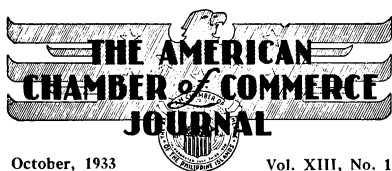


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New Coconut Oil Scare: Bulletin Editorial

By ROY C. BENNETT

In the "Manila Daily Bulletin," October 3

If the Philippines presses its case against the proposed American marketing agreement which would bar Philippine coconut oil from oleomargarine manufactured and sold in the United States there is little chance that it ever will become effective or even receive favorable consideration by the administration. However, the recurrence of unfair and discriminatory proposals of this character is disconcerting to trade, extremely harmful to business in its present critical stage.

To give favorable consideration to any such proposal the administration would have to reverse itself on the stand it has taken so far in demanding a square deal for the Philippines and Philippine products. Furthermore it would have to betray the underlying principles in the free trade arrangement and thereby invite a slap in the face for American products entering the Philippines. The adoption of rules such as those which the oleomargarine manufacturers are reported to have proposed would disarm the American defenses which have withstood discriminatory action in the Philippines against American imports.

So far there is no reason to jump at the assumption that the administration will reverse itself and betray the flag. There is no more reason to assume that the proposal will be approved than there is to assume that a lot of the proposals made here for booting American goods will be enacted into law or otherwise officially approved. However, if the matter is allowed to rest on the assumption that there is no danger it is possible that the proposed ban might slip through, the sponsors of it winning their point by default of Philippine representatives.

Philippine coconut oil interests are perfectly right in taking immediate steps to get their case in form for presentation in imposing fashion.

It should be remembered that it was an eleventh hour burst of activity which saved the coconut oil interests from a severe slap from the state of California, a slap which would have taxed oleomargarine containing Philippine oil from the markets of that state. Even though it is a self-evident fact that all arguments of fairness are on the side of the Philippines,

notwithstanding the fact that the course of action of the administration promises support for the Philippine product in fair competition on the American markets, it is not safe to take too much for granted and leave everything to providence.

There ought to be some way in which concerted action could bring an official pronouncement pledging the territories under the flag a square deal, marketing quotas or no marketing quotas, industrial recovery act or no industrial recovery act. It is time that it be known that Philippine commercial interests are tired of the disordering influence of proposals of this character.

It is hardly to be expected that we should be given a blanket promise of extra liberality or generosity. That cannot be expected and is not asked. But it is reasonable to expect and only fair to ask that the principles of free trade will be applied with mutual fairness.

A pronouncement which promises that should stop efforts at discriminatory measures at either end of the line, should have a definitely reassuring influence on trade on both sides of the Pacific and across the Pacific.

No. 591.—OLEOMARGARINE: PRODUCTION AND MATERIALS USED

NOTE:—All figures in thousands of pounds. Figures for production by kind of oil used are as reported to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Department of Agriculture, while other production figures are as reported to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue for taxation purposes. Colored oleomargarine is taxed 10 cents per pound; uncolored, 1/4 cent per pound.

Year ended June 30	Oleomargarine production			District or internal	Year ended June 30			
	Total	Colored	Uncolored		1928	1929	1930	1931
1911	121,169	3,831	115,332					
1912	125,601	6,236	122,365					
1913	145,228	6,520	138,707	California	20,972	37,444	38,823	31,049
1914	144,021	6,384	137,637	Colorado	1,026	1,102	1,619	855
1915	145,810	7,305	138,513	Illinois	140,882	153,044	157,555	120,422
1916	125,510	6,749	118,761	Indiana	3,482	3,516	4,369	3,914
1917	283,170	8,012	225,158	Kansas	20,482	20,298	24,410	18,790
1918	326,529	6,505	319,934	Maryland	7,234	9,022	8,820	6,120
1919	350,217	13,849	345,368	Massachusetts	3,100	3,068	3,462	2,391
1920	791,280	15,024	775,556	Michigan	825	4,364	6,374	8,657
1921	281,682	11,601	269,481	Minnesota	1,840	3,510	2,769	1,731
1922	190,950	6,604	184,346	Missouri	11,848	11,247	12,735	10,786
1923	209,182	8,200	200,922	Nebraska	2,657	3,208	2,800	2,181
1924	239,699	11,548	229,151	New Jersey	28,073	32,123	31,471	24,534
1925	215,403	11,290	204,123	Ohio	25,459	31,262	31,523	29,074
1926	248,047	13,181	234,866	Oregon	7,909	8,431	4,224	2,669
1927	257,137	14,502	242,635	Rhode Island	828	777	1,074	710
1928	294,099	15,351	278,748	Texas	3,025	3,807	4,845	3,410
1929	353,122	16,308	336,814	Wisconsin	9,051	8,571	9,191	5,886
1930	349,124	17,403	332,021	Other	2,305	2,177	3,531	4,724
1931	277,773	8,847	268,926					
Total	311,755	13,608	298,147					
Combined animal and vegetable oil	95,876	8,859	87,017					
Exclusively vegetable oil	215,879	4,749	211,130					
1931	221,953	6,146	215,807					
Combined animal and vegetable oil	56,872	3,906	52,876					
Exclusively vegetable oil	165,081	2,150	162,931					

U. S. Statistical Abstract: 1932
 1 Calendar year.
 Source: Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Treasury Department, and Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Department of Agriculture.