

Textiles

BY JAMES TRAYNOR

THE textile market during January continued to be sluggish. Importers report sales to be fairly large but the offtake did not keep up with arrivals so that inventories continued to increase.

Arrivals during the month were estimated to be about 20% greater than during December, all of which came from the United States with the exception of several hundred cases from Shanghai early in the month. These are probably the last we will see from Shanghai until conditions in that city stabilize.

Food Products

By C. G. HERDMAN
Director, Trading Division
Marsman & Company, Inc.

THE depression in the local market for imported foodstuffs which was noted at the beginning of January still continues. In fact, the situation is more aggravated now than at that time. The market is very seriously overstocked on flour. Quantities in storage in Manila and known to be arriving on nearby steamers are sufficient to satisfy all local requirements until the latter part of April, at least, and we are approaching the season of smallest consumption.

On canned milk, while conditions are not quite as serious, stocks on hand throughout the market are more than ample and those holding stocks, as in the case of flour, are selling at cost or below in an endeavor

to secure movement.

The third important staple item here in imported foodstuffs is canned fish. Here again stocks are well above normal and the demand is very poor. Stocks are passing only slowly into consumption. The situation is not serious for those importers who are adequately financed and have sufficient storage space. As the fishing season on the United States Pacific Coast has finished, stocks available for purchase there are very small and there will be no further catch of sardines until July at the earliest and probably the middle of August. In the meantime, replacement-cost of canned fish has advanced materially. Those importers who can hold their canned fish for a reasonable period of time should have no difficulty later in realizing a fair profit on their stock. At the moment practically all varieties of canned fish are selling at a loss or actual cost and far below replacement-cost.

Canned meat stocks are only normal and the demand is fairly brisk at reasonable prices. Exports from the United States require export license and quantities available are thereby limited. There is a steady, good demand for all varieties of canned meat, and this applies as well to canned soups.

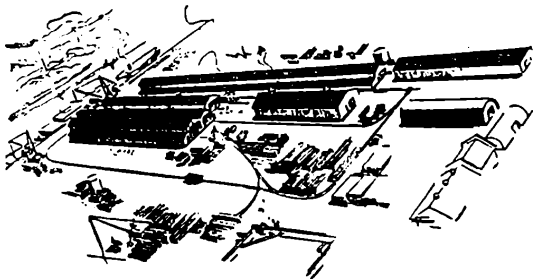
Arrivals of both fresh and dried fruits have been large but are not excessive and both are moving into consumption at a fairly rapid rate at prices which permit of a fair return to the importer. Canned fruit stocks, likewise, are normal and moving in fair volume.

Canned vegetable importations have been somewhat heavier than usual and stocks are above normal. We are now entering the season of smallest demand and sales of canned vegetables should be very slow for some time to come.

... to meet modern plant requirements—

Present day competition demands that your business reduce its cost of production in order to maintain competitive pricing and profits. Profitable production depends on the efficiency, speed and economy of modern plant and modern equipment. We invite you to share our facilities and experience as designers, engineers, contractors... and as machinery and equipment specialists on industrial, public utility, mining, sugar manufacturing, irrigation and drainage projects... including air conditioning, refrigeration, light and power plant installations.

We are also construction engineers and contractors of steel structures for buildings, bridges and steel tanks.



Over 10,000 sq. meters of engineering machine and foundry shops... Big enough to handle any size of job... Completely equipped to handle any type of operation.

Operating:
MACHINE SHOPS
FOR MANUFACTURE & REPAIRS
FOUNDRY FOR
CAST IRON,
BRASS & BRONZE
STRUCTURAL
STEEL SHOPS
MARINE REPAIR
SHOPS
OIL LOADING FACILITIES
WOOD PRESERVING
PLANT

FOR 48 YEARS THE GREATEST NAME IN ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION

ATLANTIC, GULF & PACIFIC COMPANY OF MANILA

Merchandise Sales Div. — Robert Dollar Bldg.
Muelle del San Francisco & 23rd St., Port Area
Tels: 2-83-64 • 2-84-82

Engineering Div. & Shops:
Punta, Santa Ana, Manila
Tels: 6-72-31 • 6-76-82

Business in general in food products is very quiet and it is unlikely there will be any material improvement in the near future.

Legislation, Executive Orders, and Court Decisions

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

DURING the year 1948 only a few decisions of the Court of Industrial Relations reached the Supreme Court.

In Case L-1557, January 29, 1948, the CIR ordered the reinstatement of an employee, stating that the prolonged suspension was sufficient punishment. In affirming this decision the Supreme Court said there was no question of law involved and that the Supreme Court would not review a decision on a question of fact except in an evident case of abuse or the absence of evidence to support the judgment.

The Supreme Court, however, stated that the right of an employer to select or discharge his employees is subject to regulation by the State in the exercise of its police power; that while an employer cannot legally be compelled to continue in his employment any person who is guilty of bad conduct when such continuance may be prejudicial to the interests of the employer, because the law in protecting the rights of the laborer, does not authorize the oppression or destruction of the employer, it is however clear that there are cases in which the suspension or discharge of an employee may be capricious, unjustified, or illegal, in which case the laborer ought to be protected by the State by means of the agency designated by law for the purpose, which in such case is the Court of Industrial Relations.

* * * *

In Case 48411, February 24, 1948, the Supreme Court said that whether a company is an industrial organization, taking into consideration its purpose and activities which can only be determined by evidence, is a question of fact, and that only questions of law may be raised on an appeal.

The Court also said agreements for work seven days a week on a monthly salary basis without any extra pay for holidays and overtime, are contrary to law and null and void.

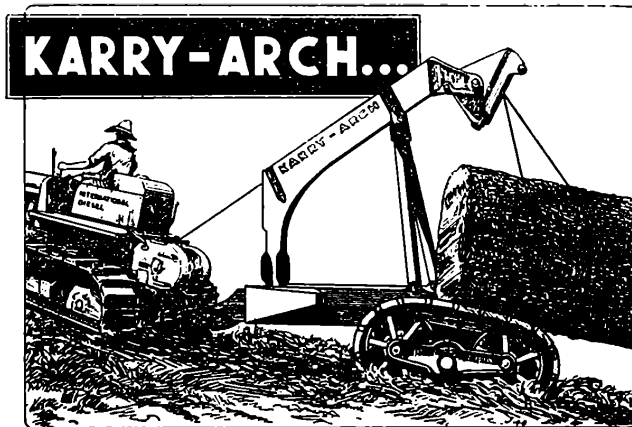
* * * *

In Case L-1573, March 29, 1948, the Court had before it an objection to an order of the CIR compelling the strikers to return to work. The laborers claimed the order was unconstitutional and was in violation of the prohibition against involuntary servitude. The Supreme Court said that any employee entering into a contract of employment under the present law, voluntarily accepts the condition that in case of disputes the CIR may proceed in accordance with the law, and that the section of the law authorizing the CIR to make such an order does not offend against the constitutional inhibition against involuntary servitude. The Court also said the public has an interest in preventing undue stoppage or paralyzation of the wheels of industry.

* * * *

In Case L-1668, March 29, 1948, the Supreme Court reaffirmed the power of the CIR to enjoin strikes and lockouts and said:

for **HIGH SPEED LOGGING...**



Modernize your Logging Methods...

You can increase your output three times over ground skidding methods with an Isaacson Karry-Arch.

Economy of Operation...

The use of Karry-Arches is the modern method of speeding-up production. You finish a job sooner, get a quick start on another and increase profits at each and every step.

Isaacson Karry-Arches are available for immediate delivery for International TD-14, TD-18 and TD-24 crawler tractors already equipped with winches.

**INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER COMPANY
 OF PHILIPPINES**

154 MARQUES DE COMILLAS, MANILA

INTERNATIONAL TRUCKS AND BUSES
 McCORMICK-DEERING INTERNATIONAL
 TRACTORS AND FARM EQUIPMENT
 INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRIAL POWER