

## Food Products

By C. G. HERDMAN  
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THE Manila market on food products continues without material change from conditions existing in January. Very considerable overstocks are still found in flour and canned fish. The situation has improved slightly on canned milk but local stocks are still more than ample. Stocks of all other food-stuffs are ample but not excessive.

Movement of stocks into consumption continues to decrease and there is no reason to anticipate a pick-up of any consequence for some time to come.

Considerable quantities of stocks in storage are held by entities insufficiently financed which are forced to liquidate stocks to meet commitments. This fact, coupled with the slackened consumer-buying has forced a certain decrease in prices, and importers in general are either moving their stocks at a loss or at an exceedingly small net profit.

## Textiles

By JAMES TRAYNOR

ALL importers of textiles report substantial losses on sales throughout the month of February. The inventories which increased so largely during January continue to increase due to the extremely

large arrivals during the month. Taking January and February arrivals together, yardage imported was approximately a 6-months' supply, based on the year 1941. This overstocked condition has caused the local market prices to decline sharply.

The situation is so serious that almost without exception importers stopped making new commitments and no new buying is expected for the next two months. Importers hope for an improvement which will bring their selling prices up to about cost, but this will take some time and it is expected that unsatisfactory conditions will prevail throughout the month of March.

## Legislation, Executive Orders, and Court Decisions

By EWALD E. SELPH  
Ross, Selph, Carrascoso & Janda

NUMEROUS bills have been introduced and are now pending in Congress which, if approved, will affect business and industry. Among them are the following:

*H.B. 2088* provides for firms which received war damage compensation, to pay all employees on full time basis on December 8, 1941, salaries and wages from January 1, 1942, to February 26, 1945, the total amount not to exceed one-half the amount received as war damage compensation.

*H.B. 2085* provides for such back pay by any commercial or industrial firm with a capital of not less than \$10,000 but does not limit the amount to one-half the war damage compensation.

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*H.B. 2217* provides for raising the specific tax to ₱6.00 per 1,000 on cigarettes mechanically packed regardless of manufacturer's or importer's wholesale price.

*H.B. 2222* provides for a more expeditious distribution of estates of deceased persons.

*H.B. 2228* provides for a permanent Code Commission to recommend revisions of all laws and to codify the same "in conformity with the customs, traditions, and idiosyncracies of the Filipino people and with the progressive principles of the science of law." It might be well to note that the present revised civil code now before Congress contains several provisions regarding labor which are different from the present labor laws. It also contains a revision of the liability of shipowners and other such carriers beyond the provisions of the Carriage of Goods by Sea Act and those of the Commercial Code.

*H.B. 2255* provides for making Batangas an additional port of entry and customs collection district; and *H.B. 2297* provides the same thing for Dumaguete.

*H.B. 2256* provides for amendment of the Court of Industrial Relations law reducing from 30 to 10, the number of laborers, in excess of which the Court of Industrial Relations shall have jurisdiction. *S.B. 366* to the same effect.

*H. B. 1375* has been reintroduced. It provides that "industrial enterprises shall share with their employees and laborers not less than 30% of the net profits set aside as dividends of capital invested in said enterprises, whether such dividends be in the form of stock or cash."

*S.B. 356* proposes to amend Act 3961 (Emergency Medical Treatment) by requiring the keeping of a stock of emergency medicines under the charge of a nurse whether there is a pharmacy in the neighborhood or not, if the number of permanent employees is not less than 30 nor more than 200, and there is no public free dispensary within one kilometer. If the number of employees is more than 200, the employment of a physician is required and the proposed amendment requires a nurse also.

*S.B. 349* proposes the prohibiting of the sale of the property or franchise, right, or privilege, or any part thereof, of any business enterprise employing 30 or more persons, without providing for retirement gratuities for laborers forced to retire, of not less than those provided in the Government's retirement laws.

*S.B. 371* proposes extension of the time provided by Republic Act 62 for reconstruction of corporate records, to December 31, 1949.

*S.B. 357* provides for requiring every physician, dentist, or nurse employed or contracted by any person or entity operating a shop, factory, or any commercial, industrial, or agricultural establishment to register with and secure a permit from the Department of Labor which must be renewed each year, and may be suspended for cause by the Secretary of Labor.

*S.B. 361* proposes to amend Republic Act 35 exempting new industries from internal revenue taxes, by providing that its benefits be extended to pre-war industries damaged during the war by not less than 50% of their value, for a period of 5 years from date of approval of the Act.

*S.B. 373* proposes that Congress create special taxes for a Social Security Fund to provide unemployment, sickness, maternity, and disability benefits, old age pensions, and public assistance to needy persons.

*S.B. 374* proposes the repeal of Commonwealth Act 600 (Emergency Powers of the President).

*S.B. 376* proposes prohibiting an employer from dominating or contributing financial or other support to any labor organization. This is aimed at so-called company unions.

Several bills are pending for nationalization of labor.

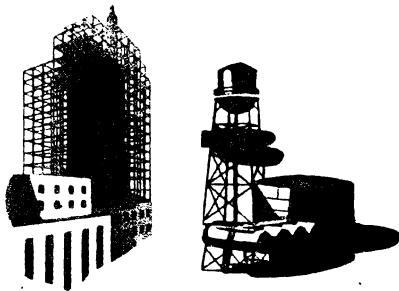
There is also pending a proposed concurrent resolution requesting that representations be made to the United States for reinstatement of the 2¢ per pound duty on coconut oil produced from copra not of Philippine origin.

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