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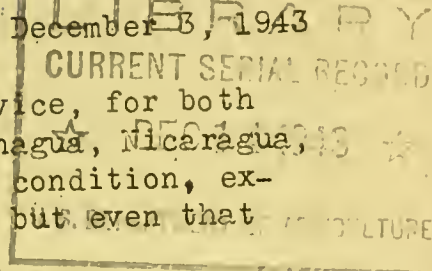
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS

LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST*

No. 517



BUS SERVICE FROM NICARAGUA TO MEXICO TO BE OPENED. Autobus service, for both passengers and freight, is to be inaugurated shortly between Managua, Nicaragua, and Tapachula, Mexico. The road is reported to be in excellent condition, except for a short space on the border of Nicaragua and Honduras, but even that section is quite passable. (New York Times)

ARGENTINA IMPORTS SUGAR. The Argentine Government has authorized the duty-free importation of 40,000 tons of sugar. An agreement is expected to be announced shortly with Brazil and Peru, as they are the only countries believed to have sufficient stocks to permit such an exportation at this time. (New York Journal of Commerce)

RUST ON ARGENTINE GRAINS. Reports from Buenos Aires state that rust is appearing on all grains. This may be a factor in production of late-sown grain. (New York Journal of Commerce)

BRAZIL SENDING FINE CHEMICALS TO UNITED STATES. Menthol and caffeine, two much needed fine chemicals that formerly were supplied by Japan and China, are now coming from Brazil. Those shipments are still, however, a small part of the actual needs here. (New York Journal of Commerce)

INTER-AMERICAN HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION HALTED IN COSTA RICA. The Engineering News-Record reports that work on the Inter-American Highway has stopped at Costa Rica and that United States engineers are scheduled to withdraw entirely from Central America. Work on the 1,569-mile highway that would unite the Americas is well advanced in some sections, but there are long lengths of it which were not to be completed until next year. Two-thirds of the cost of the project was being met with funds provided by Congress soon after the United States entered the war. The remaining third was being met by countries through which the road passes. Announcement is made that construction of a difficult 71-mile section of the highway in southern Costa Rica by the Public Roads Administration is to continue. (New York Times)

CUBA RAISING MORE FOOD. Cuba, with the aid of the United States, is increasing production of food crops and making great strides toward diversification of agriculture. Sugar remains the great cash crop, but Cuba is experimenting in the production of other food and fiber crops. In 1940 between 40,000,000 and 65,000,000 pounds of peanuts were produced, from which was extracted almost 30 percent of the vegetable oil consumed in Cuba. This year the Ministry of Agriculture expects a production of 115,000,000 pounds of peanuts. Rice production was increased to 60,000,000 pounds in 1942, but Cuba still has to import three-fourths of the rice which is consumed. The United States has offered to purchase during the next 2 years all surplus cattle, as well as butter, cheese, and condensed and powdered milk and eggs. The offer has not yet been accepted. Agreements are in force for the sale of pineapples, bananas, alligator pears, and other fresh fruits and for many thousands of bags of coffee. Cuba is erecting plants for dehydrating fruits and vegetables to sell. (New York Journal of Commerce)

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DRAWBACK OF IMPORT DUTY ALLOWED IN CUBA. Imports into Cuba of cardboard for the manufacture of containers for packing domestic products for export have been declared subject to the customs drawback of import duty provisions. Importers must file declarations that the cardboard was made into containers in Cuba, that the containers were packed with domestic products, and that they are being exported within 6 months. (New York Journal of Commerce)

LOCUSTS EATING CROPS IN ECUADOR. A plague of locusts is causing great damage in the Province of Imbabura, which produces grains, fruits, and cattle. Many young crops are being completely devoured. The Victory Gardens of Indian laborers, on which they and their families are dependent for the greater part of their food, are suffering heavily. (New York Times)

EDIBLE-OIL INDUSTRY INCREASES COTTON ACREAGE IN EL SALVADOR. In 1941 a factory in El Salvador started manufacturing shortening from cottonseed oil. During the preceding 5 years some 138,000 pounds of edible vegetable oils were imported annually. Domestic consumption of vegetable oils has increased 300 percent. Now the country is manufacturing large quantities to supply the need and is growing more cotton to meet the demand for cottonseed. (New York Journal of Commerce)

PERU PLANS LARGE IRRIGATION PROJECT. The Peruvian Government has approved plans for a \$15,000,000 irrigation project, one of the largest in the Americas. Of the 250,000 acres involved, half is now desert, and the rest is partially irrigated. The area is on the western slope of the Andes just north of the Chimbote Bay region, where industrialization projects are already underway. The project includes the development of 100,000 kilowatts of electric power from the waters of the Santa River. It will extend over a period of from 3 to 8 years. (Times-Herald)

PERU LIMITS LINSEED EXPORT. Exportation of linseed from Peru will be authorized only after local requirements have been met. The Ministry of Agriculture there will determine the quantity that may be exported after each harvest. (New York Journal of Commerce)

IMPORTS FROM LATIN AMERICA INCREASING. General imports of merchandise into the United States from the 20 Latin American republics exceeded the total exports to them by \$371,000,000 during the 9-month period ended in September 1943. For the same period in 1942 the net import balance was \$221,000,000. Significant import balances are noted in our trade with Cuba, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, and Uruguay. United States exports to Panama and Venezuela exceeded imports from those countries. Costa Rica changed from an import to an export balance, and the Dominican Republic changed from an export to an import balance. Gold and silver import balances recorded considerable decrease, particularly for Mexico, Colombia, Peru, and Venezuela, with slight increases for Bolivia, Chile, and Ecuador. (New York Journal of Commerce)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD

LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST*

No. 518

★ DEC 20 1943 December 10, 1943

NEW GOOD-NEIGHBOR SCREEN CHARACTER CREATED. Like Donald Duck and Ibo Carioca, a new puppet character is about to set forth as U.S. Good Neighbor ambassador. Farmer Snarky is a cheerful little character in blue jeans, whose job is to show farmers south of the Rio Grande how easy and profitable it is to grow vegetables like peas, string beans, carrots, tomatoes, potatoes, lettuce, and radishes. The 10-minute color film, "Gardening Is Fun," is being made in Spanish and Portuguese as well as English and will be distributed at the request of officials of the other American republics for showings in rural community centers and in regular theaters. Another film, designed to encourage Latin American farmers to raise their own dairy cows, is under consideration. (Christian Science Monitor)

LATIN AMERICA PRODUCING MORE FLAX FOR FIBER. Before the first World War, Latin America supplied the United States with only one-quarter of 1 percent of the flax supplies. During 1942, the other Americas were supplying more than 50 percent. Although interest of growers has formerly been centered on seed and oil, because of higher monetary returns, increased demands are bringing about vast expansion of the flax industry for fiber. Peru has increased the cultivation of flax to about 4448 acres. Practically all the flax produced in Peru is exported. In both Paraguay and Uruguay some interest is being shown in production of flax for textiles. Since skilled labor is important to the ultimate quality of the flax fiber produced, it may, however, be some years before fine-quality flax will be produced in Latin American countries in large quantities. (New York Journal of Commerce)

ARGENTINA HAS HEAVY WHEAT PRODUCTION. Argentina's wheat crop this year bids fair to be 25 percent above the large 1942-43 crop, with a carry-over into next year of some 389,000,000 bushels. An acute storage situation is created by a shortage of bags. The Government is considering the construction of underground storage space. Difficulty in shipping grain is held responsible for keeping down imports of Argentine wheat into the United States. (New York Journal of Commerce)

ARGENTINA'S FLAXSEED SUPPLIES LOWER. Supplies of flaxseed in Argentina this season will total approximately 114,000,000 bushels, on the basis of the estimated December 1 carry-over and the first estimate of the 1943-44 crop. The total supplies for the season will, however, be somewhat lower than in 1942-43, mainly because of the large quantities used for fuel last year and a substantial increase in exports. Reports indicate about 16,000,000 bushels of the December carry-over will be used for fuel. (New York Journal of Commerce)

QUEBRACHO TO BE PROCESSED IN UNITED STATES. The Argentine Tannin Products Export Corporation has purchased a factory in Newark and begun to process quebracho bark to extract the tannin used in tanning leather. (New York Journal of Commerce)

BRAZIL HAS NEW OIL FOR MOTORS. Oil, rendered from the liver, intestines, and fatty tissue under the hides of alligators, or their South American cousins, caymans, is pinch hitting for straight gasoline to keep automobiles going in Brazil. It is being used also as a lubricant in precision machinery and by electric power plants. (New York Times)

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IMPORTANT RESOLUTIONS BY BRAZILIAN ECONOMIC CONVENTION. Three important resolutions were passed by the Economic Convention meeting last week in Rio de Janeiro. One creates a National Economy Council. Another urges that a greater incentive be offered to agricultural cooperatives. A third calls for the treatment of foreign capital in 2 ways: "Private capital must remain in the country...but public capital", meaning Government loans, would be repaid; it urges that the present circulation of foreign capital be controlled by the Government. (New York Times)

MENTHOL IN BRAZIL. As the harvesting of the mint crop begins in Brazil, much interest is felt in the possibility of exportations of menthol to the United States. Increasing demands for menthol are inspiring efforts to step up production. The price paid for old-crop menthol is understood to be \$40 per kilo and \$31 for new-crop March-April shipments. A minimum ceiling price of \$29 is reported to have been set in Brazil. Before the crop is harvested, however, increasing demand may have raised that price. Under present price regulations here, some difficulty may be encountered in selling the goods in this market. (New York Journal of Commerce)

BRAZIL COFFEE STILL HIGH. Brazil's offers to shippers of coffee are still above the ceiling price schedule in the United States. (New York Journal of Commerce)

NITRATE PURCHASED FROM CHILE. Negotiations have been concluded with the Chilean nitrate industry for the purchase by the United States of 700,000 tons of nitrate in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1944, with a 60-day option for the purchase of an additional 300,000 tons. Since 1941, approximately 1,600,000 tons of Chilean nitrate of soda were imported, with a loss of only 2 cargoes -- 12,000 tons -- by enemy action. The great bulk of present imports has been used in the production of food and feed, with 75 percent of the world's iodine coming as a byproduct from Chilean nitrate. (New York Times and New York Journal of Commerce)

CUBAN MOLASSES TO BE USED AT HOME. There is still no word on the blackstrap molasses deal between Cuba and the United States. The price hoped for--13.6 cents per gallon--allowing for processing costs and sugar content, was contended to be equivalent to 2.65 cents for sugar, the price paid for Cuba's 1944 crop. Meanwhile, Cubans are increasing their own alcohol-plant capacity. The present capacity is 30,000,000 gallons. The alcohol produced is used largely for local Cuban fuel. New uses by local Cuban distilleries are expected to consume the greater part of the 1943 blackstrap output. (New York Journal of Commerce)

URUGUAY SELLING WHEAT. The Government of Uruguay has ordered the sale abroad of 10,000 tons of wheat. (Washington Evening Star)

DUTY-FREE FEED BILL PASSED IN UNITED STATES. The U. S. House of Representatives passed a measure to permit duty-free importations of livestock and poultry feed for a period of 90 days. The bill was sent to the Senate on a roll-call vote of 255 to 55. As passed, the list included wheat, corn, barley, rye, flax, cottonseed, corn, and hay, with the specific provision that the bars are let down temporarily for their use only for feed for livestock and poultry. (New York Journal of Commerce)

MORE CHEWING GUM FOR THE UNITED STATES. This country has the prospect of more chewing gum, since chicle, which is imported from South America and is the ingredient largely used in the manufacture of chewing gum, has been removed from control by the new order of the War Production Board on rubber. Chicle has been found unsuitable for manufacture of essential rubber products. (New York Times)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS

LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST*

No. 519

December 17, 1943

ALL-CARGO AIR SERVICE INAUGURATED IN CARIBBEAN AREA. The first all-cargo flying clipper service in the Caribbean area was inaugurated early in December. Stripped of 2,500 pounds of de luxe passenger accommodations to provide maximum capacity for wartime cargoes, the clipper carried 8,800 pounds of cargo each way between Miami and Puerto Rico. Operating on no fixed schedules, the plane is expected to make flights from Barranquilla, Colombia, as well as Puerto Rico. (New York Journal of Commerce)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SERIAL 21344

REPORT GIVEN ON RUBBER FROM LATIN AMERICA. The president of the Rubber Development Corporation reported recently to the Senate Subcommittee on Agriculture and Forestry that the amount of rubber importations from April 1942 through December 31, 1943, was estimated at 45,000 long tons, of which 23,700 tons is from the Amazon Basin. Charging all expenditures against these imports would give a cost of 82 cents a pound for rubber from all Western Hemisphere sources and from the Amazon countries alone of \$1.12 a pound. Not for 3 or 4 months yet, however, will the full amount of rubber obtained be known, since the high water of the Amazon at this season will bring down quantities of rubber stranded by low water. The contracts with Bolivia, Brazil, and Peru run through until December 31, 1946, and by that time, the estimate is, Amazon rubber will have cost 75 cents a pound. (New York Journal of Commerce, Washington Post, and Christian Science Monitor)

DECLINE IN AMOUNTS OF FEEDSTUFF FROM SOUTH AMERICA FEARED. According to reports, allocations of cottonseed meal for fertilizer have been revoked because of continued heavy demands for this material for feedstuffs. In the meantime, there is a growing fear that importations of bone materials, tankage, and other sources of proteins for feedstuffs will decline because British agents are reported to be paying higher prices for these materials in South America than United States interests can afford to pay under current price ceilings. (New York Journal of Commerce)

ARGENTINA HAS ACQUIRED THE NEEDED SUGAR. The 40,000 tons of sugar needed in Argentina during the next few months because of poor sugarcane crops of recent years have been acquired abroad. (New York Journal of Commerce)

GOVERNMENT-REJECTED BUTTER FROM ARGENTINA GOING TO CIVILIANS. Considerable excitement has been aroused by the sale to civilians of 500,000 pounds of Argentine butter which had been rejected for Government use. The reported reason for the rejection is that the butter graded only 89 score and was unsalted, whereas for safe keeping and reshipping overseas butter must be salted and score 90 or better. An official grading report characterized the butter as having a "barnyard flavor." (Washington Evening Star)

CHILE RAISES MORE WHEAT. Chile has today 11 percent more wheat acreage than during the preceding season. The wheat acreage now totals 2,048,800 acres. (Washington Evening Star)

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CUBAN MOLASSES DEAL STILL OPEN. The United States needs industrial alcohol, 640,000,000 gallons of it, largely for synthetic rubber. At present it is being made from corn and wheat. This country is increasing its own wheat production and also imported 125,000,000 bushels of wheat from Canada last year. Industrial alcohol could be made from molasses. Cuba has some 200,000,000 gallons of molasses, which, according to present plans, will be used to make alcohol in Cuba for two purposes: One, to meet the Cuban need for internal-combustion engine fuel; the other, to make rum and gin for United States consumption, which is shipped here in small boats over which the War Shipping Administration has no official control. Roughly, 6-1/4 gallons of molasses makes the same amount of industrial alcohol that a bushel of corn or wheat makes. (Christian Science Monitor)

PEPSI COLA BUYS CUBAN SUGAR PLANTATION. Pepsi Cola has completed the purchase of a 77,000-acre sugar plantation and a sugar mill and refinery in Matanzas Province, Cuba. (New York Times)

MEXICO HAS MANY COMMUNAL FARMS. A total of 1,840,000 heads of farm families have been established on 15,600 communal farms in Mexico. The average ejido (communal farm) has 5,895 acres, and an average farmer can expect to obtain the income from 50 acres. Up to the present time the Government has given 92,000,000 acres to communal farms. Of this, however, probably only about one-fourth is what would be considered first-class farm land. The land is divided among the villagers as an outright gift, but it must be worked in common. (Washington Evening Star)

MEXICO SUFFERS FROM FLOOD. The State of Sinaloa suffered a heavy flood last week that took 29 lives and did more than \$8,000,000 damage. All crops in the rich farming country in the northern part of the State are reported to have been ruined and many cattle drowned. Food supplies are being sent into the flood area by boat, as railroad service has not yet been resumed. (Washington Evening Star)

MEXICO PLACES TAX ON GUAYULE. Mexico has placed a tax of \$1.60 a ton on guayule gathered from government lands for shipment to the United States, and the tax is to be raised 20 cents per ton for every increase of 1 cent per pound in the price of raw rubber in the United States. Guayule is mixed with rubber to make tires. (Christian Science Monitor)

NICARAGUA DRAFTING COFFEE HANDS. Because of shortage of labor to gather the coffee crop, the police authorities in Managua, Nicaragua, are giving those unable to show occupational cards a choice between working on coffee farms, paying a fine, or going to jail. If jail is chosen, the prisoner must work to eat. (New York Times)

PRICE OF BANANAS REDUCED AT PORTS. Because of the increase in supplies of bananas entering the United States from Central America the maximum price of this fruit f.o.b. port-of-entry has been reduced from \$5.50 to \$5.00 a hundredweight. (New York Journal of Commerce)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS

LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST*

No. 520

December 24, 1943

CUBA SENDS CHRISTMAS GIFT TO ARMED FORCES OF UNITED NATIONS. Cuba has sent to the armed forces of the United Nations a Christmas gift, valued at \$123,000, of Cuban cigars, candy, rum, and cigarettes. The collection was sponsored by the Rotary Club. (New York Times)

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ARGENTINA TO GIVE WHEAT. Up to 100,000 tons of wheat is to be distributed to needy Argentine citizens as a government measure to combat increased costs of living. The grain is part of the 1942-43 crop surplus not needed for exportation. (Washington Evening Star)

ARGENTINE EXPORTS HIGHER THAN LAST YEAR. The value of Argentine exports for the first 11 months of 1943 represents 21.7 percent increase over the same period in 1942. This total is the highest for any like period for the past 10 years except 1937 and was attained in spite of a slight drop in tonnage. Figures show decreased shipments of wheat, meat, hides, wool, and forest products, but an increased volume of flax, flour, dairy products, and livestock. (New York Journal of Commerce)

UNITED STATES-BRAZIL PACT TO LESSEN RESTRICTIONS PLANNED. The economic counselor of the American Embassy in Rio de Janeiro reports that members of the American Chamber of Commerce are working on an agreement with Brazil which would lessen restrictions on imports of United States products. Britain had lost about one-half of the usual trade in Brazil, but between January and October of this year began to regain losses. Britain's sales are expected to improve because that country continues to give credit up to 120 days, whereas the United States sells for cash. Brazil's imports of United States manufactures have, however, soared in recent months. (New York Times)

BRAZIL TO PROMOTE EXPORTATIONS OF MATE. A representative of the Matte Institute of Brazil has arrived in New York to promote the sale of mate. Mate is said to be a refreshing drink, similar to tea, containing vitamins A, B, C, and D and having nutritive value enough to supply the energy for long marches and general strenuous activity. It is made from a plant belonging to the holly family and is widely used in Brazil. (New York Times)

NEW NEGOTIATIONS ON CUBAN MOLASSES. A Cuban delegation has arrived to discuss existing contracts on the 1944 sugar crop. The main questions to be decided seem to be: Whether Cuba will ship blackstrap molasses for conversion into industrial alcohol for the war program; whether Cuba will convert the molasses into alcohol and sell it here; or continue the present policy of converting the molasses into potable alcohol, which is being sold in the United States in the form of rum, gin, and whisky. (New York Times)

EL SALVADOR'S COFFEE EXPORTATIONS GOOD. During the quota year ended September 30 exports of coffee from El Salvador to the United States totaled 833,098 bags of 152 pounds each, as compared with 765,328 bags during the preceding quota year. (New York Journal of Commerce)

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(Over)

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND COMMERCE
STATISTICAL SERVICE

ECUADOR BUILDING TWO FEEDER RAIL LINES. Under great difficulties of steep mountain grades and wide ranges of temperature, Ecuador is building two feeder rail lines to tap the northern and southern interior of the republic. They will connect with the nation's main railroad line, which runs from Guayaquil, the chief seaport, to Quito, whose altitude of 9,500 feet makes it one of the highest capital cities in the world. The northern feeder is proceeding toward San Lorenzo, a northern port which has no rail or highway connection. The southern feeder will eventually reach Cuenca, the largest city in southern Ecuador. At present Cuenca is connected with the railhead of Azogues by a paved segment of the Pan American Highway. The tapping of these sections will undoubtedly have considerable influence on the agriculture and economy of Ecuador. (Export Trade and Shipper)

CUBA TO PACK TOMATOES. Some tomato-canning machinery and equipment is being moved from California to Cuba. The failure of the tomato pack in the United States to come up to expectations has created the need for packing in Cuba this winter to the full extent of their production. Because new canning machinery could not be obtained there in time, some commercial plants in the United States are being moved to Cuba, where operations are expected to begin by the middle of next month. (New York Journal of Commerce)

OILS FROM GUATEMALA INCREASING IN VOLUME AND VALUE. Combined exports of citronella, eucalyptus, and lemon-grass oils from Guatemala to the United States increased in 1943 over those of 1942 about 33 percent in volume and 70 percent in value. (New York Journal of Commerce)

FLOODS DAMAGE MEXICAN TOMATO CROP. The severe storm and resulting flood which ravaged the west coast of Mexico 2 weeks ago did considerable damage to the tomato crop in the State of Sinaloa, from San Blas south. The extent of that damage cannot be fully known until railroad service has been completely resumed, which may not be until January 1, according to Southern Pacific Railroad reports. From replantings that may have to be made no tomatoes can be expected until well after April 1. In Sonora, however, little damage was done, and 22 cars of tomatoes have already crossed the border. During the remainder of the month some 200 cars of vegetables are expected to cross weekly. First peas will move from Sonora around Christmas. (The New York Packer)

MEXICAN RICE CROP SAVED BY DAM. Because of the new dam at La Angostura, one of the big four of irrigation services the Mexican Government has established, the entire rice crop in the Yaqui River irrigation system, valued at \$2,400,000, was saved this year. (Washington Evening Star)

PUERTO RICO ACCEPTS MOLASSES PRICE. A tentative acceptance, by a number of Puerto Rican groups, of the 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ cents per gallon price for molasses assures the United States of receiving at least part of the Caribbean molasses crop; although some of the Puerto Rican groups are still holding out for higher prices. (New York Journal of Commerce)

NEW LINK IN PAN AMERICAN HIGHWAY ADDED. The opening on December 15 of an international bridge over the Rio Goroascoran, joining Honduras and El Salvador, completed one more important link in the Pan American Highway. (Washington Evening Star)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS

LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST*

No. 521

December 31, 1943

TWO INSECTICIDES ARE CRITICALLY SHORT. The 1944 outlook for most insecticides and fungicides is favorable from a supply standpoint, with the exception of rotenone and pyrethrum. Supplies of those two materials are critically short. (New York Journal of Commerce)

COCOA SUPPLIES MAY BE SHORT. Unless shipments of cocoa from Africa to this country are heavy, the supply of cocoa may be short during the first half of the coming year. A recent offering of 100,000 bags from Bahia, Brazil, was quickly taken up. As the Brazilian crop is reported short, that country is not expected to have more than 200,000 to 300,000 bags left to sell. The new crop does not begin to be available until June-August shipments. (New York Journal of Commerce)

JOINT COMMISSION TO BUY CASEIN. Plans are reported under way for the establishment of a joint British-United States commission for the centralized handling of purchases of Argentine casein next year. The plan is similar to that in use for the buying of hides, except that, unlike the former plan, the purchasing of casein will be undertaken without recourse to normal trade channels. A British purchasing commission will build up a joint stockpile in Argentina for both countries, the bulk of which will be used as a high-protein food to feed devastated areas of Europe. Normally Britain buys only 5 percent of the Argentine casein and the United States most of the remainder. Before the war, production in the United States fluctuated between 45,000,000 and 65,000,000 pounds. Estimated production for 1943 is 20,000,000 to 21,000,000 pounds. Because of higher prices for fluid milk and milk products, supplies are diverted into those channels. Since supplies from France and Denmark are no longer available, Argentina remains the only sizable supplier for Allied needs. The casein advisory commission is scheduled to meet with WPB early in January. Britain purchased 1,000 tons last week and is reported to be in the market for another 1,000 tons, to alleviate the famine in India. Britain's price is 52 £ sterling per ton, which is comparable to United States importers' offering of 9.5 cents a pound f.o.b. At the same time, WPB has just issued import licenses for 3,000 tons for the first quarter of 1944. (New York Journal of Commerce)

BOLIVIA ASKS FOR AGREEMENT ON QUININE. One of the points of the 4-point plan offered by the revolution-born Bolivian Government to the United States for "greater economic cooperation" reads: "Speedy conclusion of an agreement with the United States for exploitation of Bolivian quinine, which was unduly delayed by the previous government'." (Washington Evening Star)

BRAZIL HAS LARGE COTTON CROP. Present estimates predict for Brazil a production of some 100,000 bales of cotton over last year's production. The North Brazil crop is in the harvesting stage, but that in South Brazil is still in the early growing state. If production turns out to be anywhere near as large as present estimates indicate, the total supply of cotton in that country for the current season will be by far the largest on record. With the stock on hand at the beginning of the season, the total season's supply would be approximately 4,800,000 bales of 478 pounds each. Last season the total supply approximated 3,800,000 bales, and in 1940-41, the season of record production, slightly over 3,600,000. (New York Journal of Commerce)

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COLOMBIAN COFFEE AWAITING SHIPMENT. A cable from Bogota, Colombia, reported recently that the stock of coffee awaiting shipment from Barranquilla, Cartagena, and Buenaventura totals 617,238 bags. (New York Journal of Commerce)

POWER AND IRRIGATION FROM SNOWCAPPED MOUNTAIN IN MEXICO. Melted snow from the summit of Mount Iztaccihuatl, called the "sleeping lady" from the contour of the three peaks, may soon provide hydro-electric power for four states and water for irrigation and private uses. The \$6,000,000 project now under consideration by government engineers would increase the output of electricity in the States of Puebla, Mexico, Morelos, and the Federal District approximately 75 percent. By a series of tunnels into the mountain the water from the thick snow cap that blankets the mountain the year round would be conducted through a network of canals encircling the peak into reservoirs, from which it would be forced through pipes down a 500-foot drop through giant turbines. From there it would be piped throughout the surrounding district for irrigation purposes. (Washington Daily News)

MEXICO INCREASING FINANCIAL AID TO FARMERS. Three private banks in the important agricultural zone around Torreon have raised their capital from 500,000 pesos to 3,000,000 pesos in order to expand their business to take care of cotton and farming credits. (New York Journal of Commerce)

MEXICO STUDIES GRAIN SAVING. Grain shortages in Chihuahua are laid to large-scale use of corn by whisky distilleries. Measures to curtail the conversion of otherwise needed grain into liquor are being considered. (Washington Evening Star)

PROSPECTS FOR NICARAGUAN COFFEE YIELD IMPROVED. Heavy rains during October have improved the prospects for the 1944 coffee yield in Nicaragua, and a special quota of gasoline has been granted for harvesting and transporting the crop. (New York Journal of Commerce)

NICARAGUAN SUPPLY OF MAHOGANY DEPLETED. War has caused so great a demand for mahogany lumber in Nicaragua that the Government has called attention to the need of reforestation to ensure future supplies. (Washington Evening Star)

PARAGUAY STUDIES THE PROBLEM OF STORAGE. Paraguay has created a commission to study a project for construction of grain elevators and refrigerating plants to store agricultural products within the country. (Washington Evening Star)

LESS FLAX PLANTED IN PERU. Flax for the 1943-44 crop is being cultivated in Peru on 11,567 acres less than for the 1942-43 season, but higher yields are anticipated because of the encouraging progress of the plants. The 1942-43 production of flax is estimated at about 2,200 metric tons. (New York Journal of Commerce)

PERUVIAN OFFICERS DONATE BLOOD TO RED CROSS. Twenty-five young Peruvian officers spending the holiday in Washington, donated blood at the Red Cross donor center as a Christmas gift to the fighting men of their Allies. (Washington Post)