, and The Textile Color Card Association of the U. S.

Several corporations were also represented, and a number of individuals interested in color specification were present.

Those attending the conference voted unanimously to report to the various organizations represented that the conference recommended the formation of an Inter-Society Council on Color Specification, to be composed of Delegates authorized by the several interested Societies.

The Lookout Oil and Refining Co., of Chattanooga, Tenn., producers of cooking and salad oils, are improving their plant by the addition of new machinery at a cost of \$90,000.

C. W. Hazen, superintendent of the Valley Cotton Oil Company, of Memphis, has been elected president of the Civic Club of Whitehaven, Tennessee, suburban to Memphis.

A petition to raise the lard import duties in Czechoslovakia has been presented to the ministry of finance by the Association of Wholesale Dealers. The petition, according to the Department of Commerce, asks that the present duty of \$4.45 per 100 kilos be increased to \$10.67.