

# IMPORT & EXPORT

## German Soap and Detergent Trade

In a report from Consul General Lowrie, Frankfort-am-Main, to the Department of Commerce, Chemical Division, it is stated that the Reichstag Commission of Inquiry has completed its investigation of the German soap and cosmetics industry and has published its report, dealing with three divisions of the industry, as follows: (1) Soap and detergents, (2) cosmetics, and (3) perfumery. The total value of the production of these industries combined is estimated at 570,000,000 marks (exclusive of the value of by-products), of which 400,000,000 marks represent the production of the soap branch. Outstanding features of the development of these industries are the increase of 300 per cent since prewar years and the growing popularity of the oxygen-containing type of detergent, the annual production of which is valued at 130,000,000 marks.

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In accordance with Chapter VII of the new Emergency Tax Law of Cuba, promulgated in Extraordinary Edition No. 2 of the Official Gazette of January 23, 1932, a consumption tax of 1 cent per pound is established on all *edible* "vegetable oils and vegetable fats" whether produced domestically or imported. This tax is to go into effect immediately. The same chapter also provides for the same tax on animal fats to be established when the Executive should deem it opportune to do so. The tax is to be paid when the products are removed from the factory, warehouse, or place where they may have been deposited after manufacture, or (in the case of imported articles) when they are removed from the customs.—(*Report from Acting Commercial Attache Nufer at Habana, Cuba.*)

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United States export trade in soaps and toiletries declined 17.9 per cent in 1931 as against 1930, while the country's total exports of all commodities fell off 37 per cent in the same period. These figures do not include the month of December in either year.

## Essential Oil Analysis in France

The Central Syndicate for essential oils and aromatic raw materials is actively interested in national and international unification of methods of essential oil analysis and in creating in France an independent analytical laboratory and with this in view has appointed a commission to study the subject. The commission has recently reported its conclusions, as follows: the necessity of drawing up a compendium including all known essential oils and indication of limits of variation of their principal constituents; the desirability of establishing specifications for general application for the determination of each physical feature and chemical mixture; the need for international standardization of processes; the value of documentation and centralization of information relating to the essential oil industry and the necessity for organizing representatives of essential oil interests in each country preparatory to international convention.

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The Tariff Commission has approved plans for work in Argentina in connection with the costs of production of flaxseed and casein, the subjects of investigations under Section 336 of the Tariff Act of 1930. The flaxseed investigation was ordered in response to an application from the Association Nacional de Agricultura, of Argentina, and the casein investigation was ordered in compliance with a resolution passed by the United States Senate. The men assigned to this work sailed from New York on February 6th.

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Argentina manufactures seventy per cent of all the toiletries consumed in that country and recent tariff increases and unstable exchange are encouraging an increase of domestic production as well as the establishment of branch factories of European manufacturers. Three-quarters of all imports in these lines come from France, while the business done by American exporters in the various items amounts to ten per cent or less.