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In Paris, the center of French finance and commerce, at No. 1 Rue Taibout, is a branch of the Park-Union Foreign Banking Corporation, established there for the specific purpose of aiding American business men to cement closer and more cordial business relations with France.

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Branches in Most Important Cities of the World

Peikin Wants Trade Catalogues. A library of trade publications and catalogues is being organized in Peikin by the Commercial and Industrial Commission of the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce for the purpose of assisting Chinese importers to establish trade connections with American exporters.

No Anthrax From Shaving Brushes. Tokyo, March 16.—Recent reports from England charge that several cases of anthrax have resulted there from the use of infected shaving brushes manufactured in Japan.

Recent Arrivals From Far East. Recent arrivals from the far East registered at the Hotel Belmont include Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stone, Shanghai, China, and Mr. L. O'Toole of Yokohama, Japan.

PHILIPPINES ENTER NEW TRADE FIELDS

World Markets Sought for Coconut Oil, Lingerie, Canned Goods, &c.

MANILA, March 16.—Despite an unfavorable trade balance of \$5,521,236 for 1919, the Philippines Islands are on a more substantial footing than ever before, according to the latest figures of the Philippine foreign trade. Last year saw greater activity and more actual interest manifested in industrial and commercial developments by the Filipinos than at any previous time.

The foreign trade of the Islands during 1918 in favor of the United States was \$147,571,239.50, or close to 42 1/2 per cent. of the total. Last year the total trade of \$132,144,106.50 in favor of the United States is approximately 40 per cent. of the total, showing that America is not only the greatest exporter but is also taking a goodly percentage of the products of the islands for home consumption.

The increase in exports is almost entirely due to the demands for modern agricultural implements, including tractors and trucks; and to the large imports of steel and other materials for public works improvement. A fair measure is also due to the building boom in the industrial fields in the islands.

SHORTAGE OF RICE IN SUMATRA CRITICAL
Government Forces More Extensive Planting.

The critical situation in the importation of rice to meet the requirements of the native population in the Sumatra East Coast is engaging the serious attention of the Sumatra Government and the large employers of labor. The Government endeavored to meet the situation by obtaining rice from plant rice to the fullest extent possible, and this has no doubt alleviated the condition somewhat, or will when the local production has been harvested.

TO DEVELOP OIL FROM GUM PEAT
New Zealand Starts on Extensive New Industry.

The first plant in New Zealand for the extraction of oil from kauri-gum peat, or "pukaki" (which is part of the soil in the buried kauri forest saturated with the oil of the kauri), commenced operation at Redhill recently. The plant is built to turn out 4,500 gallons of oil per week. Fractions being motor spirit, a valuable solvent oil, turpentine substitute and paint and varnish oils.

Tea Bank Urged for Shanghai. A despatch from Peikin says that a prominent Anking tea merchant has petitioned the Ministry of Commerce for permission to open a tea bank in Shanghai.

Japan Uses Paper Cement Bags. There are two standard units for pricing Portland cement in Japan, as manufacturers who hitherto sold their products in wooden barrels are finding paper bags a cheaper substitute.

New Bin Cotton Mill for India. Consul E. Verne Richardson reports from Karachi, India, that the Sri Saran Spinning and Weaving Company proposes to erect a cotton mill at Sukkur, Sind Province, India.

An Australian Actress



Miss Peggy Payter, who won recognition in America while playing with Winthrop Ames, Cyril Maude, Mr. and Mrs. Coburn and Miss Maxine Elliott in her new play "Trimmed in Scarlet."

SWEDEN TO SEEK AUSTRALIAN TRADE

Direct Exchange of Commodities Is Aim of New Commercial Organization.

STOCKHOLM, March 16.—That Sweden contemplates taking active measures to attain become an important factor in the Australian trade is indicated by Ragnar Lindquist, the newly appointed Consul-General to the Commonwealth, who arrived here recently.

"We want to get back again our export trade to Australia," said Mr. Lindquist, when asked concerning Sweden's plans. "But at present we are much more interested in buying wheat, wool and meat from Australia."

"We have consuls and vice-consuls in all the principal centers in this country, and I propose to make a tour of inspection as soon as I get settled and confer with the local consuls and prospects of our trade."

"What is the commercial and industrial position of Sweden?" he was asked. "At the present time," he said, "the high cost of living is undermining trade. Compared with the pre-war days, some commodities have increased 400 per cent. and taken all around, the average cost of living has increased 175 per cent. higher than six years ago."

"Our trade with Australia was done through intermediaries, the Hamburg shipping companies, but the war has eliminated them and now we intend to deal directly with you."

CHINA A MARKET FOR COTTON THREAD

Cheap Variety Just Now in Demand.

CANTON, March 16.—Considerable quantities of cotton thread are used in the Canton cotton district of China, chiefly in the manufacture of small tailoring establishments. The trade in ready-made garments by hand and machine sewing. The imports amount to about \$3,479 gross of spools and 121,867 pounds of thread in ball annually.

The yearly importation for all China amounts to about 459,000 gross of spools and 638,000 pounds of thread in ball. Japan stands first as a source of supply, with Great Britain second in the spot thread trade and third in the trade in ball thread. Hongkong's exports into the Kingdom in the latter time. In 1916 no cotton thread was imported from the United States, in 1917 imports from this source amounted to 494 gross of spools, valued at \$1,350, and in 1918 they totaled 1,059 gross of spools, worth \$2,496.

Large Chinese wholesalers in Hongkong buy quarterly or semi-annually stocks through non-Chinese commission firms, and from these stocks they supply the smaller wholesalers in Canton and other centers. The trade in ready-made supply the clothing establishments and at the same time do a retail business. A distinctive trade mark for each grade of spool thread is the common practice in the Far East, and a picture symbol is also used to enable the Chinese buyer to obtain the desired brand without knowing its English name. The Chinese use a relatively coarser thread than would be used in the United States for a given purpose.

There is in this district at present a demand for a very cheap thread which the Japanese have heretofore supplied but which is now scarce in the local markets.

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FAR EAST CLODS AS GREAT MARKET

American Banker Urges Systematic Study of Conditions in the Orient.

The far East is continually growing in the consideration of bankers and business men as the premier market of the future for the sale of American goods, according to a statement made by T. Fred Aspden, vice-president of the Park Union Foreign Banking Corporation.

From earliest recollections, Mr. Aspden stated, most Americans have been desirous to trade with the Orient, but owing to the far East, largely obtained from romantic stories, and yet it is doubtful if any section of the world has developed so rapidly in commerce and industry as the Orient.

"American firms ambitious for trade in the Orient must send their own representatives if they desire full success," Mr. Aspden said. "In this way they not only will assure themselves that attention will be given to establishing their product on a firm commercial footing but will likewise build for themselves a good feeling among their customers, which will result in a permanent trade."

"It must be remembered also that in Japan and China—more particularly China—business is done to a great degree on a basis of personal acquaintance, which will result in a deal direct with principals and not with 'go-betweens' and when the chance is given will give the preference to a firm or individual known to them rather than to those who to them are little more than a name."

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CHINA-CHINA TRADE LARGE

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CZECHS PIN HOPE ON STEEL INDUSTRY

Country Prepared to Fill Orders in All Lines on Pre-war Scale.

The contracts for machinery for French sugar mills, engines for Poland and farming machinery for the Balkans will be promptly executed by the Czechoslovak metal industry this spring, for then the supplies of fuels shall increase because the needs of many preferential agencies shall cease," said Dr. Frantisek Hodak, secretary-general of the Czechoslovak Manufacturers' National Association, in a recent interview.

"The iron and steel industry is one of the principal props of the Czechoslovak economic structure," continued Dr. Hodak. "It is not of recent origin, for Bohemian metal wares were famous in the Middle Ages, but its intensive development dates to about the middle of the nineteenth century. The chief asset of this important branch is that it has raw materials and alloys all found within the country; it is self-sufficient. The plants give employment to upward of 225,000 hands in twenty-three blast furnaces, fifteen rolling mills, three steel mills and more than 375 machine, tool implement and hardware shops. The plants are scattered over Bohemia and Moravia, while the principal centers are Pilsen, Brno, Prague and Opatowitz."

"The Czechoslovak Republic has a number of iron ore beds, but those in the hills between Prague and Pilsen, called the Brno, yield the best ore in large quantities. The annual extraction is sufficient to supply the metal trade industries and it amounts to 2,200,000 metric tons, of which about 900,000 metric tons are exported. For special purposes and secret processes approximately 900,000 metric tons of ore are imported from the Scandinavian peninsula and the Balkans," added Dr. Hodak.

"The Czechoslovak metal industry is as diversified as it is extensive. Everything from a pin to a bridge or a river boat is manufactured. Its equipment of lathes, planers, drill presses and electric plants is unexcelled. The ordinary output of finished goods in pre-war days totaled over 300,000 tons yearly. In the first six months of 1919 the exports of engines and machinery were 720 cars. It is not only in the finer grades of metal products that Czechoslovakia is prominent, but in the bulkier and coarser articles, such as castings, forgings, pipes, valves, etc. While at no time since the war ended have our plants run full time, conditions are constantly improving. This year promises great things for our steel business."

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SOUTH CHINA SILK FINDS GOOD MARKET

American Buyers Pay Higher Prices.

Silk exports from the south China field for the calendar year 1919 promises a marked improvement in this trade in the near future. In the first place, silk reeled according to American ideas in the system known as the "Grand reel" has been produced in considerable quantities. The result is that practically the whole of such silk was taken up by American buyers at prices ruling considerably higher than those obtained for silk of ordinary Chinese make.

During the year, also, the Comité International pour l'Amélioration de la Sericulture dans le Kwantung (International Committee for the Improvement of Sericulture in Kwantung) at Canton completed a series of tests extending over all the year's crops, which have proven that if the Pasteur process of eliminating albugo disease be carried out on a comprehensive scale a very large increase in production, as well as a very marked improvement in the quality of the silk, may be counted upon in the future.

It is anticipated that arrangements will be made with the provincial Government at Canton for the financial support necessary for the introduction of this international committee. This international committee was inaugurated upon the initiative of the French Chamber of Commerce at Canton, but the result of its work will be particularly beneficial to American exporters, since the improved method of rearing mentioned in line with their efforts.

NEW ZEALAND LOW IN IMPORT STOCKS

Scarcity Is Causing Prices to Soar.

Although the rate of American exchange had an adverse influence on New Zealand importations from the United States during the latter part of 1919, according to Charles G. Winslow, Auckland, New Zealand, states that there is a favorable factor in that stocks of imported goods were not very heavy, because of the many importing difficulties, certain lines being so scarce that they were selling at from three to four times their pre-war rate.

In the face of the building boom, supplies of building materials and sanitary wares were very low, and there was also a shortage of imported lumber, such as quarter-sawn oak and Oregon pine. Bone fertilizers were practically unobtainable owing to shipments being held up by the American dried fruits being imported at almost prohibitive prices, as the Australian Government had placed an embargo on the exportation of dried fruits from that country to insure a sufficient supply for home demand.

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MALAY STATES: Ipoh, Klang, Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Singapore, Malacca, Singapore, Malacca
PHILIPPINES: Cebu, Manila, Iloilo, Zamboanga
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SUMATRA: Medan

Chartered Bank of India Australia and China

New York Agency, 88 Wall Street
William Baxter, Agent
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Head Office London
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PRAGUE! "GOLDEN" PRAGUE

(Capital Czechoslovak Republic)

This ancient city, founded in the first half of the eighth century by Queen Libuse, boasts of many unrivalled historic and architectural monuments.

The University and Public Buildings, the castles, churches, palaces, museums, bridges, opera house, statues, theatres and gardens fascinate and delight the visitor.

The city is a treasure storehouse for Bohemian and Slovak arts, crafts and historic objects which have been accumulating for ages.

Prague is a railroad center from which all the healing and popular watering resorts of Czechoslovakia are easily and comfortably reached.

Prague is the banking and commercial center for Central Europe.

During the second half of June, the famous Slavonic SOKOL (Falcon) ORGANIZATIONS will hold a tournament in Prague in which it is expected that no less than 75,000 picturesquely dressed contestants will participate.

Hotel accommodations throughout the republic are ample and excellent. Through train and baggage service from Paris to Prague.

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AMERICAN FOREIGN BANKING CORPORATION

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Capital, Surplus and Undivided Profits over \$5,000,000

EXHIBITION OF CHINESE SCULPTURE

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New York Office, 10 Wall St.
R. E. SAUNDERS, Agent
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Far Eastern Trade Notes

It is reported that the Marconi Company is making arrangements with the Chinese Government to establish high power stations in Peking, Urumchi and Kalgan, which will be able to communicate day and night with the Indian Government station in Simla. There also are to be wireless stations in Ulaanbaatar, Koba, Sianki and Haini. It seems evident that well informed people feel that these facilities are of very great importance. If a railway is to be constructed from Kalgan through the Gobi Desert to India are to be resumed, the wires in eastern Asia will be unexcelledly affected.

The beginning of the new billing season, the latter part of last year, found about 4,300,000 acres of wheat in New Zealand, and about 2,000,000 acres of wheat in the United Kingdom during November and December. A lack of first class American firms to handle American goods in New Zealand, where the attitude of the Chinese Government is considered a distinct asset for trade expansion, these handle export lines, and therefore would clear by winter to the United Kingdom for new firms desiring to introduce their products. The production of wheat in New Zealand, which has been decreasing during the last few years owing to the farmers finding it more profitable to raise sheep and cattle, has fallen to a still further decrease, as the official estimate of this season's average of wheat is about 12,000 acres, compared with 210,775 acres actually sown the previous season. The estimated average under sown is 410,250 acres, or about 77,000 acres less than actually sown the previous season. The Auckland Daily Star says that it will probably supply the local consumption. The larger part of the autumn produce in China comes from Hunan province. Since the closing of the war period of high prices local farmers have closed down and production has fallen off considerably. It is expected that a good time for American users of autumn to investigate the possibilities in this field.