

At Home and Abroad**Tanning Materials for New Zealand**

THERE is a good demand for myrobalan extract and other tanning materials in New Zealand. Substantial quantities of cow hides and sheep skins are available in New Zealand for tanning. There are twenty tanning establishments producing nearly two million pounds (£NZ) worth of goods per annum. As tanning materials are not produced locally, all requirements like tannin, bark extracts, dyes, salt and chemicals are imported. During the year ending December 1951, £57,342 worth of tanning extracts were imported into New Zealand and during the ten months ending October 1952, £52,473 worth of tanning extracts were imported.

The tables show imports of tanning extracts and myrobalan into New Zealand for the 12 months ending December 1950 and 1951:

**Tanning Extracts**

From	1950 £	1951 £
United Kingdom	3,955	3,385
India	1,412	3,796
South Africa	24,055	10,958
British		
West Indies	—	109
Australia	7,586	5,514
France	—	13
West Germany	—	1,744
Norway	121	2,443
Switzerland	—	262
United States of America	19,452	29,118
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,621</b>	<b>57,342</b>

**Import of Myrobalan into New Zealand**

Country	1950		1951	
	Qty Tons	Value £	Qty Tons	Value £
United Kingdom ... ..	1	165	—	—
India ... ..	40	2,258	75	4,047
Union of South Africa ... ..	98	3,515	105	2,738
Australia ... ..	84	3,231	18	165
Norway ... ..	15	264	—	—
China ... ..	1	2	—	—
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>9,535</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>6,950</b>

There is no restriction on the import of tanning materials into New Zealand. There is an import duty of 3 per cent ad valorem on myrobalan and other tanning materials of Commonwealth countries including India.

**Indian Sports Goods in Holland**

There is a considerable scope for

marketing Indian hockey sticks, footballs, squash rackets and other sports materials in Holland. Besides the normal import duty of 20 per cent ad valorem, an extra luxury tax at the rate of 30 per cent ad valorem is leviable on sports goods in this country. In spite of this, hockey sticks manufactured in India and Pakistan are very popular in Holland.

**Draft Standard for Coke**

A draft Indian standard for hard coke has been circulated by the Indian Standards Institution.

The draft specification classifies hard coke into three grades on the basis of its composition. But since it restricts itself to hard coke used in foundries and blast furnace, the ISI plans to issue a separate standard some time in the future regarding hard coke used for other purposes.

**Cracking Catalysts for Oil**

The first European factory for the production of cracking catalysts for the oil industry was opened in Amsterdam some time ago. The programme of production has been drawn up in co-operation with the American Cynamid Company, New York, one of the firms in the United States producing cracking catalysts.

The production of the factory is intended in particular for the European refineries of the Standard Oil and the Royal Dutch—Shell Group.

Ministry of Transport, and the Public Accounts Committee in its Sixth Report on the Hirakud Dam Project has recommended a probe into its account.

The terms of reference of the Committee are:

(1) To scrutinise the accounts of the Mahanadi Bridge as already compiled and to determine the final cost of construction of the bridge.

(2) The reasons for the increase in the final cost as determined by the Committee over the original estimate as sanctioned by the Ministry of Transport.

(3) To analyse the excess expenditure and indicate what portion of the excess is attributable to the speeding up of the construction of the bridge in the interests of the Hirakud Dam Project and what portion to other reasons.

(4) Whether, in view of the decision of the construction authorities to adopt departmental construction instead of contract, any precautions were taken by them to ensure that the through rates provided for in the sanctioned estimates were not being exceeded in actual construction.

(5) Having decided to speed up the construction of the bridge in the interests of the Project, what was the appropriate time at which the construction authorities should have brought to the notice of Government that the actual expenditure on the bridge was likely to exceed appreciably the sanctioned estimate on this account and the circumstances in which they failed to do so.

(6) Shares of the actual expenditure to be borne by the Hirakud Dam Project and the Ministries of Transport and Railway in accordance with the method of allocation already agreed upon by the parties concerned.

**Lower Sind Barrage**

The Lower Sind Barrage is expected to be completed by May next year and the Government of Sind is working out a plan of colonising 2,800,000 acres of land in the barrage area. The Lower Sind Barrage which will cost about Rs 42 crores is expected, after the completion of this project, to raise food production from 1,70,000 tons as at present to 6,80,000 tons.

The Barrage will be 3,520 feet long with 44 spans, each 80 feet wide and closed by 21 flood gates. While the main purpose of the project is irrigation, it will enable development of 10,000 kws of hydroelectric power. Work on this project was started in February 1950.

**Mahanadi Bridge Accounts**

The Ministry of Irrigation and Power, Government of India, has appointed a committee of two members to scrutinise the accounts of the rail-road bridge across the Mahanadi at Sambalpur. This project was constructed by the Central Water and Power Commission on behalf of the