

THE JAPAN ECONOMIC FEDERATION
(Nippon Keizai Renmei-Kai)

The Japan Economic Federation was founded in August, 1922, with the objects of contributing to the formation and execution of national economic policy at home, and of keeping close contact with foreign business institutions in the promotion of international trade and friendship. Baron Seinosuke Goh is the President, and Mr. Seichi Takashima, the Director of the Federation. Under its auspices, the Japanese-American Trade Council, the Japanese-British Trade Committee, and the Japanese-Italian Trade Committee have been formed for the furtherance of trade relations between Japan and the countries concerned. More recently, in April, 1939, the Federation constituted within itself a new organization called the Foreign Relations Council (Taigai Iinkai) with the objects of: (1) inquiring into and distributing correct information regarding the economic and industrial conditions actually prevailing in Japan, Manchoukuo, and China; (2) arousing interest among foreign countries and promoting, where possible, their co-operation in the economic development of these countries. In pursuance of these objectives, not only is the Federation prepared to supply information, but it endeavours also to give facility to such foreign organizations and individuals as would seek the opportunity for co-operation in the economic development of East Asia. Precisely for this purpose, it publishes the *East Asia Economic Intelligence Series* and also the *East Asia Economic News*, a monthly bulletin of information. Baron Seinosuke Goh is the President and Mr. Setsuzo Sawada the Executive Chairman of the Foreign Relations Council.

The Foreign Relations Bureau (Taigai Jimu Kyoku) is the secretariat of the Council. Mr. Seichi Takashima is the Director and Mr. Iwao Ayusawa, the Deputy Director of this Bureau. All inquiries should be addressed to:

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EAST ASIA ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE SERIES

No. 5

THE CANNING INDUSTRY
OF
JAPAN

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CHAPTER 1

DEVELOPMENT OF THE CANNING INDUSTRY IN JAPAN

THE history of the canning industry may be traced as far back as some 150 years, to 1795, when, after the Revolution, the French people under the leadership of Napoleon Bonaparte were busily engaged in warfare on land and sea against neighbouring states.

It was then that the French Government offered a premium for an invention enabling the provision of fresh foodstuffs to those serving in the Army or on ships. Stimulated by this offer, a Frenchman, Nicolas Appert, devoted his labours to the discovery of a means of preserving foodstuffs and finally came upon the process of partially cooking and hermetically sealing comestibles in receptacles—which process prevented their deterioration—thereby fulfilling the Government's requirements.

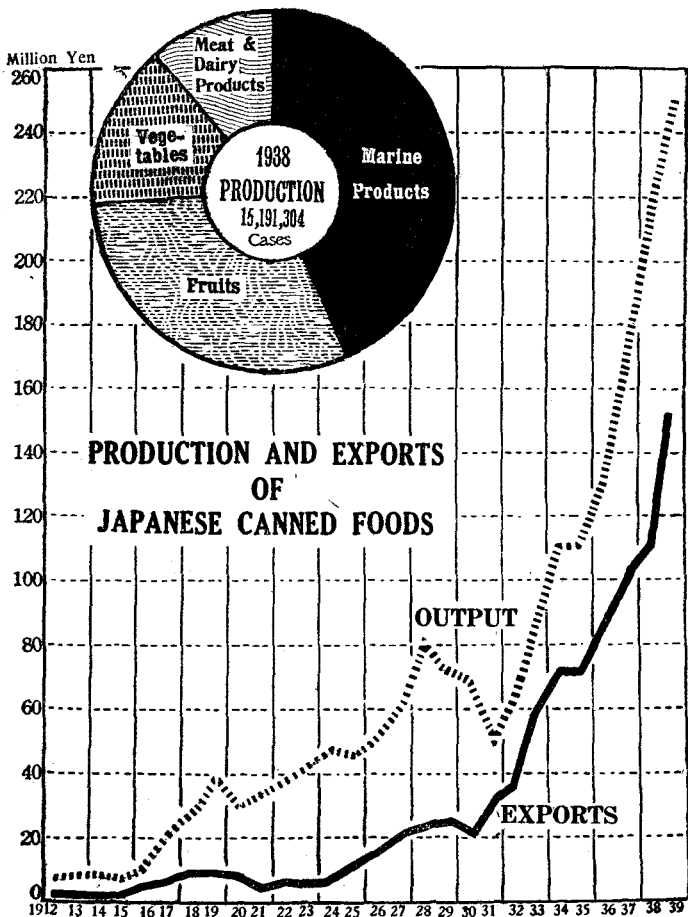
The industry owes its beginning to a war ; its development has likewise been encouraged by those wars which followed. For instance, the development of the canning industry in the United States received considerable impetus through the Civil War of 1865, when President Lincoln despatched the Unionist army into the Southern States. The Union commissariat was supplied with a considerable quantity of canned foodstuffs so that Northern soldiers, upon their home-coming, brought with them these conserves to distribute among their people ; this led to

a wide-spread adoption by the American nation of the new form of conserving provisions.

The World War of 1914-18 was the greatest contributing factor in the rise of the canning industry, placing it in the forefront among those connected with that war. Belligerent countries spared no effort to obtain as much of the preserved foodstuffs as possible and from the United States alone some 4,800,000,000 cans were shipped to Europe.

The first Japanese to interest himself in the art of canning food was one, Masanori Matsuda. It was in 1869, the second year of the Meiji Era, that Matsuda, then in Nagasaki and under the instructions of a Frenchman, M. Jullie, teacher in the Ko-un Kwan school, preserved sardines in oil. This was more than 60 years after Appert's discovery.

In 1875, the Department of Home Affairs conducted its first experiments in food preservation at the Shinjuku Branch of its Industrial Board. By this time, Sakichi Yanagisawa, who had studied the art in the United States, had returned to Japan and was invited by the Government department referred to, to demonstrate his skill in connection with canning peaches. Meanwhile, Meisei Sekizawa, who had acquired experience in the salmon canneries along the Columbia River in the U. S. A., came back from Vienna and Philadelphia, in which cities he had represented Japan at the International Exhibitions of that year. He was so eager to promote the industry upon his return that he seized the first opportunity to obtain the hearing of Toshimichi Okubo, then Minister for Home Affairs, to whom he reported upon the economical advantages



CHAPTER VI

JAPAN'S WORLD POSITION IN THE CANNING INDUSTRY

A SURVEY conducted by the Canned Foods Association of Japan and based upon the latest data available gives the total annual world production of canned foods as 391,626,000 cases, of which meat and dairy products account for 19.6 per cent, marine products 10.3 per cent, fruits 18.4 per cent and vegetables 51.7 per cent. Japan's share, based on the figures for 1937, is 1.6 per cent, 19.2 per cent, 3.9 per cent and 0.6 per cent respectively. The United States ranks first in the international listing with 77.9 per cent whereas Japan occupies the sixth place with 3.3 per cent (13,158,000 cases).

The total annual world exports of canned provisions are around 52, 489,000 cases, of which meat and dairy products represent 35.8 per cent, marine products 23.6 per cent, fruits 26.8 per cent and vegetables 13.8 per cent, Japan's share being 0.6 per cent, 40.4 per cent, 8.9 per cent and 2.7 per cent respectively. In point of marine products exported, Japan, with 5,103,000 cases, takes a predominant position, easily leading the U.S.A., its nearest competitor.

Comparative figures for the World, the United States, and Japan in regard to the production and exports of canned foods during 1937 are given in the following pages. The rankings of the U. S. A., and Japan in the world markets are also indicated.

(1937)	Cases	Percentage	Rank	
1. World production of canned foods.....	391,626,000	-	-	
The United States....	278,000,000	77.9	First	
Japan,	13,158,000	3.3	Sixth	
2. World production of canned marine products	42,292,000	-	-	
The United States.....	20,000,000	47.4	First	
Japan.....	7,735,000	18.2	Second	
3. World annual exports of canned foods.....	52,489,000	-	-	
The United States.....	10,654,000	20.3	First	
Japan.....	6,715,000	12.7	Second	
4. World annual exports of canned marine products.....	12,620,000	-	-	
Japan.....	5,103,000	40.4	First	
The United States.....	2,034,000	16.1	Second	
5. Ratio of Japan's annual production of canned foods to world production, by variety :				
	World production (in cases)	Ratio to the total (%)	Japan's produc- tion (in cases)	Ratio to the world produc- tion (%)
Meat and dairy products..	76,727,000	19.6	1,246,000	1.6
Marine.....	40,292,000	10.3	7,735,000	19.2
Fruits.....	72,192,000	18.4	2,879,000	3.9
Vegetables..	202,505,000	51.7	1,298,000	0.6
6. Ratio of Japan's annual exports of canned foods to world exports, by variety :				

	World Exports (in cases)	Ratio to the total (%)	Japan's Exports (in cases)	Ratio to the world Exports (%)
Meat and dairy products ..	19,155,000	35.8	115,000	0.6
Marine.....	12,620,000	23.7	5,103,000	40.4
Fruits.....	14,269,000	26.6	1,281,000	8.9
Vegetables....	7,425,000	13.9	214,000	2.8

The above survey shows that :

1. In production, Japan's place in the world canning industry is sixth for canned provisions in general and second for marine products.
2. In regard to exports, she holds second place generally but stands first in respect of marine products.
3. Japan's exports of marine products represent 74.0 per cent of her total exports of canned foods.
4. Her exports of preserved meat and dairy products, fruits and other agricultural products are small compared with those of other countries.

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Future of the Canning Industry in Japan

So far as marine products are concerned, the Japanese canning industry is favoured with an infinite supply of fish and shellfish of all varieties. In this particular branch, therefore, her main effort has been directed more particularly to the improvement and development of the manufacturing end, and all her plans in this connection have been successfully carried out both in regard to quality and to the method of packing. It remains for her to seek methods tending to the improvement and furtherance of output along the lines of agricultural and meat products

