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Problems of Industrial Development in China

PROBLEMS OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN CHINA

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Problems of Industrial Development in China

A PRELIMINARY STUDY

BY

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Preface

POLITICAL changes in China, and inter-national relations in the Far East, which have centered in and around China, have tended to obscure and distract attention from the less dramatic economic movements which have been taking place since 1900. Consequently much of the recent literature on the so-called Republic has been political in character, or, where it has treated of economic development, it has been done incidentally or from the standpoint of foreign trade. There are notable exceptions to this, such as the social survey of Peking undertaken and reported by Mr. Sidney D. Gamble, the work of Mr. Julean Arnold, and the series of doctoral dissertations on particular phases of China's economic life prepared by Chinese students and published, most of them, in the Columbia University Studies in History, Economics and Public Law. But in spite of these exceptions the generalization remains true. Furthermore, the economic studies have been of particular interest to the specialist rather than to the general reader.

This little study is not planned to improve the situation by giving to the special student of the Far East an exhaustive and definite analysis of industrial development in modern China, which in any case it is too early to undertake, but rather to sketch broadly some of the major problems to be solved before the new industry can establish itself on a firm and enduring foundation, or can progress much beyond the point at present reached. It should be regarded as distinctly a preliminary study of a large and important question. So considered, it is hoped that it will help to awaken a larger interest in the significant economic changes taking place across the Pacific. In sketching the problems the attempt has been made to indicate the probable or desirable lines of solution as they appear today. The method of treatment has been partly historical, partly analytical and to some extent frankly speculative, although the speculations engaged in have been based, as far as possible, on historical developments and on a careful analysis of the facts. Perhaps the study will lead to a more extensive analysis of the whole problem and to its more exhaus-

PREFACE

tive treatment. If so, one of the purposes of this work will have been realized.

Acknowledgment should be made of the aid rendered by Professor J. B. Dennison, of the faculty of Miami University, who read and criticised the entire manuscript, and by Dr. Warren S. Thompson, of the Scripps Foundation, who read parts of it. Further indebtedness to others is revealed in the notes and the bibliography.

HAROLD M. VINACKE

Oxford, Ohio July 1, 1926

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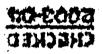
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