

American Vegetable Oil Trade

Average Annual Value of United States Foreign Trade in Vegetable Oils and Fats During Last Five Years Exceeds \$84,000,000

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THE value of the foreign trade of the United States in vegetable oils and fats has exceeded \$84,000,000 annually for each year since 1924. The high in the 5-year period was in 1927—\$86,394,386, in contrast to the low of \$66,323,221 in 1924. In 1928 the total was \$84,440,286, \$84,828,576; and in 1925, \$84,295,340.

The ratio of exports to imports has ranged from 1 to 7 in 1924 and 1925 to 1 to 9½ in 1928. The value of exports and imports, respectively, was as follows: In 1924, \$8,258,980 and \$58,064,241; in 1925, \$10,637,969 and \$73,657,371; in 1926, \$8,041,941 and \$76,786,635; in 1927, \$10,420,784 and \$75,973,602; in 1928, \$8,979,758 and \$75,460,528.

Export Vegetable Oils and Fats

THE feature of our export trade is cottonseed oil, amounting in 1928 to 51,702,246 pounds of crude and refined, valued at \$4,656,725—crude representing 41,126,452 pounds and \$3,455,567. This figure for crude was surpassed in 1927, but exports for 1928 were well above those for 1924, 1925, and 1926. Canada has been our best customer throughout the past five years, taking 39,084,870 pounds last year, the largest amount in the past five years with the exception of 1927. Mexico, with 2,036,159 pounds, ranked second in 1928. Remaining exports are of no commercial importance.

Last year refined oil exports reached the lowest figure in the past five years. The curve has been steadily downwards, the gradual substitution in the consuming countries of the world of other vegetable oils and retention of greater quantities for consumption of refined cottonseed oil at home. Mexico, almost the sole exception among our larger buyers, increased its imports in 1928 over other recent years. Exports to Germany and the Scandinavian countries have dwindled. Cuba decreased to 1,812,124 pounds in 1928 from the high figure of 5,567,278 pounds for 1925, one explanation being a shift to refined soy-bean oil to the extent of 2,731,640 pounds sent to that country last year, in contrast to very much smaller exports in previous years.

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Exports of vegetable oils from the United States

| Item and country of destination | 1927 | | 1928 | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------|
| | Quantity Pounds | Value | Quantity Pounds | Value |
| Total exports | ..... | \$10,420,784 | ..... | \$8,979,758 |
| Cottonseed, crude, total | 51,406,875 | 4,183,988 | 41,126,482 | 3,455,567 |
| Canada | 49,699,351 | 4,040,673 | 39,084,810 | 3,282,539 |
| Mexico | 1,480,555 | 126,373 | 2,036,159 | 172,551 |
| Other countries | 226,969 | 16,942 | 5,453 | 467 |
| Cottonseed, refined, total | 16,574,842 | 1,753,569 | 10,575,764 | 1,201,158 |
| Denmark | 129,970 | 12,335 | ..... | ..... |
| Germany | 319,281 | 29,369 | 39,958 | 4,064 |
| Netherlands | 223,096 | 19,425 | 6,009 | 700 |
| Norway | 1,724,100 | 161,157 | 76,567 | 8,218 |
| Sweden | 461,167 | 41,880 | 2,500 | 394 |
| Canada | 911,632 | 89,808 | 813,414 | 84,020 |
| Panama | 558,823 | 61,773 | 781,603 | 89,142 |
| Mexico | 1,717,507 | 175,494 | 3,456,740 | 347,499 |
| Cuba | 3,184,884 | 326,554 | 1,812,124 | 182,981 |
| Argentina | 2,176,717 | 226,441 | 777,491 | 90,420 |
| Chile | 905,802 | 98,220 | 484,201 | 59,562 |
| Japan | 833,778 | 113,515 | 882,301 | 135,452 |
| Other countries | 3,428,085 | 397,538 | 1,442,856 | 198,706 |
| Corn oil, total | 309,591 | 35,457 | 336,945 | 49,516 |
| Canada | 43,501 | 4,982 | 30,055 | 3,392 |
| Cuba | 4,090 | 532 | 3,373 | 473 |
| Dominican Republic | 39,870 | 4,619 | 5,735 | 784 |
| British South Africa | 2,175 | 303 | 5,375 | 685 |
| Costa Rica | 797 | 119 | 40,200 | 5,940 |
| Guatemala | 26,810 | 3,930 | 69,111 | 9,892 |
| Other countries | 192,348 | 20,972 | 183,096 | 28,449 |
| Coconut, total | 20,418,143 | 1,783,409 | 24,652,602 | 2,088,065 |
| Canada | 8,979,478 | 776,676 | 8,879,808 | 772,035 |
| Nicaragua | 214,286 | 19,957 | 219,884 | 30,374 |
| Mexico | 9,540,326 | 803,761 | 13,694,509 | 1,094,274 |
| Cuba | 718,124 | 70,846 | 817,654 | 83,276 |
| Japan | 118,177 | 17,077 | 164,342 | 25,212 |
| New Zealand | 175,260 | 23,375 | 150,259 | 18,589 |
| Other countries | 672,492 | 71,717 | 726,146 | 74,305 |
| Linseed, total | 2,525,240 | 303,737 | 1,965,147 | 227,886 |
| United Kingdom | 2,891 | 396 | 4,788 | 454 |
| Canada | 311,636 | 40,690 | 257,677 | 33,726 |
| Panama | 514,253 | 62,225 | 262,731 | 31,140 |
| Mexico | 175,111 | 23,381 | 164,096 | 20,691 |
| Cuba | 400,307 | 45,927 | 460,119 | 46,933 |
| Colombia | 216,217 | 29,096 | 147,556 | 19,408 |
| Venezuela | 118,082 | 12,372 | 29,022 | 3,608 |
| Other countries | 786,743 | 89,650 | 529,158 | 71,926 |
| Soya bean, total | 5,444,305 | 607,363 | 7,142,097 | 756,094 |
| Canada | 245,527 | 19,930 | 130,972 | 12,333 |
| Cuba | 2,432,249 | 246,617 | 2,731,640 | 266,271 |
| British South Africa | 748,237 | 96,290 | 567,425 | 65,320 |
| Dominican Republic | 908,298 | 92,724 | 1,638,045 | 166,253 |
| Other countries | 1,109,994 | 151,802 | 2,074,015 | 245,907 |
| Vegetable soap stock, total | 10,263,623 | \$548,754 | 7,528,590 | \$491,987 |
| United Kingdom | 5,342,199 | 220,020 | 3,390,138 | 154,919 |
| Canada | 2,779,738 | 191,703 | 2,250,137 | 190,210 |
| Mexico | 889,092 | 46,545 | 515,308 | 42,844 |
| Cuba | 464,630 | 38,944 | 687,890 | 56,057 |
| Other countries | 787,964 | 51,542 | 685,117 | 47,957 |
| Other oils, n. e. s., total | 8,482,049 | 1,204,497 | 8,190,180 | 709,385 |
| United Kingdom | 275,510 | 15,193 | 18,775 | 3,304 |
| Canada | 6,557,354 | 1,046,956 | 6,043,175 | 518,443 |
| Mexico | 548,836 | 36,048 | 1,673,968 | 138,025 |
| Cuba | 249,012 | 25,413 | 163,682 | 14,649 |
| Other countries | 841,337 | 80,887 | 290,580 | 34,964 |

Coconut oil.—Coconut oil (refined) ranks in second place among the vegetable oils and fats exports. These exports might be termed re-exports, however, inasmuch as the oil was either imported originally or came into the United States in the form of copra for crushing purposes. Exports reached 24,652,602 pounds in 1928—exceeding by a substantial margin the preceding year and much above those of any other recent year. During the last four years Mexico has retained first place as our best market, Canada running second, and Cuba a poor third.

Soya-bean oil.—Soya-bean oil refined in the United States from oil largely imported in the crude state has had a rapid increase in both volume and value as an export vegetable oil. Contrasted with but 2,264,195 pounds, valued at \$252,571 in 1924, shipments last year rose to 7,142,097 pounds, valued at \$756,094. Cuba and the Dominican Republic are the outlets.

Linseed oil.—There has been relatively little change in exportation of linseed oil since 1924. During the last five years Canada, Panama, Mexico, or Cuba have been the three best buyers, except in 1926 when, owing to temporary conditions, Great Britain took 669,135 pounds.

Vegetable soap stock, etc.—Exports of vegetable soap stock or fatty acids and other oils, for which no special provision is made in the export classification schedules, can be covered briefly by the statement that the fluctuations observed in the foregoing table may be regarded as attributable to changing conditions in the markets of the United States and abroad. The United Kingdom was the best buyer of American soap stock during each of the past five years, except in 1925 and again in 1928, when Canada led by a narrow margin over the United Kingdom. As the largest importer of the miscellaneous oils, Canada has retained first place regularly in recent years.

Imports of Vegetable Oils.

MOST important among the imported vegetable oils is coconut oil, which has constituted by value one-third of all vegetable-oil imports during the past five years. Our only source of supply since 1925 has been the Philippine Islands.

Imports of vegetable oils into the United States

| Item and country of origin | 1927 | | 1928 | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| | Quantity Pounds | Value | Quantity Pounds | Value |
| Total imports | ..... | \$75,973,602 | ..... | \$75,460,528 |
| Olive oil, edible, total .. | 75,025,218 | 17,576,880 | 82,943,820 | 14,951,146 |
| France | 6,009,714 | 1,393,447 | 4,543,399 | 904,745 |
| Italy | 47,110,081 | 11,244,800 | 53,936,151 | 9,945,803 |
| Spain | 18,894,511 | 4,296,386 | 22,692,760 | 3,797,555 |
| Greece | 1,015,868 | 193,967 | 477,164 | 81,038 |
| Algeria and Tunis | 1,556,787 | 359,486 | 683,761 | 109,145 |
| Other countries | 438,257 | 88,794 | 610,585 | 112,860 |

Imports of vegetable oils into the United States—Continued

| Item and country of origin | 1927 | | 1928 | |
|---|-----------------|------------|-----------------|------------|
| | Quantity Pounds | Value | Quantity Pounds | Value |
| Chinese wood oil, total .. | 89,650,411 | 11,809,583 | 109,221,771 | 13,419,029 |
| China | 75,043,427 | 9,670,105 | 97,783,436 | 12,033,364 |
| Japan | 1,036,027 | 133,425 | 650,212 | 84,234 |
| Hong Kong .. | 12,769,724 | 1,883,600 | 10,675,043 | 1,288,293 |
| Other countries | 801,233 | 122,453 | 113,080 | 13,138 |
| Coconut oil, all Philippine Islands | 293,369,704 | 22,899,807 | 290,636,702 | 23,061,357 |
| Sesame oil, total .. | 1,704,129 | \$203,413 | 6,238,878 | \$664,764 |
| Germany | 114,633 | 12,761 | ..... | ..... |
| Belgium | 200,404 | 25,138 | 257,707 | 30,366 |
| Denmark | 442,268 | 55,887 | 1,091,263 | 118,630 |
| France | 71,600 | 9,098 | 314,753 | 36,362 |
| Netherlands .. | 631,507 | 68,101 | 4,455,007 | 461,434 |
| Other countries | 243,617 | 32,428 | 110,148 | 17,972 |
| Peanut oil, total .. | 2,847,424 | 339,905 | 4,748,818 | 519,522 |
| France | 99,314 | 99,314 | 553,102 | 63,651 |
| Netherlands .. | 169,115 | 19,730 | 111,613 | 12,880 |
| China | 77,244 | 6,508 | 1,492,316 | 144,694 |
| Hong Kong | 1,528,350 | 189,514 | 1,274,769 | 179,582 |
| Other countries | 247,141 | 24,839 | 1,317,018 | 118,715 |
| <i>Gallons</i> | | | | |
| Rapeseed oil, total | 2,547,215 | 1,570,420 | 2,250,182 | 1,504,338 |
| U. K. | 116,967 | 99,258 | 1,305,331 | 880,054 |
| Japan | 2,368,460 | 1,422,250 | 887,881 | 582,111 |
| Other countries | 61,788 | 48,912 | 56,970 | 42,163 |
| <i>Pounds</i> | | | | |
| Linseed oil, total | 946,432 | 77,095 | 173,447 | 14,056 |
| Germany | 9,606 | 1,653 | 2,389 | 400 |
| Netherlands .. | 814,012 | 65,205 | 123,487 | 9,341 |
| U. K. | 32,728 | 3,026 | 12,809 | 1,106 |
| Other countries | 90,086 | 7,201 | 34,762 | 3,209 |
| Soya-bean oil, total | 14,914,792 | 887,747 | 13,116,220 | 823,619 |
| Netherlands .. | 89,487 | 7,218 | 20,430 | 1,701 |
| China | 1,782,144 | 100,364 | 1,519,840 | 93,821 |
| Japan | 941,303 | 57,482 | 1,573,129 | 101,796 |
| Kwantung | 12,060,878 | 718,987 | 8,693,235 | 539,533 |
| Other countries | 40,980 | 3,696 | 1,309,586 | 86,768 |
| Olive oil, sulphured or foots, total .. | 42,307,314 | 3,694,357 | 39,546,684 | 2,896,049 |
| Greece | 1,649,703 | 160,842 | 2,343,247 | 199,236 |
| Italy | 40,247,609 | 3,485,365 | 17,130,274 | 1,393,957 |
| Portugal ..... | ..... | ..... | 3,204,868 | 70,854 |
| Spain | 92,157 | 9,737 | 15,234,690 | 1,083,082 |
| Other countries | 317,845 | 38,413 | 1,633,605 | 148,920 |
| Olive oil, inedible, other total | 6,818,949 | 1,115,103 | 8,723,823 | 1,175,447 |
| Greece | 2,406,320 | 380,577 | 919,669 | 118,224 |
| Italy | 1,653,250 | 195,905 | 319,391 | 36,797 |
| Spain | 2,070,769 | 402,709 | 5,203,555 | 713,713 |
| Other countries | 688,610 | 135,912 | 2,281,208 | 306,713 |
| Palm oil, total .. | 159,911,079 | 11,039,549 | 169,227,565 | 11,066,721 |
| Germany | 12,206,803 | 882,732 | 10,169,105 | 697,004 |
| U. K. | 10,599,324 | 803,809 | 8,914,751 | 728,051 |
| Netherland East Indies .. | 13,128,074 | 947,685 | 27,400,228 | 1,944,476 |
| Belgian Congo | 25,641,528 | 1,830,878 | 26,414,749 | 1,938,091 |
| British West Africa | 80,830,856 | 5,443,811 | 83,281,639 | 4,914,656 |
| French Africa | 9,599,099 | 587,484 | 7,391,242 | 438,725 |
| Other countries | 7,905,395 | 543,150 | 5,655,851 | 405,718 |
| Palm kernel oil, total | 43,115,337 | 3,547,283 | 53,812,482 | 4,369,100 |
| Germany | 13,255,749 | 1,069,376 | 27,286,411 | 2,209,929 |
| Netherlands .. | 460,937 | 38,830 | 72,957 | 6,135 |
| U. K. | 29,372,771 | 2,435,546 | 24,919,034 | 2,034,657 |
| Other countries | 25,880 | 3,431 | 1,534,080 | 118,379 |
| All other, free, total | 5,426,260 | 599,183 | 86,775 | 57,717 |
| Netherlands .. | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| China | 44,000 | 5,196 | ..... | ..... |
| Japan | 905,560 | 82,069 | ..... | ..... |
| Kwantung | 4,408,600 | 460,214 | ..... | ..... |
| Other countries | 68,100 | 51,704 | 85,775 | 57,717 |
| All other, dutiable, total .. | 2,251,545 | 223,537 | 7,761,591 | 579,198 |
| Netherlands .. | 339,487 | 34,754 | 235,634 | 21,484 |
| U. K. | 1,227,057 | 102,893 | 1,849,103 | 164,244 |
| China | 189,890 | 20,673 | 1,324,000 | 94,391 |
| Other countries | 495,111 | 65,217 | 4,352,854 | 299,079 |
| Vegetable tallow total | 5,687,581 | 389,740 | 5,341,424 | 358,465 |
| Argentina | 220,881 | 14,500 | ..... | ..... |
| China | 5,408,781 | 366,651 | 5,314,087 | 353,154 |
| Other countries | 57,919 | 8,589 | 27,337 | 5,311 |

Edible olive oil.—Edible olive oil is second to coconut oil. Italy has had the largest part—approximately $66\frac{2}{3}$ percent—of this trade in recent years, with Spain (from 13 to 24 per cent in different years) and France (from 6 to 8 per cent) in second and third place, respectively.

Chinese wood oil or tung oil.—Chinese wood oil or tung oil is second in importance. The United States is the largest consumer of this oil in the world and in 1928 its imports were decidedly larger than in any of the four years immediately preceding. China supplied approximately 90 per cent of our imports during each of the last five years, with the single exception of 1927, when the percentage dropped to 82. The free port of Hong Kong, by transshipment from China, sends practically all of the remaining imports.

Palm oil.—British West Africa and the Belgian Congo, the world's principal area of production for palm oil, supply the largest part of the imports of this oil. British West Africa is the principal source, but the two sections together have accounted for from 50 to 60 per cent of such imports during the past 5-year period. The Netherland East Indies are also important sources, but chiefly for the better grades of this oil, with its exports advancing markedly in value—indicative of steady development of palm-tree cultivation and expansion in oil extraction.

Palm-kernel oil.—The extraction of palm-kernel oil occupies a place of considerable importance in the growing crushing industries of the United Kingdom and certain of the countries of continental Europe, where the residual cake is utilized as a feeding stuff for livestock. Our principal imports of this oil come from the United Kingdom, Germany taking second place, although imports from both countries have tended to drop off somewhat in the last two years.

Inedible olive oil.—Importations of inedible olive oil employed in the manufacture of castile soap and for industrial purposes and olive oil foots going largely into soaps vary somewhat from year to year, depending to a considerable extent on crop conditions. Most of our inedible olive oil is imported from Spain, although in 1925, Greece, and in 1924, Italy, were the largest shippers.

Rapeseed oil.—Little change is reflected in our consumption of rapeseed oil over the past five years. Imports in 1925 were smaller than the average of the five-year period, and for 1926 they were greater. Here, again, the size of the crop and competitive world market con-

ditions play a part in determining imports. United Kingdom and Japan supply most of this oil.

Peanut oil.—China supplies much of our peanut oil, though Hong Kong sends some and France a fair quantity. Imports in 1928 were larger than in 1927, but much below 1924 and 1926. Linseed oil achieved a place of distinctly minor importance last year, when imports were valued at only \$14,056, which is in sharp contrast to 1925 when oil worth almost exactly one hundred times that amount came into the United States. Our foreign purchases are gauged by our domestic crop of seed and market levels abroad. Since 1926 the bulk of this oil has been supplied by the Netherlands. Prior to that year, the United Kingdom received much of our business. The Netherlands also furnished sesame oil, which did not receive separate classification until 1926. Imports have recorded a sharp drop since that year.

Soy-bean oil.—The only other oil not included in the miscellaneous groupings is soy-bean oil, of which substantial quantities have been imported during the past five years, the largest amount during 1926. Last year imports were reduced considerably. Imports originate chiefly in Manchuria via the port of Kwantung, but some oil is exported to the United States from both China and Japan.

Vegetable tallow.—China is the source, almost wholly, of vegetable tallow imports, which have undergone but slight changes as to size in the past five years.

Exports in the First Four Months, 1929.

EXPORTS of vegetable oils were valued at \$2,397,000 for the first four months of 1929, compared with \$4,373,487 for the same period in 1928 and \$3,715,580 for the 1927 period.

Exports of vegetable oils from the United States, first four months

| Item | 1927 | | 1928 | |
|---|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------|
| | Quantity Pounds | Value | Quantity Pounds | Value |
| Cottonseed oil: | | | | |
| Crude | 27,384,562 | \$2,268,547 | 7,030,294 | \$585,934 |
| Refined | 4,200,757 | 459,506 | 2,815,315 | 345,679 |
| Corn oil | 156,235 | 21,647 | 119,452 | 16,240 |
| Other vegetable oils and fats, edible | 1,197,713 | 179,747 | 971,139 | 163,228 |
| Coconut oil | 8,193,964 | 704,315 | 6,723,860 | 577,610 |
| Linseed oil | 626,426 | 72,574 | 677,042 | 75,155 |
| Soy-bean oil | 2,429,652 | 264,964 | 2,586,189 | 258,768 |
| Vegetable soap stock | 2,664,082 | 162,974 | 2,645,832 | 185,088 |
| Other inedible oils and fats | 2,805,739 | 229,213 | 2,232,030 | 190,070 |
| Total | | 4,373,487 | | 2,397,736 |

Crude cottonseed oil was responsible for a shrinkage to the extent of 20,354,268 pounds and \$1,682,613 in value, as compared with last year, and exports were over 11,250,000 pounds and \$800,650 short of the same period in 1927. Refined cottonseed oil suffered also.

An unsatisfactory price condition was apparently largely responsible for the fact that coconut oil exports were down about 1,500,000 pounds from those for the January-April period last year. Canada, our most important market, took uniformly close to 3,000,000 pounds for each four-month period, while Mexico increased its purchases last year some 1,500,000 pounds, taking from us this year in round figures 2,400,000 pounds. Cuba, ordinarily bringing in from 250,000 pounds to 300,000 pounds, this year received much more than double in similar periods in the past two years.

Exports of soya-bean oil showed some gain this year over 1928, but a more substantial increase was registered between 1927 and 1928, when they doubled in volume and nearly so in value. Consumer nations have not changed this year.

An oil in a comparatively minor rôle in the export group is linseed oil. Shipments from the United States appear to have been well distributed, especially in Latin America. Cuba imported more than any other one country. Exports during the first four months of this year and last were about the same, but noticeably lighter than in 1927.

Exports of corn oil in 1927 and this year were valued at slightly in excess of \$16,000—approximately 100,000 pounds for each 4-month period. Last year shipments had a value of \$21,000 for over 150,000 pounds. Several of the Latin American nations and Japan were the principal buyers.

Vegetable soap stock or fatty acids rank well up among the leaders in the exports. From January 1 to April 30 this year we sent abroad a little more than half of the exports for 1927—both as to weight and value. Conforming to buying habits of previous years, the United Kingdom and Canada were our largest customers.

The two miscellaneous classifications—"other expressed oils and fats" for oils of an inedible nature, and "other edible oils and fats"—include a very respectable percentage of the vegetable-oil exports. Changes from one 4-month period to another are sharply defined, but during the last three years Canada has been at all times easily the foremost consumer of these oils.

Record Imports in First Four Months, 1929.

RECORD imports of vegetable oils were registered during the first four months of this year.

Not at any time during the past five years, as determined by a pro-rata division of the yearly imports in 1924 and 1925 and the actual figures for the past three years, have our im-

ports even offered a semblance of an approach to the record established during January to April of the current year. This year, for the period named, vegetable oils of foreign origin coming into the United States had a declared value of \$31,451,655, against \$23,272,806 last year for the same four months, and \$22,750,471 in 1927. Favorable prices and fear of the imposition of higher rates of duties account for much of this importation.

Imports of vegetable oils into the United States, first four months

| Item | 1928 | | 1929 | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|-------------|
| | Quantity Pounds | Value | Quantity Pounds | Value |
| Palm kernel oil | 8,580,167 | \$708,902 | 25,304,415 | \$1,995,478 |
| Sesame oil ... | 1,703,425 | 186,816 | 7,074,740 | 654,465 |
| Vegetable tallow | 3,189,893 | 219,082 | 3,945,593 | 291,841 |
| Olive oil, edible | 28,744,409 | 5,129,174 | 30,268,380 | 5,470,221 |
| Peanut oil ... | 3,278,422 | 325,494 | 1,925,911 | 186,496 |
| Linseed oil ... | 113,544 | 8,611 | 6,531,672 | 406,452 |
| Soy-bean oil ... | 5,371,119 | 330,950 | 6,101,238 | 337,331 |
| Chinese wood oil | 28,400,735 | 3,551,370 | 33,480,577 | 4,208,380 |
| Coconut oil ... | 99,022,666 | 7,768,685 | 131,588,704 | 9,895,903 |
| Olive oil, inedible: | | | | |
| Sulphured ... | 10,394,825 | 840,097 | 18,898,057 | 1,346,653 |
| Other | 4,020,297 | 527,926 | 4,142,753 | 564,608 |
| Palm oil ... | 44,684,503 | 2,966,494 | 82,957,679 | 5,631,016 |
| Other expressed oils | 2,151,135 | 196,989 | 7,540,190 | 532,964 |
| | Gallons | | Gallons | |
| Rape oil | 750,760 | 522,206 | 638,287 | 412,811 |
| Total ..... | ..... | 23,282,796 | ..... | 31,984,619 |

Source: Monthly Summary of Foreign Commerce and Navigation of the United States.

Coconut-oil imports rose from, roughly, 99,000,000 pounds in both 1927 and 1928, when the average price, according to declared values, was \$0.08 and \$0.078 per pound, to 131,500,000 pounds valued at \$0.07½ per pound, or a little less than \$9,900,000 during January to April this year. This is a gain of over one-third in volume.

However, a further proof that prices may be a powerful stimulus or a serious deterrent is found in the imports of edible olive oil, which were 500,000 pounds in excess of the January-April period of 1927, but \$1,000,000 less in value.

There were no shifts as regards sources of supply, which applies likewise to sulphur olive oil or foots and the inedible or industrial grade. The two last-mentioned classifications reflect substantial gains during the first four months of the current year over 1928. The price factor is again emphasized on these oils—particularly the sulphur quality—the increase of our January-April receipts this year over 1927 being 3,600,000 pounds, with relatively little difference in comparative values.

Imports of palm oil were practically double those last year, and nearly treble the importations of this oil in tonnage, though not in money totals, in the first four months of 1927. As usual, British West Africa was the chief supplier.

An increase of 5,000,000 pounds and \$700,000 in value was recorded in the case of Chinese

wood oil this year as compared with the 1928 and 1927 periods.

Palm-kernel oil.—The average price per pound of palm-kernel oil imported up to April 30 of this year was one-fourth of a cent less than in 1928, and nearly 1 cent below 1927 for corresponding periods. The volume jumped to thrice our imports last year and was twelvefold the arrivals in 1927. This is the biggest gain registered in the entire vegetable oil category, and this year is also noteworthy in that Germany replaced the United Kingdom as the principal exporter to the United States.

Sesame oil.—There was a remarkable gain in sesame oil as well. Between January 1 and April 30, 1927, our imports classed this oil as among the comparatively unimportant oils. The following year, for the same period, we had more than doubled the importation, while prior to April 30, this year, there was entered officially in excess of nine times the quantity coming in during 1927. We continue to buy much of this oil from the Netherlands.

Other oils.—Other vegetable oils or fats to show a gain from January to April, inclusive, this year, are vegetable tallow and linseed oil—notably the latter—our normal importation of which is inconsequential. In April of this year, Germany alone shipped us 6,313,872 pounds, with a declared value of \$391,348. There were 217,800 pounds, worth \$15,104, from other sources during the first three months of 1929. Imports for the first four months of 1928 and 1927 fell decidedly below those of 1929. Vegetable tallow gained somewhat over 1928, the arrivals being a substantial increase as to tonnage over 1927 and 1928.

Soya bean oil receipts from Manchuria between January 1 and April 30 were more than eight times as large as 1927, and heavier than last year.

Rapeseed and peanut oils were the only two oils in the entire list to show losses, the former declining in the period between January 1 and April 30 by over 100,000 gallons, while peanut oil was down nearly 50 per cent from last year's receipts.

Castor Oil Effects in Soaps

It is claimed that the shortage of soapmaking fats in Russia has fostered the adoption of certain fats for this purpose which are not generally so used in other countries. A recent report notices the substitution of castor oil for cottonseed oil, and claims the production of a much better soap thereby. Soap from stock containing up to fifteen per cent of

castor oil is said to be firm and to lather well, although about fifteen per cent the lathering power is diminished.

In commenting on this report, "*The Perfumery and Essential Oil Record*" says: "The use of castor oil in this country as a general soapmaking material is precluded by its high price compared with other material which is readily available, and any considerable proportion of castor oil has a distinct effect on the odor of the soap which might be objectionable. Its most important uses in soap, however, are in the cold process transparent soaps, for which about one-third of the fatty matter is a usual proportion, and in the manufacture of liquid soaps or soap solutions, for which castor oil is especially suitable on account of the much greater solubility in water of castor oil soap over any other. Another extensive use of castor oil by the soap industry during the war was for the manufacture of soda soft soaps in place of potash soft soaps, because of the scarcity of potash. To make a soft soda soap, material of a low titer is essential. Castor oil, with a titer of 3°C. is therefore about the best material available for this particular purpose."

A Reminder

THE coming of Summer with its attendant vacations (and heat!) has a natural tendency to slow up work of a special nature. Let me therefore remind the laboratories now cooperating on the standardization of the Soap Section's Standard samples of crude glycerine and soap that there are a number of collaborators still to report their results. Inasmuch as we hope to have accepted standards for these two samples ready for publication at the next meeting of the A.O.C.S. in October, it is desirable to have all the results in the hands of the committee as soon as possible, so that adequate consideration may be given them and a method of deriving a final analysis worked out.

I should like to ask therefore that those who have not yet reported kindly bear this in mind and forward their analysis to the Secretary as soon as convenient. Anyone interested in this work who would like to cooperate is cordially invited to join us. It is not too late. Further information may be had from the Chairman, A. K. Church, care Lever Bros., Cambridge, Mass., or the Secretary, W. A. Peterson, care Kirkman & Son, 215 Water Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

W. A. Peterson

Secretary of Soap Section A.O.C.S.