

TEXTILE MARKET OF ARGENTINA

**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE**

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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Trade Promotion Series—No. 132

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**UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1932**

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.

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FOREWORD

Argentine imports of textiles during the five years from 1926 to 1930 ranged in value from about \$125,000,000 to \$195,000,000 a year. The United States supplied roughly about 10 per cent of the total importation, in point of value, its shipments consisting mainly of cotton yarns and cloth and, until recently, fairly large quantities of silk hosiery. Argentina is the largest South American market for United States textile manufactures.

During 1930 and 1931 adverse economic conditions, combined with depreciated currency, tended to restrict sales of foreign textiles, including American goods, in Argentina. Moreover, during 1930 and 1931 the Provisional Government, in an effort to balance the budget and improve peso exchange, as well as to foster the domestic textile industry, increased tariff rates on a number of textile items—in some cases to levels which make competition by imported articles difficult. The country, however, is still far from self-sufficient in many textile lines, particularly cotton yarn and piece goods, and it is expected that, when economic conditions improve, sales of American textiles again will reach a substantial volume; although the trade in some lines, such as hosiery, may be lost to domestic manufacturers.

Trade Commissioner Thomas C. Ballagh, at Buenos Aires, has analyzed the market for various textile lines on the basis of six years' textile experience, including three in Argentina. His observations have been supplemented by preliminary export statistics of the United States for 1931 for the most important classes of goods shipped to the Argentine market. This report, therefore, gives not only a general background of market conditions but the latest statistical data available. It serves also as a handbook of basic information on Argentine production of wool, cotton, and other fibers, and on the local textile industry, which should prove valuable as reference material.

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APRIL, 1932.