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JAPANESE TRADE AND INDUSTRY

PRESENT AND FUTURE

by

MITSUBISHI ECONOMIC RESEARCH BUREAU

1936

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IRON ORES, IRON AND STEEL. The iron and steel industry in Japan witnessed many years of depression until 1931, but with the expansion of armaments, great activity ensued in the following years. As a result of the development of the steel industry, Japan at present approaches to a state of self-sufficiency in steel products, and relative imports registered a sharp decline. Although these imports increased again in the past two years, the ratio of imports to domestic production was only 11.2% in 1934. However, the imports of pig iron have increased in recent years as domestic production was unable to meet the demand from steel producers.

Resources of iron ore in Japan are very poor, and large supplies must be imported annually. These imports have more or less risen since 1933, but not wholly proportionate to the increase of pig iron production, evidencing an advance, though small, in the domestic ore output.

Iron ores of good quality at a comparatively low cost are imported chiefly from the Straits Settlements and China. This helped greatly the development of Japan's iron and steel industry. Although yet small, imports from Australia in the past few years have shown a marked advance.

The principal sources of pig iron are Manchoukuo and British India. In addition to pig iron, scrap is now in great demand, the source of which at present is the United States.

Steel products are supplied by many countries, chief among which are the United States, Germany and Belgium, with a share of more than 20% each. Imports from Great Britain come next, but are now less than 10%.

EXCERPT TAKEN FROM  
PAGES 530-531.

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Ref. 715-23

日本の貿易と工業

現在及将来

三菱経済研究所

昭和十一年

鐵鑛 鐵鋼鐵 日本鐵及鋼鐵工業は昭和六年迄はす  
 年の間不景氣状態にあつたが軍備擴張に伴ひ爾後  
 年度からは大いに活況になつた。鋼鐵工業の發達の結果現  
 在日本は鋼鐵生産額では自給自足の域に近づいてゐる。そして  
 相對的に輸入量は著るしく減少を示してゐる。  
 尤もこれらの輸入量は最近二年間に再び増加した。國內生  
 産額に對する輸入額の比率は昭和九年度では一二%に過  
 ぎない。然し國內生産量だけでは鋼鐵生産業者の需要を  
 充つことができなかったから鐵鋼の輸入は近年増加した。

日本に於ける鐵鑛の資源は極めて乏しく大量の鐵鑛は毎年  
 輸入に俟たねばならぬ。これらの輸入量は昭和八年よりす  
 少増加を示したが、鐵鋼の生産額増加に全く比例してゐる  
 譯ではない。これは少量であるが國內に於ける鐵鑛生産額の  
 増加を示してゐる。良質の鐵鑛は比較的低廉な價格で主  
 として海峽殖民地及支那から輸入されてゐる。これは日本の鐵  
 及鋼鐵工業の發達に大いに與つて力があつた。少量ではあるが  
 最近数年間に於ける濠洲からの輸入は著しい増加を示した。  
 鐵鋼の輸入は主として滿洲國及英領印度に仰いでゐる。鐵鋼  
 の外、角鐵は現在非常に需要があるが、これの輸入は現在マ  
 リカ合衆國に仰いでゐる。