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Politics & Economics

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TRADE AND TARIFFS
OF
CERTAIN PACIFIC COUNTRIES

BY

PHILIP G. WRIGHT

Proof Edition

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INSTITUTE OF PACIFIC RELATIONS

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FOREWORD

Commerce among the nations of the Pacific area forms the matrix for their international economic relations. From it evolves the complex mechanism of transportation and financial systems facilitating the exchange of goods, national industrial systems competing with or complementing each other and similar smaller groups within each national unit, industrial organizations which transcend political boundaries to threaten the validity of the concept of sovereignty, and various commercial policies in the pursuit of which nations often become involved in bitter political, and even military, struggles. Powerful minority groups, competing for financial advantage, in large part determine governmental policies which result in the erection of obstacles to trade in the form of tariffs coupled with official promotion of exports, or in free trade, or in some compromise between these extremes. It happens that of the nations treated in the following study, there is not one which in the period from 1920-1931 has not been engaged in a general trend toward national or imperial economic self-sufficiency.

The present study is the result of several years of preliminary work on the part of the various National Councils of the Institute of Pacific Relations in the field of trade and tariffs, work which in these pages is brought together into a coordinated whole. Dr. Philip G. Wright has provided the framework not only for more intensive local studies to be undertaken in the future, but also for a major part of the discussions on international economic relations of the Pacific area contemplated for the forthcoming Banff Conference.

Although these pages are recommended for study in connection with that Conference, the Institute does not assume responsibility for statements of fact or opinion contained in them.