

Imports and Exports of Steel Billets.—The Dominion Iron and Steel Co., has, during the past two years, been making some export of steel billets for European demand, but as yet the Department of Customs has not published any separate record thereof.

There has been a considerable annual importation, as shown in the accompanying table of iron and steel billets and of iron and steel ingots, blooms, slabs, puddled bars, etc., the total of these imports during 1915 was 54,118 tons, valued at \$1,270,687, or an average of \$23.48 per ton, as against 13,049 tons valued at \$259,703, or an average of \$19.90 per ton in 1914.

The imports, according to the classification of the Customs Department, include iron or steel billets, weighing not less than 60 lbs. per lineal yard; 32,210 tons valued at \$715,493, or \$22.21 per ton in 1915, as against 12,247 tons valued at \$241,234, or \$19.70 per ton in 1914; steel billets, n.o.p. 10,928 tons, valued at \$238.38, or \$21.81 per ton in 1915, as against 647 tons valued at \$15,121, or \$23.37 per ton in 1914; iron or steel ingots, cogged ingots, blooms, slabs, puddled bars and loops, or other forms n.o.p. less finished than iron or steel bars, but more advanced than pig-iron except castings, 10,980 tons, valued at \$316,814 or \$28.85 per ton in 1915, as against 155 tons valued at \$3,348, or \$21.65 per ton in 1914.

The record of imports since 1908 shows that the principal imports have been in the form of billets weighing not less than 60 pounds per lineal yard. The largest import was in 1912 with a total of 89,189 tons, while the average imports during the past twenty years have been about 22,000 tons.