

(Institute of Pacific Relations continued)

5. The Economic and Social Effects of Development of the Pacific Tropics as Sources of Vegetable Oils:
Definition of Topic:

An investigation into the acreage, present and prospective, of tropical vegetable oil crops such as coconut and palm, the trend of this form of tropical agriculture in the Pacific area, the changes that must result

from such trend in food production, in shifts of population, in world trade, in relations between the several Pacific countries and in social and economic conditions generally in the Pacific area.

Purpose and Need of the Investigation:

Oils for food and technological purposes are produced more efficiently in warm than in cool climates. For this reason the

Tropics -- and especially the Pacific Tropics -- are becoming and are destined to continue to become the world's factory for vegetable oil. This is having and will continue to have a profound effect upon food production and upon agriculture throughout the world. It will have a determining effect upon food production and upon agriculture throughout the world. It will have a determining effect upon animal husbandry, for example, since this branch of agriculture is an important source of fats with which vegetable oils compete directly. Many dislocations are resulting and many readjustments will be necessary. To foresee these is of the utmost economic and social importance.

The production of vegetable oils in the Pacific area has already profoundly affected social and economic conditions in that area and is bound to continue to do so in increasing degree. The effect on the international relations of Pacific countries has already been great and is bound to continue. It is obvious therefore that to forecast the relations of the future one must take into one's calculations the future of vegetable oil production and trade in the Pacific. That trade is bound to have a profound influence upon economic, social and political conditions. However, the vegetable oil industry of the Pacific is not an entity in itself. It is but part of the world trade in fats and oils. It cannot be studied by itself but must be viewed in the light of conditions elsewhere. Hence the project must take a somewhat generalized form.

Method: 1. The collection, collation and critical interpretation of all statistical, economic and related material already available including a critical study of the reports of plantation companies, of soil maps and surveys, etc.

2. When the above study has been completed it may prove necessary to visit some of the Pacific areas, though this should be done only after it has been found impossible to secure the desired data from the respective governments or from individuals situated in the areas concerning which information is needed.

3. Critical study of the consumption of the oils with