

tons, as compared with 9,256,000 tons last year. As yields were exceptionally favorable last year, a reduction for 1951 was not unexpected. Russia's 1951 production is estimated at 2,300,000 metric tons, as compared with 2,180,000 tons last year.

**Mexican Production.** The latest estimate of 1951 production is 670,000 metric tons, as compared with 585,000 tons for 1950. It is reported that production may reach 750,000 tons in 1952. It is too early to say how much, if any, of the 1952 production would be made available for export after taking care of domestic needs which are estimated at 680,000 tons.

1952 United States Consumption Quota. Hearings on the 1952 sugar requirements will be held at the U. S. Department of Agriculture on November 29.

## Tobacco

By LUIS A. PUJALTE  
Secretary-Treasurer

Manila Tobacco Association, Inc.

RUSH tax-legislation, not critically analyzed and studied, always leaves loopholes which are taken advantage of first by a few of the wide-awake, then by others, to the detriment of the national economy. During the past three years we have had considerable of this type of legislation rushed through Congress which has repeatedly had to be amended. A good example is the law placing a specific tax on cigarettes, which, if I am not mistaken, has been amended at least three times, and awaits still another amendment because of an error in the descriptive classification. The intention of the latest amendment was to levy a tax of ₱10 per thousand on cigarettes manufactured with imported Virginia Bright Leaf. The description in this case was correct, but the description of cigarettes manufactured from local dark leaf was not clear, and since cigarettes made from local leaf are wrapped in a label only, without tinfoil or cellophane, and are not packed in cartons or covered with paraffin or waxed paper, the following description was used for qualifying a product for the minimum tax:

"And provided further, That on all cigarettes of eighty millimeters or less in length not wrapped in tinfoil or cellophane nor packed in cartons or covered with paraffin or wax paper, a tax of three pesos and five centavos per thousand shall be collected if the wholesale price, less the amount of the tax, does not exceed five pesos per thousand, and a tax of eight pesos per thousand shall be collected if the wholesale price, less the amount of the tax, exceeds five pesos per thousand, but the tax shall be increased by fifty per centum per thousand if such cigarettes are more than eighty millimeters in length.

Seven or eight months ago, a manufacturer studied the law carefully and then started making and selling a low-grade Virginia-type cigarette following the description of the cigarettes in the minimum tax bracket, and now many other manufacturers have followed suit with the result that the tax collections have not come up to expectations.

The chronic ills of illegal manufacture and of smuggling are also still contributing in a big way to low cigarette tax collection.

## Imports

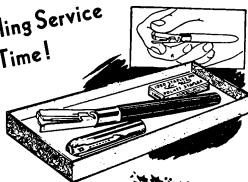
By S. SCHMELKE  
Mercantile, Inc.

ALL figures are in kilos with the exception of those for foodstuffs, which are given in package units:

Commodities	September, 1951	September, 1950
Automotive (Total).....	1,563,888	582,228
Automobiles.....	289,825	215,070
Auto Accessories.....	7,145	937

Auto Parts.....	281,853	154,099
Bicycles.....	642	6,811
Trucks.....	8,102	7,476
Truck Chassis.....	214,627	140,879
Truck Parts.....	128,336	35,171
Building Materials (Total).....	9,828,477	1,894,208
Board, Fibre.....	142,593	160,487
Cement.....	3,742,985	35,950
Glass, Window.....	359,945	149,735
Gypsum.....	2,000,000	—
Chemicals (Total).....	11,431,778	8,206,772
Caustic Soda.....	1,084,379	795,116
Explosives (Total).....	285,935	—
Firearms (Total).....	112	10,626
Ammunition.....	—	9,681
Hardware (Total).....	3,575,986	2,632,213
Household (Total).....	1,025,862	732,590
Machinery (Total).....	2,615,029	1,156,003
Metals (Total).....	4,414,026	5,108,134
Petroleum Products (Total).....	51,155,706	74,140,334
Radios (Total).....	23,299	21,803
Rubber Goods (Total).....	1,002,658	906,529
Beverages, Misc. Alcoholic.....	5,348	7,182
Foodstuffs (Total Kilos).....	37,521,633	16,014,226
Foodstuffs, Fresh (Total).....	125,550	110,734
Apples.....	13,755	29,839
Oranges.....	12,353	5,000
Onions.....	29,145	16,031
Potatoes.....	28,264	17,516
Foodstuffs, Dry Packaged (Total).....	13,673	24,956
Foodstuffs, Canned (Total).....	296,344	210,270
Sardines.....	33,153	38,043
Milk, Evaporated.....	99,091	75,910
Milk, Condensed.....	59,400	29,057

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