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## Food Products

By G. L. MAGEE  
Trading Division

Marsman & Company, Inc.

ACCORDING to reliable estimates, between \$30,000,000 and \$40,000,000 were made available for the importation of foodstuffs during the second quarter of 1951, licenses for which were approved. Approximately 40% of the total provided for evaporated, condensed, natural, and powdered milk, 10% for rice, 7% for wheat flour, 13% for canned fish, 12% for canned meat products, 11% for coffee beans, all of which come under the commodities which have been decontrolled, while licenses for controlled commodities amounted to less than 5% of the total.

A considerable portion of this merchandise has already arrived and is rapidly moving into consumption. This applies especially to canned fish, milk, tinned meat, and coffee beans. There will be further heavy arrivals during July, with most of the rest due during August.

Beginning July 1, import licensing will be under the direction of a new Import Control Administration, provided for in legislation passed at the last session of the Philippine Congress. The new import control body is now in process of being organized; but until rules and regulations have been definitely promulgated, importers are not in a position to make commitments.

Milk products, both evaporated and condensed, are now in plentiful supply in the market, with most brands being offered at prices below PRISCO ceilings. Consumer demand, however, continues firm with indication that the country's total consumption will be above average. Retail milk prices have also declined, with the result that milk has become one of the best food values available to the general public.

Due to shortage of California supplies, importation of canned fish, especially sardines and pilchards, was in considerable lower volume than in previous months. Fairly adequate importations of Alaskan salmon arrived during the month, along with nominal quantities of squid, abalone, and other fish products. With the rainy season approaching, market stocks of all kinds of canned fish will be in more active demand with the prospect that wholesalers' prices will be firm.

Good quantities of canned meats, especially corned beef, Vienna sausage, and potted meats, arrived during the past month, and further stocks are on the way. Since the market has been bare of this merchandise for some time, demand is brisk; retailers have been short of these foods which are very salable during the rainy months.

PRISCO'S flour stocks acquired at International Wheat Agreement prices appear to be on the long side, with further arrivals due early July. In addition, purchases made by private importers at higher prices outside of IWA are also due in July and August. To facilitate the movement of flour more rapidly to consumers and bakers, PRISCO closed an arrangement with a group of Filipino businessmen to handle the flour sales on a commission basis. Similar methods are also being perfected in Cebu and Iloilo.

Flour importers who will now have flour purchased at the higher non-IWA prices are concerned over PRISCO'S failure thus far to permit higher ceiling prices. As far as American brands are concerned, the present ceiling will not permit a profit on these higher-priced importations.

Beginning August 1, it will again be possible to buy flour under the terms of the International Wheat Agreement. While it is likely that business will be channeled through private importers, probably on a quota basis, no procedure for licensing has yet been announced.

It is estimated that flour supplies on hand or to arrive will amply take care of the country's requirements for 8 to 10 weeks. Consequently, buying under new IWA prices may be deferred.

Since the country's rice production will be insufficient for normal needs, importation of this cereal will shortly be arranged. PRISCO will complete contracts soon, involving an expenditure of more than \$3,000,000.

The country's requirements for foodstuffs, both locally produced and imported, are at present more adequately covered than has been the case for some months. While many luxury items may be lacking, the prime necessities will be available throughout the country at reasonable prices to the consumer.

## Textiles

By W. V. SAUSSOTTE  
General Manager  
Neuss, Hesselein Co., Inc.

**T**HE new import control law, Republic Act No. 650, became effective on July 1 and in accordance with certain provisions thereof, PRISCO and the old Import Control Administration were divested of their licensing authority as of the 30th of June.

Republic Act No. 650 provides that all imports which previously were decontrolled by Executive Orders will continue to be decontrolled. All other imports are considered as "controlled" and are divided into essential and non-essential imports. Essential imports are those which appear in Appendix A of Republic Act No. 650, whereas non-essential imports are those which do not appear in Appendix A or which are not decontrolled. On July 2 the Monetary Board of the Central Bank allocated to the new Import Control Commission \$94,000,000 for essential imports and \$43,000,000 for non-essential imports to cover the period from July 1 to December 31 of this year. The status of most textile items under the new import control regulations is at present uncertain because the contents of Appendix A, in its final form, still have not been determined by the import control authorities. Clarification is expected sometime during the middle of July.

Due to the liberal licensing of decontrolled textile items by PRISCO during the month of June, local prices have dropped on an average of about 40% from their previous highs and in some instances the drop has been as much as 50%.

During June arrivals from the United States total 6,110 packages, including 1,430 packages of cotton piece goods and 440 packages of rayon piece goods. Included also were 1,470 packages of cotton seine twine and wrapping twine, and 198 packages of cotton sewing thread. Arrivals of all textiles from other countries, including made-up-goods, consisted of 1,485 packages from Japan, 137 from China, 162 from Europe, and 814 from India, the latter consisting entirely of Hessian cloth and Fiji cloth.

June's total arrivals from all sources amounted to 8,708 packages, representing approximately half of May's arrivals. This reduction in comparison with May's arrivals, is normal in that June and July are "off-season" as far as the local textile market is concerned and importers generally do not buy for arrival during these months excepting for staple items.



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