

Date.	Description.
1909. April 7	From H.M. Acting - Consul, Chicago, to Foreign Office.

Enclosures.

Commercial, No. 42.

SIR,—

British Consulate, Chicago, 7th April, 1909.

I have the honour to transmit herewith, under flying seal, a despatch to the Secretary of the Department of Trade and Customs, Wellington, New Zealand, on prison-made goods, written in reply to a question as to whether it was likely that such goods were sent. It was found out some time ago that much of the small hand farm implements were made by firms who had subsidiary companies carrying on the same business in prisons; and Canada, Australia, and New Zealand closed their markets to these firms.

Of the list given in the despatch there is little doubt that many of the big firms who export would be found to be interested in such companies, especially in boots and shoes. Many of the States now prohibit the general sale of prison-made goods, while others, like Minnesota, are making binding-twine for sale to the farmers of the State, in which business they only come into competition with a large corporation.

I have, &c.,

His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, &c.

O.Of., No. 23.

SIR,—

British Consulate, Chicago, 7th April, 1909.

In reply to your inquiry as to classes of goods made by prison labour which, like the agricultural hand-implements which your Government has recently prohibited from importation, may be difficult to detect from free-labour-made goods, as none are marked: I have the honour to inform you that the following list, with the name of the States in which they are made, is a fairly comprehensive one:—

Agricultural hand-tools	..	..	Iowa, Michigan, Ohio.
Bags	..	..	New Jersey.
Baskets, willow-ware	..	..	Illinois and Maryland.
Boots and shoes	..	..	Connecticut, Illinois, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin.
Brass goods	..	..	West Virginia.
Brooms and brushes	..	..	Illinois, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia.
Buttons	..	..	Iowa.
Carriages and wagons	..	..	Maine and Michigan.
Chairs and tables	..	..	Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, Vermont.
Clothing	..	..	Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, Rhode Island, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.
Cooperage	..	..	Illinois, Indiana, Iowa.
Cotton goods	..	..	Indiana.
Enamelled ware	..	..	West Virginia.
Gloves and mittens	..	..	Indiana.
Hardware, saddlery	..	..	Ohio.
Harness	..	..	Kentucky, Maine, Tennessee.
Hosiery	..	..	Illinois, Indiana, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.
Iron bolts, nuts, &c.	..	..	Ohio.
Iron chains	..	..	Indiana.
Matting	..	..	Maryland and New Jersey.
Phosphate-mining	..	..	Florida.
Saddle-trees	..	..	Missouri.
Stove hollow-ware	..	..	Alabama, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio.
Stoves	..	..	Oregon.
Tobacco and cigars	..	..	Michigan and Ohio.
Turpentine and resin	..	..	Alabama and Florida.
Umbrellas	..	..	Massachusetts.
Whips	..	..	West Virginia.
Wire goods	..	..	Ohio.