OUTLINES OF THE ECONOMIC HISTORY OF ENGLAND

A STUDY IN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

BV

H. O. MEREDITH, M.A., M.Com.

LECTURER IN ECONOMIC HISTORY AND COMMERCE, MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY: FELLOW OF KING'S COLLIGE, CAMBRIDGE; SOMETIME RUSSELL RESEARCH STUDENT AND LECTURER IN THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

LONDON
SIR ISAAC PITMAN & SONS, LTD., 1 AMEN CORNER, E.C.
BATH AND NEW YORK

PRINTED BY SIR ISAAC PITMAN & SONS, LTD., LONDON, BATH AND NEW YORK . . . 1908

TO COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF HISTORY ECONOMICS AND COMMERCE AT MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY

Preface

In this book I have relied almost exclusively on the researches of others for my material, and have therefore, as a general rule, given references only when quoting the words of previous writers. My chief obligation, it is hardly necessary to state, is to Dr. Cunningham's "Growth of English Industry and Commerce," and I have been especially fortunate in writing after the publication of the enlarged edition of this great work. Amongst a number of foreign books I am most indebted to Dr. Steffen's "Geschichte der Englischen Lohnarbeiter," whose author has generously allowed me to publish the charts attached to Appendix I. I have also to acknowledge the kindness of several friends who have read portions of the book in manuscript or proof, and assisted me with valuable criticisms and suggestions.

H. O. M.

CONTENTS

BOOK I

MEDIEVAL ENGLAND

1066-1272

HAP.	CENTRAL SUBVEY	PAGE 19
	GENERAL SURVEY	33
	THE MANORIAL SYSTEM URBAN TRADE AND HANDICRAFT	. 47
	NATIONAL CONTROL TRADE, MONEY, TAXATION .	62
IV.	NATIONAL CONTROL STRAIR, MONEY, TANATION	02
	воок н	
	THE ENGLISH NATION	
	12721603	
I.	GENERAL SURVEY	. 79
П.	DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL POLICY	90
	TRANSITION IN AGRICULTURE	. 108
	CULMINATION AND DECAY OF URBAN INFLUENCE .	122
v.	THE GENESIS OF CAPITALISM . ,	. 141
	MONEY AND TAXATION	162
	BOOK III	
	THE ANTECEDENTS OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION	
	1603–1760	
I.	GENERAL SURVEY.	, 181
11.	AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY, AND FOREIGN TRADE .	200
Ш.	FINANCE AND TAXATION	. 215

CONTENTS

BOOK IV

THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

1760-1900

CHAP.						PAGI
I.	GENERAL SURVEY.			•		230
11.	THE GREAT INVENTIONS				•	242
III.	GOVERNMENT AND THE WA	AGE-E	ARNING	CLASSES,	1760-	
	1830		•	•		261
IV.	THE ECONOMIC STRUCTURE	E OF	MODERN	ENGLANI		273
V.	THE STANDARD OF LIFE					288
VI.	THE LAW AND THE WAGE	CONT	RACT			300
VII.	MONEY, CREDIT, AND FILE	CTUAT	TONS	•		316
VIII.	FINANCE AND NATIONAL W	VELFA	RE.			334
	APPENDIX (I) WAGES ANI	PRIC	CES	•		349
	,, (II) BIBLIOGRAP	HY				353
	INDEX					357