

| | | | | | |
|--|------------|------------------|--|-----------|-----------|
| 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 (Total)..... | 40,517 | 26,435 |
| Foodstuffs, Dry Packaged (Total)..... | 100,624 | 45,396 | Advertising Materials, Etc. (Total)..... | 985,512 | 57,304 |
| Foodstuffs, Canned (Total)... | 649,334 | 306,500 | | | |
| 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 | | | |

—Robot Statistics

Food Products

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

BECAUSE 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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The new import control order (Executive Order 295) which so drastically restricted the import of some essential items, was amended by President Quirino on December 24 by Executive Order 297, which relaxed somewhat the more stringent of these controls. Flour was removed altogether from the import control list. Restrictions were greatly relaxed on canned sardines and salmon and coffee. Relaxation of restrictions on certain other items of lesser importance were also effected. Unfortunately, up to this time the Import Control Board does not have its machinery operating and it has been practically impossible for importers to secure permits so as to place orders for replenishment of stocks even in cases where the respective importers are clearly entitled to import quotas and the permits have been applied for. Matters at this time are made even worse by the fact that it is necessary to go to the Import Control Board to secure a certificate when placing orders even for merchandise not included in the import control list, the certificate to be to the effect that such merchandise is not subject to control. It is virtually impossible to secure even these certificates. Orders placed during December for replenishment of local stocks were almost nil, due practically altogether to the inability of the Import Control Board to function.

BUSINESS was still further affected during the month by the order issued on December 9 by the Central Bank creating an exchange control office and prohibiting local banks from establishing letters of credit for importers and to remit dollar exchange in payment of pending accounts without first securing necessary permits from the exchange control. Here again machinery has not been provided to handle efficiently applications for exchange, and this has made it difficult for all concerned to secure exchange permits. Numerous applications filed immediately after this regulation was put into effect, are still pending action. As no goods may be shipped and imported into the Philippines unless a letter of credit is previously established, many importers could not secure shipments of orders placed, even with the approval of the Import Control Board, owing to difficulty of securing action on their applications for exchange. It is sincerely to be hoped that the Exchange Control Board as well as the Import Control Board offices will be properly organized without further delay so that applications can be acted upon promptly, whether approved or otherwise, so that importers may know just where they stand and be able to plan their operations.

The exchange control is working particular hardship on many foreign firms previously exporting merchandise to their agents or representatives in the Philippines on open account or on a consignment basis, in that payments due them are very materially delayed. The officials of the Central Bank have stated that exchange licenses will be granted to cover payments for such accounts, but up to the present, as far as can be ascertained, no such exchange licenses have been granted, and it appears probable that none will be granted before February at the earliest.

In spite of the extreme difficulty encountered in trying to do business under present regulations, most importers have not lost hope of being able to carry on their business, although realizing that it must be greatly curtailed. They recognize the necessity for conservation of dollar exchange and they are only too willing to cooperate with the authorities in every way. They emphasize, however, the importance of establishing promptly the necessary machinery in the various control offices, so that permit-applications can be acted on promptly and necessary information be made available. Otherwise their business can not be planned and handled properly.

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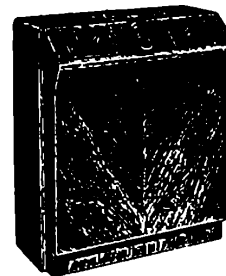
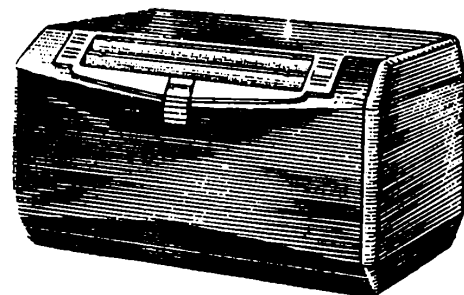


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