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THE
BOARD OF TRADE



JOURNAL
AND
COMMERCIAL GAZETTE

[REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER]

Vol. CV. (New Series.) No. 1244.] SEPTEMBER 30th, 1920. [Price Sixpence Net.

SPECIAL CONTENTS.

**FOREIGN TRADE OF BELGIUM:
REMARKABLE RECOVERY.**

—
MESOPOTAMIA: THE COUNTRY AND ITS TRADE.

—
**PASSENGER MOVEMENT FROM
AND TO THE UNITED KINGDOM.**

—
**PRODUCTION OF PETROLEUM IN THE
UNITED KINGDOM.**

LONDON:
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The Department of Overseas Trade (Development and Intelligence),

35, Old Queen Street, London, S.W. 1, and

73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C. 2.

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DIRECT COMMUNICATION WITH TRADERS.

The DEPARTMENT OF OVERSEAS TRADE (DEVELOPMENT AND INTELLIGENCE) is a centre at which information on all subjects of commercial interest is collected and classified in a form convenient for reference, and at which, so far as the interests of British trade permit, replies are given to enquiries by traders on commercial matters. As far as is possible, the Department supplies, on personal or writing application, information with regard to the following subjects. Foreign and Colonial Contracts open to Tender, and other openings for British Trade; Lists of manufacturers at home and lists of firms abroad engaged in particular lines of business in different localities; Foreign and Colonial Tariff and Customs Regulations; Commercial Statistics; Forms of Certificates of Origin; Regulations concerning Commercial Travellers, Sources of Supply, Prices, etc., of Trade Products: Shipping and Transport, etc.

One of the aims of the Department of Overseas Trade is to bring its Overseas Services into close personal touch with business men, and British firms when sending representatives abroad are recommended to instruct them to call on His Majesty's Consular Officers in the countries they visit, and on the Commercial Diplomatic Officer in the capital of each country and, in the case of the Dominions, on His Majesty's Trade Commissioners.

Samples of foreign competitive goods and commercial products which are received from abroad from time to time are exhibited at the Offices of the Department.

Over 60,000 samples of goods of Foreign manufacture which were sold in British markets abroad and in certain

foreign markets are on exhibition in the Sample Rooms of the Department at 3, Guildhall Courtyard, E.C., and are not available for the inspection of British manufacturers.

The BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR, 1920, opened on Monday, 23rd February, at the Crystal Palace, Birmingham and Glasgow, and closed on Friday, 5th March. The Office dealing with Fair matters is at 35, Old Queen Street, S.W. 1, to which address all enquiries should be made.

In order that British manufacturers may have an opportunity of familiarising themselves with Foreign methods of advertising (including German and Austrian), the Board of Trade have collected over 13,000 Foreign Trade Catalogues, and these may be inspected by British manufacturers at the Department of Overseas Trade (Development and Intelligence), 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C. 2.

A new index has been prepared, in which the catalogues are classified both as regards articles of manufacture and names of manufacturers, thus rendering identification of any particular catalogue a simple matter. Copies of this index may be obtained by United Kingdom manufacturers on application to the Comptroller-General, Department of Overseas Trade (Development and Intelligence), 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C. 2.

All communications intended for the Department of Overseas Trade (Development and Intelligence) should be addressed to: The Comptroller-General, Department of Overseas Trade (Development and Intelligence), 35, Old Queen Street, London S.W. 1.

OPENINGS FOR TRADE AND NAMES OF TRADERS IN COUNTRIES ABROAD.

Confidential Information.

SPECIAL REGISTER.

The Special Register affords early information to manufacturers and traders of new trade openings abroad before they become public property. It is also a vehicle for circulating reports on foreign competition, and any other matters likely to be of importance and interest to particular trades. The information, which is private and confidential, is supplied to the Department by His Majesty's Trade Commissioners within the Empire, and by His Majesty's Diplomatic and Consular Representatives in foreign countries, and is circulated to firms on the Register as quickly as possible after its receipt.

The Register is open to any approved British firm on the payment of a fee of £2 4s. 6d. per annum (which includes the annual subscription to the "Board of Trade Journal"). It is not open to non-British traders.

Information is supplied solely for the purpose of extending trade in British-made goods.

Those British firms who desire their names to be included in the Special Register should communicate with The Comptroller-General, Department of Overseas Trade (Development and Intelligence), 35, Old Queen Street, London, S.W. 1.

FORM K.

H.M. Consular Officers have received instructions to furnish the Department of Overseas Trade (Development and Intelligence) with commercial information respecting all firms in their respective Consular Districts who can be recommended as possible importers of goods of British manufacture. This information, which includes the local bank

references of the firms concerned, goods particularly required, terms of trading and language in which correspondence should be carried on, is furnished to the Department on a prescribed form, which is known as Form K.

In order to obtain the fullest possible advantages from the "Form K" system of information, a wide circulation is ESSENTIAL.

A system of co-operation between the Department of Overseas Trade (Development and Intelligence) and British traders is therefore necessary, and this co-operation is being attained as follows:—

1. The Department collects and edits the information.
 2. The Trade Associations distribute the information.
- That is, the Department issues the information to—
- (a) The Association of Chambers of Commerce.
 - (b) The Federation of British Industries.

The bodies comprised in these organisations have their various component trades classified as shown in "Form K." and lists of traders are therefore only circulated to those firms which come under that classification, thus avoiding circulating to trades which are not interested.

The system is safeguarded by agreements with the distributing organisations against the issue of the information to any outside firms. All firms who wish to receive the information have to be approved by the Department. At present over 10,000 firms have joined, and any other firms who wish to participate should apply through their Chamber of Commerce or the Federation of British Industries (39, St. James's Street, London, S.W. 1), or through bodies affiliated to the latter.

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The Board of Trade Journal AND COMMERCIAL GAZETTE.

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The Board of Trade.

COAL.

THE WEEKLY OUTPUT.

Provisional figures for the weekly tonnage output of coal during the four weeks ended 18th September are given below.

The output for the week ended 18th September was 4,708,900 tons, against 4,606,800 tons in the previous week, and 4,750,900 tons in the corresponding long week in Northumberland and Durham.

	28th Aug. Tons.	4th Sept. Tons.	11th Sept. Tons.	18th Sept. Tons.
Northumberland	237,100	226,200	245,800	228,500
Durham	642,900	620,900	638,900	616,600
Yorkshire	709,800	772,300	658,300	755,100
Lancashire, Cheshire and North Wales.....	427,300	444,900	414,300	422,500
Derby, Nottingham, and Leicester	607,600	595,000	566,700	622,100
Stafford, Shropshire, Warwick, Worcester	369,800	363,300	363,500	363,100
South Wales and Monmouthshire	947,200	966,300	959,800	959,800
Other English Dist.	104,300	105,100	105,000	102,500
Scotland	544,600	656,900	654,500	658,600
Total	4,590,600	4,750,900	4,606,800	4,708,900

FIFTY-TWO WEEKS' SUMMARY.

The total production weekly of coal since 20th September, 1919, is given below:—

	Tons.		Tons.
September 27th	4,481,434	March 27th	4,879,192
October 4th	2,871,610	April 3rd	3,979,747
October 11th	4,076,862	April 10th	3,337,793
October 18th	4,727,465	April 17th	4,833,072
October 25th	4,761,037	April 24th	4,989,666
November 1st	4,674,532	May 1st	4,564,564
November 8th	4,801,456	May 8th	4,674,302
November 15th	4,679,402	May 15th	4,860,668
November 22nd	4,767,598	May 22nd	4,830,707
November 29th	4,762,729	May 29th	3,199,947
December 6th	4,808,524	June 5th	4,718,183
December 13th	4,886,156	June 12th	4,769,824
December 20th	4,910,106	June 19th	4,873,737
December 27th	3,352,603	June 26th	4,685,524
January 3rd	3,494,712	July 3rd	4,734,651
January 10th	4,540,723	July 10th	4,676,328
January 17th	4,902,906	July 17th	4,665,546
January 24th	4,851,521	July 24th	4,284,419
January 31st	4,866,066	July 31st	4,567,200
February 7th	4,846,167	August 7th	3,086,700
February 14th	4,897,311	August 14th	4,595,200
February 21st	4,855,845	August 21st	4,697,200
February 28th	4,835,928	August 28th	4,590,600
March 6th	4,852,427	September 4th	4,750,900
March 13th	4,900,640	September 11th	4,606,800
March 20th	4,872,642	September 18th	4,708,900

PROFITEERING ACT DEPARTMENT.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

The second meeting of the Gas Apparatus Sub-Committee of the Prices Committee was held on 20th September, when further evidence was taken.

The forty-third meeting of the Standing Committee on Trusts was held on 21st September, when the Report of the Oils and Fats Sub-Committee was received and adopted.

The ninth meeting of the Pottery Sub-Committee (Prices) was held on the same date at Stoke-on-Trent, when further evidence was taken.

Meetings of Sub-Committees took place on 22nd September as follows:—

Milk Sub-Committee (Trusts).—Eighteenth meeting. Further evidence was given by producers.
Motor Fuel Sub-Committee (Prices).—Twenty-fourth meeting. The draft Report was considered.

THE BOARD OF TRADE—continued.

The fortieth meeting of the Investigation of Prices Standing Committee was held on 23rd September, when the Report of the Furniture Sub-Committee was received and adopted.

The eleventh meeting of the Uniform Clothing Sub-Committee (Trusts) was held on the same date, when the Report was finally agreed to by the Sub-Committee. Meetings of Sub-Committees took place on 24th September, as follows:—

Glassware Sub-Committee (Trusts).—Fourteenth meeting. Further evidence was taken.

Meat Sub-Committee (Trusts).—Eighteenth meeting. Consideration was given to the draft Report, particularly to that portion dealing with hides and fats.

Cement and Mortar Sectional Committee of the Building Materials Sub-Committee (Prices and Trusts).—Nineteenth meeting. The draft Report was again discussed.

THE GAS REGULATION ACT, 1920.

APPLICATIONS FOR BOARD OF TRADE ORDERS.

Rules have now been made by the Board of Trade with respect to applications for Orders under Section I of the Gas Regulation Act, 1920. The Board have prepared model forms of application and notice, and a prescribed form of schedule, so that gas undertakers when making their applications may know exactly what particulars are required. These forms and schedule may be obtained from the Assistant Secretary, Power, Transport and Economic Department, Board of Trade, Great George Street, London, S.W. 1. The text of the Act has been published by H.M. Stationery Office, price 3d. net.

TEXT OF THE RULES.

I. Application to the Board of Trade for an Order under Section I of the Gas Regulation Act, 1920, may be made to the Assistant Secretary, Power, Transport, and Economic Department, Board of Trade, Great George Street, London, S.W.1.

II. The application shall state the standard or maximum price or prices per therm which the Undertakers applying for the Order (hereinafter called "the Undertakers") propose should be substituted (in accordance with the provisions of Sub-Section (3) of Section I of the Act) for the standard or maximum price or prices per 1,000 cubic feet authorised by the statutory or other provisions affecting the charges which may be made by the Undertakers.

III. The application shall be accompanied by the following documents:—

- A schedule (in triplicate) in the prescribed form showing in detail the cost to the Undertakers of supplying gas for the periods specified in the form, and a copy of the published accounts of the Undertakers for the specified periods, together with a statement of the price or prices charged for gas during each of those periods.
- A list of the enactments and other provisions requiring the Undertakers to supply gas of any particular illuminating or calorific value.
- A list of the statutory and other provisions affecting the charges to be made by the Undertakers.

IV. (1) Notice of the application shall be published in the "London," "Edinburgh" or "Dublin Gazette," as the case may be, and in at least one newspaper circulating within the limits of supply of the Undertakers and shall also be served on the local authority. For the purposes of these Rules the expression "local authority" shall mean every county, county borough and urban district council, the whole or any part of whose area is within or partly within the limits of supply of the Undertakers. Where any portion of the City of London is within such limits the Notice shall also be served on the Common Council of the City of London.

(2) The Notice shall state the standard or maximum price or prices per 1,000 cubic feet authorised by the enactments and other provisions relating to the Undertakers and the prices per therm which the Undertakers propose should be substituted therefor.

THE BOARD OF TRADE—continued.

(3) The Notice shall also state that a copy of the application and of all the documents submitted to the Board of Trade therewith may be inspected, free of charge, at the office of the Undertakers within the limits of supply during office hours, that representations with regard to the application may be made to the Board of Trade before a date to be fixed in the Notice, which shall be not less than 21 days after the date on which the publication and service of the Notice will be completed, and that a copy of such representations must at the same time be sent to the Undertakers. The Notice served on the local authority shall also state that a copy of the application and of all the documents submitted to the Board of Trade therewith may be obtained at the office of the Undertakers on payment of the usual charges for copying.

(4) As soon as possible after the publication and service has been completed a marked copy of the "Gazette" and newspaper containing the Notice and a certified copy of the Notice served on the local authority, endorsed with a list of the councils on which it has been served, and the date of service, shall be forwarded to the Board of Trade.

V. After the date mentioned in the Notice, the Undertakers shall furnish to the Board of Trade their observations on any representations which have been made in accordance with the foregoing Rule IV (3), and shall send a copy of such observations to the local authority or person making the representations.

VI. The fee payable in connection with an application shall be as specified in the Schedule to these Rules, and a cheque for the appropriate amount, made payable to the Assistant Secretary for Finance, Board of Trade, should accompany the application. In addition any extraordinary expenses incurred by the Board of Trade in connection with a local inquiry into the application or otherwise will be payable by the Undertakers.

H. F. CARLILL.

An Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trade.

Board of Trade,
28th September, 1920.

SCHEDULE.

Scale of Fees for Orders under Section 1 of the Gas Regulation Act, 1920.

Where the Undertakers supplied during the last complete year ended 31st December:—

	£	s.	d.
Up to 100,000,000 c.f. of gas	10	0	0
100,000,000 c.f. and less than 500,000,000 c.f.	20	0	0
500,000,000 c.f. and over	30	0	0

SCOTTISH FISHING BOATS.

APPLICATION OF MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT OF 1894.

The Merchant Shipping (Scottish Fishing Boats) Act, 1920, which extends to Scottish fishing vessels and fishermen the provisions of Part IV of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, comes into force to-morrow, 1st October. Until the coming into operation of the new Act Part IV did not apply to Scotland, except as regards the registry of fishing vessels, as regards the boats and lifebuoys to be carried, and as regards the employment of certificated skippers and second hands on trawlers of 25 tons and upwards. Sections 413 to 416 were applied to Scotland by Section 81 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1906; and in 1909 certificated skippers and second hands were required on Scottish steam liners and drifters of 50 tons and upwards, by an Order dated 20th December, 1909, under Section 369 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894.

The new Act will bring all Scottish fishermen under the disciplinary sections of Part IV. It will provide for the settlement of disputes between skippers and fishermen by Superintendents of Mercantile Marine Offices. It will authorise these officers to inquire into deaths and injuries occurring on and into casualties to fishing vessels. These sections will apply to all Scottish fishing vessels, regardless of size or the kind of fishing in which they are engaged, as they are contained in a division of Part IV of the Merchant Shipping Act, headed "Provisions applying to all fishing boats, and to the whole Fishing Service."

THE BOARD OF TRADE—continued.

The new Act will require agreements, on a Board of Trade form, with the crew of fishing vessels, if trawlers of 25 tons and upwards. Men employed in such vessels will have to be given an account of wages on a Board of Trade form; they must also be given a certificate of discharge on a Board of Trade form when discharged. If improperly discharged, they will receive compensation. The sections dealing with these requirements are in a division of Part IV headed "Provisions applying to Trawlers," and apply only to trawlers of 25 tons and upwards. The tonnage is gross tonnage if a steam trawler, and net or register tonnage if a sailing trawler. A vessel propelled by motor, or electricity or other mechanical power, is regarded as a steamer, and not as a sailing vessel.

A boy under the age of 13 must not enter into an apprenticeship or agreement in any fishing vessel of 25 tons and upwards. A boy under 16 must not be taken to sea in such a vessel unless properly apprenticed or under a proper agreement. Superintendents of Mercantile Marine Offices will give assistance in making apprenticeships or agreements with boys in these vessels, and will assist in enforcing the indentures or agreements. These Sections (392 to 398) are in a division of Part IV headed "Provisions applying to all Fishing Boats of 25 tons and upwards," and therefore, apply to boys in vessels of this tonnage and upwards, whether steam or sailing vessels.

A pamphlet containing the Sections of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, which are referred to above, has been prepared by the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.

CUTLERS AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH.

The Secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research begs to announce that a licence, under Section 20 of the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908, has been issued by the Board of Trade to the British Cutlery Research Association which has been approved by the Department as complying with the conditions laid down in the Government scheme for the encouragement of industrial research.

The Secretary of this Association is J. M. Danton, Esq., P.O. Box 49, Sheffield.

DEPARTMENT OF OVERSEAS TRADE.

APPOINTMENT OF TRADE COMMISSIONER AT HEADQUARTERS.

The Board of Trade announce that Mr. G. T. Milne, O.B.E., has been appointed H.M. Trade Commissioner in London, stationed at the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.

Mr. Milne recently vacated the post of Commercial Secretary for Cuba in order to take up the appointment in the Trade Commissioner Service at Headquarters. Prior to his appointment at Havana, Mr. Milne held the post of Trade Commissioner in Australia from 1913 to July, 1918, when he was transferred to Montreal as H.M. Senior Trade Commissioner in Canada.

SUSPENSION OF COMMERCIAL DIPLOMATIC POST IN CUBA.

With reference to the notice above, relative to the appointment of Mr. G. T. Milne, O.B.E., Commercial Secretary at Havana, to the post of H.M. Trade Commissioner in London, it is notified that the post of Commercial Secretary at Havana will be temporarily suspended pending the appointment of a successor to Mr. Milne.

Correspondence intended for the Commercial Secretary at Havana should be addressed to H.B.M. Legation in that city.

THE BOARD OF TRADE—continued.

INTERVIEWS WITH H.M. SENIOR TRADE COMMISSIONER IN AUSTRALIA.

Mr. S. W. B. McGregor, H.M. Senior Trade Commissioner in Australia, who is on an official visit to this country, is now concluding a tour of the industrial centres of the United Kingdom, and will shortly be returning to Australia. Before doing so, however, Mr. McGregor will be available at the Department of Overseas Trade for a short time subsequent to Monday, 4th October, where he will be pleased to interview representatives of firms interested in British trade in Australia who have not yet had an opportunity of meeting him.

The subjects on which Mr. McGregor will be prepared to give information are the general state of trade in Australia, appointment of agents, methods of marketing and distribution of goods, terms of payment, statistics of imports, Customs duties, and other general information as to openings for British goods, or steps to be taken for opening up trade with Australia.

London firms desirous of consulting Mr. McGregor should communicate at once with the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, London, S.W. 1.

APPOINTMENT OF TRADE CORRESPONDENT IN PAPUA.

With reference to the appointments of Honorary Trade Correspondents to the Department of Overseas Trade, a list of which is published in the "Board of Trade Journal" from time to time, the Department of Overseas Trade notify that the Government Secretary, Port Moresby, has now been appointed Honorary Trade Correspondent in respect of the Territory of Papua.

AUSTRALIA'S AGRICULTURAL PESTS.

The Report on the Trade of Australia for the year 1919, which was prepared by Mr. S. W. B. McGregor, H.M. Senior Trade Commissioner in Australia, stated that the following pests are prevalent in Australia:—

- (1) Rabbits.
- (2) Prickly Pear.
- (3) Cattle Tick.
- (4) Blow Fly in Sheep.

The Agent-General for Victoria has requested that publicity should be given to the fact that Prickly Pear does not grow in Victoria, and that Cattle Tick is also unknown in that State.

In giving the publicity asked for by the Agent-General, it should at the same time be pointed out that Mr. McGregor's Report dealt with Australia generally and was not intended to imply that the pests mentioned by him were prevalent in every State of the Commonwealth.

ADVERTISING IN EAST AFRICA.

H.M. Trade Commissioner in East Africa, writing from Nairobi, states that as far as East Africa is concerned the European buying public is very nearly all British born, and is used to the displayed advertisements in vogue at home. There are, however, two classes of trade that advertisers should bear in mind:

- (a) The wholesale and retail merchants, who are naturally on the look out for goods that sell quickly and bear a good profit.
- (b) The English settler who, either by previous knowledge or through being educated by advertising, insists on local merchants stocking certain goods even though such may not pay the merchant as well as other goods of the same class.

There is also a good deal of mail order trade done by the local settlers with the big supply houses in the United Kingdom.

One point which H.M. Trade Commissioner lays stress on is the great importance of the buyer, large or small, being able to calculate from the manufacturer's catalogue approximately what the goods will cost him delivered in East Africa. The country has

BOARD OF TRADE—continued.

a poor mail service, and a buyer cannot count upon getting a reply to an enquiry for a quotation under six or eight weeks, which means three to four months before he can get goods from the time of first enquiry. Unless a merchant or manufacturer has a resident agent in East Africa, there should be some indication of price (in many cases owing to present conditions it would be found impossible to quote a firm figure), and the more particulars that can be given the better.

American catalogues, for such goods as those mentioned, quote the price packed f.o.b. steamer shipping port (named), and describe the package with measurement and weight particulars. This enables the buyer to reckon cost by adding freight (rate obtainable from local agents), duty and railway charges.

CATALOGUES AND TRADE PUBLICATIONS FOR ECUADOR.

A public Reading Room is being established at the British Consulate at Guayaquil in view of the great success which has attended the Reading Room at Quito. H.M. Consul at Guayaquil will therefore be glad to receive any catalogues of British goods, or books of reference and trade publications. United Kingdom manufacturers and exporters interested in trade with Ecuador are accordingly invited to forward copies of their catalogues, price lists, etc., to this Consulate. These should, of course, be printed in Spanish, if any considerable trade benefit is to follow.

Ecuador is a country whose people are peculiarly fond of direct orders, and these Reading Rooms, therefore, are likely to lead to business enquiries in this country. The Parcel Postage rates to Ecuador are as follows:—

Not over 3 lb.	3s.
Over 3 lb. but not over 7 lb.			4s. 6d.
Over 7 lb. but not over 11 lb.			6s.

ENGINEERING SUPPLIES FOR AUSTRALIA.

The Department of Overseas Trade is in receipt of a communication from the Manufacturing Engineers' Association of Australia, Melbourne, to the effect that they are interested in particulars of machine tools, drills, cutting wheels and milling cutters, and all manufacturing engineers' stores and supplies. They would value copies of United Kingdom manufacturers' catalogues, together with prices of machinery required in the equipment of their factories. Such catalogues, which should be forwarded direct to the Association, would be included amongst the books in the library of the Association, where they would be available for reference by members.

The members of the Association would be glad to co-operate in plans for facilitating intercourse between manufacturers' representatives from the United Kingdom who may be visiting Australia. Such a scheme would afford United Kingdom manufacturers an opportunity of introducing their lines to the notice of purchasers under the best conditions, and it would give engineers in Australia an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the latest manufacturing methods and appliances.

MOTOR VEHICLE TRADE OPENING IN PERU.

According to a communication received from the Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation at Lima it appears that several agents for American motor cars in Peru are giving up the business and are liquidating their stock. It would seem that the business has not, in most cases, been very profitable, and is expected to be even less so now that cars of European make are arriving on that market. It is further stated that a French company is opening a sales branch at Lima and has already secured a number of orders for motor lorries and high priced passenger cars.

From this the deduction is made that British manufacturers of motor cars of the higher grades would find the present a very good time to cultivate the Peruvian market.

Special Articles.

PASSENGER MOVEMENT FROM AND TO THE UNITED KINGDOM.

RETURNS FOR JANUARY-JUNE, 1920.

The returns relating to passenger traffic between the United Kingdom and places outside Europe, and not within the Mediterranean Sea, show that the number of persons of British nationality who left the United Kingdom as passengers for such countries during the six months ended June, 1920, exceeded the number who arrived as passengers from such countries by 60,639. In the corresponding period of 1919 an inward balance of 5,810 was recorded.

The movement of British subjects during the first half of the year 1920 shows a balance outward of 40,909 passengers to British North America, 13,848 passengers to Australia and New Zealand, and 16,188 passengers to the United States, while inward balances are shown from British South Africa and India.

As regards the movement of aliens between this country and non-European countries during the first half of 1920, an inward balance of 30,734 is shown, as against 4,026 in the corresponding period of 1919. In the traffic between the United Kingdom and the Continent of Europe there was an excess outward of 12,912, as compared with 100,080 in the corresponding period of 1919, and 13,130 in 1918. These figures relate to alien passengers as well as to British. Separate particulars as to the number of alien passengers from and to the Continent are not furnished to the Board of Trade. A return issued by the Home Office, under the Aliens' Order, 1920, shows that the number of aliens who landed at ports in the United Kingdom from all countries during the first half of 1920 exceeded the number that embarked at those ports by 18,291.

The following table gives particulars of the numbers of passengers, including emigrants and immigrants, who travelled between the United Kingdom and places outside Europe during the first two quarters of the years 1919 and 1920. Particulars for each quarter of 1919 were published in the issue of the "Journal" of 15th April last (Vol. CIV., No. 1220).

MOVEMENT, SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE, 1919 AND 1920.

Countries in which the Passengers contracted to land or in which they embarked.	Outward.		Inward.		Balance.*	
	British Subjects.	Total British and Aliens.	British Subjects.	Total British and Aliens.	British Subjects.	Total British and Aliens.
British N. America—						
1st quarter, 1920	21,793	22,468	5,106	7,960	16,687	14,488
2nd " 1920	43,311	44,848	19,089	26,813	24,222	18,035
1st " 1919	9,586	9,828	5,514	5,723	4,072	4,105
2nd " 1919	21,300	22,092	17,237	18,043	4,063	4,049
† Australia and New Zealand—						
1st quarter, 1920	10,501	10,538	3,920	3,995	6,581	6,543
2nd " 1920	12,583	12,712	5,316	5,460	7,267	7,252
1st " 1919	3,065	3,066	231	232	2,834	2,834
2nd " 1919	3,265	3,274	2,270	2,319	995	925
British South Africa						
1st quarter, 1920	6,466	6,915	3,563	3,878	2,903	3,037
2nd " 1920	5,443	6,224	8,504	8,979	3,061	2,755
1st " 1919	1,027	1,072	964	1,047	63	25
2nd " 1919	516	517	3,571	3,978	3,055	3,461
† India (including Ceylon)—						
1st quarter, 1920	3,767	3,808	3,192	3,292	575	516
2nd " 1920	3,489	3,607	6,264	6,400	2,775	2,802
1st " 1919	2,016	2,056	1,961	1,987	55	69
2nd " 1919	2,015	2,040	6,510	6,658	4,495	4,618
† Other British Colonies and Possessions—						
1st quarter, 1920	3,408	3,587	2,411	2,593	997	994
2nd " 1920	3,427	3,639	3,943	4,195	516	556
1st " 1919	1,539	1,742	1,079	1,145	460	597
2nd " 1919	2,493	2,659	3,505	3,879	1,102	1,220
United States—						
1st quarter, 1920	11,923	17,363	6,452	13,301	5,471	4,062
2nd " 1920	23,975	33,328	13,258	43,120	10,717	9,792
1st " 1919	3,147	4,876	5,232	8,661	2,085	3,785
2nd " 1919	4,191	6,912	11,855	16,176	7,644	9,264
† Other Foreign Countries—						
1st quarter, 1920	3,408	4,143	1,888	2,585	1,520	1,558
2nd " 1920	3,006	3,675	3,955	5,350	949	1,675
1st " 1919	1,466	1,937	849	1,151	617	786
2nd " 1919	2,167	2,846	2,755	3,724	588	878
Total all Countries—						
1st quarter, 1920	61,266	68,822	26,532	37,624	34,734	31,198
2nd " 1920	95,234	108,033	60,329	100,326	34,905	7,707
1st " 1919	21,846	24,577	15,830	19,946	6,016	4,631
2nd " 1919	35,947	40,340	47,773	54,807	11,826	14,467

* Inward balances are in heavy type.
† Exclusive of passengers travelling indirectly via Continental Ports.

SPECIAL ARTICLES—continued.

TRAFFIC BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE CONTINENT.

The following totals relate to the traffic to and from the Continent of Europe. A large proportion of the passengers in the years 1917 and 1918 were war workers:

First six months of the year.	No. of Passengers from the United Kingdom to the Continent.	No. of Passengers from the Continent to the United Kingdom.
1920 ...	308,838	295,926
1919 ...	259,104	159,024
1918 ...	81,213	68,083
1917 ...	87,805	74,913

MOVEMENT OF BRITISH MIGRANTS.

The British subjects who were recorded as leaving permanent residence in the United Kingdom to take up permanent residence in non-European countries numbered 131,656 in the first half of 1920, as compared with 47,794 in the same period of 1919, residence for a year or more being regarded as permanent residence. Those recorded as arriving in the United Kingdom from non-European countries in the first half of 1920 to take up permanent residence therein numbered 40,620, as against 39,358 in the corresponding period of 1919.

The distribution of the migratory movement of British subjects in the first and second quarters of the years 1919 and 1920 is shown below, particulars for the principal countries concerned being distinguished.

MOVEMENT OF BRITISH SUBJECTS BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND NON-EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

Migrants of British Nationality.	1920.		1919.	
	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.
Emigrants to—				
British North America ..	19,103	39,552	7,901	18,086
Australia and New Zealand ..	9,636	11,873	3,244	3,456
British South Africa ..	4,372	3,643	548	400
India (including Ceylon) ..	2,838	2,398	1,637	1,525
Other British Colonies and Possessions ..	2,100	2,396	1,092	1,662
Total, British Empire ..	38,049	59,867	14,422	25,129
United States ..	9,571	19,895	2,094	3,255
Other Foreign Countries (non-European) ..	2,128	2,146	1,078	1,816
Total Emigrants ..	49,748	81,908	17,594	30,200
Immigrants from—				
British North America ..	3,436	6,320	4,335	9,345
Australia and New Zealand ..	3,048	3,534	310	2,013
British South Africa ..	1,325	2,604	546	1,830
India (including Ceylon) ..	2,187	4,851	1,663	5,314
Other British Colonies and Possessions ..	913	1,367	449	2,172
Total, British Empire ..	11,209	18,685	7,303	20,674
United States ..	2,577	5,666	2,402	6,244
Other Foreign Countries (non-European) ..	892	1,591	661	2,074
Total Immigrants ..	14,678	25,942	10,366	28,992

MESOPOTAMIA.

THE COUNTRY AND ITS TRADE.

At the present moment in Mesopotamia trade conditions are necessarily affected by the political situation; but so much has been done to place the trade of the country upon a comparatively stable basis and to make a beginning with internal development, that the Report upon the conditions of trade during last year prepared in the Civil Commissioner's Office at Baghdad, cannot fail to excite interest.

The great alluvial plain of Mesopotamia, with its 120,000 square miles of area, and its scattered population numbering now some 2,800,000, had before the war no properly equipped seaport, and few means of internal communication except by the rivers Tigris and Euphrates. Even river navigation, especially of the Euphrates, was greatly restricted by narrows and shallows. Ocean steamers which passed from the Persian Gulf up the Shatt-el-Arab depended entirely on their own gear and on native river craft for the landing and shipping of cargo. Now there are at Basra adequate wharves, capable of accommodating deep steamers, fitted up with cranes and laid out with railway sidings.

SPECIAL ARTICLES—continued.

The Port was constructed in order that military operations might be carried on effectively, and now remains for the purpose of commerce. There are 875 miles of railway lines (chiefly of metre gauge). Shargat towards the north, the Persian frontier to the east, and Basra in the south are all now connected with Baghdad by rail. Roads have been improved until many of them can carry light motor traffic and some few will bear motor lorries. So far, at least, as communications are concerned, the war has wrought a very great and beneficial change in Mesopotamia.

CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION.

Duty is collected on imports and exports at Basra and at Baghdad, the dutiable importations at Baghdad being restricted to goods on a through bill of lading. The principal land Customs frontier stations are near Khanigin on the Persian frontier, Mosul and Sulaimaniyah. Sea Customs are levied in accordance with the Indian Sea Customs Act, as applied by adaptation to Mesopotamia, and the land Customs under the Land Customs Proclamation. There is ample provision of public bonded warehouses and free shipment from vessel to vessel is permitted at Basra free of duty. Goods manifested for transhipment to foreign ports are allowed to be landed in the course of transhipment without payment of duty or transit fees.

The regulations governing the admission into Mesopotamia of samples and patterns brought by commercial travellers are practically the same as those in force in India.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Two weights are widely known, though there is great diversity in the use of weights. The people are most familiar with the Constantinople oke (28282 lb.) and the kilogram, the oke being more nearly universal for the higher weights. Steps have been taken with a view to the ultimate standardisation of the oke, though the reform will take a long time to effect. The scales used are crude; there is a considerable opening for a simple and cheap weighing apparatus. The steel yards of the wholesale merchants are calibrated in okes.

The difficulty of standardising terms of weight may be seen from the diversity in use of the "Maund." A maund of dates in one part of Basra is 54 okes, in other parts of Basra 60 okes, a maund of coffee is 50 okes, of soap 6 okes, of sugar 10 okes, of tobacco 70 okes, and of pepper 11 okes. Here we have the oke constant at 28282lb., but the maund with seven different usages.

Both the metre and the English yard are well known in Basra, Baghdad and Mosul; but there are many other "yards" in use, and for the present no attempt is being made to lay down a universal standard of length.

CURRENCY.

The complex pre-war currency of Irak (Lower Mesopotamia) has been simplified by the introduction during the war of rupees (silver and notes). The rupee has now become established as the principal medium of exchange, the only other currency in the field being the gold lira. No statutory legal tender exists, but the rupee has already the sanction of usage. The gold lira is not as a rule accepted by the Government or the banks, except as bullion, and its value has fluctuated violently. Some uncertainty no doubt exists as to the future position of the lira (both paper and gold), but there is a sufficient quantity of rupees and small change (in the shape of half and quarter rupees, and nickel and copper subdivisions of the rupee) in circulation to meet ordinary trade requirements, and the only practical disadvantage to business arising from the uncertainty as to the lira is in connection with the valuation of existing stocks.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

The principal foreign rates of exchange quoted in the Baghdad and Basra markets are:—

- (a) Rates for Rs. 100 for Kran bills on Kirmanslah, Hamadan, etc.
- (b) Rates per £100 for Sterling bills on London.

SPECIAL ARTICLES—continued.

The rates for Kran bills are directly influenced from day to day by the activity of the Imperial Bank of Persia in its Kran-Sterling transactions between Teheran and London, although the larger changes are partly seasonal, depending upon the requirements for financing the crops in Persia, and partly attributable to causes ranging over long periods, depending ultimately upon the sterling price of silver; the rate has varied from less than 200 to more than 400. The Sterling exchange is mainly influenced by the current Bombay-London rates and the freedom with which the Irak Government is able to sell rupee telegraphic transfers on India.

During the military operations imports were naturally much in excess of exports by sea. The banks have been assisted to find "cover" for the difference by Government sales of telegraphic transfers on Bombay, Karachi and Calcutta, at par, up to the limit of the requirements of funds for military purposes. Until near the close of the financial year 1918-19 Government was able to meet trade needs in full, owing to the heavy local military demands for funds. In April, 1919, however, when military requirements showed some diminution, it became necessary to "ration" the sale of transfers for a few months; and this occurred again in the spring of 1920, when the banks were obliged to export notes in considerable quantities to India, though for a short time the opposite was the case, when the banks refrained almost entirely from tendering for transfers, thus compelling the Government to meet military demands for funds by drawing from the Currency Chest, and, on occasion, importing specie from India. During the financial year ended 31st March, 1920, the monthly sales of transfers on India totalled Rs. 9,82,06,000, varying from Rs. 40,50,000 in June, 1919, to Rs. 1,24,48,000 in December, 1919, with Rs. 94,48,000 as the total for the final month of the official year, compared with Rs. 79,50,000 in February.

FINANCING TRADE.

Importers and exporters finance themselves in two ways:—

(a) Those who have their own firms abroad (or have the requisite credit) who ship to them or to whom they ship sending the documents direct and making or receiving remittances as separate transactions through the banks or by adjustments in the current accounts.

(b) Those who do business by sending their documents through the bank or a financial house for collection.

Goods are purchased in Mesopotamia by means of promissory notes (compialas), giving at most three or four months credit—formerly the period was from four to six months. The practice of renewing compialas at the due date is said to have ceased, and only such compialas as can be discounted are acceptable. Branches in Mesopotamia have been established by the Eastern Bank of London, the Imperial Bank of Persia, and the Imperial Ottoman Bank.

FOREIGN TRADE.

During the last two years there has been a marked increase in the imports into Mesopotamia. In 1919 the goods coming through Basra were valued at 1,399 lakhs of rupees (100,000) against 1,110 lakhs in 1918, and 398 lakhs in 1912. The total import trade for 1919, including land imports into Baghdad, was valued at 1,840 lakhs. The increased importation of foreign goods into the country has been due partly to the presence of troops and the depletion of stocks under war conditions, and largely to the almost complete cessation of imports into Persia via the Caucasus. It is estimated that from one-half to three-quarters of the goods imported by sea eventually find their way into Persia, and it cannot therefore be emphasised too much that the trade of Mesopotamia is closely allied with that of Persia, or with that portion of Persia which can be reached easily by way of Baghdad. Those who seek

SPECIAL ARTICLES—continued.

to supply goods to Mesopotamia should therefore pay as much attention to Persian requirements as to those of the local population.

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS.

The values, in lakhs of rupees, of the principal imports during last year were as given below. India during the war gained a firm hold on the market for cotton piece-goods.

	Baghdad.	Basra.	Total.
Textiles	253	704	957
Sugar	22	196	218
Tea	5	60	65
Grain, pulse and flour	2	63	65
Tobacco	18	46	61
Carpets	42	—	42
Liquors	1	25	29
Cigarette papers and smokers' requisites	3	23	26
Metals and ores ...	6	19	25
Soap	7	16	23

CHIEF EXPORTS.

The values, in lakhs of rupees, of the principal exports during 1919 were:—

	Basra.	Baghdad.	Total.
Dates	217	4	221
Piece-goods	37	494	531
Grain	27	2	29
Wool	15	10	25
Carpets	9	27	36
Sugar	3	77	80
Tea	2	32	34
Spices	½	9	9½
Gun	2	8	10

The annual export of dates may be estimated at about 50,000 tons in cases and 30,000 tons in baskets, etc. Of the 1919 shipments the United Kingdom took 42 per cent. India 28 per cent., and Arabia 9 per cent.

Piece-goods to the value of 529 lakhs of rupees, and almost all the sugar and tea exported in 1919 were destined for Persia.

Wool exports were only 15,150 bales in 1919 as against 27,500 bales in 1918. In 1916 and 1917 there were 13,063 bales and 16,343 bales respectively as compared with 43,290 bales in 1912. The reduction in exports during and since the war is probably temporary, and due to the reduction in the flocks caused by the military demands for mutton.

AGRICULTURE.

Barley and dates form the bulk of the export trade in agricultural produce. The land under cultivation is capable of enormous extension. The methods of the Arab farmer are primitive though his skill is considerable. All agricultural implements in present use are hand made. There are openings for the simplest as well as for the most complicated agricultural machinery. The Agricultural Directorate offers facilities for trials of new machinery on its central station at Baghdad, and machines which pass the trials can be demonstrated on the five district stations. The results of the trials are awaited with great interest. Agricultural labourers trained in the use of Western machinery are now available.

Openings exist for dairying appliances, grass and wool presses, flour mills and oil mills, and also for artificial manures. Trustworthy vegetable seeds are in demand, and improved varieties of fruit trees command attention.

River conservancy and flood protection are at present more important than irrigation. The Arab will co-operate with the Irrigation Department to bring water to his land, but he is not eager to do hard work on flood banks, of which he does not appreciate the benefit. The bulk of the heavy work on flood protection has now been done, and the task of the future will be chiefly that of maintenance. The Irrigation Department is at present confining itself to small and immediately remunerative schemes.

Notes on Trade.

[While every care is exercised to ensure the accuracy of any explanatory articles or notes relating to Acts, Regulations, Orders, etc., published in the "Journal," it must be understood that such explanations are necessarily in the nature of summaries, and cannot be quoted as authoritative legal interpretations of the text of the documents themselves.]

LICENCES TO EXPORT GOODS FROM GERMANY.

The attention of H.M. Government was recently called to a case in which one of the local organisations which have been set up in Germany for the purpose of deciding on applications for licences to export goods from that country refused to issue a licence to a British firm domiciled at Cologne on the express ground that the applicants were not of German nationality.

H.M. Government took the view that, having regard to Article 276 (d) of the Peace Treaty, the German licence issuing authorities are not entitled to discriminate against the nationals of the Allied and Associated Powers domiciled in Germany in favour of German nationals. Representations on the subject were accordingly made to the German Government by H.M. Representative in Berlin; and the German Government have now intimated that the various export control offices in Germany have been instructed that the refusal of an export licence on the ground of the foreign nationality of the applicant is inadmissible, and that in dealing with applications for export licences the question of the nationality of the applicant is not to be taken into account.

In view of this decision, it is anticipated that British firms domiciled in Germany who desire to export goods from that country will in future be under no disability on account of their nationality. In cases, however, where firms in the United Kingdom place orders for goods in Germany, with firms of German or other nationality, it is, generally speaking, advisable that the application for an export licence, where such is necessary, should not be made by the purchasing firm in this country, but should be left to the prospective supplier of the goods in Germany, as this procedure, as the German Government have pointed out, greatly facilitates the practical administration of the system of export control by the German authorities.

TRADE MARK REGISTRATION IN FRANCE.

The "Journal Officiel" (Paris) of 15th September published two Decrees, dated 11th September, dealing with the special charges for the registration of trade marks, established by the Law of 26th June. To one of the Decrees is annexed a classified list of the articles for which a trade mark may be employed.

The text of the Decrees, together with the classified list referred to, may be consulted at the Enquiry Office of the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

ITALIAN-GERMAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

According to the Italian press, a Provisional Committee has been formed at Rome for the creation of an Italian-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry. This Chamber will have its headquarters at Rome. It is stated that many important Italian and German firms have already joined, as well as a number of Italian Chambers.

EXPORT OF AMBER FROM LATVIA.

The Ministry of Trade and Commerce, Riga, Latvia, announces that there is a Customs duty of 5 per cent. on amber export, and 80 per cent. of the foreign currency received for the same has to be exchanged in Latvian State Bank into Latvian roubles.

Exhibitions and Fairs.

BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR, 1921.

The modern trade fair, with its wealth of finished products, its specialisation, its scientific sectionalisation of exhibits, is not only the outcome of the modern specialised market, but is the direct heir of the earliest form of meeting place for the purposes of exchange. The train and the twenty-knot liner have replaced the ox wagon and the sailing ship, but greater distances now have to be covered, and the need for the old meeting place for sale and barter remains unaltered.

The British Industries Fairs provide, to the fullest and highest degrees, the advantages of the latest development of the market system; the maritime services of the world concentrate on British ports, and Britain produces every commodity which the countries of the world may demand. The Fair is the modern market place, supplying not a countryside, but a world. The system it supplies has become vast and complicated, but so admirable are the transport facilities, and so scientific the organisation and concentration of exhibits, that a visit to the British Industries Fair from any part of the world can be made with rapidity and comfort, and the certain knowledge that the journey will be worth while.

The British Industries Fair will take place at the White City, London, from 21st February to 4th March, 1921, at Birmingham for the same period, and a week later at Glasgow.

FOREIGN SAMPLES EXHIBITION IN BIRMINGHAM.

The representatives of 200 firms from Birmingham and the surrounding districts visited the Foreign Samples Exhibition that was held in the offices of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce from Monday, 20th September, to Thursday, 23rd September.

The samples—which were of German, Swedish, Swiss, French, Argentine, and United States manufacture—were collected by H.M. Trade Commissioners and Commercial Secretaries in India, Holland, Finland, Switzerland, and South America, and comprised Aluminium ware, Enamel ware, Tools, Electrical Goods, and Brushes and Brooms.

The samples which excited most interest were the Aluminium ware and Enamel ware of recent German manufacture; the general opinions expressed being that the former were priced considerably above better class goods of British manufacture, and that from such competition home firms had nothing to fear. The Enamel ware was also considered of low grade and high price.

The Brushes—mainly of Argentine manufacture—were an indication of the extent to which that country had developed her home industries in this particular line during the war, and although crude in finish and construction, were made of good quality material, and illustrated a form of competition that could not lightly be disregarded.

Most of the domestic electrical goods were of Swiss and United States manufacture, and local firms engaged in producing similar articles found a good deal of interest in the methods of manufacture, particularly in respect of minor devices that suggested ideas for improvement in their own products. About 200 samples were loaned to firms at the close of the Exhibition for further examination.

MOTOR SHOW IN NEW ZEALAND.

The Department of Overseas Trade is informed that a Motor Show will take place at Christchurch in November next. The Show should offer a good opportunity for British manufacturers having local agents in New Zealand to extend their business.

FORTHCOMING FAIRS—continued.

FORTHCOMING FAIRS.

UNITED KINGDOM.

- EXHIBITION OF THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL ARTS**—217, Knightsbridge, S.W. 7.
- INTERNATIONAL SHOE AND LEATHER FAIR**—October 4th-9th, at Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington. Organised by "The Shoe and Leather Record," 40, Finsbury Square, E.C.2, on behalf of The Shoe and Leather Fair Society, Ltd.
- DAIRY SHOW**—October 19th-22nd, at Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington.
- BREWERS' EXHIBITION**—Opens October 30th, at Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington.
- INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE EXHIBITION**—October 14th-23rd, at Olympia. Organised by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, Ltd., 63, Pall Mall, London, S.W.1.
- INTERNATIONAL MOTOR EXHIBITION**—November 4th-13th, at Olympia and the White City. Organised by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, Ltd., 63, Pall Mall, London, S.W.1.
- LAUNDRY TRADES EXHIBITION**—November 7th-24th, at Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington.
- THE CYCLE AND MOTOR-CYCLE SHOW**—November 29th-December 4th, at Olympia. Organised by the Cycle and Motor-Cycle Manufacturers' and Traders' Union, Ltd., The Towers, Coventry.
- GLASGOW SHIPBUILDING, ENGINEERING, AND ELECTRICAL EXHIBITION**—Kelvin Hall, Nov. 8th-Dec. 4th. Apply J. M. Freer, Kelvin Hall, Glasgow.
- INTERNATIONAL ADVERTISING EXHIBITION**—White City, November 29th-December 4th. Apply to:—S. G. Houghton, 167, Strand, W.C. 2.
- TOY AND FANCY GOODS EXHIBITION**—King's Hall, Manchester, January 3rd-14th, 1921.
- EFFICIENCY EXHIBITION**—Olympia, February 10th-26th. Apply to Organising Secretary, "Daily Mail" Efficiency Exhibition, 150, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4.
- BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR**—White City, London, February 21st-March 4th, 1921.
- CLOTHING, OUTFITTING AND WOOLLEN TRADES EXHIBITION**—Royal Agricultural Hall, March 8th-18th. Apply to:—International Trade Exhibition, Ltd., Broad Street House, New Broad Street, London, E.C. 2.
- INTERNATIONAL BUILDING TRADES EXHIBITION**—Olympia, April. Apply, Directors, 43, Essex Street, Strand, W.C.26.
- INTERNATIONAL RUBBER EXHIBITION**—London, June, 1921.

OVERSEAS.

- VENICE ART EXHIBITION**—Twelfth Exhibition of International Art, April 15th to October 31st, by Municipality, at the Exhibition Palace. Address:—Ufficio di Segreteria dell'Esposizione (Municipio), Venice.
- RIGA TRADE FAIR (LATVIA)**—Last week in September, for five weeks.
- BARCELONA INTERNATIONAL FAIR**—October 24th-31st. Applications to La Direccion General de la Feria de Barcelona, Fernando 30, Barcelona.
- ROME AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY EXHIBITION**—(See "Journal," June 24th.)
- TRIESTE SAMPLE FAIR**—October 9th.
- LYONS FAIR**—October 1st-15th.
- TRIESTE FAIR**—September 26th. (See "Journal," July 22nd, page 95.)
- TURIN EXHIBITION**—October.
- MADRID SAMPLE FAIR**—October.
- SHANGHAI**—Exhibition of American and Chinese products late in the year.
- AUSTRALIAN MOTOR SHOW**—Sydney. January 7th, 1921.
- MILWAUKEE SHOE EXPOSITION**—January 10th-13th, 1921. Association of National Shoe Retailers.
- CEYLON MOTOR SHOW**—Colombo. January 22nd-29th.
- DELHI MOTOR SHOW**—February 7th.

TRADE TOURS.

Trade Tours are under organisation by the Department of Overseas Trade, as follows:—

To the British Dominions, leaving early in 1921.	} To follow.
To South America	
To Far East	
To United States	} Full particulars may be had on application to the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, London, S.W.1.

Imperial and Foreign Trade.

BRITISH EMPIRE.

BRITISH INDIA.

WEEKLY CABLE.

The weekly cable received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated 20th September, is as under:—

SEASON AND CROPS.

During the week ending 11th September useful rain has fallen. Prospects of standing crops generally good, but more rain needed urgently in the Punjab and the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, and in parts of Central and Southern India. Crops withering in parts of the Punjab, Rajputana, Bombay, and Mysore. During the week ending 15th September rainfall mainly confined to North-Eastern India, Burma, and Deccan.

JUTE FORECAST.

Final forecast, 2,502,273 acres, 5,962,192 bales.

MARKETS.

Bombay piece-goods market dull and unsatisfactory. Calcutta jute market excited, with business at a standstill owing to decreased estimates in jute forecast of some districts. Hessians easier with business small; heavy goods steady, but no business done. No change in bank rates.

RAILWAY SURVEY.

Baramati-Malegaon-Pandhare Railway.—Detailed survey of seven miles by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway sanctioned.

FOREIGN TRADE.

Total imports and exports of private merchandise into and from India in crores of Rs. (or millions of £ at 2s. exchange):—

	April to July.		August.	
	1920.	1919.	1920.	1919.
Imports	100	55	30	16
Exports, including re-exports ...	100	92	20	27

Figures exclude treasure.

AUSTRALIA.

PROGRESS OF RIVER MURRAY DEVELOPMENT SCHEME.

Reporting on the progress being made with the Murray River scheme of irrigation development, a writer in "Science and Industry," the official journal of the Australian Institute of Science and Industry, states that of the 35 weirs and locks—26 of which are to be on the Murray between Echuca and Blanchtown, and 9 on the Murrumbidgee—one is now approaching completion. This lock is situated at Blanchtown, in South Australia, and the work was inaugurated by the State Government before the River Murray Waters Act came into operation. From Blanchtown to the sea the river is navigable under natural conditions.

An important construction work has also been taken in hand at Torrumbarry, a few miles west of Echuca, and arrangements are well in hand for the commencement of the construction of a weir at Renmark, and another near Cobdogla, a settlement nearer to the mouth of the Murray, in South Australia. The completion of the weir at Cobdogla will insure an adequate supply of water for many important irrigation settlements, some of which are now being prepared. The water will be dammed up and turned into Lake Bonney, which, when full, will have an average depth of about 12 feet, and an area of about 16 miles in one direction and 3 or 4 miles in another.

The Torrumbarry weir will immediately serve an important purpose. At the present time large areas in Victoria, extending from portion of the Goulburn Valley to Kerang, are served by natural reservoirs known as the Kow Swamp and the Kerang Lakes. When the Torrumbarry weir is completed the level of the river will be considerably raised, and these natural reservoirs will be able to be replenished when desired.

Another important work contemplated at an early date is the construction of a weir for the diversion, when necessary, of waters into Lake Victoria. Lake Victoria provides one of the finest natural storage basins along the whole length of the river. The object here will be, during times of plenty, to fill this basin, and then, as the river

IMPERIAL AND FOREIGN TRADE—continued.

later recedes, to discharge its contents back into the river for the use of the settlements in South Australian territory.

It is estimated that when the natural intake and outlet have been improved, the capacity of the reservoir will amount to 514,000 acre-feet. When completed, the water, instead of being allowed to escape, will be regulated to suit the requirements of the irrigation settlements. It is expected that three years will be required for the completion of the work, and the estimated cost of £320,000 will be insignificant in comparison with the value of the results to be obtained.

INCREASED COSTS OF THE SCHEME.

That part of the scheme already authorised, together with the cost of land reclamation, are estimated to cost £3,000,000; and since the Commission commenced its duties in 1917, a little more than £400,000 has been expended. The estimated expenditure for 1920 is £618,000, but it is doubtful whether this figure will be reached. Originally, the total cost of carrying out the complete works under the agreement was estimated at slightly more than £4,500,000, of which £1,000,000 was to be contributed by the Commonwealth, and the remainder to be provided in equal amounts by the three States. Since these estimates were prepared, however, the large increase in the cost of labour and material have made it abundantly clear that the total cost will greatly exceed the first estimate. Obviously, it will be many years before the scheme in contemplation will be completed.

The sites for some other weirs and locks have been decided upon, and others, from time to time, as the work progresses, will be undertaken. A commencement has been made with those which will give the greatest benefit, and which can be easily and more readily constructed.

The engineering side of this important development project has received the most careful consideration; and, whatever the area may be that can be eventually watered, there is every reason to believe that it will be the full extent of the River Murray's capabilities. The maximum amount of water that can be conserved will be made available by the Commission for the development of industry; but there is now a further duty imposed upon Australia, viz., to see that the water is used and the products of the land are marketed, to the best advantage. Many millions of pounds have already been spent on water conservation in Australia, and many more millions remain to be expended. The full return from that outlay cannot be hoped for until Australia's own peculiar problems of irrigation cultivation have been studied. In co-operation, therefore, with irrigation associations in New South Wales, South Australia, and Victoria, and with the Victorian Government, some experimental work has been initiated at Mildura. Some of the problems being investigated are of relatively local interest, but if irrigation farming is to develop along sound and enduring lines, a comprehensive scheme of experimental work is needed to accompany the conservation of the waters of the Murray.

CANADA.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS IN MAY.

According to statistics compiled by the Department of Trade and Commerce of the Dominion of Canada the imports into Canada during May were valued at 113,320,699 dols., as compared with 71,344,816 dols. in May, 1919, while exports (including re-exports) were valued at 80,418,339 dols., as against 96,466,520 dols. in May, 1919. The total trade of the month thus aggregated 193,739,038 dols., compared with 167,811,336 dols. in May, 1919.

INTER-IMPERIAL TRADE.

The value of merchandise imported from the United Kingdom during the month under review was 23,804,990 dols., compared with 5,239,433 dols. in May, 1919, the value of merchandise exported to the United Kingdom being 19,240,652 dols., and 41,717,702 dols. respectively, thus denoting a remarkable change in the balance of trade.

The value of imports in May from all British Empire sources totalled 29,406,775 dols., and the value of exports to all British Empire destinations amounted to 24,073,682 dols., these figures contrasting with 8,341,516 dols. and 46,300,724 dols. respectively in the same months of last year.

TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

Imports of merchandise from the United States during May were valued at 70,249,125 dols., and exports at 44,571,701 dols., as against 58,002,256 dols. and 38,026,984 dols. respectively in May, 1919.

IMPERIAL AND FOREIGN TRADE—continued

NEW ZEALAND.

TRADE WITH THE SOUTH SEA ISLANDS.

The Report of the Commission appointed by the Dominion Government of New Zealand to enquire into the conditions of trade between New Zealand and Fiji, Tonga, Western Samoa, and Cook Islands, contains a considerable amount of information which should prove of interest to United Kingdom manufacturers and merchants, as well as to New Zealand trading circles. Various extracts from the Report are therefore given below.

TRADE WITH FIJI IN 1919.

The total trade of the colony in 1919 amounted to £2,931,376, compared with £2,822,433 in 1918, imports being £1,060,314, against £1,166,367, and exports £1,871,062, against £1,656,066 in the previous year. The New Zealand portion of this trade amounted to £1,034,236, while the imports and exports to all other countries amounted to £1,897,140. New Zealand sold to Fiji in that year goods to the value of £151,662, and purchased from Fiji goods to the value of £882,574. The greater proportion of these purchases consisted of raw sugar, the value amounting to £732,417. The distribution of trade was as follows:

	Imports. £	Exports. £
United Kingdom	151,626	76,346
British Possessions	760,851	1,173,545
Foreign countries	129,913	621,171
Parcels Post	17,924	—
Total	1,060,314	1,871,062

It is a remarkable fact that New Zealand last year purchased from Fiji about one-half of her total exports, and sold to Fiji under one-seventh of her imported requirements. On the other hand, Australia in the same year sold to Fiji goods valued at £536,974 (one-half of her total imported requirements), and purchased from Fiji goods to the value of £110,444, or about one-seventeenth of her total exports.

THE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

New Zealand is vitally interested in the question of sugar and sugar-growing. All her requirements come from Fiji, and anything which affects this Fijian industry must consequently be felt in New Zealand. No duty is charged on refined sugar in New Zealand, which, at present, buys its sugar much cheaper than any other country in the world.

For the most part Indians are employed to work the sugar plantations. In 1916 the Indian contract labour system was abolished, and arrangements are now being made to induce free Indian labour to come to the colony. There are 60,000 Indians at present in Fiji, many of them owning land and in a prosperous financial position. Fiji could, however, gradually give lucrative employment to many times this number.

At the same time growers claimed that the price paid for cane sugar is not sufficiently attractive to induce growers to plant sugar cane, and that thousands of acres have consequently been diverted to other purposes. If the output of sugar cane is not maintained in Fiji it will be a most serious matter for consumers in New Zealand. Indeed, it is necessary that the production should be increased. Exports in 1916 reached 120,000 tons, but since then the output has gradually fallen, until last year it reached only 64,347 tons, or little more than in 1910.

TRADE WITH TONGA.

The value of goods imported into the Tongan Group amounted to £77,739 from Australia; £68,526 from New Zealand; £12,991 from America; £10,635 from the United Kingdom; and £6,044 from Fiji.

New Zealand's position, which was easily first, has fallen back to second place, and will further recede unless New Zealand merchants compete more actively against their Australian and American rivals.

While the wants of the natives are small individually, the volume of trade is not inconsiderable, and is well worth cultivating. The men wear cotton shirts and lavalavas, while the women wear loose dresses of quiet-coloured cotton material with underclothing. Ornaments in the shape of tortoise-shell combs and earrings are popular. There is not a great demand for boots, shoes, stockings or socks, but it is growing.

There is a large and growing demand for flour, sugar, biscuits, tinned and salted meats, fish (especially salmon and herrings). A certain trade is also done in the importation from Fiji of live stock for killing purposes, and there is an increasing sale for frozen meat from New Zealand.

IMPERIAL AND FOREIGN TRADE—continued.

In hardware the principal articles in demand are enamel plates, pans, bedroom ware, mugs, iron boilers and pots, hurricane and hanging lamps, butchers' knives, spades, galvanized-iron sheets (plain and corrugated), pipes, fish hooks, etc.

TRADE WITH WESTERN SAMOA.

The chief export products of the Western Samoa group of islands are copra, cocoa, and rubber. There is great room for future development in all classes of tropical products, many thousands of acres at present lying idle being suitable for cultivation. Copra, cocoa, coffee, rubber, kapok, pineapples, castor-oil seeds, sago, nutmeg, pepper, ginger, cloves, vanilla, arrowroot, sisal, might all be grown with advantage. A most serious drawback to the rapid extension of the export trade is the shortage of labour.

Cocoa of good quality is being produced in Upolu and Savaii, and exports have grown from 498 tons, valued at £27,753, in 1910, to 820 tons, valued at £81,110, in 1919. High-water mark in this product was reached in 1917, when 1,207 tons were exported, at a value of £69,549. Owing to the rise in the market price, and notwithstanding the shortage in the output, the price obtained last year was £11,570 greater than that obtained in 1917. The falling-off in the total quantity produced last year, as compared with 1917, may be put down entirely to the shortage of labour.

Classification of imports for 1919 was in the course of preparation at the time of the Commission's visit, but for the year ending 1918 imports from the United States of America amounted to £112,675; from Australia to £108,103; and from New Zealand to £82,494, including specie to the value of £10,125. The imports from no other country exceeded £6,000.

New Zealand practically holds the whole trade of Samoa in preserved meats, as, indeed, throughout the South Pacific Islands. She supplies the whole of the imported fresh meat, and leads also in butter, cheese, wheat, oats, chaff, and cement.

POSITION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND GERMANY.

During the war the United Kingdom was practically out of the market, both as a purchaser of island products and as a supplier of manufactured goods, and consequently the United States of America has obtained a strong footing in trade matters. Now that business is slowly coming back to normal, the greatest efforts will need to be put forth if the trade is to be swung back to British channels.

Germany had a considerable trade with Samoa before the war, especially in cotton and in black, blue-black, wine-coloured, and striped cashmeres. The popular width is 42in., with the selvedge the same colour as the material. As the Samoans beat their clothes when they wash them, it is important that the colours should be fast.

There is a considerable demand for prints, drills, butter-cloth, mercerised muslin, cheap lace for insertions, knitting wool in yellow, red, and blue, used for the fringes of the fancy work done by the women; white cotton sheeting, handkerchiefs (plain and with coloured borders), towels, and sewing cottons. While there still exists a demand for men's ready-made white suits, a large business is now being done by Chinese tailors, the smart young Samoan preferring a made-to-measure suit even at high prices.

The hardware trade, outside iron bars, sheets (plain and galvanized), plates, pipes and fittings, and fencing wire, is not considerable. There is a demand for lamps, lamp glasses, knives (especially butchers' and special knives for grass and weed cutting), axes, saws, scissors, and shears, razors, iron boilers (from 1 to 4 gallons). There are about seventy motor cars in and around Apia.

TRADE WITH THE COOK ISLANDS.

New Zealand takes the whole of the fruit grown in these islands, and growers are entirely dependent on the New Zealand market. In 1918 only 150,000 cases were exported, as against 165,000 cases in 1917. It is claimed that had shipping been available 250,000 cases could have been exported in 1918.

The following figures show the gradual recovery of trade from the effects of the war:—

Year.	Imports. £	Exports. £
1913	110,283	109,926
1914	91,132	77,512
1915	65,590	63,057
1916	58,478	68,146
1917	80,061	60,190
1918	99,632	82,708
1919	142,925	127,729

New Zealand trade has increased from £33,056 in 1906 to £70,773 in 1918, that of the United Kingdom from

IMPERIAL AND FOREIGN TRADE—continued.

£1,305 to £8,474, and that of the United States from £2,149 to £15,324.

As the Cook Islands are an integral part of New Zealand, all goods manufactured in the Dominion are not subject to Customs duty. With such a preference New Zealand manufacturers should find no difficulty in successfully competing for the business.

[NOTE.—An article on the Import and Export Trade of Fiji in 1918 was published in the "Journal" of 10th June, page 767.]

SOUTH AFRICA.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, JANUARY-JUNE, 1920.

According to statistics issued by the Department of Customs and Excise of the Union of South Africa, the imports and exports of the Union during the six months ended 30th June, 1920, were as follows:—

IMPORTS.

The total value of imports into the Union of South Africa during the first six months of 1920 was £47,366,256, as compared with £27,219,871 in January-June, 1919. Towards these aggregates the total imports of merchandise contributed £39,760,436 and £24,953,491 respectively, the balance in both cases being made up of imports for the South African Governments and specie from overseas and Rhodesia.

Imports of cotton manufactures during January-June of the present year amounted in value to £5,119,977, as against £4,009,236 in the corresponding period of last year. Imports of woollen manufactures were valued at £1,361,851, against £483,846, imports of hardware and cutlery at £1,708,132, against £1,136,131, those of iron and steel manufactures at £1,801,437, against £1,007,924, leather and leather goods at £1,653,716, against £1,257,495, and foodstuffs at £5,917,358 as compared with only £1,789,051 in the respective half-years.

EXPORTS.

The total value of exports from the Union of South Africa during January-June of the current year was £50,063,746, as compared with £56,295,699 during the six months ended 30th June, 1919. Shipments of merchandise amounted to £49,999,761, against £56,288,157, and re-exports to £2,767,025, against £1,822,254.

Exports of diamonds during the period under review were valued at £6,970,326, as against £5,137,982 in January-June, 1919, and those of gold at £17,658,969, against £30,865,769 respectively. Shipments of hides and skins were valued at £3,303,967, against £2,186,197, and of wool at £13,923,779, against £9,257,614 respectively.

EUROPE.

BELGIUM.

FOREIGN TRADE—JANUARY-JUNE, 1920.

(From the Commercial Secretary to H. M. Embassy.)

BRUSSELS.

The extent of the progress which Belgium has made toward economic recovery is well illustrated by the figures of her foreign trade for the first half of the present year. The degree of recovery achieved has been particularly remarkable in the volume of her export trade, as will be seen from the appended statistics, which have been issued by the Belgian Ministry of Finance.

TOTAL IMPORTS.

	1913.			1920.		
	Half of year's total Fr. 1,000.	Jan.-June. Fr. 1,000.	1919. Jan.-June. Fr. 1,000.	Half of year's total Fr. 1,000.	Jan.-June. Fr. 1,000.	1920. Jan.-June. Fr. 1,000.
Livestock	32,636	45,450	117,043	517,410	588,108	1,225,378
Foodstuffs and Beverages	517,410	588,108	1,225,378	1,333,526	372,531	2,880,306
Raw Materials	1,333,526	372,531	2,880,306	434,730	726,890	1,643,619
Manufactured articles	434,730	726,890	1,643,619	206,625	3,332	3,236
Bullion and coin	206,625	3,332	3,236	2,525,023	1,736,313	5,869,583
Total value	2,525,023	1,736,313	5,869,583	16,328,140	1,268,521	5,405,558
Total weight	16,328,140	1,268,521	5,405,558			

IMPERIAL AND FOREIGN TRADE—continued

SOURCES OF IMPORTS.

	1913.			1919.			1920.		
	Half of year's total Fr. 1,000	Jan.-June. Fr. 1,000.	1919. Jan.-June Fr. 1,000.	Half of year's total Fr. 1,000	Jan.-June. Fr. 1,000.	1920. Jan.-June Fr. 1,000.	Half of year's total Fr. 1,000	Jan.-June. Fr. 1,000.	1920. Jan.-June Fr. 1,000.
Great Britain—									
Live Stock	7,200	2,015	15,172	20,370	96,071	68,438	159,400	116,010	559,043
Foodstuffs and beverages	20,370	96,071	68,438	159,400	359,420	423,294	70,142	359,420	423,294
Raw materials	159,400	116,010	559,043	70,142	26	441	2,045	26	441
Manufactured articles	70,142	26	441	2,045	—	—	2,045	—	—
Bullion and coin	2,045	—	—	2,045	—	—	2,045	—	—
Total value	259,157	573,543	1,066,390	520,600	464,091	767,754	1,588,700	464,091	767,754
Total weight (a), (b)	1,588,700	464,091	767,754	1,588,700	464,091	767,754	1,588,700	464,091	767,754
German Customs Union—									
Live Stock	512	1,597	187	37,020	455	14,727	168,900	2,128	120,274
Foodstuffs and beverages	37,020	455	14,727	168,900	2,128	120,274	171,500	6,491	194,231
Raw materials	168,900	2,128	120,274	171,500	6,491	194,231	2,920	—	146
Manufactured articles	171,500	6,491	194,231	2,920	—	146	2,920	—	146
Bullion and coin	2,920	—	146	2,920	—	146	2,920	—	146
Total value	380,852	10,673	329,567	520,600	18,785	617,023	5,206,600	18,785	617,023
Total weight (c)	5,206,600	18,785	617,023	5,206,600	18,785	617,023	5,206,600	18,785	617,023
France—									
Livestock	4,730	7,428	6,202	4,0950	68,362	139,782	172,200	29,605	490,593
Foodstuffs and beverages	4,0950	68,362	139,782	172,200	29,605	490,593	95,600	231,874	554,699
Raw materials	172,200	29,605	490,593	95,600	231,874	554,699	186,650	699	988
Manufactured articles	95,600	231,874	554,699	186,650	699	988	186,650	699	988
Bullion and coin	186,650	699	988	186,650	699	988	186,650	699	988
Total value	500,130	337,970	1,192,266	500,130	337,970	1,192,266	500,130	337,970	1,192,266
Total weight (d)	3,732,970	119,194	1,249,772	3,732,970	119,194	1,249,772	3,732,970	119,194	1,249,772
United States of America—									
Livestock	34	787	59,830	75,300	183,556	284,940	122,120	94,853	494,693
Foodstuffs and beverages	75,300	183,556	284,940	122,120	94,853	494,693	10,450	47,231	166,116
Raw materials	122,120	94,853	494,693	10,450	47,231	166,116	2,250	—	51
Manufactured articles	10,450	47,231	166,116	2,250	—	51	2,250	—	51
Bullion and coin	2,250	—	51	2,250	—	51	2,250	—	51
Total value	210,150	326,428	1,005,632	210,150	326,428	1,005,632	210,150	326,428	1,005,632
Total weight (a)	766,100	181,600	556,415	766,100	181,600	556,415	766,100	181,600	556,415
Holland—									
Total value	178,500	1,138,894	346,935	178,500	1,138,894	346,935	178,500	1,138,894	346,935
Total weight (a)	1,250,000	123,636	288,529	1,250,000	123,636	288,529	1,250,000	123,636	288,529
Italy—									
Total value	22,000	13,390	106,289	22,000	13,390	106,289	22,000	13,390	106,289
Total weight	84,800	14,005	65,139	84,800	14,005	65,139	84,800	14,005	65,139
Switzerland—									
Total value	9,680	20,296	64,111	9,680	20,296	64,111	9,680	20,296	64,111
Total weight (a)	3,590	2,220	12,671	3,590	2,220	12,671	3,590	2,220	12,671

(a) The disparity between 1913 and 1920 as regards proportion of tonnage to value is largely accounted for by the increased value of materials and the depreciation in the Belgian franc. (b) In 1913, coal represented two-thirds of total importation in tonnage, and one-eleventh in value, against one-fifth in tonnage and one-fortieth in value in 1920. (c) More than three-fifths of the total imports in tonnage were represented by coal, which only represented one-sixth of the total imports in value. (d) More than two-thirds of the total imports in tonnage were represented by ore, which only represented one-twentyfifth of the total imports in value.

BRITISH, AMERICAN AND FRENCH PROPORTIONS.

The following percentage of increase or decrease may be noted as regards the relative development of British, American, and French trade with Belgium. (The German imports, which appear formidable, especially in regard to manufactured articles, are largely accounted for by the large quantity of material recovered or contributed under the Peace Treaty, and do not represent any definite relation to pre-war trade.)

	1919 to 1913.			1920 to 1919.			1920 to 1913.		
	Percentage.	Percentage.	Percentage.	Percentage.	Percentage.	Percentage.	Percentage.	Percentage.	
Great Britain—									
Value	+120	+86	+300	+120	+86	+300	+120	+86	
Tonnage	-70	+65	-52	-70	+65	-52	-70	+65	
United States of America—									
Value	+55	+208	+379	+55	+208	+379	+55	+208	
Tonnage	-77	+207	-29	-77	+207	-29	-77	+207	
France—									
Value	-33	+222	+138	-33	+222	+138	-33	+222	
Tonnage	-97	+949	-66	-97	+949	-66	-97	+949	

IMPERIAL AND FOREIGN TRADE—continued.

It will be seen that the increase in the imports from Great Britain in the first six months of 1919 on half the annual imports in 1913 compare favourably with the United States and France, especially after taking into consideration the fact that the value of the £1 was not so high *vis-a-vis* the Belgian franc as the value of the dollar. At the same time it must be borne in mind that the difficulties and high cost of freight made Great Britain a more convenient market than the United States, while the delay in French reconstruction naturally hampered the latter's export trade.

Comparison between the periods of 1919 and 1920, however, gives a less satisfactory result to Great Britain, as against her two principal competitors, both the United States and France having trebled in value their exports to Belgium of the previous year, while Great Britain's are barely doubled. It is, however, interesting to note that of the American total of 1,005,632,000 francs, 59,830,000 francs represents livestock, 54,000,000 francs represents meat, 12,000,000 francs represents butter, 169,500,000 francs represents grain, 20,000,000 francs represents flour, 24,229,000 francs represents raw copper, 149,289,000 francs represents bituminous products, 20,241,000 francs represents tobacco, 199,664,000 francs represents cotton, and 35,000,000 francs represents timber, in none of which have we even pretended to compete seriously with the United States before the war.

If the total value of these materials is withdrawn on each side, the value of United States imports into Belgium remains at 261,879,000 francs, while that of British imports amounts to 925,075,000 francs. Taking into consideration the known British preponderance in wool, jute, etc., and raw rubber, the reduction of these values from each side leaves the figures at 247,970,000 francs for the United States, and 658,947,000 francs for Great Britain.

As regards comparison with France, whose progress is even more marked, there is an increase over Great Britain as follows:—

Foodstuffs and beverages.—Great Britain, 68,438,000 francs., France 139,782,000 francs.

Manufactured articles.—Great Britain, 423,294,000 francs., France, 554,699,000 francs.

Of the French total, 77,000,000 francs represents wine.

The difference of 131,000,000 francs in favour of France is represented mainly by greater imports from thence of:—Chemical products, 30,955,000 francs, against 19,039,000 francs from Great Britain; woollen yarn, 18,892,000 francs, against 6,128,000 francs; flax yarn, 18,791,000 francs, against 7,962,000 francs; silk fabrics, 25,239,000 francs, against 1,182,000 francs; manufactured copper, 13,992,000 francs, against 4,192,000 francs; railway material, 66,210,000 francs, against 10,977,000 francs; other than railway vehicles, 18,014,000 francs, against 6,347,000 francs; and hardware, 26,001,000 francs, against 11,934,000 francs from Great Britain.

The proportions for these headings in 1913 (whole year) were as follows:—

	Great France.	Great Britain.
	Frs. 1,000.	Frs. 1,000.
Chemical Products	7,800	4,300
Woollen yarn	3,875	1,025
Silk Yarn	1,730	111
Flax Yarn	35,964	10,160
Silk Fabric	8,352	889
Manufactured copper	5,401	1,053
Railway material	1,587	1,054
Other than railway vehicles	4,700	3,000
Hardware	8,596	3,244

It appears from the foregoing figures that the most notable advance has been made in French exports of silk yarn (in the proportion of 30 to 1 against 16 to 1 in 1913), silk fabric (20 to 1 as against 9 to 1 in 1913), railway rolling stock and accessories (6 to 1 against 1½ to 1 in 1913), and other than railway vehicles (3½ to 1 against 1½ to 1 in 1913).

MOTOR CAR IMPORTS.

The last two items are probably to be accounted for by the quantity of Belgian material, lorries, etc., re-introduced from French soil after the war, as well as material of British origin purchased from France; but a large item must be the trade in motor cars, in which Great Britain has taken an infinitesimal share compared with France and the United States. The Belgian market has been flooded with French light cars, and these figures seem to emphasise again the necessity of British motor car manufacturers turning their attention to overseas markets (in spite of home demands) at once if they wish to resume export trade in future.

LARGER DYESTUFF IMPORTS FROM GREAT BRITAIN.

It is interesting to note that the exports of dyestuffs from Great Britain to Belgium are greater than those of France for the period under review (14,070,000 francs against

IMPERIAL AND FOREIGN TRADE—continued.

11,314,500 francs), which is a considerable improvement on the figures of six months in 1913 (1,905,000 francs from Great Britain, against 3,970,000 francs from France).

EXPORTS: A REMARKABLE RECOVERY.

As regards the exports from Belgium, the figures now available demonstrate how remarkable has been the economic recovery of the country. The exports during the first six months of 1920, compared with the same period in 1919, and half the total exports of 1913, are as follows:—

	1913. Half of Year's total. Frs. 1,000.	1919. Jan.-June. Frs. 1,000.	1920. Jan.-June. Frs. 1,000.
Live stock	22,206	631	5,107
Foodstuffs and beverages..	163,830	71,525	315,866
Raw materials	931,039	223,930	1,734,217
Manufactured articles	768,215	77,936	2,000,867
Bullion and coin	40,615	1,014	6,219
Total value	1,907,905	375,038	4,152,247
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Total weight	10,442,591	2,623,534	4,605,650

The following table shows Belgium's best customers during the past half-year, and gives a comparison with the corresponding period of 1919:—

	1919. Jan.-June. Frs. 1,000.	1920. Jan.-June. Frs. 1,000.
France	84,170	1,285,407
Great Britain	18,345	704,748
Germany	69,299	567,647
Holland	132,912	526,678
Switzerland	24,054	187,882
United States	8,100	153,166

EXPORTS TO GREAT BRITAIN.

Exports to Great Britain are divided as follows:—

	1913. Half of Year's total. Frs. 1,000.	1919. Jan.-June. Frs. 1,000.	1920. Jan.-June. Frs. 1,000.
Livestock	425	1	217
Foodstuffs and beverages..	25,373	7,333	43,885
Raw materials	76,620	5,191	231,746
Manufactured products	153,014	5,819	424,660
Bullion and coin	420	—	4,238
Total value	255,852	18,345	704,748
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Total weight	905,194	43,441	385,841

DENMARK.

INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE IN SOUTH JUTLAND.

(From the Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation.)

COPENHAGEN.

It has been pointed out by a writer in "Udenrigsministeriets Tidsskrift" that by the re-union with Denmark that portion of Slesvig recently restored to her, the geographical area of Denmark is enlarged by about 4,000 square kilometres and the population of the country by about 170,000.

The leading industry of the recovered area is agriculture. A considerable development had taken place, owing to Danish influence, during the period that South Jutland was under German administration, and the co-operative idea had taken root so deeply in South Jutland that in 1914 there were 133 co-operative and 12 joint dairies situated north of the line Flensburg-Tønder. North Slesvig dairy farming soon earned a good reputation, its products were well known in the German market for their fine quality, and the butter produced fetched a higher price than any other German butter.

South Jutland has one other industry of some importance, viz., the brick manufactory at Flensburg Fiord. All the brickworks are situated near the Fiord, thus facilitating shipment. The market for this industry is South Jutland itself and Denmark. In 1914 about forty works were to be found at Flensburg Fiord, producing, when in full running, up to 100 million bricks yearly.

There are various industrial works at Haderslev and Aabenraa, e.g., spinning mills, dyeing establishments, saw mills, tobacco factories, and machine factories, where agricultural implements, dairy machines, etc., are made. Brewing is carried on at most of the larger towns, and the production is almost large enough to cover home consump-

IMPERIAL AND FOREIGN TRADE—continued.

tion. There is, in addition, at Sonderborg, a modern margarine factory capable of taking up competition with the Hamburg factories.

FINANCIAL POSITION.

The country was well placed financially at the re-union. In the four counties Haderslev, Aabenraa, Sonderborg, and Tønder—there were, at the end of 1919, 128 savings banks and banks of more or less importance, with deposits of 115 million marks. When, in the autumn of 1918, the re-union was approaching, the population endeavoured, as far as possible, to pay back existing debts in marks to the German financial institutions, so that when the separation from Germany took place the debt to that country had, to a great part, been paid off.

TRANSFER FROM THE MARK TO THE KRONER.

To alleviate the loss in income and capital of the South Jutland population, caused by the transfer from the mark to the kroner, a Bank of Settlement for South Jutland has been founded by Law. At the disposal of this bank the Danish Government has placed an amount, not to exceed 850 kroners for each inhabitant, from which heads of families can be compensated for loss involved in the change of the currency.

ESTHONIA.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS DURING AUGUST.

According to the Returns of the Foreign Exchange Control Committee there were registered during August 288 licences showing the undermentioned values of goods imported into Esthonia:—

(The value of the Esthonian mark was taken as follows:—
£1=Esthonian marks 270; Reichsmark 1=Esthonian marks 140; Finnish mark 1=Esthonian mark 3·90.)

IMPORTS.

(c.i.f. Esthonian port.)

	Esthonian marks.
Machinery	4,575,839
Metal goods and tools	3,506,686
Building material (coal tar, roofing, etc.)	3,512,490
Raw materials (cotton, raw hides, etc.)	22,321,940
Chemicals, dyes and oil	14,124,302
Coal and naphtha	10,958,080
Fertilisers	3,166,243
Writing material and books	917,960
Foodstuffs (sugar, salt, herrings)	11,899,100
Clothing and footwear	362,734
Haberdashery	5,760,000
Furniture	311,202
Miscellaneous goods	1,617,401
Total	83,033,977

EXPORTS.

(f.o.b. Esthonian port.)

The value of goods exported from Esthonia during August under 92 licences was as follows:—

	Esthonian marks.
Timber (boards, baulks, sleepers, pit props, etc.)	40,714,580
Building materials (bricks, cement)	1,015,050
Carpentry and furniture	2,296,620
Chemicals	1,237,845
Cloth, leather, furs	4,479,320
Paper	31,749,480
Spirit	20,790,750
Foodstuffs	473,850
Used furniture and household effects	1,331,500
Miscellaneous goods	25,800
Total	104,114,795

The above figures include Government imports and exports.

FINLAND.

FOREIGN TRADE, JANUARY—AUGUST, 1920.

According to the published statistics for exports and imports of Finland for the month of August, 1920, it appears that exports have exceeded imports by 126,300,000 Finnish marks. For the first eight months of 1920 the exports and imports show the following figures:—

IMPERIAL AND FOREIGN TRADE—continued.

	Trade balance.	
	Imports.	Exports.
	Import excess (—)	
	Export excess (+)	
	(In millions of Finnish marks.)	
January	254·6	43·3
February	254·8	97·7
March	213·0	59·7
April	273·6	97·8
May	205·0	197·5
June	292·9	290·7
July	338·7	355·0
August	312·8	439·1
Total	2,145·4	1,580·8
		—564·6

The excess of imports over exports for the whole of the period under review is 564·6 million Finnish marks. For the corresponding period of 1919 it was 957·2 million Finnish marks.

DESTINATION OF EXPORTS.

The following figures show the value of the goods taken by the countries importing from Finland during the first eight months of the present year:—

	Jan.-Aug.		Jan.-Aug.
	F.Mks.		F.Mks.
United Kingdom ...	759·2	Spain	42·3
Sweden	138·4	Argentina	27·4
France	136·7	Norway	16·7
Holland	118·2	Egypt	13·0
Germany	72·7	Brazil	10·5
Denmark	72·7	Esthonia	9·8
Belgium	66·9	Latvia	7·5
United States of America	59·0	Poland	2·8

ROUMANIA.

EXPORTABLE SURPLUS OF GRAIN.

(From H.M. Consul-General.)

BUCHAREST.

With reference to the article on Cereal Stocks and Export Prospects in Roumania, published in the "Journal" of 12th August (pages 187-8), an adjustment of the figures there quoted as representing the quantities of grain which would probably be available for export from last year's harvest now gives the following result:—

	Tons.
Barley	1,000,000
Oats	500,000
Wheat and rye	Nil.
Maize (surplus from 1919 harvest)	500,000

It should be noted that these figures represent the estimate of the Roumanian Ministry of Agriculture of the exportable surplus after deduction from stocks of 1919 grain, and from the estimated yield of the 1920 harvest, the quantities considered necessary for the interior consumption of the country and for purposes of seed.

PARTIAL FAILURE OF MAIZE CROP.

A long rainless period which occurred after the middle of July destroyed all hopes of what promised to be a record maize crop. In some districts the maize crop is a failure, while in others it was saved by rains towards the end of August. On the whole, it is estimated that the crop has suffered in quantity to the extent of about 40 per cent. With regard to the recent summer harvest, the Ministry of Agriculture's original estimate (see the "Journal" of 12th August, page 187) seems likely to prove fairly accurate in respect of the chief cereal crops.

REDUCTION OF EXPORT TAXES.

Representations made to the Roumanian Government regarding the prohibitive nature of export taxes has met with conspicuous success, substantial reductions having been made as shown in the following table:—

Maize, per wagon of 10,000 kilos.,	2,500 lei,	instead of	8,400 lei.
Barley	4,620		6,400
Oats	3,300		6,400
Millet	2,500		5,600

The release for export of 100,000 tons of rye is reported. The freight rate to Antwerp at the time of writing is 52s.

IMPERIAL AND FOREIGN TRADE—continued.

SPAIN.

LEGISLATION ON WHEAT AND FLOUR.

(From the Commercial Secretary to H.M. Embassy.)

MADRID.

A Royal Order, dated 8th September, revokes the Decrees of July and August which placed trade in wheat and flour in Spain under control, with fixed prices. As indicated on page 347 of the "Journal" of 16th September, it had been considered from the first as extremely doubtful whether the provisions of these Decrees would be carried out.

The Order of 8th September declares trade in wheat within the country to be free. The exportation of wheat or flour, however, is prohibited, even to the Canary Islands, the Balearic Islands, and the Spanish West African Colonies. The tax on flour is raised for September to 82 pesetas from 72 pesetas per 100 kilogs., as fixed in the Order of 27th July, and 62 pesetas as it had been before then. The flour mills remain subject to State supervision. The maximum price for flour will be announced each month.

ASIA.

PERSIA.

OPENINGS FOR AGRICULTURAL AND OTHER MACHINERY.

(From H.M. Consul.)

SHIRAZ.

If Persia is destined to be a great wheat-producing country in coming years it will be necessary, in addition to the prosecution of irrigation schemes, to supersede the primitive agricultural methods of the country by the importation of agricultural and other machinery from Europe.

At the present time there are certain difficulties which stand in the way of agricultural developments on modern lines. For example, it is difficult to bring anything up from the sea to Shiraz which cannot be carried on a mule's back. It is necessary, therefore, that the motor road from Bushire should be completed and improved. Again, coal is unknown, and wood and charcoal very expensive. Petrol also is so expensive as to render its use almost prohibitive. Lastly, there are no native Persian engineers or mechanics, and all repair work would have to be done by foreigners, the cost of living for whom, including Indians, is very high.

There appears to be an opening for pumps in order that greater use might be made of the water in numerous wells for irrigation purposes. Pumps of the most simple nature and capable of being easily repaired would be in demand if available. These could be fixed down the wells and operated from the surface by hand or engine. For example, the greater part of the plain of Marv Dasht, which at one time supplied Persia with huge quantities of cereals, is now lying fallow as the natives have no suitable facilities for drawing water from the Bandamir River. At Bandamir there is plenty of power at the dam which is now being wasted, except where it drives a few primitive flour mills. Here, with hydraulic rams, the water could be lifted and the whole countryside flooded for many miles at little expense beyond first cost. Higher up the river the water could also be lifted, but the working expense would be greater. At Bandamir modern flour mills could then be worked, which would be capable of coping with the increased crops obtained by the new irrigation.

PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATIONS WANTED.

It is not surprising that Persians cannot be persuaded to undertake the expense of any simple irrigation scheme, or of experimenting with the soil with British ploughs and tractors until they see such apparatus in actual operation. It is necessary, therefore, for British firms to show sufficient enterprise to take this first step in carrying out practical demonstrations. There is a danger that if this pioneering work is delayed for any length of time we may see some of our competitors in the field before us.

As mentioned at the outset, transport difficulties are at present a serious consideration, but may be overcome. There is also the question of customs duty, freight and other charges, coupled with the fact that other countries can step in with their trade on an equal footing with pioneers. The whole question of developing the agricultural resources of Persia therefore requires serious consideration from many aspects if it is to be tackled with success by a British firm.

[The Department of Overseas Trade will be glad to supply to British manufacturers the name of an important merchant house operating in Persia, which is prepared to discuss the prospects of this business in agricultural and other machinery.]

IMPERIAL AND FOREIGN TRADE—continued.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

GROWTH OF EXPORT OF MANUFACTURED GOODS.

Commenting upon the figures of the exports of manufactured goods from the United States in the month of July, the National City Bank of New York, in its "Foreign Trade Record," says that they give further evidence that the big gains in exports of manufactures have "come to stay." Manufactures exported in the dull export month of July, the Bank's statement continues, average 11 million dollars a day, against 7½ million dols. per day in July of last year, and for the seven months ending with July, average 11½ million dols. per day, against 9½ million dols. per day in the same months of last year. The total exports of manufactures in July, 1920, including the two groups, "manufactures for use" and "manufactures for further use in manufacturing," aggregated 343 million dollars, against 234 millions in July, 1919, and in the seven months ending with July were 2,451,000,000 dols., against 2,000,000,000 dols. in the same months of last year. The chief increase occurred in the group "manufactures ready for use," of which the exports in July were 264 million dollars, against 167 millions in July of last year, and for the seven months ending with July, 1,849,000,000 dols., against 1,479,000,000 dols. in the same months of last year.

Another indication of the growing share which manufactures form of United States exports is found in the fact that the increase in exports, both in July and in the seven months ending with July, occurred entirely in the trade with those sections of the world in which manufactures form the bulk of United States exports. Manufactures form, in normal times, continues the Bank's statement, about 70 per cent. of the merchandise sent by the United States to neighbours in North America, over 80 per cent. of those to South America, 80 per cent. of those to Asia, nearly 90 per cent. of those to Oceania, and about 75 per cent. of those sent to Africa, while they form in normal times about 33 per cent. of those sent to Europe.

With this in mind, that manufactures form the bulk of United States exports to North and South America, Asia, Oceania, and Africa, and only a comparatively small percentage of those sent to Europe, it is interesting to find that the grand total of exports, both in July and in the seven months ending with July, showed a big increase in the movements to North and South America, Asia, Oceania, and Africa, and a marked decline in the total exports to Europe. In fact, the total exports to the five grand divisions whose takings from the United States consist chiefly of manufactures, were practically twice as great in July, 1920, as in July, 1919, while those to Europe, whose takings of United States manufactures are but a small share of United States entire exports thereto, show a much smaller total in July, 1920, than in the same month of the preceding year. The total value of all exports to the five grand divisions in which manufactures form the bulk of United States exports was, in July, 1920, 310 million dollars, against 164 million dols. in July of the preceding year, while those to Europe, where manufactures form a comparatively small share of United States exports, were but 341 millions, against 404 millions in July of last year.

COMPARISON WITH 1913.

This exportation in the dull month of July of an average of 11 million dollars a day of manufactures, and 11½ in the seven months ending with July, as compared with 7½ millions in July of last year, and 9½ millions in the seven months ending with July, 1919, makes it quite apparent that the total exports of United States manufactures in the calendar year 1920 will considerably exceed four billion dollars, against a little over one billion in the calendar year immediately preceding the war, 1913. Manufactures formed 50 per cent. of the total exports in the seven months ending with July of the current year, and about 53 per cent. in the month of July, against only 42 per cent. in July of last year. Should the exports continue during the remainder of the calendar year at the average daily rate recorded down to the end of July, the total value of manufactures exported would be 4,200,000,000 dols., against 1,177,000,000 dols. in the calendar year 1913.

This continued use of American manufactures, with which the foreign world made acquaintance during the war when the usual source of supplies was cut off, is the subject of a good deal of comment among representatives, the world over, of the great manufacturing countries. British and other Consuls, Trade Commissioners, and Commercial Attachés, make no hesitation in saying frankly to their constituents at home that the United States is not only

IMPERIAL AND FOREIGN TRADE—continued.

retaining, up to this time, most of the trade in manufactures which she accumulated during the war, but that the former prejudice against American manufactures and the short credit and other peculiarities of her exporters is rapidly disappearing after closer acquaintance with United States manufactures and manufacturers, and that the United States must now be counted as a serious and permanent rival in the markets for manufactures in all parts of the world.

LATIN AMERICA.

URUGUAY.

WHEAT SUPPLIES, SPECULATION AND CONTROL.

(From H.M. Minister.)

MONTEVIDEO.

On 23rd July the Government of Uruguay ordered an official investigation to be made into the existing stocks of wheat and flour shall be effected only under the authorisation reported that there was a total of 16,246,000 kilos—an amount that is considered sufficient for normal requirements of the population until the new harvest is available.

On several occasions recently the desirability of requisitioning stocks of wheat and flour have been discussed by the Lower Chamber, and a special Food Supplies Committee has presented a Bill to declare the requisitioning of such stocks to be "a public necessity."

The Bill provides that all commercial transactions in wheat and flour shall be effected only under the authorisation of the Executive, and that purchases of these articles shall be allocated by the Ministry of Industries to the flour mills or bakeries in accordance with the requirements of local consumption.

Until 5th December next the maximum price of wheat, according to the Bill, is to be fixed at 10 dols. per 100 kilos. The price of flour, bread, and other products is to be fixed by the Executive for each locality from time to time, according to the cost of wheat. No extra price is to be allowed for the so-called "special" and "superior" classes.

All holders of stocks will be required to report the same to the Ministry of Industries. Finally, the Executive is authorised to import duty free any quantity of wheat considered necessary.

Although lengthy debates have taken place on the Bill, so far only the first article, declaring the requisitioning of such stocks to be of public necessity, has been approved.

PUBLIC WORKS DEVELOPMENTS.

(From H.M. Minister.)

MONTEVIDEO.

The scheme which was before the Departmental Administrative Council of Montevideo providing for an internal loan of 12,000,000 dols. (see the "Journal" of 15th July, page 67) has since been definitely formulated in an even more ambitious form. The proposal now provides for the issue of bonds at the minimum rate of 90 per cent., bearing interest at 6 per cent. per annum, for a total value of 18,000,000 dols., for the various purposes previously enumerated.

If the redemption of municipal debt is not carried out, however, as provided for, the amount of the loan is to be reduced to 13,000,000 dols.

The project requires the sanction of the Departmental and National Legislatures, and it may be presumed that it will undergo considerable modification before being passed.

NOTICE.

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Finance and Banking.

POLAND.

RESTRICTIONS ON CURRENCY TRANSACTIONS.

(From the Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation.)

WARSAW.

A Law was published by the Polish Government on 11th August introducing certain restrictions regarding transactions in foreign specie and currency in Poland and between Poland and foreign countries.

The head of the Credit Department of the Ministry of Finance, Baron Mautenffel, has stated that there had been imperative reasons which forced the Polish Government to introduce this Law, and has given an assurance that not only would no difficulties be made in cases where it could be proved that currency to be sent abroad was required for legitimate purposes, but that the greatest facilities would be given, and that in cases in dispute help would be rendered.

The text of the principal Articles of the new Law is as follows:—

Art. 1.—The transfer from Poland abroad and from abroad to Poland, and all transactions in Poland in foreign currencies, such as foreign moneys, bank notes, cheques, bills, letters of credit, drafts; and also the transfer of money from one current account to another, can be effected only through the intermediary of those banks which will obtain for this purpose special permission from the Ministry of Finance.

Art. 2.—The representatives of these Exchange Banks, together with the representatives of the Ministry of Finance and of the Polish Loan Bank form a special Exchange Committee.

The duties of the Exchange Committee will be:—

- (a) To supervise the carrying out of Article 1.
- (b) To effect the allocation of foreign currencies to private and legal persons.
- (c) To fix the rate of exchange at which the Exchange Bank will buy and sell foreign currency.

The Exchange Committee will be under the Ministry of Finance.

Art. 3.—Foreign currencies will be allocated to private and legal persons for a fixed purpose, and preference will be given for the meeting of the economic requirements of Poland.

All necessary documents will have to be presented to the Exchange Committee.

Art. 4.—Private and legal persons who have not obtained from the Ministry of Finance the permission for the transactions named in Article 1, will have the right to sell such currency and specie as they possess only to the Exchange Bank, and only the latter will have the right to sell foreign currency to the former.

The holding of foreign specie and currency, unless it is required for legal commercial transactions, was prohibited as from 10th September.

Art. 6.—All foreign specie and currency received must be placed immediately at the disposal of one of the Exchange Banks.

Art. 7.—The export abroad of specie and currency without a special permission is prohibited, as also is (Art. 9) the export abroad of Polish marks in sums exceeding 1,000 marks for each person at one time, and 3,000 marks per month.

Art. 10.—The sale and mortgaging abroad of Polish and foreign bonds and shares and the cashing of coupons can take place only through the intermediary of an Exchange Bank, and their direct sale or mortgage abroad can take place only by special permission of the Ministry of Finance.

Art. 11.—The export abroad of bonds and shares and of coupons of such papers is also similarly prohibited.

Art. 12.—Current accounts in Polish banks of private and legal persons residing abroad are subject to the control of the Ministry of Finance.

Payments from accounts which were opened before the coming into force of this Law can be made without restrictions if the payments are made in Poland or if moneys are transferred from these accounts to other accounts of private or legal persons residing in Poland.

Payments from controlled accounts can be made only if permission to that effect is obtained each time from the Ministry of Finance. From free accounts, however, payments can be made without any restrictions.

Credits which have been obtained by private or legal persons abroad, and all foreign liabilities, must be registered at the Ministry of Finance.

Shipping.

BELGIUM.

PROPOSED NEW DOCKS AT ANTWERP.

(From the Commercial Secretary to H.M. Embassy.)

BRUSSELS.

The proposed new docks at Antwerp, to be constructed on the northern side of the south bend of the river Scheldt, were promised, in April, 1919, to be finished in 1925, but up to the present no contracts have been placed, and work has not been commenced.

It is proposed that Astruweel should become an industrial town from the river to the docks; and the State is giving to the town 2,000 metres of riverside quay and space on the Astruweel front.

In connection with the bassin canal from No. 3 dock to Krmishaus, the city of Antwerp will build a series of docks, the first having an area of forty hectares, and the plans are under discussion by the local authorities, but have not yet been approved. It is intended, however, to improve on the docks at the port of Rotterdam.

A copy of the plan of the proposed new docks at Antwerp may be inspected upon application to the Department of Overseas Trade (Shipping and Transport Section), 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.2.

GREECE.

WIRELESS INSTALLATIONS.

The Greek Law of 14th January, 1920, on the subject of wireless telegraphy, of which copies have been received by H.M. Postmaster-General, follows the lines of the International Convention on Safety of Life at Sea. Article 10 states that three months after the promulgation of the Law Greek ships carrying 50 or more persons must be provided with a wireless telegraph installation; but vessels under 300 tons engaged in the Greek coasting trade are exempted.

Article 12 applies the provisions of this Law to foreign ships engaged in carrying Greek passengers to or from Greek ports, but not to any other foreign vessel.

PORTUGAL.

ALLIED AND NEUTRAL GOODS EX GERMAN SHIPS.

A Decree, No. 6928, dated 11th September, 1920, was published in the "Government Gazette," Lisbon, on 9th September, in respect of Allied and neutral goods ex German ships which were seized in Portuguese ports after war had been declared by Portugal against Germany.

The text of the Decree is as follows:—

1. From the date of this Decree goods which were on board enemy ships seized in the ports of Portugal, her islands and colonies, and which were at the time of seizure undoubtedly the property of Allies or neutrals, i.e., provided their sale had not been actually completed by payment, will be handed over to their respective owners, on duly documented application being made to the Customs.

2. In case of the loss of the title of ownership, the procedure will be according to Article 478 of the Regulation of 31st January, 1889.

If the goods shall have already been sold in public auction the owners will receive the value obtained, once their rights have been substantiated according to the provisions of the Decree. In the case of goods having been requisitioned, the owners will receive their value, calculated according to circumstances.

3. The owners of goods or their local representatives may apply to the Customs for the postponement of any auction which may have been announced; this application when authenticated by the competent Consul will have power to suspend the auction. If, after the lapse of thirty days from the presentation of the application, the interested party do not present documents on which the procès verbal for the acknowledgment of the proprietorship can be started, the power of suspension mentioned in this Article will also lapse, without prejudice to the right conferred in Article 3.

4. Claims to the ownership of goods of neutrals and Allies actually awaiting the decision of the public procurators (procuradores da Republica) may be transferred to the respective Custom Houses, if the interested parties agree and with the previous consent of the Government.

SHIPPING—continued.

5. The Customs will always require from claimants a certificate duly authenticated, in which their respective Consul affirms the nationality of the goods, according to Article 1.

6. All legislation to the contrary is thereby repealed.

SWEDEN.

SHIPPING ACTIVITY AT STOCKHOLM.

The "Svenska Handelstidning," recently commenting on the revival of shipping activity at Stockholm, stated that during the month of August arrivals at the port aggregated no fewer than 382 vessels. The most conspicuous factor about these figures is that no less than 225 vessels entered from Finland, the majority of which brought cargoes of timber goods and firewood. Of the remainder, 47 vessels arrived from the United Kingdom, 34 from America (with large cargoes of coal, estimated at 144,000 tons), 34 from Germany, 20 from Baltic ports, 4 from France, 6 from Holland, and 9 from Denmark.

Minerals and Metals.

MEXICO.

TAXATION OF MINE PROPERTIES.

The Mexican Official Journal of 20th July contained the text of a Decree, dated 6th July, whereby all surcharges imposed for non-payment of arrears of taxes would be remitted, provided that mine owners paid the ordinary taxes on mining properties due for the first two periods of four months of the current year, before 31st July.

Taxpayers who complied with this regulation will also be granted facilities for liquidating arrears of ordinary taxation due for similar four-monthly periods prior to 1920.

A translation of this Decree may be consulted on application to the Enquiry Room of the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

COAL OUTPUT PER MAN IN PENNSYLVANIA.

(From H.M. Consul-General.)

PHILADELPHIA.

The following record of work done per day by loaders and pick men at the Westmoreland Coal Company at Irwin, Pennsylvania, is of interest at the present time:—

	Tons per man, per day.
1918	7.48
1919	7.60
1920 January	6.97
February	6.94
March	7.55
April	7.43
May	7.36
June	8.18
July	8.15

In January, 1920, there was a shortage of cars, which continued more or less up to May, when the car service improved.

At what is known as the Export Mine of the same company the efficiency had risen to 9.20 tons in June, and to 9.20 in July.

VENEZUELA.

NEW MINING LAWS.

The "Gaceta Oficial" (Caracas) of 29th July publishes two new Laws, dated 18th and 19th June respectively, relating to the exploration and working of (1) mineral and metal deposits, and (2) deposits of coal, petroleum, asphalt, ozokerite, and similar substances. They deal with the creation and administration of mining areas, the exploitation of mining properties, right of way in mines, mining taxes, method of making claims, the granting, cancellation, and renewal of concessions, rights and obligations of concessionaires, etc.

The text (in Spanish) of the Laws may be consulted by British firms interested on application to the Enquiry Room of the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

Textiles.

CANADA.

CULTIVATION OF FLAX FOR FIBRE.

In 1919, according to figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, 19,262 acres of flax for fibre were grown in Ontario, 800 acres in Quebec, and 200 acres in Manitoba, making a total area of 20,262 acres for the Dominion, as compared with 20,900 acres in 1918, and 8,000 acres in 1917, grown in Ontario. The average yield per acre of pure linen fibre in 1919 was 218 lb., which was valued at from 80 cents. to 1 dol. per lb. according to grade. Although the yield per acre was much lower than that of 1918, which was 310 lb. per acre, the quality was more uniform. There were in addition 1,162 tons of coarse tow, which was graded at prices ranging from 18 cents to 32 cents per lb.

GRADE STANDARD FOR ONTARIO FIBRE FLAX SEED.

In order to safeguard the Canadian export trade to Ireland in flax fibre seed, through the maintenance of a uniform standard of high quality, the Department of Agriculture provided for an inspection and grading service for the flax fibre seed crop of 1919, the grade standard being fixed as follows:—

Flax seed for seeding purposes shall be mature, sound, dry and sweet, shall be practically free from seeds of other cultivated plants, shall be free from noxious weed seeds within the meaning of the Seed Control Act (one noxious weed seed per oz.), shall be well cleaned and graded to remove light and damaged kernels, common weed seeds, and other foreign matter, and shall be capable of germinating at least 90 per cent. Certificates of this grade may be issued for Ontario fibre flax, providing the seed is accompanied by an affidavit of pedigree or certificate of registration sent to the Chief Seed Inspector.

The inspected seed shipped to Ireland amounted to 90,000 bushels, the price realised being 10.75 dols. per bushel, f.o.b. mills in Canada.

DEVELOPMENT OF FLAX-GROWING INDUSTRY.

The growth on a commercial scale of flax for fibre, and especially of flax-fibre seed for export to Ireland, is a new industry in Canada, resulting directly from the war and dating from the year 1915. It bids fair to have important future developments. At present there are about 32 flax scutching mills in Canada; all of them, except one, in Ontario, for the manufacture of yarn, tow, and other products from Canadian-grown flax fibre. Efforts are being made to establish in Canada a flax-spinning industry for spinning the yarn into linen and other fabrics, but difficulties are being experienced in obtaining the necessary spinning machinery. The successful establishment in Canada of the flax-growing industry in all its branches is desirable both from an industrial and agricultural point of view, and the present prices should yield remunerative returns to manufacturers and producers of the raw material.

According to a Memorandum furnished by the Division of Economic Fibre Production, the acreage under flax for fibre in Canada this year is 31,300 acres, or 1,030 acres more than in 1919. A field crop inspection made a few weeks ago indicated that there was every prospect of a good crop of both fibre and seed. There were approximately 100 tons of flax fibre in Canada at the time of this inspection, at prices ranging from 1 dol. to 1.40 dols. per lb., but it was expected that this would be disposed of almost immediately.

CHINA.

NEW COTTON MILLS AT SHANGHAI AND CHANGCHOW.

Machinery is now being rapidly installed in the Pao Cheng Cotton Mills in Shanghai, the largest enterprise in China. It embraces cotton spinning, weaving, and a waste mill.

The total cost of the enterprise will be close to 10,000,000 dols. when completed, including land, machinery and building construction. The mill will include 100,000 spindles, 6,000 spindles for converting waste, and 600 looms for weaving cloth. The daily output will be 100,000 lb. of cotton yarn. All of the equipment in the mill will be of American construction.

NEW COTTON MILL AT CHANGCHOW.

The Yu Foong Cotton Mill at Changchow in Honan was formally opened on 13th June.

The capacity of the power plant and of picker rooms is enough for 50,000 spindles and 1,200 looms. Five hundred k.w. power plant and 10,000 spindles are now running; 40,000 more spindles and 200 looms are on order, the machinery being all American.

Chemicals and Oils.

UNITED KINGDOM.

PROGRESS IN PRODUCTION OF PETROLEUM.

In a Report on Petroleum Developments in the United Kingdom, issued by H.M. Petroleum Department, drilling progress during the first eight months of the present year is recorded as follows:—

Well.	Depth at 31st Dec., 1919. Feet.	Depth at 31st Aug., 1920. Feet.	Progress. Feet.
Ironville No. 1	2,580	3,630	1,050
Ironville No. 2	3,570	4,006	436
Heath	2,955	3,758	803
Brimington	2,660	2,900	240
Renishaw	3,645	3,695	50
Ridgeway	(standing at 2,998)		
Apedale	1,350	plugged and restarted.	
Werrington	1,920	2,300	380
West Calder	2,219	3,844	1,625
D'Arcy	106	724	618
Total			5,202

SITUATION AT THE WELLS.

The position of the various wells at the close of the period under review was as follows:—

Ironville No. 1.

Depth, 3,630 feet. At 3,600 feet a sand 7 feet thick was encountered in the carboniferous limestone series which gave indications of oil, and it has been considered advisable to pull the 6 inch casing and endeavour to shut off the water found above this position in order to test this sand.

Ironville No. 2.

Depth, 4,006 feet. Standing pending results from Ironville No. 1.

Hardstoft.

Production by natural overflow continues steadily at about 7 barrels per day. The amount of oil in stock to 28th August amounts to 3,696 barrels, or 478 tons.

Heath.

Depth 3,758 feet. This well has now reached a critical stage, being close to the carboniferous limestone. Owing to the very loose nature of the strata in the shales overlying the carboniferous limestone, much caving has been experienced at the bottom of the well, and it has been found necessary to cement this. The operation of cementing is a slow one, and water will have to be shut off before further progress can be made.

Brimington.

Depth 2,900 feet. Drilling was resumed during August, 240 feet being bored, and is progressing satisfactorily in the limestone shales.

Renishaw.

Depth 3,695 feet. This well is still waiting for special tools, which are being obtained.

Ridgeway.

Depth 2,998 feet. This well has been abandoned.

North Staffordshire Area.—Apedale and Werrington.

Serious difficulties were encountered in the Apedale well, and after repeated attempts had been made to recover lost tools, it was decided to abandon the existing well and re-drill on a new site close at hand. The re-erection of the rig has progressed satisfactorily, and the new well was shortly to be spudded in.

A very difficult fishing operation has been successfully carried out at Werrington. During the early part of the year the tools were lost, and it was found impossible to recover them by ordinary methods. As a last resort it was decided to explode charges of dynamite near the lost tools, so as to change their position and loosen them. This proved successful, and the tools have now been recovered. Depth, 2,300 feet. At present the 10 inch casing is being raised in order to under-ream and re-set at a greater depth.

Scotland.—West Calder and D'Arcy.

Drilling has progressed satisfactorily at West Calder, depth 3,844 feet. A slight show of oil was encountered at 3,705 feet. The drill still continues in shales with occasional beds of ash. So far no satisfactory oil-bearing sand has been encountered, although several shows of oil have been met with.

The D'Arcy well has made progress, but difficulty was experienced on account of a crooked hole. At the present depth (724 feet) a strong flow of natural gas was encountered.

Customs Regulations and Tariff Changes.

BRITISH EMPIRE.

AUSTRALIA.

INCREASES IN CERTAIN CUSTOMS DUTIES.

The High Commissioner for Australia is advised that the duties imposed by the Commonwealth Tariff, which came into operation on 25th March, 1920 (published as a Supplement to the "Board of Trade Journal" of 22nd April), have been increased as regards the articles mentioned by the following amounts:—

- Beer, 6d. per gallon.
- Spirits, 3s. per gallon.
- Manufactured tobacco, 5d. per lb.
- Cigarettes, 1s. per lb.
- Cigars, 1s. per lb.

Similar increases have been made in the rates of Excise Duty.

CUSTOMS DECISIONS.

The following Customs By-Laws have been received adding to the lists of articles which may be imported into the Commonwealth at the rates of duty leviable on recognised "minor articles" and "tools of trade":—

Minor Articles for Use in the Manufacture of Goods within the Commonwealth. By-Laws Nos. 477 and 478.

The following items are added:—

- Galvanising—
- Chloride of ammonia.
- Helmets—
- Pith bodies for.

Tools of Trade for Artisans and Mechanics, and Tools in General Use. By-Law No. 476.

Pattern moulds for use in the manufacture of metal toys, when not made wholly of wood and not being machines.

The rates of duty leviable on recognised "minor articles" and "tools of trade" are:—

- Under the British Preferential Tariff..... Free.
- Under the General Tariff10 per cent. *ad valorem*.

ANTIGUA.

IMPORTATION OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION PROHIBITED.

An Order-in-Council of 6th August, 1920, prohibits the importation into the Presidency of Antigua of all arms and ammunition, except under licence granted in accordance with the provisions of Sub-Section (3) of Section 16 of the Antigua Arms and Ammunition Ordinance, 1920.

EXPORTATION OF SUGAR PROHIBITED.

An Order-in-Council of 6th August, 1920, prohibits the exportation of sugar from the Presidency of Antigua, except with the permission of the Governor granted in accordance with the provisions of the Antigua Exportation and Importation Prohibition Ordinance, 1920.

GOLD COAST.

PROHIBITION OF IMPORTATION OF JAPANESE SHAVING BRUSHES.

The Gold Coast "Government Gazette" of 7th August, 1920, publishes copy of an Order-in-Council (No. 22 of 1920), which prohibits the importation into the Gold Coast Colony of shaving brushes manufactured in, or exported from Japan, direct or otherwise.

JAMAICA.

IMPORTATION OF HONEY, BEES AND BEEKEEPERS' STOCK PROHIBITED.

The "Gazette" of 29th July contains copy of Law No. 20 of 1920, which prohibits the importation into Jamaica of bees, honey, and beekeepers' stock except with the written permission of the Director of Agriculture, under such regulations as may be prescribed by the Governor.

Any bees, honey, or beekeepers' stock imported not in accordance or without such permission, may be seized and

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND TARIFF CHANGES —continued.

destroyed at any time by any Customs officer or any officer or sub-officer of the Constabulary Force

"Beekeepers' Stock" is defined to include combs and hives that have been in use, and other products of and things used in connection with beekeeping.

NEW ZEALAND.

CUSTOMS DECISIONS

The following Customs Decisions showing the classification of various articles under the Customs Duties Act on their importation into New Zealand, are contained in Minister's Order, D51, dated 29th June, 1920, viz.:—

ARTICLES.	Rates of Import Duty		
	Tariff Item.	On foreign goods.	On goods the produce or manufacture of any part of the British Empire
Articles and materials suited only for, and to be used solely in, the fabrication of goods in the Dominion, viz.:—			
Asbestos cord specially suited for the manufacture of gas mantles.	482	Free	Free
Double sulphate of nickel and ammonium (invoiced as "double nickel salts"), used in nickel plating.			
Shoe-slides made of cardboard and covered with leather-cloth, and having a backing of enamelled leather.			
Tin oxide.			
Cryolite or kiyolith	483	Free	Free
Felspar powder	483	Free	Free
Fluorspar powder	483	Free	Free
Gas-mantles, impregnated silk "stockings" for the manufacture of	122	30% <i>ad val.</i>	20% <i>ad val.</i>
Lead oxide	437	10% <i>ad val.</i>	Free
Motor vehicles, fittings for, viz.:—			
Rear-axle shaft for motor-car, being the spindle round which the wheel revolves, without pinion or other attachment	360	Free	Free
Quartz powder	483	Free	Free
Surgical appliances, viz.:—			
Sterilisers peculiar to surgical use for sterilising instruments and dressings	279	Free	Free
Swivel, double, consisting of two japanned iron rings connected by a riveted bolt, for use with rope or strap for tying up calves, etc. (claimed as saddlers' ironmongery)	178	30% <i>ad val.</i>	20% <i>ad val.</i>

A "primage duty" of 1 per cent. *ad valorem* is levied on all the above goods in accordance with the Finance Act, 1915. This duty is payable on importation and is levied irrespective of whether the goods are otherwise liable to duty or not.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

IMPORTATION OF CATTLE FROM SPECIFIED COUNTRIES.

The "British South Africa Company's Gazette" for 6th August, 1920, contains copy of a Notification, No. 407, dated 6th August, which provides that the importation of cattle from Great Britain and Ireland, the United States of America, and Holland, may be permitted under the following conditions:—

(1) A permit shall be required from the Controller of Stock or the Chief Inspector, which may contain such conditions as shall from time to time appear expedient.

(2) Importations shall be through and direct from Cape Town or Port Elizabeth.

(3) All cattle shall be submitted to such tests as the Controller of Stock or the Chief Inspector directs, and if any destructive disease is disclosed, the cattle shall be immediately destroyed.

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND TARIFF CHANGES

INCREASE OF CUSTOMS DUTIES ON SPIRITS.

The "Spirits Excise and Customs Duties Amending and Extension Ordinance" of South Rhodesia (No. 11 of 1920), promulgated on 30th July, 1920, substitutes the following item for the corresponding item in the first schedule (Import Duties) of the Customs Tariff and Management Amending Ordinance, 1914, as subsequently amended, viz. :—

TARIFF ITEM.	Rate of Import Duty.		
	Under the General Tariff.	On goods the produce or manufacture of the United Kingdom and reciprocating British Colonies.	On goods the produce or manufacture of any non-reciprocating British Possessions.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
44. Spirits :—			
(a) Perfumed, per imperial gallon (and in addition per £100 <i>ad valorem</i>)	1 11 6	1 11 6	1 11 6
(b) Liqueurs, cordials, and mixed spirits, exceeding 3 per cent. of proof spirit, per imperial gallon (or per £100 <i>ad valorem</i> , whichever shall be the greater)	10 0 0	10 0 0	10 0 0
(c) Other sorts exceeding 3 per cent. of proof spirit, per imperial proof gallon No allowance will be made for underproof.	1 11 0	1 11 0	1 11 0
(d) Medicinal and toilet preparations and essences (liquid), syrups and tinctures: containing over 3 per cent. of proof spirit, per imperial gallon (or per £100 <i>ad valorem</i> , whichever duty is the greater) Such spirits if and when overproof shall be specially entered and the strength overproof declared, and the duty on the mixture shall then be leviable at per imperial proof gallon (or per £100 <i>ad valorem</i> , whichever duty is the greater)	25 0 0	25 0 0	25 0 0
	1 10 0	1 10 0	1 10 0
	1 11 0	20% <i>ad val.*</i>	20% <i>ad val.*</i>
	25 0 0		
	1 10 0	1 10 0	1 10 0
	25 0 0	20 0 0	20 0 0

* The maximum rate upon British is 20 per cent. *ad valorem*.

The Ordinance also provides that the collection of Customs Duties on wheat in the grain, wheaten flour and wheaten meal, shall be suspended as from 1st June, 1920, until such date as the Administrator may hereafter, by notice in the "Gazette," fix for the termination of such suspension.

The Customs duties at present in operation under various amending Ordinances are by the present Ordinance continued in operation until 31st July, 1921.

FOREIGN.

ALGERIA.

EXPORT OF FIGS AND DATES.

A notice issued by the Algerian Department of Agriculture, Commerce, etc., under date 27th August, stated that, as a result of the deficient grain harvest, the Administration found it necessary to retain essential foodstuffs in the Colony, and particularly those which are indispensable for the feeding of the native population, and that it had therefore been decided to prohibit absolutely, and for all destinations, the export of figs and dates other than those of the variety Deglet-Nour (i.e., best quality dates), which can only be exported in cases.

H.M. Consul-General at Algiers now reports that, by way of relaxation of the prohibition, the export of a limited quantity of best-quality figs will be allowed under certain conditions.

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND TARIFF CHANGES

—continued.

BELGIUM.

RELAXATION OF SANITARY RESTRICTIONS ON EXPORT OF LIVE-STOCK PRODUCTS.

The Belgian Ministry of Agriculture has issued a Decree, dated 18th September, and published in the "Moniteur Belge" for 20th-21st September, which withdraws, except in the case of animals and animal manure, the export sanitary control imposed by the Decree of 12th August (see the notice at page 325 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for 9th September).

[NOTE.—The raising of the export control on meat, hides, straw, forage, etc., which results from the above-mentioned Decree does not, of course, affect the restrictions on exports enforced for other than sanitary reasons by the Ministries of Economic Affairs and of Industry, Labour and Supply.]

LAW MODIFYING CUSTOMS DUTIES: APPLICATION TO *AD VALOREM* DUTIES.

The "Moniteur Belge" for 19th September contains a Belgian Royal Decree, dated 31st August, which provides that Articles 4 to 13 of the Law of 10th June last (relating to the method of assessing and levying the *ad valorem* duties prescribed in the Belgian Customs Tariff) are to come into force on 1st October.

Full particulars of the provisions of the Law in question were given in the issues of the "Board of Trade Journal" for 17th and 24th June (pages 814 and 812 respectively).

AMENDMENT OF CERTAIN IMPORT AND EXPORT PROHIBITIONS.

The "Moniteur Belge" for 24th September contains two Decrees of the Belgian Ministry of Industry, Labour and Supply, dated 14th September, which give a list of the import and export prohibitions at present in force in respect of goods subject to the control of this Ministry. The export restrictions coming under the Ministry of Economic Affairs are not affected by the present Decrees.

IMPORT PROHIBITIONS.

The importation into Belgium of the following goods is prohibited without distinction of origin or the country whence imported:—

- Wheat and rye in sheaves, flour or grain.
- Sugar, with the exception of molasses.
- Slaughtered calves, veal and veal offal.
- Butter.

EXPORT PROHIBITIONS.

The exportation from Belgium of the following goods remains subject to licence to be issued by the Ministry of Industry, Labour and Supply:—

1. Alcohol properly so-called, all kinds.
2. Matches.
3. Living animals—bovine, ovine, caprine and porcine, domestic solipeds, fowls, ducks, geese and turkeys, fish fry.
4. Grains and seeds of all kinds.*
5. Linen in general with the exception of
 - (a) Table linen, linen collars, cuffs, and shirt fronts, counterpanes and bed covers.
 - (b) Second-hand underclothing which is not the object of a commercial transaction.
6. Clothing of all kinds with the exception of:—
 - (a) Second-hand clothing which is not the object of a commercial transaction.
 - (b) Articles of lace and embroidery; caps, hats and hat shapes; furs; gloves, leather (skin) cut out in the form of gloves, and hat leathers; braces, and suspenders for stockings and corsets; cotton drawers, neck-ties; boots and shoes, gaiters, leggings, sabots and boot and shoe laces.
 - (c) Hosiery of pure cotton, of pure silk, and of cotton and silk.
7. Straw, including cords, ropes, wattles, hurdles and matting of straw.
8. Products suitable for human consumption with the exception of:—
 - (a) Fresh fruit, other than plums, apples and pears.
 - (b) Mushrooms, fresh vegetables with the exception of potatoes (which remain subject to licence).
 - (c) Crustacea and molluscs.
 - (d) Beer in casks, and wines.
 - (e) Cocoa in beans, ground or not, cocoa paintings and husks.
 - (f) Coffee and tea.
 - (g) Spices, and extracts of meat and vegetables.
 - (h) Edible oils.
9. Products used as food for domestic (farm) animals except :—
 - (a) Oilcakes.

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND TARIFF CHANGES

—continued.

- (b) Maize in grain or meal, crushed maize, and maize waste.
10. Harvest produce of all kinds* with the exception of hops.
 11. New and used sacks and packing cloth.
 12. Soap of all kinds.
 13. Unmanufactured tobacco.
 14. Fabrics used for making clothing, and body and bed linen, except:—
 - (a) Fabrics made of pure cotton or containing 5 per cent. or less of other textiles; fabrics of pure silk and fabrics of silk and cotton.
 - (b) Cloth or ticking for mattresses, counterpanes and bed covers.
 - (c) Ribbons, lace, tulle, and embroideries.

[NOTE.—The above list supersedes that printed at page 557 of the issue of the "Journal" for 22nd April, 1920, as subsequently amended.]

* Colza, flax, poppy, and other oleaginous plants and grains and seeds thereof are subject to the control of the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

BELGIAN CONGO.

IMPORT DUTIES ON SPIRITS INCREASED.

H.M. Acting-Consul at Boma has forwarded copy of an Ordinance-Law, dated 9th August, which increased, as from that date, the Customs duties on spirits imported into the Belgian Congo. Particulars of the new and former rates of duty are given below:—

	Rate of Import Duty.	
	Former.	New.
	Frs. cts.	Frs. cts.
	Per litre and per centesimal degree of alcoholic strength.	
Distilled alcoholic beverages and beverages containing distilled alcohol	0 10	0 20
Beverages containing fermented alcohol of 15 centesimal degrees of alcohol, or less	10 p.c. ad val.	10 p.c. ad val.
	Per litre and per centesimal degree of alcoholic strength.	
Above 15 centesimal degrees of alcohol...	0 10	0 20
Potable alcohol (<i>alcohol bon goût</i>)	0 10	0 20

[NOTE.—In calculating the duties, fractions of a degree equal to or less than one-half degree, are ignored, and fractions of more than one-half are counted as complete degrees.]

INSPECTION AND EXPORTATION OF GUM COPAL.

H.M. Acting-Consul at Boma has forwarded copies of an Ordinance-Law and an Ordinance, dated 10th July, 1920, which have been issued by the Governor-General of the Belgian Congo with a view to maintaining the commercial quality of Congo gum copal.

The export from the Belgian Congo of impure gum copal (which is defined as gum copal containing more than 3 per cent. of gangue, earth, broken stone, vegetable waste, or other foreign substance) is prohibited. Gum copal presented for export must be accompanied by a certificate of quality (drawn up in the prescribed form and giving particulars as to the nature of the package, number of parcels, weight, and other data) from an Inspector of Industry and Commerce or other authorised person. This certificate will be retained by the Customs administration on export. Gum copal lying at the ports or in warehouses or factories is subject to inspection and examination by the competent authorities.

GERMANY.

IMPORT LICENCES REQUIRED FOR BLEACHED AND CARDED COTTON.

The "Deutscher Reichsanzeiger" for 17th September contains a Proclamation, dated 15th September, which provides that, as from 16th September, the importation of bleached and carded cotton (ex Tariff No. 438) into Germany may only take place under licence.

[This item should therefore be deleted from the "Import Free List," a translation of which was published at pages 414-5 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for 18th March last.]

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND TARIFF CHANGES

—continued.

GREECE.

STATISTICAL DUTIES ON IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

H.M. Commercial Secretary at Athens has forwarded copy of a translation of a Greek Law, No. 2,110, dated 11th March, 1920, and issued in the Greek Government "Gazette" of 14th July, relating to statistics and statistical dues.

Chapter I. of the Law amends the provisions of the Customs Law relating to the particulars to be given in the declaration of goods imported into or exported from Greece. Inter alia, it is provided that, in general, declarations of imported goods now have to state the nature of the goods according to the approved statistical classification, and also their value, on the basis of the invoice, including cost of transport of goods to the Custom House, but not including import and other duties.

Chapter II. of the Law provides for the levy of statistical dues, irrespective of import and consumption duties. The rates of the statistical duty are as follow:—

Live animals, 10 lepta per 10 animals.

Poultry, 10 lepta per 100 okes.

Wheat, charcoal, coal, unworked stone, iron, ores, currants, wine and olive oil, 5 lepta per 1,000 okes, gross.

Other goods:—

- (a) If specified in the Tariff* by the oke or multiples thereof, 10 lepta per 1,000 okes, gross.
- (b) If specified in the Tariff* by the metric oke, 10 lepta per 1,000 metric okes.
- (c) If specified in the Tariff* by the cubic metre, 10 lepta per 10 cubic metres.
- (d) If specified in the Tariff* by the piece, pair, dozen or thousand, 10 lepta per 100 pieces, per 100 pairs, per 100 dozen, or per ten thousand.
- (e) If specified in the Tariff* by value, 10 lepta per 1,000 okes, or 10 lepta per 100 pieces, according to estimation of the Customs officials.

Goods imported or exported in quantities less than the units mentioned above pay the full amount of duty per unit.

Various classes of goods are exempted by the Law from payment of statistical dues, namely:—

1. Parcels in transit, and goods exempted from the duty by Decree.
2. Imported and exported goods not exceeding 20 kilogs. gross weight.
3. Goods in bond and in transit.
4. Damaged goods, when they are destroyed at the request of the consignee and at his expense.
5. Goods re-issued from Customs warehouses or from bonded stores.
6. Goods ex shipwrecks or discharged owing to force majeure, provided they are not entered for consumption in Greece.
7. Postal parcels.
8. Goods exempt from import duty as specified by Royal Decree.

H.M. Commercial Secretary has also forwarded translation of a series of Royal Decrees, dated 25th June, issued under the above-mentioned Law. Some of their provisions are given below, and the complete translations may be seen by persons interested at the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W. 1.

The Customs authorities may establish the accuracy of the declared value from the invoice and bill of lading which merchants are bound to produce on demand. Wherever the value shown seems disproportionate, or when it is not indicated, the Customs are to assess the value by special valuation tariffs. The Customs employees are not under any circumstances whatever to make any other use of the contents of invoices.

When the weight of duty-free goods imported or exported is not controlled, it is ascertained for the purposes of statistical regulations by weighing, or is taken from information supplied by the parties concerned. The Customs, however, have the right to insist on the weight being ascertained.

For statistical dues in the case of filled receptacles the

* Presumably the "Statistical Tariff," the classification of which (according to a Decree of 25th June) follows that of the Customs Tariff.

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND TARIFF CHANGES

—continued.

gross weight is always taken, including the contents, and in no case are the receptacles to be separately subject to statistical duty (even if according to the Customs Tariff they are liable to Customs duty apart from their contents). The following goods, which are free of import Customs duty, are exempted from statistical dues, both on import and export:—

1. Goods exempted from import duty by Articles 13 and 14 of the Greek Customs Law.
2. War material imported by the Government.
3. Goods and passengers' baggage taken out of the country by rail by mistake and returned to Greece.
4. Passengers' luggage and industrial appliances, workmen's tools, etc., carried by travellers and passengers.
5. Flocks of sheep and goats migrating annually across the frontiers to winter pasturage.
6. Articles of Government monopoly.

ITALY.

EXPORT OF CERTAIN TIMBER SUBJECT TO CESSION OF EXCHANGE.

The Italian "Gazzetta Ufficiale" for 15th September contains a Decree, dated 10th September, which provides that, as from 19th September, the export of all kinds of timber for building and working shall only be allowed on condition that the foreign credits resulting therefrom be ceded to the banks and banking houses authorised to deal in exchange.

[NOTE.—The provision requiring cession of exchange is already applicable to the export of several kinds of goods, see the notices in the issues of the "Board of Trade Journal" for 27th June, 1918 (page 813), 15th January, 1920 (page 93), 20th May, 1920 (page 691), and 23rd September, 1920 (page 384).]

LATVIA.

IMPORT AND EXPORT DUTIES, AND PROHIBITED IMPORTS.

H.M. Consul at Riga has notified the following additions to the Latvian Import Tariff as set out at page 446 of the "Journal" of 25th March last. One or two of these additions, such as motor lorries and waterproof overcoats, have already been notified in these columns.

Duty-free goods:—

Eggs.	Cat seed.
Flour.	Flax.
Vetches.	Linseed.
Clover.	Rags.
Timothy grass.	Stamps.

Dutiable goods:—

	<i>Ad valorem</i> rate of duty.
	Per cent.
Motor lorries	2
White tin plates	5
Coconut oil	
Waterproof overcoats	
Locomotive axles	10
Rubber footwear	25
Hairpins	
Sewing needles	
Thimbles	
Ready-made corks	

EXPORT DUTIES.

H.M. Consul has also forwarded the following particulars regarding the rates of export duty now in force in Latvia:

	<i>Ad valorem</i> rate of duty.
	Per cent.
Wooden road blocks	8
Sawn timber, such as—	
Boards, deals, battens, sleepers, parquetry, haulks	5
Wooden furniture, carriage parts, wheels, vessels of native manufacture	3
Furs and skins of various wild animals, such as fox, polecat, etc.(in foreign currency)	15
Hides of domestic animals	25
Chemical products of Latvian manufacture.....	2

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND TARIFF CHANGES

—continued.

	<i>Ad valorem</i> rate of duty per cent.
Agricultural machinery and weights, of Latvian manufacture	5
Fancy goods	10
Agricultural implements	15
Furniture	25
Toilet soap	5
Bricks	3
Cement	5
Glass for industrial purposes	5
Glassware for commercial purposes	10
Amber	5
	Latvian roubles.
Veneer (alder)	1 per metre.
Veneer chair seats	½ (50 cop.) ca.
Flax	30 per pood.
Flax tow	10 "
Linon yarns	40 "
Flax yarns	30 "
Hemp rope	10 "
Scrap iron	5 "
Yellow packing paper	2 "
Paste board	4 "
Unsorted rags of various kinds	5 "
Woolen and linen rags	5 "
Wood shavings	3 "
Apples and other fruit	4 "
Onions and various bulbs	5 "
Linseed, clover and vetch seeds	30 "
Casings	1 each.
Alcoholic drinks	Free.

PROHIBITED IMPORTS.

H.M. Consul has also forwarded the following list of goods the importation of which into Latvia is prohibited as from 27th August. This list is only slightly different from that published at page 446 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for 25th March last:—

- Alcoholic liquors.
- Light beer.
- Non-alcoholic wines.
- Fruit juices.
- Spirits. (Wines may be imported under special licence.)
- Fashionable articles, such as ladies' hats, feathers, real and artificial flowers.
- Fancy goods and toilet articles of ivory and tortoiseshell.
- Furs.
- Silks
- Walking sticks and sunshades.
- Gilt or silver-plated articles.
- Clothes of silk, satin, velvet, lace, and articles made therefrom.
- Corsets.
- Carpets.
- Precious stones, pearls and corals.
- Cigars.
- Playing cards.
- Articles of gold, silver and bronze (except watches and wedding rings)
- Confectionery (including chocolate, sweets, etc., but excluding cocoa, which may be imported under special licence).
- Fruit, berries, jam, roots, whether fresh, tinned or dried.
- Perfumes, toilet soaps, cosmetics.
- Hops.
- Various tinned goods, e.g., pastes, caviare, oysters, lobsters, cheese, soups, etc. (Condensed milk may be imported under special licence.)
- Nuts, almonds, honey.
- Gramophones and automatic musical instruments.
- Patent leather and manufactures thereof
- Boot polish and dubbin.
- Toys, games and sports goods.
- Furniture.
- Carriages and light motor cars.

LUXEMBURG.

EXPORT PROHIBITIONS WITHDRAWN.

A Grand Ducal Decree, dated 16th September, permits the free exportation from Luxemburg of the following products, which were formerly prohibited (except under licence) by a Decree of 4th August, 1916:—Oats, barley, buckwheat, horse-beans, vetches, linseed, and colza: clover and grass seeds of all kinds.

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND TARIFF CHANGES

—continued.

IMPORTATION OF GOATS PROHIBITED.

A Grand Ducal Decree of 15th September extends the prohibition of import already in force on cattle, sheep and swine (see page 258 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 26th August) to cover goats. Exceptions to the prohibition may be allowed by the competent Government Department.

REGULATIONS TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF CATTLE DISEASE.

With a view to prevent the introduction and spread of cattle disease in Luxemburg, the Director-General of Agriculture has issued a Decree, dated 11th September, in virtue of which the importation into, and transit through, Luxemburg of the undermentioned animals and animal products are prohibited as from 17th September, if they arrive from Belgium or the former German territories now under Belgian administration:—

Animals of all kinds, including poultry, rabbits, dogs, horses, asses, mules and swine.

Hides, fresh meat (except meat imported by the Government), milk, solid tallow, raw wool, horns and other waste products of these animals; straw, hay, fodder, manure, used stable implements, old cloths, rags, and packing used for the above-mentioned articles; wagons, etc., not disinfected, used for the transport of cattle, and generally all articles which might carry infection.

The prohibition does not apply to dried or salted hides or skins of the above-mentioned animals, nor to wool subjected to an industrial preparation, such as washing, drying, or dyeing, if such goods are declared by a Belgian, French, or Dutch Consular Officer to be of other than Belgian origin.

NETHERLANDS.

IMPORTATION OF POTATOES FROM GREAT BRITAIN.

The Board of Trade are in receipt of information from H.M. Commercial Secretary at The Hague to the effect that a Royal Decree of 7th September has been issued governing the importation into the Netherlands, and transit through that country, of potatoes from Great Britain.

The Decree provides that dealers importing potatoes from Great Britain shall notify the Chief of the Netherlands Phytopathological Service at least 5 days before the arrival of same, and hand in a copy of a certificate stating that the consignment was duly examined before shipment. In the event of importation or transit of potatoes from Great Britain, the Customs officers are to inform the Chief of the Phytopathological Service.

Potatoes are only admitted when they are packed in bales bearing a Government stamp, and sealed by officials charged with the inspection of the consignments. They must be accompanied by a certificate from the above officials stating that no potato wart disease caused by *Chrysophlyctis endobiotica* has ever been reported from the district where they were grown, and they must be examined and proved free of potato wart disease by the Netherlands Phytopathological Service.

These regulations do not apply to consignments passing through the Netherlands without being reloaded.

SERB-CROAT-SLOVENE STATE.

MONOPOLY TAXES ON SALT AND PETROLEUM.

The State Monopoly Administration of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, has announced, under date 6th September, 1920:—

- (1) That the Monopoly Tax on salt has been increased to 50 dinars (gold) per 100 kilogs; and on petroleum (burning oil for lamps) to 100 dinars (gold) per 100 kilogs.
- (2) That on and after 6th September petroleum will be sold only at the State Monopoly Stores, the prices to be 620 dinars (silver) per 100 kilogs.
- (3) That all private import of salt into Serbia and Montenegro is prohibited, and that those having salt on order must import it before 1st October, 1920, no import after that date being permitted.

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND TARIFF CHANGES

—continued.

SWITZERLAND.

GENERAL EXPORT LICENCE.

The Swiss Federal Department of Public Economy has issued a Decision, dated 7th September, authorising, as from 15th September, under a General Export Licence (revocable at any time), the exportation of the undermentioned goods from Switzerland, without the necessity of an individual permit in each case:—

No. in Swiss Customs Tariff.	Articles.
846-7	Wares of lead, even combined with other materials.
974	Castor oil, colourless, purified.
984	Artificial alimentary substances, such as somatose, nutrose, tropion, etc.
1008	Boric acid.
1018	Chrome acetate; pyrolignite of iron (iron mordant).
1023	Arseniate of sodium, liquid; sulphite and bisulphite of sodium.
1024	Borax (borate of sodium).
1032	Sal ammoniac (chloride of ammonium).
1033	Ammonia in aqueous solution (volatile alkali).
1061	Oxalic acid, oxalate of potassium (salts of sorrel).
1062	Sulphuric ether (ethyl ether).
1063	Acetic ether.

Openings for British Trade.

NOTICE TO MANUFACTURERS AND EXPORTERS.—British firms may obtain the names and addresses of the persons or firms referred to in the following notices of "Openings" by applying to the Department of Overseas Trade, and quoting the specific reference number and country.

In cases of doubt or difficulty in regard to restrictions on trading, reference should be made personally or by letter to the Department of Overseas Trade (Development and Intelligence), 35, Old Queen Street, London, S.W. 1.

Applications for names and addresses must be sent to the Department of Overseas Trade, except where otherwise stated.

BRITISH EMPIRE.

AUSTRALIA.

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR TENDERS.

ELECERIC PORTAL TRAVELLING CRANE.—With reference to the notice on p. 293 of the "Journal" of 2nd September, relative to a call for tenders by the Victorian Government Railways for the supply and delivery of one 5-ton electric portal travelling crane with luffing jib. (Contract No. 29090.) the Officer-in-Charge of the Office of H.M. Senior Trade Commissioner in Australia reports that the time for the closing of tenders has been extended from 27th October to 1st December.

AUSTRALIA—NEW ZEALAND.

FANCY BRASS AND COPPER WARE, ELECTRO-PLATED WARE, TOOLS, AND LOCKS.—A firm of Australian and New Zealand merchants, with offices in London, are desirous of obtaining the sole agency for Australia and New Zealand of British manufacturers of fancy brass and copper ware, electro-plated ware, tools of all kinds, and locks. (Reference No. 420.)

Applications for names and addresses must be sent to the Department of Overseas Trade.

BRITISH INDIA.

HARDWARE AND CEMENT.—A well-known British merchant firm in Bombay are desirous of securing agencies, for the Bombay Presidency, for United Kingdom manufacturers of hardware and cement. (Reference No. 421.)

RAILWAY MATERIALS, BOILERS, CEMENT AND MANILA ROPES.—A merchant firm in Bombay, of excellent standing, desire to represent United Kingdom manufacturers for the whole of India, in the following lines:—Light railway materials and rolling stock, petrol road boilers, cement and manila rope. (Reference No. 422.)

Applications for names and addresses must be sent to the Department of Overseas Trade.

CANADA.

MACHINERY, RAILWAY, ETC., SUPPLIES.—A Montreal firm desires to secure agencies for Eastern Canada, on a commission basis, for United Kingdom manufacturers of machinery, and supplies for railway companies, machine shops and mills. (Reference No. 423.)

Applications for names and addresses must be sent to the Department of Overseas Trade.

OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE—continued.

ENQUIRIES AT OFFICE OF CANADIAN TRADE COMMISSIONER.

The following enquiries have been received at the Canadian Government Trade Commissioner's Office, Portland House, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.2, whence further information may be obtained:—

MARKETS SOUGHT.

SCREW SHIELDS, SCREW ANCHORS, ETC.—A Canadian company manufacturing patented expansion screw shields, screw anchors, and similar specialties, wish to arrange for the sale of their goods in the United Kingdom.

BARYTES—A correspondent in Nova Scotia who has 1,000,000 tons of barytes to offer for export, wishes to be placed in touch with United Kingdom importers.

PULPWOOD—A Montreal company expresses a desire to be placed in correspondence with buyers of pulpwood for export.

SOUTH AFRICA.

BUILDERS' AND GENERAL HARDWARE—A Johannesburg firm are desirous of securing agencies, for the Union, for United Kingdom firms in the following lines:—Metals, tools, galvanised goods, rope, general builders' hardware, etc. (Reference No. 424.)

CONFECTIONERY, FOODSTUFFS (PROPRIETARY ARTICLES) AND TOILET PREPARATIONS—A Johannesburg firm of manufacturers' agents are desirous of representing, in South Africa, United Kingdom manufacturers of confectionery (sweets, chocolates, etc.), foodstuffs (proprietary brands of custards, jellies, etc.), and toilet preparations. The name of a firm in London, through whom preliminary negotiations can be conducted, may be obtained by suitable enquirers. (Reference No. 425.)

RAILWAY SUPPLIES, FILTER CLOTH, ETC.—A Johannesburg firm, with a branch at Durban, are desirous of securing additional agencies of United Kingdom manufacturers in the following lines:—Steel pressed trucks, railway carriages, copper and brass rods, tubes, sheets, solid drawn steel boiler tubes, cotton filter cloth, and all steel parallel bench vices. (Reference No. 426.)

Applications for names and addresses must be sent to the Department of Overseas Trade.

ENQUIRY AT OFFICE OF SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE COMMISSIONER.

The following enquiry has been received at the Office of the Union of South African Government Trade Commissioner, 90, Cannon Street, London, E.C.4:—

MACHINERY, MOTOR-CARS, LORRIES, CYCLES AND SCOOTERS, PIANOS, ETC.—A former British Army Captain (Guards) with well-known South African family business name of over a hundred years' standing, making annual trips to and from that country, is at present in London, and is returning to South Africa on 22nd October. He is prepared to represent, or act as agent on a commission basis for, British firms manufacturing machinery (mining, agricultural, electrical, etc.), motor-cars, lorries, cycles, scooters, accessories, pianos, etc. All the principal towns throughout the Union of South Africa, Rhodesia, British East Africa, and former German colonies, are covered personally. Highest Government and business references, connections, and qualifications.

Replies should be addressed to the South African Government Trade Commissioner at the above address.

EUROPE.

BELGIUM.

TIN IN SHEETS AND STRIPS—A Belgian, residing at Liège, desires to purchase wholesale quantities of tin, in sheets and strips, f.o.b. Antwerp. Payment against bills of lading. Correspondence in French. (Reference No. 427.)

DRIED FRUITS, ETC.—A Belgian, residing in Brussels, desires to secure, for the whole of Belgium, a sole agency on commission, for United Kingdom firms exporting dried fruits, etc. (Reference No. 428.)

WOOLLEN, AND WOOLLEN AND COTTON CLOTH—A Belgian, residing in Brussels, desires to secure, for the whole of Belgium, an agency on commission, for United Kingdom firms manufacturing woollen, and woollen and cotton cloth. (Reference No. 429.)

BUTTONS—A Belgian residing in Brussels desires to secure, for the whole of Belgium, an agency, on commission, for United Kingdom firms manufacturing buttons. (Reference No. 430.)

SPORTING REQUISITES, TWINE, ROPES, CORD, ETC.—A Belgian residing at Mons desires to secure an agency, on commission, for United Kingdom firms exporting sporting requisites such as footballs, tennis racquets, tennis balls, string for tennis racquets, etc., as well as twine, rope, cord, etc. Correspondence in French. (Reference No. 431.)

BUTTONS AND HARD HABERDASHERY—A Belgian residing in Brussels desires to secure for the whole of Belgium agencies, on commission, for United Kingdom firms manufacturing buttons and hard haberdashery. (Reference No. 432.)

Applications for names and addresses must be sent to the Department of Overseas Trade.

OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE—continued.

TENDERS INVITED.

ANTWERP MUNICIPAL CONTRACT—Specifications (in French) have been received from H.M. Consul-General at Antwerp, and may be examined at the Enquiry Room of the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, Westminster, S.W.1, of a municipal contract for replacing the rails at and around one of the lock gates of the Antwerp Docks.

Tenders are to be presented at the Antwerp Town Hall before noon on 8th October.

GERMANY.

HIDES, SKINS, TOBACCO, FEEDING STUFFS, ETC.—An Englishman, originally established in Hamburg in 1903, is reopening import and export business, and desires to represent United Kingdom firms for the sale of hides, skins, tobacco, feeding stuffs, rice, rubber, etc. (Reference No. 433.)

AGENT'S SERVICES OFFERED—An Englishman, originally established in Hamburg in 1906, is desirous of representing United Kingdom firms, in Hamburg, or in the whole of Germany, for the sale of any class of goods (Reference No. 434.)

Applications for names and addresses must be sent to the Department of Overseas Trade.

GREECE.

WOOLLEN RAGS; SCRAP METAL—A Greek firm of export merchants at Salonica desire to get in touch with British importers of woollen rags and of scrap metal. (Reference No. 435.)

AGENTS' SERVICES OFFERED—A Greek firm of general commission agents, recently established at Volo, desire to get into touch with British firms exporting to that district. (Reference No. 436.)

Applications for names and addresses must be sent to the Department of Overseas Trade.

PORTUGAL.

TENDERS FOR SETIL-PENICHE RAILWAY—With reference to the notice on page 143 of the "Board of Trade Journal," of 29th July regarding a competition for the construction and working of the line from Setil to Peniche, it is notified that the Portuguese text of the full conditions governing the concession and the submission of tenders are published in the "Diario do Governo" of 31st August.

Tenders made out in the Portuguese language, and accompanied by certificates of identity and competency, as well as of the deposit in the Caixa Geral de Depositos of the sum of 8,000 escudos, will be received by the Direcção Geral de Caminhos de Ferro, Ministerio do Commercio e Comunicações, Rua do Comercio, 49, 2º, Lisbon, up to 2 p.m. on 11th November.

The above-mentioned issue of the "Diario" may be consulted by British firms interested at the Enquiry Office of the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, Westminster.

SWITZERLAND.

CLIMBING IRONS FOR MOUNTAINEERING—A Swiss firm at Zurich, holding a British patent for climbing irons for mountaineering, desires to get into touch with a firm in the United Kingdom who might be prepared to manufacture the goods in question.

Samples of the irons, which are in the shape of adjustable sole and heel pieces made from sheet metal, may be inspected at Room 47, Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1, to which address replies should be sent. (Reference No. 437.)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

CHARCOAL IRON SHEETS—A New York manufacturer of sheet metal specialties desires to receive quotations for charcoal iron sheets, No. 20 to No. 28 U.S. gauge, black or galvanised, large sizes, say 36 in. by 96 in.; charcoal iron roofing sheets, coated or uncoated, 14 in. by 20 in., or 28 in. by 30 in., or other size. All must be of best quality. Terms: Cash against bill of lading. (Reference No. 439.)

HIGH-CLASS FABRICS SUITABLE FOR WINDOW DRAPERIES—A representative of an English firm, established for a considerable time in New York City, is at present in this country. He is anxious to get into touch with manufacturers of high-class fabrics, suitable for window draperies, such as casement cloths, scrims, voiles, etamines, and weaves of similar draperies, before his return to the United States in November. The firm are understood to have selling facilities to cover the whole of the territory in the United States. (Reference No. 440.)

COTTON PIECE-GOODS—A large New York concern with facilities for covering the whole of the United States of America, desires to get into touch with British manufacturers (or merchants) of all kinds of cotton piece-goods with a view to arranging an agency. (Reference No. 441.)

Applications for names and addresses should be made to the Department of Overseas Trade.

Government Notices affecting Trade.

POSTAL SECTION

BRITISH TROOPS IN FRANCE AND FLANDERS: CHANGES IN POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.

The Army Postal Service with the British troops in France and Flanders will be discontinued after 30th September. After that date letters and parcels for the troops in France and Flanders will be delivered by the French and Belgian Civil Post Offices, and postage at the international rates must therefore be prepaid. The rates for letters are 2½d. first ounce and 1½d. each ounce after. The rates for parcels are 1s. to 3 lbs., 1s. 4d. to 7 lbs., and 1s. 7d. to 11 lbs. for France, and 1s. to 3 lbs., 1s. 4d. to 7 lbs., and 1s. 9d. to 11 lbs. for Belgium. The transmission of parcels will be subject to the regulations published in the Post Office Guide.

Postal orders will not be cashed at French and Belgian Civil Post Offices. Remittances can be sent to the troops by the international money order services.

Full information as regards the regulations of the money order and parcel-post services, including the preparation of parcel-post despatch notes and Customs declarations, can be obtained at any Post Office.

The troops in France and Flanders are being advised by the military authorities to notify their correspondents of their new addresses.

FOOD SECTION.

PRICE OF IMPORTED FLOUR.

In pursuance of Clause 6 of the Flour and Bread (Prices) Order, 1920, dated 25th March, 1920, made by the Food Controller, the Royal Commission on Wheat Supplies do hereby prescribe that on and after 19th September, 1920, and until further notice:—

(1) The maximum price, on the occasion of a sale by wholesale of imported flour shall be at the rate of 88s. 3d. per 280 lb. ex store, net cash for settlement within 28 days from date of invoice, or subject to discount of 1s. per 280 lb. for settlement within 7 days, or 8d. per 280 lb. within 14 days, or 4d. per 280 lb. within 21 days.

(2) The maximum price for damaged imported flour sold under any conditions shall be at the rate of 86s. 6d. per 280 lb.

PRICE OF GOVERNMENT BUTTER.

The Ministry of Food announces that, in view of the increased prices now being paid for supplies of imported butter, it is necessary to raise the retail price of Government butter from 3s. to 3s. 4d. per lb. This increase will take effect on and from Monday, 4th October.

GENERAL SECTION.

PATENTS AND DESIGNS ACTS, 1907 AND 1919.

LICENCES OF RIGHT.

Notice is hereby given that, by virtue of the provisions of Section 24 of the Acts, the under-mentioned Patents were endorsed "Licences of Right":—

No. and Year of Patent.	Grantee.	Title.	Date of Indorsement.
13984/12	Lake, H. W. (<i>Corn products Refining Co.</i>)	"Improved methods of and apparatus for, drying starch."	22nd Sept. 1920.
15306/15	Roots, J. D.	"Improvements in and connected with the bearings of internal combustion engines."	18th Sept., 1920.
106449 (2123/17)	Drake, G. F.	"Improvements in nut lock devices."	17th Sept., 1920.
126961 (11868/19)	Perez, G. B.	"A new process for decomposing mercury and obtaining radium and gold, which are contained in the formation of this metal."	17th Sept., 1920.

W. TEMPLE FRANKS,
Comptroller-General.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES AFFECTING TRADE—continued.

NON-FERROUS METAL INDUSTRY ACT: LICENCES.

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 1, Sub-Section 7, of the Non-Ferrous Metal Industry Act, 1918 (7 and 8 Geo. V, Chap. 67), and No. 11 of the Statutory Rules and Orders No. 265 of 1918 (Non-Ferrous Metal Industry), that Licences under the Non-Ferrous Metal Industry Act have been granted by the Board of Trade to the under-mentioned companies, firms or individuals:—

Blomberg Sven Leonard, trading as Anglo-Finnish Hardware Company, 45, Newhall Street, Birmingham.
Cookson, John Frederick Armitage, 79, Corporation Street, Manchester.
Hurk, Adr. van den, Limited, London House, 35, Crutched Friars, E.C.
Midlands Concentrating Company, Limited, The, Pump-house Works, John Lane, Dudley Port, Staffs.
Ponryu Minerals Agency, Limited, The, 7, Gracechurch Street, E.C. 2.

Commercial Returns.

COTTON IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

THE WEEKLY RETURN.

Return of the Number of Bales of Cotton Imported and Exported at the Various Ports of the United Kingdom during the week and 39 weeks ended 23rd September, 1920:—

	Week ended	39 Weeks ended	Week ended	39 Weeks ended
	23rd Sept., 1920.	23rd Sept., 1920.	23rd Sept., 1920.	23rd Sept., 1920.
	IMPORTS.		EXPORTS.	
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
American	10,650	2,080,810	4,614	120,666
Brazilian	178	69,274	100	6,730
East Indian	2,485	136,954	914	50,823
Egyptian	2,830	294,415	133	154,639
Miscellaneous	8,819*	272,863†	897	18,620
Total	24,962	2,854,316	6,658	351,478

* Including 23 bales British West Indian, 82 bales British West African, and 1,002 bales British East Indian.

† Including 7,393 bales British West Indian, 11,996 bales British West African, 21,455 bales British East African, 2,178 bales Foreign East Indian.

CORN PRICES.

STATEMENT showing the average price of British Corn per quarter of 8 bushels, Imperial Measure, as received from the Inspectors of Corn Returns in the week ended 25th September, 1920, pursuant to the Corn Returns Act, 1882:—

	Average Price.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Week ended 25th September, 1920	90 5	80 2	55 5
Corresponding week in—			
1913	31 3	29 9	17 10
1914	37 1	29 1	22 9
1915	43 5	40 4	26 5
1916	58 10	54 1	31 1
1917	70 6	58 5	44 7
1918	72 7	60 3	50 3
1919	73 0	95 2	60 2

* Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882, provides that where returns of purchases of British corn are made to the local inspector of Corn Returns in any other measure than the Imperial bushel or by weight or by a weighed measure, that officer shall convert such returns into the Imperial bushel, and in the case of weight or weighed measure the conversion is to be made at the rate of sixty imperial pounds for every bushel of wheat, fifty imperial pounds for every bushel of barley, and thirty-nine imperial pounds for every bushel of oats.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Babbitt Metal: Its Origin and History.—By H. J. Humphries, M.Inst.M.M. St. Albans.

A treatise on anti-friction metals, with notes on various alloy formulae, and of results obtained under working conditions.

