

PERON THREATENS SEIZURE OF MILLS

Textile Manufacturers Protest
They Cannot Operate Under
His Price-Wage Plan

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BUENOS AIRES, March 20—Textile manufacturers who had protested they could not operate under newly established price ceilings and must lay off workers have been warned by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry that the Government will seize and run all plants where production is stopped or workers are dismissed.

The Government action, which was prominently displayed in all newspapers, was the boldest announcement the Government had made in its program to see that the maximum price scale it set last Saturday to halt an inflationary spiral was maintained.

A Government press communiqué said that several manufacturers had approached the Ministry saying they could not continue production at the frozen prices and at the same time give their workers the wage increases that had been set by the Government.

The Ministry replied that this was nothing less than "sabotage" of President Juan D. Perón's economic plan for this year. All that the manufacturers needed to do, it said, was to eliminate all unnecessary middlemen. Should any plant dismiss its workers or diminish production, the Government will seize it and continue full production, paying no attention to the interests of the owners, but only to those of the workers and the public, the Ministry declared.

On another sector of the eco-

nomie front, the Minister of Finance, Alfredo Gomez Morales, announced a new credit plan for agriculture. It was hoped that under the new plan the next grain crop would exceed that of 1950 by 20 per cent. Drought, and the Government's agricultural policies in the past two years, have reduced Argentine production to the point where this once great granary this year raised hardly enough to meet the country's domestic requirements.

Credits are to be given to farmers in such a way as to encourage the most profitable use of the land. To obtain a loan a farmer possessing land judged most fitted for the production of wheat would not be eligible for credits to graze cattle. Government agents would direct what type of crops were to be raised by successful applicants.