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**THE IRON AND STEEL
INDUSTRY AND TRADE**

WITH A CHAPTER ON THE SAAR



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FOREWORD

Even before the World War the French iron and steel industry was of considerable importance. In 1913 France ranked fourth among the nations of the world in the production of both pig iron and steel, after the United States, Germany, and the United Kingdom. With the addition of the German equipment in the Lorraine and the war-time expansion of the national industry, France had advanced by 1931 to second place, after the United States, in the production of pig iron, and to third place, after the United States and Germany, in the production of steel. The real importance of the French industry, however, lies in the fact that France is a leader among those countries exporting iron and steel. In 1927 and again in 1928 its shipments in this trade exceeded those of every other nation, while in the succeeding years first place was taken by Germany.

In 1931 France produced 8,217,000 metric tons of pig iron, a decline of 21 per cent from its peak production of 10,364,000 tons accomplished in 1929. Steel production—7,809,000 tons in 1931—was also much smaller than that of 1929 (9,699,000 tons).

The French export trade in iron and steel products was at its maximum in 1927, when it reached the high figure of 5,600,000 tons. Since then the decline has been rapid, until in 1931 only an estimated 3,750,000 tons were exported. But even so, this figure was exceeded only by Germany, although the Belgian-Luxemburg total was not far behind.

The Iron and Steel Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce keeps in close touch with developments in the iron and steel trade and industry of all countries, including France, and invites inquiries from interested parties relative to these industries.

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