

Form 457

ECONOMIC AND TRADE NOTES

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FOREIGN TRADE SECTION

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IMPORTS OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT INTO CHINA DURING 1932

(1932 Figures for First 11 Months Only.)

Ruinous exchange rates on silver (now five for one compared with a former normal rate of two for one), recurring political and military disturbances and a constantly expanding domestic manufacture have raised havoc with the electrical equipment market, imports into all China having decreased from US\$6,899,825 in 1931 to US\$3,674,551 in 1932, a decrease of 41%. Practically all items have been adversely affected. Imports of bulbs, for example, decreased from US\$596,000 in 1931 to US\$259,000 in 1932, a decrease of 56%; cables from US\$547,000 to US\$297,000, a decrease of 46%; accumulators, batteries and dry cells from US\$833,000 to US\$636,000, a decrease of 23%; insulated wire from US\$1,100,000 to US\$592,000, a decrease of 46%; lamps and lampware from US\$214,000 to US\$96,000, a decrease of 55%; meters from US\$384,000 to US\$248,000, a decrease of 36%; motors and parts from US\$685,000 to US\$544,000, a decrease of 21%, and transformers from US\$259,000 to US\$205,000, a decrease of 21%. Telephone and telegraphic materials which are classified separately in the Customs returns likewise registered an unprecedented decline of 79% from US\$2,773,000 in 1931 to US\$663,000 in 1932. However, the completion of a new telephone exchange system in Shanghai during 1931 is largely responsible for the increased imports that year.

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Fans and accessories is the only item which shows an increase, from US\$37,000 in 1931 to US\$46,000 in 1932, an increase of 25%. No figures are available on imports of electric refrigerators, but demand in Shanghai has been fairly well maintained owing to the large number of apartment buildings completed during the past year. In general, it is to be expected that the market for imported manufactured electrical equipment in China will gradually decrease and be replaced by locally manufactured equipment, whereas it is anticipated that the demand for basic materials, parts and accessories for the supply of domestic manufacture will gradually increase. Likewise, the gradual electrification of China should increase demand for imported electrical machinery and such materials as cannot advantageously be made locally.

While in remote provinces, the Provincial Government Department concerned will be entrusted with this task, the

Central Bank of China will take over collection from the local

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authorities in the twelve provinces of Anhwei, Chekiang, Szechwan, Kweichow, Hunan, Kwangtung, Hopei, Sinkiang, Kansu, Shensi, and Szechuan, where there are no branches of the Central Bank in

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There are no branches of the Central Bank in Sinkiang, Kweichow, Hunan, Kwangtung, Hopei, Sinkiang, Kansu, Shensi, and Szechuan, the Bank will appoint the Bank of Communications of China, respectively, as its sub-agent.

It will be recalled, were recently advised upon by the Ministry of Industry in view of the inefficiency of the local authorities, which have hitherto been collecting on behalf of the Ministry collections during the past few years have been very disappointing and far below the estimates.