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FOREIGN TRADE OF U. S. FLOURISHING

In Healthy Condition and Growing Larger Every Year, Says Washington Post

The foreign trade of the United States is in a healthy condition and is growing larger every year in spite of tariffs and stiff competition from other nations. This country now takes high rank among the greatest export nations of the world. Its advanced methods of mass production enable American workmen to produce far more than is consumed in this country, in spite of the standard of living in the world, says the Washington Post.

An analysis of "Our World Trade" just issued by the commerce department of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States shows that American exports have been gradually increasing for the past eight years, except during the depression of 1921. Last year exports reached a total value of \$5,129,000,000, which is 5.4 per cent greater than in 1927. This gain was not confined to a few products. Ten of the eleven groups of export commodities made gains, ranging from 1 to 21 per cent, over the high values of 1927. Values were higher for nearly two-thirds of the 100 principal American exports, and sales were greater to 70 per cent of our best foreign customers.

Chief Exports

Chief among the exports were cotton and cloth, automobiles and accessories, petroleum products, tobacco, copper, iron and steel products, and agricultural machinery. Improvement was shown by each of these commodities. Chief among those products showing a decline were coal, coke and a number of foodstuffs. Since Congress is undertaking to improve market facilities to handle surplus agricultural crops, and since exports of manufactured goods continued to expand, it is possible that 1929 will give the United States its greatest export year in history.

Special significance attaches to the statement of the Chamber of Commerce that "one of the outstanding developments of our foreign trade in recent years is the increasingly large proportion of American-manufactured merchandise in our exports." Finished manufactures account for nearly 45 per cent of the 1928 exports, a record equaled only in 1916. The total of finished manufactured foodstuffs amounted to 68.5 per cent of the foodstuffs amounted to 68.5 per cent of the value of products shipped abroad.

Significant Change

The United States was once an agricultural nation whose exports consisted chiefly of raw products and foodstuffs. For a nation with a large population of workers, the benefits of substituting finished manufactures for raw materials can not be over-emphasized. The figures contain a suggestion for dealing with food products which are now shipped raw to foreign markets. Conversion of some of these into prepared foods might increase the market abroad and give work to men being realised from farms and factories because of improved machinery. A larger percentage of finished products is likely to figure in future exports.

Redefer Chosen Asst. Supt. Glencoe Schools

Frederick L. Redefer of Port Washington, New York, has been elected by the Glencoe board of education to serve as assistant superintendent of schools in place of Norman E. Watson, who resigned to take the superintendency at Northbrook. Mr. Redefer is a graduate of Swarthmore college, taking his A. B. degree in engineering. Following his graduation, he did one year's honor work at Swarthmore in education, and then taught social science in the upper grades of the Oak Lane Country Day school near Philadelphia, one of the best private schools of this country.

If the women folks can't find anyone else to talk to, there are always a lot of solicitors and canvassers calling.

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