

OFFICIAL TRADE INTELLIGENCE

(From the Board of Trade Journal for August 10 and 17)

OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE

The following inquiries have been received at the Department of Overseas Trade (Development and Intelligence), 35, Old Queen Street, London, S.W. 1, from firms, agents, or individuals who desire to represent U.K. manufacturers or exporters of the goods specified. British firms may obtain the names and addresses of the persons or firms referred to by applying to the Department and quoting the specific reference number.

LOCALITY OF FIRM OR AGENT	MATERIALS	REFERENCE NUMBER
Argentina	Earthenware	154
"	Disinfectants, sheep and cattle dips	156
"	Sulphuric acid, aluminium sulphate (tender for)	4300/F.L./C.C.
Australia	Perfumes in bulk	133
"	Perfumery, soap	161
"	Commercial sodium acetate (tender for)	9320/F.D./C.P.
Belgium	Paper	174
British West Indies	Steel sheets, tubes (tender for)	135
Chile	Enamelware, glassware, crockery, lubricating oils, tinplate, galvanised sheets	201
Egypt	Animal oil for denaturing ethyl alcohol (tender for)	8750/F.E.
Finland	Perfumery, polishes	177
Hungary	Copper sulphate	180
Luxembourg	Ferromanganese for iron and steel works	181
Mexico	Tin	160
"	Tinplate, black and galvanised sheets	202
Netherlands	Chile salt-petre (tender for) ..	15605/F.W./C.P.
Netherlands East Indies	Paint	153
New Zealand	Glassware	167
Norway	Tinplate, galvanised plates	142
"	Chemicals, iron and steel	F.R./5840
South Africa	Glass bottles, enamelware	169
Spain	Steel, tinplate, varnish, gums, shellac, fish oils	144
Switzerland	Raw materials for the chemical industry, intermediates for making coal-tar dyes	151
"	Pharmaceutical chemicals	152
United States	Fire-bricks, cement	108

TARIFF CUSTOMS EXCISE

Belgium.—The "coefficient of increase" applied to the duties on crystallised and granulated sugar has been reduced from 2 to 1.5.

Cyprus.—Imported fertilisers must be accompanied by a declaration of origin and the percentage contents of nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potash in a soluble form.

Federated Malay States.—The import duties on matches have been revised.

Gold Coast.—The system of valuing goods for customs duty has been amended.

Ireland.—The Provisional Government has prohibited the importation, save under licence, of liquid fuels, lubricating oil, sheet metal, and iron plates.

Kelantan.—The import duty on lime has been raised from 3 per cent. to 10 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Memel Territory.—A list of customs duties applied to spirits, ether, salt, mineral and resin oils, and hides is given in the issue for August 10.

Newfoundland.—It is proposed to exempt imports of kerosene oil, gasoline, bark, bark extract, cutch,

potassium dichromate, and logwood from the sales tax of 5 per cent. *ad valorem*.

New Zealand.—Celluloid and other capsules are admitted duty-free under the British preferential tariff. The conditions under which dumping duties will be levied are set out in the issue for August 17.

Nigeria.—The export duties on hides and skins have been reduced.

Portugal.—Special surtaxes have been imposed on exports of cork, oilseeds, palm oil, and vinegar.

Portuguese East Africa.—The additional duties levied on imports of sugar, spirits, alcohol, edible oils, benzol, gasoline, dynamite, gunpowder, mirrors, lubricating oil, soap, candles, salt, vinegar have been modified.

Southern Rhodesia.—Recent amendments of the customs tariff affect corks, kinematograph films, medicinal preparations, essences, syrups and tinctures, and starch.

REPORTS

THIRD REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENTAL (HOME OFFICE) COMMITTEE ON LIGHTING IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS. Pp. 38. London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1922. Cmd. 1686. Price 9d.

Commencing with a brief review of the recommendations contained in two previous reports (*cf. J.*, 1921, 318 R), the present report is devoted principally to the classification of industrial processes according to the illumination they need, and to the effects of mixed natural and artificial lighting. For the present it is recommended that definite legal minima of illumination shall not be imposed for processes carried on in factories and workshops, but that a specification of minima as "recommended practice" for different groups of processes shall be issued. Schedules A and B, contained in Appendix 1 of the present report, covering "fine work," for which the recommended minimum illumination is 3 foot-candles, and "very fine work" for which a minimum of 5 foot-candles is recommended, are suggested as the basis of such specification. Only those industries have been scheduled in which at least one process was judged to be "fine work" or "very fine work." Thus the iron and steel industry is entirely excluded and very few, if any, distinctly chemical processes are scheduled. Although no definite recommendations are made respecting processes needing only moderate illumination, it is pointed out that if the recommendations of the first report are adopted, the illumination at floor level in workrooms cannot fall below 0.25 foot-candle.

No conclusive results indicating special effects of mixed lighting (partly artificial light and partly daylight) were obtained, and at present no definite recommendations can be made on this matter.

The customary use of a naked source of light appears to be unnecessary for the examination of glass sheets during the bevelling process, and it is suggested that glass-bevelling shops should comply with the recommendation, contained in the second report, for avoiding glare.

Owing to the need for economy, the inquiries of the committee are concluded for the present. It is pointed out, however, that hardship to employers

and administrative difficulties in the imposition of definite legal minima of illumination in workshops and factories would be largely avoided if a sufficient number of observations were collected indicating the best existing practice in the various processes, and if the conditions of illumination desirable on physiological and psychological grounds were investigated. The principal industries scheduled in Appendix 1 are invited to co-operate in this scheme by arranging for the collection of actual data, if possible through research associations.

REPORT ON PEAT BY THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE RESOURCES AND INDUSTRIES OF IRELAND. Pp. 110. Published by the Commission, 87, Grafton Street, Dublin, 1921. Price 2s. 6d.

Many attempts have been made to develop the Irish peat deposits on a large scale and a special report was made to the Fuel Research Board only last year (*cf. J.*, 1921, 229 n). All the attempts to manufacture pressed peat-briquettes have failed, and research has been directed towards the more efficient winning of peat by the use of machines of the Wielandt, Baumann, or other type, and the generation of cheap power in installations comprising either a water-tube boiler and turbo-generators or large gas-producers and gas-engines (*cf. J.*, 1920, 213 n).

The commission of inquiry considers that experiments should be made to determine how far the percentage of water in peat can be reduced by "bottom drainage," and would compel turbary owners to co-operate in drainage operations. A recommendation is made that one or more of the automatic machines which have proved so successful in dredging, forming and spreading peat should be acquired by the Irish State and tested carefully on the Irish bogs. Air-drying of peat, depending, as it does, on the climate, makes the peat-winning industry discontinuous, and well-considered experiments should be initiated from time to time with a view to devising some successful method of drying peat by artificial means, even though at present it would seem to be quite uneconomical to do so. The manufacture of peat charcoal has proved commercially successful, whereas carbonisation for the production of illuminating gas has been a failure. Another outlet for peat would be its use in pulverised form, either alone or mixed with powdered coal, although this would have to be confined to rotary kilns or locomotives, and would not apply to large power stations. The most promising method of utilisation seems to lie in gasifying the peat in producers, and using the gas in stations not exceeding a few hundred horse-power in capacity. For large stations, the use of turbo-alternators is advocated, although when the peat contains a high percentage of nitrogen, it might be advisable to gasify it in by-product recovery plants and to use the resultant gas for boiler-firing, the steam being then used in turbo-alternators as before. The Commission is of the opinion that four stations, each designed to carry about 20,000 kw. constant load, would more than suffice for Ireland's requirements of combined nitrogen for the manufacture of nitrogenous fertilisers and explosives. The establishment is advocated of at least one station of 20,000 kw.-capacity by the Irish State in a suitable locality, part of the electrical power developed to be utilised at the bog for manufacturing calcium

cyanamide and the remainder transmitted to centres of industry.

Moss-litter manufacture is commercially sound, but the Commission states that little hope can be entertained for any scheme for producing alcohol from peat. The cellulose constituents, on hydrolysis, yield unfermentable sugars, *e.g.*, arabinose, in addition to fermentable sugars such as glucose. It rarely happens that the percentage of dry turf which can be converted into alcohol exceeds 12 per cent. One ton of air-dried moss yields about 10 gallons of absolute alcohol, but the main expense is incurred in distilling the very weak wash, which contains only about 0.6 per cent. of alcohol.

The Bogs Commissioners of 1809-1814 recommended the utilisation of cutaway and virgin bog, a recommendation with which the present Commission agrees, whereas an agricultural sub-committee appointed by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland reported that the reclamation of virgin bog would not be remunerative even under the most favourable conditions, although the reclamation of cutaway bog might possibly be remunerative under certain conditions (*cf. J.*, 1921, 229 n). It is recommended that, in order to avoid speculation, the State should acquire all the larger bog lands of the country at bog value, and that a few very large bogs should be reserved by the State primarily for meeting national needs, and secondarily for carrying out national experiments on the utilisation of peat.

REPORT ON THE TRADE, INDUSTRY AND FINANCE OF SYRIA, DATED APRIL, 1922. By H. E. SATOW, H.M. Consul-General, Beyrout. Department of Overseas Trade. Pp. 25. London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1922. Price 9d.

Syria possesses no industries, coal or petroleum, and agriculture is undeveloped and primitive. Apricots, pistachio nuts, and wool are exported, but shipments of olive oil are declining owing to poor quality, and silk cocoons are produced for export to France and Italy. There is a certain amount of water power, but except at Damascus none is harnessed. The minerals include gold, copper, iron ore, manganese ore, chromite, gypsum, lignite (none of any value), and asphalt. Alluvial gold occurs in an extensive deposit near Antioch and panning tests are said to have yielded about 1.5 dwt. of gold per cb. yd. Large nodules of copper are found between Alexandrette and Aleppo, iron ore occurs to the north of the former town and manganese ore in Northern Syria, but neither of the two last-named minerals are suitable for industrial use. Chromite occurs abundantly, especially between Suedia and Alexandretta, and small amounts have been extracted. Gypsum is said to exist in quantity at Suedia and asphalt is found in many localities, especially at El Becheri on the Euphrates.

Until the mandate for Syria is confirmed and the political situation in the Near East becomes clearer, the country's commercial future cannot be foreseen, and trade statistics are of value only in showing what goods are required. Imports through Beyrout in 1921 were valued at £9,889,458 (£2,629,161 from Great Britain and £1,895,844 from France) and included iron and steel bars, copper bars, cement, tiles, window glass, matches, dyes, paint, chemicals and soap. Exports were valued at £553,843, of which nearly one-half was directed to France.