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Letter
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF STANDARDS
Washington, D. C.

(February 17, 1925).

FOREIGN SOLE LEATHERS.

Samples of Japanese and Brazilian sole leathers furnished by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, have been examined for chemical composition. The results of these analyses are presented below for the information of those interested in comparing them with analyses of American sole leathers.

Table of Results.
Chemical Constituents Expressed in Per cent on Moisture Free Basis. (A.L.C.A.Methods).

	Japan No. 1	Japan No. 2	Brazil No. 1	Brazil No. 2
Water Solubles	33.04	27.04	12.29	24.10
Hide Substance	39.29	42.10	54.32	48.05
Grease (P.E.E.)	.76	2.64	.81	.80
Insoluble Ash	.56	.20	.10	1.60
Combined Tannin	26.35	27.92	32.48	25.45
Degree of Tannage	67	66	60	53
Glucose	6.89	.67	trace	trace
Epsom Salts	none	none	none	trace
Acidity (P.& S.)	.23	.19	none	none
Soluble Tannins	20.97	21.59	9.90	20.81
Soluble Non-tannins	12.07	5.55	2.40	3.28
Total Ash	1.81	.55	.32	2.35
Ph Value (Leather Solution)	3.72	3.78	5.24	5.02

The Japanese leathers were on the red in color and had a brittle grain. The grain finish was smooth and clear. Flesh well cleaned. In comparison with American leathers these are characterized by low grease and acid contents. No Epsom salts were used but in sample 1, glucose was added.

The Brazilian leathers were on the red in color but grain was not brittle. The finish was uneven and the grain was badly damaged indicating the use of dry hides. Flesh well cleaned. In comparison with American leathers these are characterized by low grease content, no mineral acidity, high hide substance, no filling materials, and low degree of tannage. The leather solutions used for Ph value determinations showed alkaline to methyl orange.