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Imports

By S. SCHMELKES

The Robot Statistics (Mercantile, Inc.)

FOLLOWING are the import figures, in the usual categories, for December, 1954, and December, 1953, and for the years 1953 and 1954. All the figures are in kilos, with the exception of those for foodstuffs which are given in package units.

Commodities	December	December	Year	Year
	1954	1953	1953	1954
Automotive (Total)	3,015,680	1,784,041	21,473,451	27,477,034
Automobiles.....	160,617	145,102	2,589,722	2,948,177
Auto Parts.....	118,937	362,045	3,224,414	2,993,253
Bicycles.....	405	12,019	70,172	64,241
Trucks.....	12,617	79,979	2,172,307	1,663,507
Truck Chassis.....	752,696	247,733	6,760,265	6,797,998
Truck Parts.....	981,161	47,653	807,045	3,808,627
Building Materials (Total) ..	15,669,064	4,702,093	76,265,012	116,948,895
Board Fibre.....	—	20,930	563,361	126,989
Cement.....	11,106,141	161,024	26,588,686	61,804,733
Glass Window.....	222,649	1,199,985	6,512,843	8,821,613
Gypsum.....	—	—	63,503	2,579,591
Chemicals (Total)	9,702,102	12,332,138	118,424,976	85,894,679
Caustic Soda.....	355,583	813,115	6,503,818	7,198,498
Explosives (Total)	—	111,226	395,642	1,196,445
Firearms (Total)	5,050	8,750	98,921	118,367
Ammunition.....	83	4,072	74,909	70,948
Hardware (Total)	6,705,164	4,023,692	49,448,127	69,959,484
Households (Total).....	888,487	1,454,815	16,009,596	11,388,574
Machinery (Total).....	1,952,365	2,213,443	26,523,325	30,619,188
Metals (Total)	12,410,639	12,981,453	127,469,169	137,665,979
Petroleum Products (Total) ..	45,726,894	68,540,256	940,523,330	907,762,551
Radio (Total).....	37,066	42,202	476,080	488,184
Rubber Goods (Total)	967,132	1,130,385	12,240,272	10,732,688
Beverages, Misc. Alcoholic (Total)	5,506	4,613	55,000	73,293
Foodstuffs, Total Kilos	48,421,595	24,767,101	285,686,184	330,529,786
Foodstuffs, Fresh (Total) ...	101,964	159,459	852,688	682,914
Apples.....	26,202	22,785	136,763	121,246
Oranges.....	20,259	11,986	167,830	128,076
Onions.....	5,500	55,970	213,916	108,276
Potatoes.....	—	34,217	87,877	9,606
Foodstuffs, Dry Packaged (Total)	28,391	31,078	349,502	262,190
Foodstuffs, Canned (Total) ..	405,607	279,324	3,961,926	4,868,506
Sardines.....	35,628	1,891	165,871	326,289
Milk Evaporated.....	179,391	133,127	1,698,275	1,960,955
Milk Condensed.....	26,873	8,812	313,034	305,609
Foodstuffs, Bulk (Total)	795,367	463,262	5,625,411	6,570,566
Rice.....	264,746	—	101	319,756
Wheat Flour.....	477,552	388,077	4,983,501	5,606,043
Foodstuffs, Preserved (Total) ..	1,939	914	23,692	9,124
Bottling, Misc. (Total)	385,091	623,161	11,519,803	9,270,907
Cleansing & Laundry (Total) ..	112,587	104,885	1,182,146	1,478,604
Entertainment Equipment (Total) ..	901	268	96,839	54,577
Livestocks-bulbs-seeds (Total) ..	22,708	136,748	2,276,181	2,707,278
Medicals (Total).....	627,986	493,068	7,854,296	9,184,906
Musicals (Total).....	50,290	64,432	556,422	3,038,886
Office Equipment (Total)....	90,255	47,523	623,383	1,086,509
Office Supplies (Total).....	74,408	45,381	503,227	494,157
Paper (Total)	7,447,095	5,708,910	73,216,763	65,202,659
Photographic Materials (Total) ..	38,882	20,689	536,162	579,711
Raw Materials (Total)	110,700	1,767,424	26,273,037	11,761,645
Sporting Goods (Total).....	25,214	14,118	195,610	295,015
Stationery (Total).....	231,045	221,797	3,511,409	2,936,485
Tobacco (Total)	176,170	769,658	13,158,957	9,150,465
Chucheria (Total)	136,217	143,225	14,554,699	1,175,460
Clothing Apparel (Total)....	467,063	704,404	6,896,950	4,159,764
Cosmetics (Total).....	22,229	24,821	612,195	280,185
Fabrics (Total)	1,530,112	635,031	10,308,601	7,414,914
Jewelry (Total).....	613	297	877	3,679
Leather (Total).....	292,585	226,481	2,239,899	2,564,705
Textiles (Total).....	5,211,186	3,500,324	41,391,270	44,484,307
Twine (Total).....	88,367	64,007	811,510	938,208
Toys (Total)	8,718	173,172	692,620	414,996
General Merchandise (Total) ..	2,444,179	1,734,010	9,461,070	17,647,982
Non-Coml. Shipments (Total) ..	172,429	109,375	1,253,430	1,576,615
Advertising Materials, Etc. (Total)	16,860	23,217	299,481	3,592,078

Food Products

By C. G. HERDMAN

Vice-President, Marsman & Company, Inc.

IT was reported in this column last month that regulations had been issued so as to effect implementation of the "Cassava Law," which requires importers of wheat flour to secure certificates from PRISCO

as to their individual purchases of cassava flour before commercial banks may establish the corresponding letters of credit to permit the purchase and shipment of wheat flour. Up to the end of January and probably for a good part at least of the month of February, it has been difficult if not impossible for importers to secure the cassava flour as obligated. To permit the regular importations of wheat flour to continue and to avoid the shortage which might otherwise result, PRISCO has been accepting affidavits from flour importers to the effect that they will purchase and have available the necessary cassava flour upon arrival in the Philippines of their purchases of wheat flour. With this cooperation from PRISCO, it has been possible for importers to place their orders in the full quantity authorized for shipment during the first two periods of the present semester. Supplies of flour on hand in the Philippines are more than ample for immediate requirements, and business booked during December and January insures that ample stocks will be available throughout March at least.

It was reported in the newspapers, the middle of January, that a resolution decontrolling the importations of wheat flour had been passed by the Monetary Board of the Central Bank, but up to this date there has been no public announcement by the Central Bank on this subject, nor has the notice customary in such cases been furnished by the Central Bank to the commercial banks.

Decontrol of imports of wheat flour is greatly to be desired for the benefit of the consuming public in general. Restriction on imports has created at times an artificial shortage or semi-shortage, and has tended to keep flour prices to consumers materially higher than would be the case if flour were decontrolled. It is true that there have been some price reductions in flour in the local market during recent months, but these were due in a large degree to reductions in costs of the flour in the countries of origin. Decontrol of flour would inevitably result in lower prices to bakeries and consequently lower prices of bakery-products to consumers.

It was also reported that the Monetary Board has decontrolled the importations of evaporated and sweetened condensed milk, powdered whole milk, and powdered skimmed milk. It is to be hoped that the Monetary Board will also decontrol all essential imported food staples, such as canned fish, canned meats, fresh frozen beef and veal, rolled oats, etc. Experience has shown, in the case of canned milk when it was decontrolled some three years ago, that the dollar allocations provided to cover such imports were no greater than when the controls were exercised; however, prices to consumers were consistently maintained at much lower levels.

Stocks of canned fish throughout the Philippines seem to be sufficient for the present. No further quantities of sardines can be secured from California before August or September, and experience of the last few years would indicate that the probability of supplies in volume from California, even late in the year, is most unlikely. Importers will have to secure supplies from Japan or South Africa. It is not anticipated that there will be any shortage of supplies, as ample stocks would seem to be available from both the latter sources.

There are also ample stocks on hand at present of the various types of canned milk, canned meats, etc., and above average stocks of imported canned fruits and vegetables. Fresh fruits and vegetables are plentiful in the local market, with the exception of potatoes and onions which are only available in small quantities and at very high prices. Onions are presently selling for ₱2 a kilo. PRISCO has contracted for considerable quantities of onions from the United States which will be arriving early in February, when local prices will undoubtedly drop to less than half of today's quotation.

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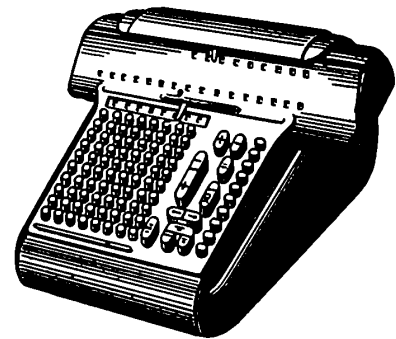


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The American Chamber of Commerce

JOURNAL

A highly functional publication,—
every part of which is specifically
designed to assist the businessman
and, more generally, to promote
the economic interests of
the Philippines

MONEY in circulation particularly in the provincial districts is apparently very short. Wholesalers are experiencing more and more difficulty each month in effecting collections from their provincial customers.

Textiles

By A. MARGOLLES
General Manager
Neuss, Hesslein Co., Inc.

JANUARY has witnessed a worsening of conditions in the local textile market, there being very little movement of goods and prices decreasing substantially.

One of the main reasons for the present situation is the large volume of credit outstandings still unfulfilled and the acute cash shortage. The speculation on war-moves in nearby areas, added to some reported failures, has brought about greater caution on the part of importers and wholesalers, and the whole market is in a state of semi-inactivity.

The nearby outlook for an improvement in the present dull conditions does not seem promising.

Contrary to the local situation, the New York market has remained strong and some small price-advances have taken place, particularly in knitting yarns.

The Far East Conference Shipping Lines have announced an increase of about 10% in ocean freight rates, operative from the 1st of May, 1955. This is viewed as a very unwelcome move throughout the trade.

Arrivals from the United States totaled 20,796 packages, of which 9,218 were cotton piece goods, 2,016 rayon piece goods, 3,118 cotton pound goods, 1,641 rayon pound goods, and 2,424 yarns.

From other sources there arrived a total of 6,044 packages, of which 4,457 came from Japan, 768 from Hongkong, and 819 from Europe.

Legislation, Executive Orders, and Court Decisions

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

AMONG the bills introduced in the present Congress but not yet acted upon are the following:

H. B. No. 2762 would add "cement factories" to section 189 of the National Internal Revenue Code which taxes rice mills, sugar centrals, rope mills, etc. (This seeks to reduce the tax on cement.)

H. B. No. 2756 would, it is hoped, contribute to government efforts to bring all privately owned land under the Torrens System, by providing for proper recording of transactions affecting unregistered lands.

H. B. No. 2602 is an act to facilitate entry of American traders, a counterpart to the United States law adopted last year for Philippine traders.

H. B. No. 2610 seeks to limit to 10 years, leases to aliens, of public or private agricultural lands.

H. B. No. 2611 would increase the penalty for death caused by violation of the Revised Motor Vehicle Act.

H. B. No. 2616 would provide for the installation of governors limiting the maximum speed of motor vehicles to 50 kilometers per hour.

H. B. No. 2679 would provide for a 5-day, 40-hour week for government offices.

H. B. No. 2696 would require every taxpayer to secure an annual tax clearance which must be presented when executing a document before a notary, or obtaining any license or permit, or money from any public fund.

H. B. No. 2736 would provide for regular wage payment to laborers for holidays not worked, and for holidays worked, double pay.

H. B. No. 2705 would extend the Price Control Act to June 30, 1956.

H. B. No. 2546 would ease the present restrictions on retail trade.

H. B. No. 2547 would authorize the President to increase or decrease customs duties within certain limits.