

The Drying Oils Situation

(Excerpted from Bureau of Agricultural Economics Bulletin of May 17, 1938)

Consumption of fats and oils in the drying industries (paints and varnishes, linoleum, oilcloth, and printing inks) has increased steadily from a post-World War low of 475 million pounds in 1932 to 834 million pounds in 1937, concurrently with increased building activity. From 1932 to 1936 the use of linseed oil, while gaining steadily in absolute volume, decreased proportionately from 77 per cent of the total consumption in 1932 to 61 per cent in 1936. The percentages contributed by tung, fish, and soybean oils were approximately steady, the drop in the proportion of linseed oil being balanced by sharply increased use of perilla oil and small additions of such minor oils as hempseed, oiticica, and castor. The excise tax of 4½ cents per pound on perilla and hempseed oils and 2

cents per pound on the seeds effective August 21, 1936, and the consequent decreased imports, together with increased demands for drying oils, led to sharp declines in the use of these two oils and increases in the use of linseed, tung, fish, castor and oiticica oils in 1937, linseed oil contributing 69 per cent of the total. (See FOS No. 3, May 1937, and No. 8, October 1937, for more detailed discussion.)

Although the estimated consumption of oils in the drying industries was 7 per cent more in the calendar year 1937 than in 1936, a more-than-seasonal decrease in consumption occurred during the last half of the year. Estimated consumption in the first quarter of 1938 was more than one-third less than in the corresponding quarter of last year.

FALL MEETING

The fall meeting of the American Oil Chemists' Society will be held in Chicago on October 6 and 7.

The local committee has been organized and is at work on the program.

Appointed to Chicago Area

Sprout, Waldron & Co., Muncy, Pa., has announced the appointment of Morgan L. Woodruff, 1812 Colfax St., Evanston, Ill., as district sales engineer for the Chicago area. Mr. Woodruff will cover parts of Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Michigan and Indiana.