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ROY D. CHAPIN, Secretary
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FREDERICK M. FEIKER, Director

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN MACHINERY BELTING

By
E. G. HOLT, Chief
and
R. H. SANGER
Assistant Business Specialist
Rubber Division



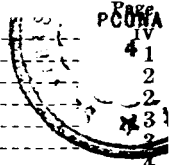
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FOREWORD

The United States now supplies nearly one-quarter of the total world exports of machinery belting, its share having increased steadily since 1921. The American industry is considered here in detail under the headings rubber and balata, leather, and textile belting. The Canadian industry, which is practically an adjunct of our own, is also reviewed, and its growth traced from 0.1 per cent in 1920 to 5.7 per cent of the world total in 1930.

The United Kingdom has always been the largest exporter of machinery belting, although its share is decreasing. Whereas 10 years ago the British supplied more than one-half of the belting exports to the world, last year the amount sent abroad was less than one-third. The British are unusually strong in woven-hair and cotton belting, but the marked decrease in the price per pound of British rubber belting has helped their trade in that commodity.

The German belting industry has shown the largest percentage growth of any important nation, rising from 2 to 12 per cent of the world exports. The export trade of France, Belgium, and 10 other of the chief exporting countries, is covered in this pamphlet. International competition in the belting trade as a whole is summarized as well as the world trade by classes of belting.

The export trade of each competing country is treated in a separate section, the trend of the trade from 1920 to 1931 being brought out, and statistics of exports to foreign markets stated in detail so far as possible.

The purpose of this pamphlet is to furnish United States manufacturers and exporters of each class of machinery belting a picture of the total available export business in their product, and the extent to which foreign manufacturers of various nationalities compete in the trade. The rubber division of this bureau, in cooperation with oversea representatives of the Departments of Commerce and State, maintains close touch with markets throughout the world. The division will gladly reply to specific inquiries from American manufacturers and exporters.

FREDERICK M. FEIKER, *Director,*
Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

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