

The world's market has grown immensely during the intervening period. Outside the home markets of Germany and England there is a demand for more than 10,000,000 tons a year, which is anybody's trade—that is, it is open to either England, Germany, or America, whoever can get it. What has been our course of events? In the last four years the capacity of the United States Steel Corporation has been utilized, in the main, to an extent varying from 55 to 75 per cent of its capacity. During a large part of these four years the United States Steel Corporation has had 33½ per cent of unused capacity. In spite of that fact Germany and England have acquired most of the increasing world's trade. The German trade in this very period in which the steel corporation has been in existence has increased 500 per cent.

Mr. Perkins has spoken of the American ability which, if it is given fair opportunity, will attain commercial results far beyond anything that may be expected of Germany, and yet there you find Germany and England running away with the world's trade, while the steel corporation had idle one-third of its plants, representing millions annually in interest and depreciation charges.

In the 10 years during the steel corporation's life our foreign steel and iron tonnage increased from 1,154,000 to 1,533,000 tons, Germany's tonnage increased from 8,8,000 to 4,868,000, and the United Kingdom's tonnage increased from 3,213,000 to 4,594,000.

Now, what is the explanation? This I submit: Owing to this Steel Trust consolidation and accompanying condition our cost of manufacturing steel has risen to such a point that we can not compete successfully with those countries or can compete only to a limited extent. We have been losing our relative position in the great markets of the world. That is a very significant fact, in view of the contention always made that we need big business in order to maintain and improve our position in the world market. The figures show that during the last 10 years, coincident with the existence of the Steel Trust, we have been losing our prestige in the world's steel market, and at the same time the Steel Trust's position in the home market has been lessened by the inroads of its independent competitors.

The facts point to the conclusion that the Steel Trust, in spite of the personal ability of its managers, is disclosing relative inefficiency.

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