OUR GERMAN COMMERCE

EXPORTS GAINED FASTER THAN IMPORTS FROM THAT COUNTRY.

Record for the Past Ten Years—Cotton, Provisions and Breadstuffs the Chief Commodities.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The recent legislation in Germany, by which an increase is made in tariff, especially on breadstuffs and provisions, lends especial interest to some tables prepared by the Treasury Bureau of Statistics, showing the commerce of the United States with Germany, the value of exports of breadstuffs and provisions to that country in each year during the past decade, and the principal articles entering into the commerce between the two countries.

The total imports from and exports to Germany during the years 1892-1902 have been as follows:

Fiscal year.	Germany to United States.	United States to Germany.
1893	$96,210,203	$83,578,988
1894	69,387,905	92,357,163
1895	81,014,065	92,053,753
1896	94,240,833	97,897,197
1897	111,210,614	125,246,098
1898	69,697,378	155,039,972
1899	84,215,777	155,772,179
1900	97,374,700	187,347,889
1901	100,445,902	191,780,427
1902	101,997,523	173,148,280

In breadstuffs the chief exports from the United States to Germany are, of course, corn, wheat and wheat flour. The value of the corn exports to Germany during the last decade have ranged from $2,784,000 in 1893 to $17,305,225 in 1901, the 1902 exports, of course, being small because of the shortage in last year's corn production. Wheat exports ranged from $2,549,000 in 1892 to $7,671,000 in 1901, and $14,944,000 in 1902. Of wheat flour the figures in 1893 were $1,011,000, and in 1902 $2,773,000. Of provisions, the most important items in our exports to Germany are: Lard, oleomargarine, bacon and sausage-casings. The value of lard exports from the United States to Germany was, in 1893, $6,429,000, and in 1902, $16,237,000; of oleomargarine, in 1893, $2,371,000, and in 1902, $2,573,000; of bacon, in 1893, $678,273, and in 1902, $1,675,000; and of sausage casings, in 1893, $537,527, and in 1901, $1,143,600.

The following table shows the total value of the exports of breadstuffs and provisions from the United States to Germany in each year from 1893 to 1902, the figures for 1902, including estimates on some of the less important articles for which the Bureau of Statistics has not completed the details of its analysis:

Fiscal year.	Breadstuffs.	Provisions.
1893	$6,806,895	$11,770,118
1894	6,180,972	14,490,637
1895	4,667,805	13,353,290
1896	7,353,640	12,791,853
1897	18,052,970	14,449,613
1898	26,308,457	16,912,113
1899	28,146,447	17,373,830
1900	22,118,634	20,547,230
1901	29,867,829	21,736,308
1902	*22,000,000	*23,500,000

*Estimated.

The following table shows the principal exports from the United States to Germany in 1893 and 1902:

Articles.	1893.	1902.
Cotton	$22,369,980	$70,416,196
Provisions	11,770,118	23,500,000
Breadstuffs	6,806,895	22,000,000
Oil, mineral	6,180,266	10,000,000
Copper ingots	580,097	6,873,993
Tobacco unman'f'ct'red	4,690,012	5,234,512
Oil cake and meal	2,328,169	4,639,603
Oil, cotton seed	257,667	1,593,960
Agricultural impl'm'ts	10,980	1,888,672

FOREIGN STOCKS EASIER.

German Steel and Iron Lower—Sugar Crop Is Short.

BERLIN, Dec. 21.—During the past week the bourse has in no manner been influenced by the Venezuelan situation. Values remained firm under all circumstances. The success of the bank combination for the relief of the New York money market made a good impression here, and the prophets of disaster admit that again they were mistaken. The Vossische Zeitung says it supposes that European financial magnates supported the New York combination, promising to discontinue the withdrawal of loans.

Money continues to be abundantly offered here; the rate for the carry-over reached 5¼ per cent, but call money was only 2¾ per cent. Foreign exchange had a downward tendency, and domestic loans were firm. Foreign trade developed considerable activity during the week, and almost all industrials have gained, particularly textiles and chemicals. Several electrical and coal shares weakened upon warmer weather and the decline in coke shipments. Irons gained several points, notwithstanding the fact that some price reductions were announced during the week. The steel rail syndicate reduced the price of rails by 5 marks, and the Siegen syndicate reduced the price of foundry iron 2 marks. Shares of the Hamburg-American and North German Lloyd Lines advanced moderately upon Hamburg buying.

The International Association of Sugar Statistics estimates the European crop this year at 5,174,743 tons, a decrease of 1,308,900 tons from last year. In Germany the yield is estimated at 1,762,236 tons, a decrease of 589,480 tons.

BICYCLE REORGANIZATION.

Plan Formed for New Company With $22,500,000 Capital.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—The reorganization committee of the American Bicycle Company has adopted a reorganization plan and filed it with the Central Trust Company of New York, which provides for the organization of a new company to acquire the properties of the old company by purchase. The new company will issue $2,500,000 6 per cent cumulative first preferred stock, to be issued only for cash, to be preferential both as to dividends and assets, but to be redeemable at par and interest at 130; $10,000,000 noncumulative 6 per cent preferred stock, preferential as to both dividends and assets, and $10,000,000 common stock. Holders of the present 5 per cent debentures will be entitled to par in second preferred stock. Preferred stock is entitled to $50 in new common stock for each share, and to $9 first preferred stock in return for a required assessment of $9 a share. The common stock is also assessed $9 a share, and may receive $9 in new first preferred stock and $25 in new common stock. The stock of the new company will be held under a voting trust for five years. A syndicate has underwritten the cash payment required.

More Buoyancy in London.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—The tone of the Stock Exchange at the end of the last week was cheerful, the feature being the general improvement in Americans. These securities were uneasy in the early part of the week, but closed firmer. The feeling that the end of the money stringency abroad has been sighted, together with increasing confidence in the judgment of Wall street, and the hope that there will be no further gold shipments to New York and Buenos Ayres this month has added strength to the trading. At one time South American securities were threatened by the Venezuelan situation, but they stiffened on later developments, coupled with the crop report from the Argentine Republic. Canadian rails advanced in sympathy with Americans, and home rails were helped by satisfactory traffic returns and the prospect of better dividends. Africans were uneasy in the expectation of better conditions in South Africa. The fact that there is no longer fear of an increase in the bank rate this year, together with the prospect that the market will right itself when money flows in January, and the indicated rise in consols, contributed to the buoyancy at the end of the week.

Since three men have hanged themselves in Gibbet lane, Halesowen, Worcestershire, England, it is proposed to change the name of the thoroughfare.

$1,000,000 UP IN SMOKE

GREAT FIRE IN KNOXVILLE, TENN., THIS MORNING.

Full Extent of Loss Not Yet Known, as the Flames Are Still Raging—Help From Chattanooga.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 22.—Fire which broke out at 1:30 this morning in the four-story factory of the Knoxville Mills, on Commerce avenue, quickly spread to surrounding structures and at 3:15 threatens to destroy property that will bring the total loss up in the neighborhood of $1,000,000. The burning building is just across the street from the central fire station, and no sooner had the men of this station turned out than a general alarm went out calling the entire fire department to the scene.

In a very short time the large building was completely gutted and the fire had spread both east and west, taking the building occupied by Broyles, McClelland & Lackey on the west and that occupied by the David Commission Company on the east. The flames had eaten their way through the walls on each side and made the first evidence of their appearance into new fields by a shower of flying sparks and falling embers. Gaining good foothold by means of these auxiliary fires, the blaze made a second grand burst, hurling firemen in the rear of the buildings to the ground by the force of the explosions caused by the terrific heat.

At 2:30 o'clock the buildings on the east side of the street between Commerce and Wall avenue seemed doomed. Water poured on the threatened structures turned into steam as soon as it hit the red-hot walls. A few minutes later the large five-story building of the George Brown Hardware Company, located on Gay street, caught at the rear of the fifth floor. The fire soon spread through it, dropping to the fourth floor, then down to the third, until the building was totally ruined. In the meantime on the east of the burning structure the building of the large wholesale clothing firm of McTeer, Hood & Co. had caught fire on the top floor, and it too was slowly devoured by the flames.

At 2:45 the Davies Furniture Company's building was in flames. Then followed the plant of the Claiborne, Tate & Cowan Clothing Company.

Chattanooga was asked for aid at 2:30, and the answer came that an engine company would soon leave that city.

The R. H. Tate & Co., wholesale liquor house, was next to go. This same building is occupied by the Shankline Grain Company and the Merchants Transfer Company.

Up to 3:30 the loss is fully $1,000,000, probably more. All the firms are well insured.

The buildings which are doomed are occupied by Haynes, Henson & Co., wholesale boots and shoes, at 312 Gay street; Gillespie, Shields & Co., wholesale clothiers, and Browne, Payne, Deaver & Co., wholesale dry goods, at 318, 320 and 322 Gay street. If these burn another million will be added to the loss. The burning of the big Brown store was made doubly dangerous owing to the large number of cartridges stored in it, like bunches of fire crackers.

At 3:35 o'clock the fire crossed Gay street westward, but the attention of the firemen was directed to the blazing building, and it was saved.

At 3:40 it looks as if the fire will not spread farther south than the Brown Hardware Company, and the firemen have a better chance of getting it under control than at any time since its origin. The falling in of the Brown building and the explosion of a quantity of dynamite was a God-send to the firemen, and they have taken advantage of the opportunity.

The entire street-car service, electric lights and telephones are paralyzed, poles having been burned and wires fallen by hundreds. No one has been more than slightly hurt.

The origin of the fire is a mystery. Charles Parham, owner of the Knoxville Pants Company, in which building the fire started, visited his place Sunday. He says there has been no fire in it since Saturday.

This disastrous fire is within 300 feet of where the $1,200,000 fire of 1897 started. The same property destroyed then was threatened this morning.

At 4 A. M. it is probable that the fire will be stopped at the Haynes-Henson building, although the chances are not too bright. All the plate-glass windows across Gay street from the fire have been broken by the heat.

WAS YOUR PRESENT THERE?

Carload of Christmas Mail Burned in New York.

SYRACUSE, N. Y., Dec. 21.—Official report of the burning of a carload of Christmas mail en route for the West was made here this afternoon by the crew of mail clerks arriving from New York on the Fast Mail No. 3, on the New York Central, which left New York at 4:45 A. M.

Only 20 or 30 out of 700 or 800 pouches were saved, the burned mail being for Chicago and points further West. Some of the mail was destined for the Philippine and Fiji Islands. The mail sacks were in a storage car, which carried no clerks. The crew was on the car behind, and discovered the fire between Peekskill and Highland. The car was left burning at the latter station.

Fire in Young Ladies' Seminary.

NEW MILFORD, Conn., Dec. 21.—Ingleside School, a large and fashionable seminary for young ladies, was damaged $40,000 by fire today.

The servants were the only persons in the building when the fire broke out, the young ladies of the seminary being away on their Christmas vacations, as were the instructors. More than 100 students were registered at the school, and the damage to the articles in their rooms, all of which were expensively decorated, cannot be estimated.

TO PRODUCE "THE MIKADO."

A Great Cast for the Gilbert and Sullivan Opera at the Metropolitan.

New York Sun.

Maurice Grau is not going to devote all his resources to the Verdi and Mozart cycles at the Metropolitan during the season, but he is now considering the production of a novelty for the audiences that care for less serious music. He is now at work arranging for a production of the "Mikado," with the following cast: The Mikado, David Bispham; Poo Bah, Robert Blass; Nanki Poo, Jacques Bars; Ko-Ko, Albert Reiss; Yum-Yum, Fritzi Scheff and Camille Sagard; Katisha, Louise Homer, and Peep-Bo, Carrie Bridewell. Miss Scheff and Miss Sagard will alternate in the roles of Yum-Yum and Pitti-Sing. Alfred Hertz will be the conductor.

The opera will, of course, be sung in English and will first be performed on a Saturday night. Mr. Grau's decision to give the opera was based on the great financial success made by the English company at the Metropolitan two years ago, when it was sung for two weeks to large audiences. This will be the first performance of opera in English ever given at the Metropolitan under Mr. Grau's management.

Such a collection of singers was never heard in the opera before here or anywhere else except in the performance of the work of the Royal Opera-House in Berlin.

The Poles of Partisanship.

Montreal Star.

The New York Evening Sun's opinion of President Roosevelt's message is that it is "seven pounds lighter than a straw hat"; while the New Haven Register finds in it "that serene and lofty note of leadership which at the present time in our National history is so much needed." It is a pity these two gentlemen could not meet and arbitrate the matter. It cannot be said there is nothing to arbitrate.

SNOW TEN FEET DEEP

BURIED TRAINS IN CUTS IN COLORADO.

Blizzard Raged Also in Wyoming and Western Kansas and Nebraska—The Burlington Suffers.

DENVER, Colo., Dec. 21.—The blizzard that raged on Friday and Saturday in Eastern Colorado and Wyoming and Western Kansas and Nebraska was the most serious in years to the railroads, as far as the interruption of traffic is concerned. All trains on the Union Pacific and Burlington Roads were delayed at least 24 hours, and some trains due yesterday morning are just getting into Denver tonight. This is true of trains over the Kansas City branch of the Union Pacific. Along this line snow drifts from 6 to 10 feet deep made the movement of trains impossible until the track could be cleared.

Perhaps the storm was more severe on the Denver & Alliance branch of the Burlington Road. This line runs to the Black Hills, and trains which left Denver on Friday were only released from their wedged position in the drifts today. One train, which was completely hidden from sight by the snow, was relieved by snow plows from Alliance, Neb. A supply train was run from Mercer, Neb., with fuel and provisions to provide for the needs of imprisoned passengers. It required the hardest work imaginable to reach the stalled train through the blinding storm and almost impenetrable drifts.

The attention of the railroad officials today has been directed almost exclusively to getting trains going on schedule time again, and by tomorrow it is expected that the usual conditions on the Burlington and Union Pacific will prevail.

Damage by Raging Ohio.

EVANSVILLE, Ind., Dec. 21.—The Ohio River, which has been overflowing the lowlands above and below the city for the past week, came to a standstill today. By Monday noon it is expected the water will begin to recede. The damage to farmers has been severe, and tiemen and lumbermen along Grey and Wabash Rivers also report heavy losses. A great deal of corn in shock and in the field was lost.

Mining Stocks.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 20.—Official closing quotations for mining stocks:

Belcher	$0 17	Mexican	$0 61
Best & Belcher	38	Occidental Con	35
Bullion	3	Ophir	1 80
Caledonia	2 05	Overman	40
Challenge Con	17	Potosi	22
Chollar	15	Savage	13
Confidence	70	Sierra Nevada	38
Con. Cal. & Va.	1 30	Silver Hill	51
Crown Point	13	Union Con	45
Gould & Curry	14	Utah Con	9
Hale & Norcross	23	Yellow Jacket	18
Justice	9		

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—Mining stocks today closed as follows:

Adams Con	$0 15	Little Chief	$0 09
Alice	20	Ontario	5 75
Breece	45	Ophir	1 10
Brunswick Con	3	Phoenix	6
Comstock Tunnel	5	Potosi	18
Con. Cal. & Va.	1 10	Savage	10
Horn Silver	1 25	Sierra Nevada	27
Iron Silver	80	Small Hopes	30
Leadville Con	3	Standard	3 25

BOSTON, Dec. 20.—Closing quotations:

Adventure	$ 12 00	Old Dominion	$ 15 25
Allouez	2 37	Osceola	50 00
Amalgamated	57 50	Parrott	23 75
Daly West	38 00	Quincy	102 00
Bingham	27 00	Santa Fe Cop.	1 62
Cal. & Hecla	450 00	Trimountain	41 00
Centennial	15 50	Trinity	8 50
Copper Range	55 00	United States	25 25
Dominion Coal	125 00	Utah	48 87
Franklin	8 25	Victoria	4 12
Isle Royale	9 50	Winona	4 87
Mohawk	30 00	Wolverines	58 00

Mrs. Anna M. Elster, a market woman of Lexington, Ky., has died, leaving a fortune valued at $100,000, all accumulated by the sale of garden truck. She was ponderous in size, weighing 320 pounds.