

were 25,027 bales—up 9,941 bales from November and up 9,091 bales from December, 1948.

Total pressings for 1949 were 513,720 bales or 63,744 bales less than in 1948 and 273,045 bales less than in 1947. The decline in balings in 1949 from balings in 1948 results from a decrease of 81,708 bales in the pressings of Non-Davao hemp as against an increase of 17,964 bales in the pressings of Davao hemp.

Tobacco

By **LUIS A. PUJALTE**

Secretary-Treasurer, Manila Tobacco Association

THE local tobacco industry is again coming to life with the expansion of the manufacture of Virginia-type cigarettes. Capital appears eager to go into this promising field and new factories are already opening. It is important, however, that all those who enter it give careful attention to the quality of the cigarettes they will put out. So far, the main effort has been concentrated on producing low-priced products, when a medium- and high-quality Virginia-type cigarette would have been as profitable and perhaps more so.

I said in my previous article that the tobacco industry had been greatly neglected by the Government, and one form of this neglect is the apparent indifference of the authorities to the need of stamping out the illicit manufacture of tobacco products. This illicit manufacture was negligible before the war, but became an industry during the Japanese occupation and has since persisted. It constitutes a great detriment to bonafide manufacturers not only because of the big tax-differential they have to overcome in competing with the illicit manufacturers but because in many cases even their brands are imitated. It is estimated that the Government has annually been

losing around ₱3,000,000 in tax revenue on this account, and unless something is done about the matter, the loss will become much greater because the import control is naturally resulting in increased activity on the part of these illicit as well as the legitimate manufacturers.

A few weeks ago, manufacturers were asked to attend a hearing at the Department of Finance on a proposal to increase the specific tax on cigarettes in order to help meet the decrease in revenue from imported cigarettes. The local manufacturers voiced their old grievance as to the rampant illicit manufacture and pointed out that though they were not in principle opposed to a just and equitable increase in this tax, if this were resorted to without first eradicating the illicit manufacture, it would make this even more profitable than it is now. The higher tax-rate might well result in the total ruin of legitimate manufacturers and bring about still greater government revenue losses instead of an increase in revenue.

The Government should take decisive action in this matter of suppressing the illicit manufacture, in its own direct interest as well as in the interest of law-abiding and tax-paying industrialists and thousands of workers. At present, only the illicit manufacturer, like the "boot-legger" of prohibition times, stands to gain by any hasty move of the Government in raising the tax-rate.

NOTE:—Malabon and Calococan, both very near Manila, are said to be the main centers of the illicit cigarette manufacture.

Imports

By **LOUIS S. KRAEMER**

Vice-President, Mercantile, Inc.

THE New York *Journal of Commerce* on January 19, 1950, carried an article on Philippine Import Control which, in part, ran as follows:

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"The underlying factors which brought about the predicament of the Philippines in respect to its trade position are varied and complex, E. F. Koch, vice president, Philippine American Chamber of Commerce, yesterday told the annual meeting of the association.

"Regardless of the causes, he stated, we are facing an extremely confused situation which has for the present at least undermined confidence in the Philippines as an attractive field for the investment of capital and for other commercial operations. The mere removal of recently invoked controls and a flexible attitude on the part of the Philippine Government toward such liberal modifications as may be justified will be of some temporary help.

"The basic need is further constructive long-range planning in which both the Philippines and the United States should participate, including representatives of business from both countries. A more favorable climate should be created in the Philippines to attract the investment of private capital."

The writer through the nature of his business, is in constant touch with many of Manila's leading businessmen and has at no time heard anyone scoff at the necessity of controls of some sort, at least temporarily, as all are aware that a nation cannot exist on an economy where the imports exceed the exports by two to one.

It has recently become apparent that Government officials are coming to the realization that the suggestions and recommendations of businessmen are not altogether selfish and are beginning to gradually revise the various regulations in accordance with recommendations which have been made. It appears to be only now realized that import and export trade is a highly specialized business and that the repercussions of artificial controls are felt way beyond the Manila waterfront in so far as the trade is concerned and are felt way beyond the trade in so far as national prestige and economic stability are concerned.

Fundamentally, the Philippines is a very wealthy country in natural resources and in potentialities of agricultural production. It is hoped that the negative approach toward a balanced economy through import controls will be replaced by the positive approach of increased export-production and production for domestic use.

In substantiating the possibilities of thus offsetting imports, we give the following figures covering certain commodities which, in time, and if the proper effort were made, could just as well be produced in the Philippines in sufficient quantities for home consumption and even additional quantities for export.

	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	1949 Total
Fresh Eggs (chicken and duck) cases	117,105	87,155	72,790	73,733	350,783
Fresh Fish m/tons	102	21	12	36	170
Fresh Potatoes "	3,171	2,114	2,705	3,120	11,110
Fresh Carrots "	5	2	11	24	41
Fresh Cauliflower "	7	6	10	12	34
Fresh Garlic "	102	613	705	631	2,051
Pkgd. Peanuts "	43	46	18	—	107
Pkgd. Salt "	10	30	33	46	120
Bulk Salt "	1,198	300	175	147	1,819
Bulk Coffee Beans "	2,540	556	1,200	1,881	6,176
Bulk Rice "	114	30,287	62,848	34,864	128,113
Bulk Corn "	138	14	48	34	23
Bulk Peanuts "	1	18	14	4	34

ALL figures shown below are in kilos with the exception of foodstuffs which are given in package units (except the figure for the total).

Commodities	December	December
	1949	1948
Automotive (Total)	1,300,331	3,217,601
Automobiles	402,882	1,296,401
Auto Accessories	4,469	19,089
" Parts	318,622	331,411
Bicycles	93,087	32,844
Trucks	27,963	9,252
Truck Chassis	229,446	465,700
Building Materials (Total)	24,486,545	17,781,791
Board, Fibre	185,259	178,504
Cement	20,321,593	14,217,193

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Fixtures, Bathroom and Kitchen...	372,640	928,908	Paper (Total)	5,375,132	3,243,480	
Glass Misc.....	43,063	433,913	Photographic (Total)	81,710	47,352	
Plumbing Misc.....	32,528	77,801	Sporting Goods (Total)	58,820	51,563	
Chemicals, (Total).....	10,474,703	10,519,864	Stationery (Total)	428,315	220,833	
Caustic Soda.....	930,897	561,993	Tobacco (Total)	1,606,405	2,447,541	
Explosives (Total).....	25,587	25,891	Chucheria (Total).....	205,459	149,287	
Firearms, NOS (Total).....	16,437	38,581	Clothing Apparel (Total).....	(Including men's, women's and children's).....	552,505	681,283
Ammunition.....	9,699	27,442	Cosmetics (Total).....	73,908	358,397	
Hardware (Total).....	6,220,499	4,779,146	Fabrics (Total).....	455,250	1,082,184	
Household (Total).....	2,694,251	3,171,443	Jewelry (Total).....	52	284	
Machinery (Total).....	2,029,009	1,733,688	Leather (Total).....	257,530	270,958	
Metals (Total).....	11,244,256	7,892,589	Textiles (Total).....	5,584,147	4,527,003	
Petroleum Products (Total).....	92,406,798	95,049,656	Twine (Total).....	161,466	36,416	
Radios (Total).....	137,067	99,336	Toys (Total).....	149,825	189,936	
Rubber Goods (Total).....	1,106,441	858,334	General Merchandise (Total).....	870,016	393,203	
Beverages, Misc. Alcoholic.....	26,585	40,134	Non-Commercial Shipments (Total).....	52,038	86,536	
Foodstuffs, (Total kilos).....	39,600,707	40,888,957	Advertising Materials, Etc. (Total).....	997,034	544,775	
Foodstuffs, NOS (Total).....	30,419	14,362				
Foodstuffs, Fresh (Total).....	271,296	301,219				
Apples.....	100,915	69,046				
Oranges.....	11,749	50,958				
Onions.....	20,992	44,142				
Potatoes.....	30,844	18,293				
Foodstuffs, Dry Packaged (Total).....	111,219	158,889				
Foodstuffs, Canned (Total).....	620,317	378,099				
Sardines.....	203,447	41,826				
Milk, Evaporated.....	133,792	111,532				
Milk, Condensed.....	25,600	19,500				
Foodstuffs, Bulk (Total).....	504,484	524,718				
Rice.....	37,594	71,897				
Wheat Flour.....	404,568	345,114				
Foodstuffs, Preserved (Total).....	3,955	3,728				
Bottling, Misc. (Total).....	1,649,544	1,723,580				
Unit — 129,798 (1948)						
Unit — 127,955 (1949)						
Christmas Decorations (Total).....	7,181	31,232				
Cleaning and Laundry (Total).....	565,085	934,019				
Entertainment Equipment (Total).....	11,912	14,823				
Livestock — Bulbs — Seeds (Total).....	3,727	22,662				
Medical (Total).....	600,903	365,747				
Musical (Total).....	222,589	122,784				
Office Equipment (Total).....	215,375	219,792				
Office Supplies (Total).....	120,796	47,756				

—Robot Statistics

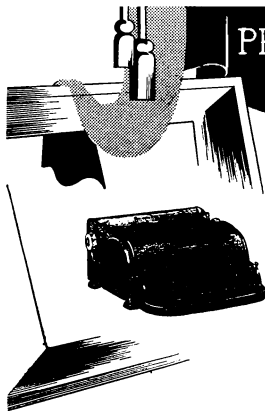
Food Products

By MORTON HEARN
Getz Bros. & Co., Inc.

JANUARY saw a steady increase in retail prices of imported food items, due to importers' inability to replenish their dwindling stocks and consumers' overbuying against shortages. Import houses reported a heavy reduction in inventories despite rationing to dealers.

The two items most seriously affected were milk and coffee. Pricewise, milk did not advance as rapidly as other consumer goods, but stocks became quickly exhausted. Coffee, reacting to high Stateside prices, increased in cost at retail stores and the choice of brands became very much restricted.

Tinned fruits have become particularly scarce, as did also fresh oranges and apples. Fresh Stateside vegetables



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