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FILE NO. 531

China

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce
Washington

AUTOMOBILES IN THE ORIENT.

Inadequate transportation facilities is the mill stone that retards the industrial progress of China, and good roads and automotive transportation will spell the economic liberation of the celestial republic, in the opinion of Trade Commissioner William I. Irvine who has just completed a survey of Far Eastern automotive markets for the Department of Commerce.

Good roads must come before the advantages resulting from motor transportation can be realized, but Mr. Irvine states that motorized transportation in China is compelling the building of highways; the popular approval of the automobile and its accepted utility brings agitation for highways that ultimately bring results.

The good roads movement is spreading rapidly and the traditional aversion of the Chinese to innovations as far as motor vehicles are concerned has entirely disappeared and Mr. Irvine is extremely optimistic as to future market prospects in China stating that "automotive exporters who have shown faith in this market by spending more than their immediate returns warranted would certainly be repaid for their foresight."

A survey of the automotive markets of British Malaya and Chosen was also included in Mr. Irvine's itinerary and the results of his observations and studies are contained in "Automotive Markets in China, British Malaya and Chosen," Special Agents Series No. 221, which has just been released by the Department of Commerce and may be obtained by application to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., or to any of the district or cooperative offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, price 15 cents prepaid.

JULIUS KLEIN,
Director.

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