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Modern Industrial Tendencies

MODERN INDUSTRIAL TENDENCIES

BY

SIR CHAS. W. MACARA, BART.

SECOND EDITION Enlarged

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PREFACE

In a world in which so much commerced and political unrest still exists, largely, of course, due to the great reaction caused by the war, no apology or excuse is needed for issuing a volume embodying my latest ideas and suggestions for helping forward the great work of reconstruction and settlement which is yet so far from completion both in this and other countries.

While I have devoted myself primarily to the position of the British cotton industry in the series of articles here produced. I have not been unmindful of the wider aspects of national and international progress and stability, and I have thought it well to reproduce in the appendix extracts and articles from outside sources which I considered highly necessary for a proper understanding of some of the difficulties and obstacles with which we are faced in our efforts to re-build the sadly-damaged fabric of our international prosperity. I allude in particular to the excerpts from that important and influential journal the Manufacturers Record, of Baltimore, in which is put forward an eloquent plea for the reconsideration of the whole question of allied debts to the United States.

I would ask of my readers very careful attention to this question, for upon its ultimate solution will depend whether the world is to reach firm ground within a reasonable length of time, or is to go floundering along for many years with its commerce hampered and its finances straitened, with

all that these disabilities may mean in the way of There is no doubt that international discord. there has been of late a great quickening of the American conscience on this question, especially as it is coming to be recognised that there is something very immoral in a situation which allows a country to come out of a war richer than it went into it, and owing to the disparity in the exchanges at the time of borrowing and at the time of paying back, allows the creditor nation to get back double what it lent. The Editor of the Manufacturers Record does not hesitate to describe such a transaction on the part of his countrymen as "preposterous." Personally, I leave the matter without comment, but consider it a duty to reproduce the very trenchant arguments of the journal named, of which I have already made a wide circulation throughout the world, and bring the whole matter to the bar of public opinion.

In calling attention to the various articles submitted dealing with the cotton trade, I need only mention that there is evidence in many directions that the views I have never ceased to expound in the hope of lifting the English cotton industry out of its deplorable position, are being adopted with marked success by some of the leading cotton-using countries of the world. In these circumstances, it is greatly to be regretted that the English cotton industry has, so far, failed to apply the remedies which would, I am convinced, place it once more on the road to prosperity. It is to be hoped that our usual attitude towards new and progressive ideas will not be allowed to stand in the way much longer, and that we shall adopt, before

it is too late, that co-operative policy of working which, I contend, is, under present-day conditions, so necessary to a return to prosperity.

In the articles included in this volume, which have been mostly written at the request of the editors of many leading journals, both at home and abroad, some repetition has been unavoidable; but for the sake of continuity I have decided to reproduce the articles without material alteration.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

The reception accorded to the articles I have . contributed to various journals at home and abroad since "Modern Industrial Tendencies" first appeared, has induced me to put them into permanent form, hence the necessity for a second edition of the volume. Especially have I thought it necessary to include in the book some of the articles which have appeared in American magazines, not only because they have had a most gratifying reception in the United States, but because they contain many matters which I consider are of peculiar interest to all engaged in the cotton trade in England. I allude particularly to the article I wrote for the "American Federationist." the official organ of the American Federation of Labour, in which I stressed the value of international co-operation in all matters affecting the cotton industry.

It will be seen that I have suggested, in order to ease the burden under which the cotton trade is labouring at the present time, that a moratorium should be declared to help the mills out of their almost overwhelming difficulties. Something has been done towards this end in the various "schemes of arrangement" which have of late been entered into by cotton spinning companies, but things have been done in so piecemeal a fashion that I am afraid the result has been more alarming than helpful to those who have financial interests in the various concerns. These matters, of course, should be dealt with on comprehensive lines, as they would undoubtedly have been had we had the Control Board I have for so long advocated, But the Masters' Federation still pursues its passive policy, and nothing really effectual is done.

At the present crucial time I do not wish to say or do anything which will hamper or hinder the work of the newly-formed Cotton Yarn Association, but I must express the opinion that far greater success would have attended its efforts had it sought to carry out its work in conjunction with the operatives.

Whilst I have not hesitated to condemn in the strongest terms the action of the cotton gamblers in raising the price of the raw material to an artificially high level, I should, on the other hand, like it to be understood clearly, that I deprecate attempts to reduce the price below the cost of production. All sections of the world-wide cotton industry are interdependent, and the growers of the raw material as well as all others engaged in the industry are entitled to a fair return for their labour and enterprise.

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"Other subjects dealt with in the book include 'War in the sphere of industry,' which the author strongly deprecates, and the desirability of the employers taking such measures as are necessary to bring contentment into the mills. We have evidence now that the world will pay high prices for cotton goods rather than go without them, and if the manufacturers of the world will co-operate they can certainly get such reasonable prices as will enable them to raise the standard of comfort among the operatives."—Manchester Guardian.

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In Search of a Peaceful World.

THE PRACTICAL VIEWS OF A LEADER OF INDUSTRY.

SIR CHARLES W. MACARA, BART.

Published 1921 (7,500 copies). Price, Five Shillings. Sherratt & Hughes, Manchester.

PRESS OPINIONS.

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-The Yorkshire Post.

- "Suffice it say that, ever steering clear of the cross-currents of party politics, he has directed his entire energies to the end of the betterment of conditions in industry, and, particularly, to the general welfare of all connected with the cotton trade. His new work is full of meaty matter. We might be tempted, however, to single out the chapter on the American speculator as the most apt and opportune at the present time."—Yorkshire Observer.
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 —Birmingham Post.
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Trade Stability AND HOW TO OBTAIN IT.

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PRESS OPINIONS.

"Some two years ago we noticed a lengthy volume of Sir Charles Macara's dealing with the question of short time in the Lancashire trade. There he made it clear that the trouble was the impossibility owing to the shortage of American cotton of producing an adequate supply of yarn at a reasonable price. Here, in a collection of short papers, he emphasizes and extends the same idea.—"The Times."

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Herald."

"Sir Charles Macara, who is a great figure in the cotton industry, produces articles written by him for various journals, and also the evidence submitted to Sir Arthur Balfour's Committee on British Trade in July of last year. Sir Charles affirms again and again that the Lancashire cotton spinners have nothing to fear from abroad, but they must co-operate more than they have done in the past. He declares himself emphatically a Free Trader."—"Sheffield Daily Independent."

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"This book . . . combines, with a fund of useful information, good sense, sound reasoning and wise leading."
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