

THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.
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WHAT ARE THE FACTS.

Recently, we sent the Secretary of Agriculture a clipping from a Chicago newspaper which related that while American malt was being shipped to Holland, the beer made therefrom was being exported to the United States. We also called attention to a report that quantities of Mexican beer were being sold as far north as New York City at fancy prices. We've also had hundreds of letters from people throughout Illinois pledging support to the program for feeding the destitute and starving people of Europe but that grain and sugar should be denied to the distilling and brewing industries. We've also received resolutions from the organizations which represent the men working in the distilling and brewing industry, protesting against the further curtailment of grain and other products so that these industries can continue to operate. In any case, our job is to first get the facts and we, therefore, present them precisely as they were obtained from the Department of Agriculture.

MALT FOR HOLLAND, BEER FOR U.S.

During the last three months of 1945 (and before the current food crisis developed) 300,000 bushels of malt were shipped to Holland for the production of beer to be sold in Holland. The Netherlands Embassy reports that so long as the food situation remains critical, no beer will be exported from Holland to the United States. The U.S. Customs Service reports that no shipments of beer have arrived from Holland at any U.S. ports.

MEXICAN BEER.

For the calendar year 1945, about 200,000 barrels of beer were imported from Mexico. For the same period, U.S. production of beer was 87,000,000 barrels so that imports from Mexico were in the ratio of 1 barrel of Mexican beer imported for every 435 barrels produced in the United States.

GRAIN FOR BREWERS.

On March 1st, 1946, an order was issued under which brewers were restricted to a level of operations which is 70% of their production for 1945. Breweries are presently operating on that reduced basis.

GRAIN FOR DISTILLERS.

In Pursuance of a directive issued by the President on February 6th 1946, the use of grain by distillers is limited to 5 full days of operation per month. Only poor grades of corn and limited quantities of rye can be used. In addition, distillers of beverage alcohol are not permitted to carry inventories of grain and grain products in excess of a 7½ days supply.

TOTAL GRAIN INVOLVED.

The program as set out above will permit the use of about 4,000,000 bushels of grain per month by all of the brewers of the United States and about 3,500,000 bushels of grain per month by all of the distillers of the United States. Total, would, therefore, be about 7½ million bushels per month or 90 million bushels per year. Average annual production of corn, wheat, rye and barley is about 4½ billion bushels per year.