

**FOREIGN TRADE GROWS DESPITE PREDICTIONS**

**Increase Noted Notwithstanding Wailing of Free Trade Pessimists**

In spite of the dire predictions of the free trade pessimists our foreign trade continued its growth in 1927 according to the report of Dr. Julius Klein, director of the United States Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

Speaking of our exports, Dr. Klein says: "Our exports of finished manufactures have increased in each of the last five years, and in 1927 were over 50 per cent higher in value than in 1922."

"Turning to the regional distribution of our trade in 1927, as compared with 1926, the United States has exported more merchandise to all continents except Oceania.

"There has been a particularly large gain, amounting to about 14 per cent, in our exports to Canada, based on ten months' figures, and that country advanced to first place in our trade, supplanting the United Kingdom, which has held that position throughout most of the history of our country.

"The commodities which have been responsible for most of the gain in our exports to Canada are coal, automobiles, tractors, wheat and rye."

The free trade pessimists who claim that our trade with European countries could not buy from us because they would be unable to sell to us. The internationalists told us that unless we cancelled the war debts which Europe owed Uncle Sam our foreign trade would be wiped out. Evidently both these schools of political thought were in the wrong. Our foreign trade continues to grow and the European nations themselves are gradually pulling out of the mire of post-war deflation. So it is becoming evident that the best laid theories of the political economists some times explode without doing a great deal of damage.

**CARBON MONOXIDE GAS EXTREMELY POISONOUS**

**Four Parts in 10,000 of Air Safe to Breathe But Over That Dangerous**

"Scientists assert that four parts in ten thousand is a safety limit to the amount of carbon monoxide in the air," says Charles M. Hayes, president of the Chicago Motor club.

"This gas is so extremely poisonous that dizziness will result if air containing five parts of its in 10,000 be breathed; twenty parts in 10,000 will cause loss of consciousness. It takes less than one per cent to cause quick death.

"Much has been said on this subject, but every year sees a toll of hundreds of lives taken by this invisible foe. Carbon monoxide is a simple chemical compound, and is produced in varying quantities when any fuel containing carbon (and there are few fuels which do not) is incompletely burned. Complete combustion of carbon forms a gas known as carbon dioxide, which is comparatively harmless.

"Carbon monoxide is colorless, odorless and tasteless, which explains briefly why it claims so many victims. To stay in a closed garage with the engine running means almost certain death."

**MAKE NEW PAPER OF OLD DIRECTORIES**

Old telephone directories are carefully collected at a financial loss by most telephone companies to prevent customers from calling obsolete numbers by mistake. They are usually sold to waste paper companies for less than the cost of collecting them.

The waste paper concerns tear the directories in two lengthwise, chop them into small bits in a powerful chopper, and churn in a vat of liquids. The pulp is then again ready to use in making paper.

The modern idea of parental obligation is to provide the children with clothes, and turn them loose in the street headed for public school or Sunday school.

**SOUTH AMERICAN BONES COLLECTION**

**FROM PREHISTORIC TIMES**

**Biggest Assortment of Relics of Ancient Civilizations on That Continent at Field Museum**

The largest and most general collection in North America of skeletons, skulls, and other bones of gigantic prehistoric monsters which once roamed the pampas of South America is now in the possession of Field Museum of Natural History, it was announced today by D. C. Davies, director of the museum.

One hundred and eighteen specimens of huge fossil mammals just acquired for the museum by the Second Capt. Marshall Field Paleontological Expedition to Argentina and Bolivia, together with the previous collections already on exhibition, give the institution its pre-eminence in this branch of geology, Director Davies declared.

**Year in Search**  
The Captain Marshall Field Expedition, led by Elmer S. Riggs, associate curator of paleontology at the museum, spent more than a year and a half searching and digging in South American sea cliffs, river banks and mountains for the remains of the long extinct animals. The expedition recently returned, and the last of its collections are now arriving at the museum.

Tales of weird superstitions held by the native Indians with regard to the bones of the mastodon, megatherium, sabre-tooth tiger and other creatures of which specimens were collected—creatures which lived from one to nine million years ago, according to scientific estimates—were related today by Mr. Riggs.

**Natives' Reaction**  
"The people of the valleys where these skeletons are found, realizing that they are different from anything now living, have built up a belief that they are the bones of giants, both human and animal, which still have great powers for good or evil," Mr. Riggs said. "Some of these Indians tell stories that they have seen the skeletons come out of the river banks and hills at night and go down to the water to drink.

Because of the native fears, many earlier expeditions encountered much opposition and difficulty. Once an expedition was followed by a period of floods which destroyed crops, and the natives blamed the disturbance of the bones for the ill fortune. They say that if the skull of one of these creatures 'breathes' upon a man it will cause instant death, and tell of unfortunates who, they say, perished in this manner. Other native groups regard the giants as more benignant, and families keep teeth and small bones they have found as good luck charms on their persons or in their houses. Many of the natives, however, because of their fears, are even today unwilling to hire themselves as laborers to aid the white men's expeditions in excavating or transporting the bones."

**Complete Specimens**  
Included among the more important specimens obtained by the Captain Marshall Field Expedition is an almost complete skeleton of megatherium americanum, largest of all types of ground sloths; a skeleton of smilodon, the great sabre-tooth tiger; a skeleton of glossotherium, a heavy-bodied ground sloth comparable in size to the modern hippopotamus; a skeleton of scelidodon, a somewhat smaller ground sloth; parts of a southern mastodon; parts of the armament of the great glyptodont, panochthus, a huge creature somewhat resembling the modern armadillo; parts of the type of sloth called lestodon; the skull and legs of the type of prehistoric horse known as equus; parts of the large headed and short legged pseudo-horse hippidium; specimens of the marrauchenia, a curious creature with the general appearance of a camel, but having a trunk like an elephant and three-toed feet; and specimens of various prehistoric members of the llama family.

**Many Difficulties**  
Members of the expedition on their extensive explorations into remote sections of the countries encountered many drawbacks. For a long period they had to live on goat meat, Mr. Riggs said, and later were forced for a time to become vegetarians because other food was unavailable. Often they had to swim or wade

long distances from point to point on the streams.

It was often cold at night, and at many places no wood was available for camp fires. Torrential rains often assailed the party, despite efforts to follow the seasons in picking working locations. In several places excavations were conducted miles from railway or highway. Often the specimens were too heavy for pack mules, and members of the party joined with hired laborers in transporting their collections to the highway by hand, on their backs, and slung on poles shouldered by two to four men.

**On Mount Hermosa**  
Among the regions in which the expedition worked was the historic locality of Monte Hermosa, made famous by early researches of Darwin. Other regions in which work was done were the Argentinian coast near Port of Necochea, interior of province of Buenos Aires, Catamarca, the banks of the Quequen River, Miramar, Tres Arroyos, River Quequen Salada, all in Argentina; and the department of Tarija in Bolivia. The Argentinian specimens represent the pleistocene age, ranging from 1,000,000 to 1,500,000 years ago. The Bolivian specimens represent the pliocene age, from 7,000,000 to 9,000,000 years ago.

Other members of the expedition were Robert C. Thorne, Dr. Rudolph Stalcker and Senor Jose Strucco. Small collections of modern mammals and reptiles, and plants of the regions visited, were also brought back. While some of the material collected is now being prepared for exhibition in the museum at an early date, so many specimens were obtained that it will require from 10 to 15 years before all can be made ready for public view, according to Dr. O. C. Farrington, curator of geology.

**ELECTRIC SHOVEL TO LIFT 24 TONS EARTH**

**To Be Used in Strip Mining at Danville, Illinois, Report Says**

An electric power shovel, having a dipper that will gouge out 15 cubic yards or nearly 24 tons of earth in one bite and lift it to the roof of a ten-story building, has been ordered by the United Electric Coal Company of Danville, Ill. This shovel, which will be the largest in the world, will be used in the open pit mining of coal in Illinois about May 1.

One scoop load of dirt by this big shovel will be sufficient to fill a room the size of the bathroom in an ordinary home, or to fill eight large trucks. It will pick up enough coal to supply an ordinary family for an entire year.

The scope of its operations will be unusually wide. If set down in the center of an ordinary football field it could dig out the entire field and deposit the dirt on the bleachers.

One man, operating three hand levers and one foot pedal, will control it. He will probably be assisted by an oiler. Power will come to the shovel through a trailing cable.

From visiting the movies we have learned that the real duty of the French Foreign Legion, aside from occasionally chastising a few Arabs, is to rescue beautiful American heiresses who wander unattended around the Sahara desert on camelback.

Cuba declared a holiday in honor of the coming of President Coolidge. Evidently some of those Latin-Americans must like American imperialism.

One senator suggests that the entire proceedings of Congress be broadcasted every day. There are some things which are too serious to joke about.

A British celebrity advises the English to film Homer's Iliad and he declares that Hollywood can't do it. Is that so? Well, if nobody in pictures at Hollywood can read Greek all they have to do is call in a couple of restaurant men.



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**M**ATERIAL increases in wages were granted in the year 1927 by various boards of arbitration under an Act of Congress providing for arbitration as the method of settling wage disputes.

In 1926 the "North Western" system lines employed 56,237 individuals whose aggregate wages were \$93,026,264. This amount was distributed over a large territory, briefly stated as follows:

Illinois . . . . .	\$23,872,164
Wisconsin . . . . .	26,005,004
Michigan . . . . .	3,393,241
Minnesota . . . . .	9,326,249
Iowa . . . . .	17,642,462
North Dakota . . . . .	39,827
South Dakota . . . . .	4,387,558
Nebraska . . . . .	7,180,887
Wyoming . . . . .	1,178,872
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$93,026,264</b>

In addition the "North Western" system in 1926 paid for materials and supplies, including fuel and equipment, \$39,425,591. A very large proportion of this money was paid out by various companies to their employees in the form of wages.

The "North Western" system also paid taxes in 1926 to the nine states in which it operates in the amount of \$8,212,027, and to the Federal Government in the amount of \$2,340,364.

*Frederic W. Sargent*  
President



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