

UNITED STATES TRADE BALANCE IS OVER \$600,000,000

From the issue and pass the buck. In other words, they are playing politics. In playing the game they are not quite so ready to play well for them as to avoid responsibility and entirely ignore the question.

The forecast for Michigan is good. The local banks and banks up State are full of money. There has been a marked increase in deposits. This is an indication that the people are frugal and that they are saving for money in legitimate channels of trade it is to be had.

Grand Rapids has just had an election and among other things voted to do away with its present cumbersome and inefficient city government for one that is to be that of Dayton. This is an indication of a tendency in American cities to conduct their affairs by business methods.

By MORRIS A. BLACK, President of the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce.

TRADE OUTLOOK BETTER. By PAUL M. REED, Assistant Secretary of the Reading Chamber of Commerce.

To the Editor of THE SUN:—Business conditions in the Reading area perceptibly since the first of the year. Although this city, with its population of 108,915 and its diversified industries, is seldom heavily affected by any general business depression, it has suffered with other communities during the recent lapse of trade.

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United States Trade Balance in the Last Four Months a \$600,000,000

WASHINGTON, April 10.—The United States piled up a balance of trade in its favor in December, January, February and March of 1915, and figures made public this week carried this balance well over the \$600,000,000 mark.

What this means may be illustrated by saying that these four months with three days of April added, showed a large balance in our favor that for the whole twelve months of any calendar year with the exception of 1913 during the past five years.

As the surplus of these years the balance was greater than preceding years almost without exception, it will be seen that the four months balance for a similar period of any time is unprecedented, and if the movement of exports keeps up, as it bids fair to do, the balance at the end of the year will be stupendous.

For the entire country. The imports, duties collected and exports for the entire United States since December 1 were:

Table with columns: Month, Imports, Duties collected, Exports. Rows for Dec 1914, Jan 1915, Feb 1915, March 1915.

Comparisons for Five Years. Following are the figures of imports and exports for the past five calendar years:

Table with columns: Year, Imports, Exports, Excess of Exports. Rows for 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914.

For the week which ended April 3 a slight increase in our favor is reported. The United States amounted to \$21,821,172 at thirteen customs districts doing about 88 per cent of the import business and about 85 per cent of the export business of the country, the imports

The following tabular statement gives the latest details of foreign commerce of the United States during 1914, as compared with February, 1915, and for the eight months ending with February, 1915, as compared with the eight months ending with February, 1914, as prepared by the Department of Commerce:

Table with columns: Month, Imports, Exports, Excess of Exports. Rows for Feb 1914, Feb 1915, 8 months ending Feb 1914, 8 months ending Feb 1915.

Exports for principal articles. Exports of wheat increased from 3,945,845 bushels in February, 1914, valued at \$1,629,895, to 24,418,812 bushels valued at \$38,339,993, in February, 1915, out of 118,832 bushels valued at \$55,778, in February, 1915.

Exports by groups. Exports of wheat increased from 3,945,845 bushels in February, 1914, valued at \$1,629,895, to 24,418,812 bushels valued at \$38,339,993, in February, 1915, out of 118,832 bushels valued at \$55,778, in February, 1915.

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EXPECTS TRADE BOOM.

By J. G. BUTLER, JR., President of Youngstown Chamber of Commerce.

To the Editor of THE SUN:—The principal product of our mills here is finished steel. The demand is increasing. Prices are advancing slightly. The actual demand is well distributed all over the country. The situation is much better than any time during the past year.

The margin of profit is small. Many calculations have been upset by the war, such as the smelter and ferromanganese situation.

Some export business is being done, principally by the United States Steel Corporation; there is no adequate mention of marine to take care of the independent and the apparent desire of the "powers that be" to give business a rest is having good effect. An important factor in the restoration of confidence is the fact that the United States has paid off the large foreign debt and has fully demonstrated that we are the real and only neutral nation in shape to help the entire world.

According to a statement of the Department exports of breadstuffs, cottonseed oil, food animals, meat and dairy products, cotton and mineral oils for

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BETTER IN INDIANA.

By H. G. SPAULDING, Secretary of the South Bend, Ind., Chamber of Commerce.

To the Editor of THE SUN:—Business conditions here are showing a marked improvement at the present time over those prevailing in this city during 1914. This city is the largest rubber manufacturing center in the world and the rubber factories here are now running full time and some of them three shifts of eight hours each. The machine shops in this city are also in operation. The cereal mills are in full operation.

Building operations for the first three months of 1915 show a marked increase over those of the same period of 1914. The total number of building permits issued during January, February and March aggregated in value \$700,000, as compared with \$524,810 for the first three months of 1914, our greatest year in building operations. The building permits issued in March, 1915, amounted to \$17,605, as compared with \$28,160 for March, 1914.

Although Akron did not experience much depression during 1914 as compared with other cities in this country the conditions at the present time show a marked improvement over those of last year, and the future, especially the rubber industry, looks very promising.

The Akron banks are all in excellent condition and wholesale and retail trade conditions are improved.

PLANTS ON FULL TIME. By VINCENT STEVENS, Secretary of the Akron Chamber of Commerce.

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