

know. But one certain thing is that the local tobacco industry will benefit. There is a very wide field for both foreign and local investors in tobacco, especially in the manufacture of low-grade, medium-grade, and high-grade cigarettes of the American type. Two local factories with pre-war manufacturing experience, are already in the field, and all the other companies will soon follow suit. I foresee that the factories whose machines have been running only a few hours daily, will shortly be humming with activity and employing three shifts a day. This, however, will involve the importation of American leaf tobacco.

I am pleased to take over this column at the present time when our local industry appears to be facing a bright future and I extend my greetings to all my old friends engaged in it, hoping also to gain many new ones who will decide to take a share in the enormous development that lies ahead, in both the native and imported leaf.

### Imports

By LOUIS S. KRAEMER  
Vice-President, Mercantile, Inc.

THE general trend of imports into Manila for November, 1949, show a decided upswing as compared to November, 1948, with particular emphasis upon foodstuffs which were strike-bound on the Pacific Coast during November, 1948.

It is notable that the essential commodities were coming in in larger quantities during November, 1949, than during November, 1948.

A few items which show the effect of import control restrictions in the period of 1949 are household appurtenances, rubber goods, alcoholics, Christmas decorations, entertainment equipment, tobacco, and cosmetics.

It is apparent that the general trend is toward importing more essential merchandise, as can be noted by the increasing imports of fibre board, glass, metals, and other industrial items and building materials.

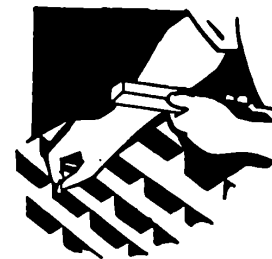
Japan is rapidly becoming a very important factor in this market. Worthy of mention is the fact that imports of galvanized iron sheets from Japan for November, 1949, was 3,456 metric tons versus 368 metric tons from the United States.

Our statistical department has received many requests lately for special statistics from firms in Manila which are indicating strong interest in commencing local manufacture, and it is our belief that the year 1950 will show a considerable movement in this direction if the Government will give some assurance of stability in the issuance of future import control and monetary control regulations.

All figures shown below are in kilos with the exception of foodstuffs which are given in package units.

COMMODITIES	November 1949	November 1948
Automotive (Total).....	2,458,908	2,497,783
Automobiles.....	276,817	823,021
Auto Accessories.....	23,631	17,053
" Parts.....	398,122	222,043
Bicycles.....	78,705	26,829
Trucks.....	34,435	5,478
Truck Chassis.....	452,518	616,730
Building Materials (Total)..	4,652,980	4,837,940
Board, Fibre.....	384,056	124,641
Cement.....	64,594	131,628
Fixtures, Bathroom and Kitchen.....	272,898	107,319
Glass, Misc.....	1,083,308	809,324
Plumbing, Misc.....	599,335	1,349,244
Chemicals (Total).....	4,109,752	2,391,244
Caustic Soda.....	466,823	812,682

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Explosives (Total).....	112,359	47,141	Office Equipment (Total)...	202,648	159,673
Firearms, NOS (Total).....	14,017	16,275	Office Supplies (Total).....	53,958	51,527
Ammunition .....	5,074	30,866	Paper (Total).....	4,651,159	4,166,552
Hardware (Total).....	4,960,342	4,763,520	Photographic (Total).....	69,764	66,969
Household (Total).....	1,886,048	2,522,269	Sporting Goods (Total).....	51,830	17,724
Machinery (Total).....	2,088,054	1,760,558	Stationery (Total).....	578,042	254,028
Metals (Total).....	10,519,642	5,977,104	Tobacco (Total).....	805,924	2,317,628
Petroleum Products (Total)...	52,777,251	74,822,846			
Radios (Total).....	72,430	54,534	Chucheria (Total).....	134,535	96,595
Rubber Goods (Total).....	721,925	1,205,077	Clothing Apparel (Total)....	469,453	488,814
			(Including men's, women's and children's)		
Beverages, Misc.			Cosmetics (Total).....	80,795	437,402
Alcoholic .....	19,961	63,242	Fabrics (Total).....	814,699	922,009
Foodstuffs (Total).....	62,565,564	54,894,914 kilos	Jewelry (Total).....	—	313
Foodstuffs, NOS (Total).....	23,286	18,722	Leather (Total).....	278,270	272,961
Foodstuffs, Fresh (Total)....	250,842	135,456	Textiles (Total).....	4,476,619	3,933,356
Apples.....	62,721	30,599	Twine (Total).....	64,203	33,358
Oranges.....	14,760	2,628	Toys (Total).....	247,258	214,032
Onions.....	50,238	35,032	General Merchandise (Total).	876,815	1,203,226
Potatoes.....	11,715	15,712	Non-Commercial Shipments		
Foodstuffs, Dry Packaged			(Total).....	40,517	26,435
(Total).....	100,624	45,396	Advertising Materials, Etc.		
Foodstuffs, Canned (Total)...	649,334	306,500	(Total).....	985,512	57,304
Sardines.....	163,680	29,650			
Milk, Evaporated.....	135,290	109,247			
Milk, Condensed.....	42,450	39,270			
Foodstuffs, Bulk (Total)....	1,030,939	1,251,403			
Rice.....	332,120	400,636			
Wheat Flour.....	653,326	785,142			
Foodstuffs, Preserved (Total)	1,881	2,413			
Bottling, Misc. (Total).....	2,476,712	596,226			
Unit — 31,546 (1948)					
Unit — 215,399 (1949)					
Christmas Decorations (Total)	10,180	25,172			
Cleansing and Laundry (Total)	1,520,172	517,973			
Entertainment Equipment					
(Total).....	10,043	1,554,110			
Livestock-Bulbs-Seeds (Total)	1,218	33,031			
Medical (Total).....	617,136	429,035			
Musical (Total).....	152,744	53,115			

## Food Products

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

**B**ECAUSE of the new government regulations, it was practically impossible to book any import business in food products during the month of December. Fortunately there were sufficient stocks on hand and afloat to supply the demand for practically all commodities, and there is no immediate danger of any serious shortage of supplies except in a very few commodities.

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