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PREFACE

THIS volume will be found to consist of two parts—an Introduction, which treats of general principles, and the Application of such principles to the larger areas of the British Empire. Apart from the personal interest of the Empire to ourselves, it may also be looked upon as an epitome of the world.

With this in view, special prominence has been given to special products from different parts of the Globe, *e.g.* Canadian *wheat*; and, in the case of that particular product, I have added a detailed account of the conditions under which it is produced—partly because of the intrinsic importance of the subject in a country which cannot provide its inhabitants with home-grown *bread*, and partly to illustrate a method of treatment which may be applicable elsewhere.

The study of Geography from the economic point of view is of great moral and social importance, for it is essentially concerned with the production of *necessaries*. The Multitude have no leisure; their Standard of Comfort is bare necessity; and their lives are made utterly sordid and sad by the constant struggle with grinding poverty. Consequently, the physical conditions of their lives make moral and mental growth practically impossible. Of course, wheat *could* be grown on Ben Nevis, but only at an enormous expense; and souls *are* saved amid scenes of the deepest want and suffering, but it is—as it were—reaping upon Ben Nevis.

Thus, the production of cheap, good food in abundance has a direct and vital bearing on the leisure and, therefore, on the possible higher development of the Many; and one great obstacle to it at present is ignorance of the Geographical conditions under which necessaries of life are produced.

I gladly take this opportunity of acknowledging my long and increasing indebtedness to my former Chief, J. J. Rogerson, Esq., LL.D., of Merchiston Castle, Edinburgh, for his very kind encouragement and valuable advice. Through him I am also indebted to Merchistonians all over the world, from whose conversation or letters to him I have obtained most useful information on Geographical and kindred subjects. I am similarly indebted to my friend, Cyril Harrison, Esq., formerly of Qu'Appelle College, Assiniboia.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

A few misprints have been corrected, and the statistics have been brought up to date; but otherwise no change has been made in the book except the addition of a few facts about some of the smaller British possessions—on page 154.

October 21, 1897.

PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION.

The demand for a third edition has given me an opportunity of expanding the sections referred to above on the smaller British possessions, and of adding a short account of the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies.

L. W. L.

November 20, 1900.

CONTENTS.



PART I.

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	1-56
(1) POPULATION (INDUSTRIES, WANTS, &C.)	3- 5
(2) CLIMATE	6- 9
(3) SOME ECONOMIC BEARINGS OF CLIMATE	10-16
(4) THE ATMOSPHERE	17-23
(5) THE SEA,	24-27
(6) MOUNTAINS	28-31
(7) RIVERS	31-34
(8) TRANSPORT	35-51
(9) WAR	52-56

PART II.

THE BRITISH EMPIRE	57-153
(1) THE BRITISH ISLES	58- 82
" (<i>Surroundings and Harbours</i>)	58- 67
" (<i>Surface</i>)	67- 71
" (<i>Industries</i>)	71- 82

	PAGE
(2) CANADA	82-103
" (Surroundings, Fisheries, and Harbours)	82- 87
" (Surface)	87- 90
" (Wheat)	91- 94
" (Timber)	95- 98
" (Pasture)	98- 99
" (Fruit)	99-100
" (Minerals)	100-103
" (Furs)	103
 (3) AUSTRALIA	 104-117
" (Surroundings and Harbours)	104-107
" (Surface)	107-109
" (Pasture)	109-111
" (Agriculture)	111-114
" (Minerals)	114-117
 (4) INDIA	 118-131
" (Surroundings and Harbours)	118-121
" (Surface)	121-124
" (Pasture and Timber)	124-125
" (Agriculture)	125-129
CEYLON	130
BURMA	130-131
 (5) SOUTH AFRICA	 131-146
CAPE COLONY	132-140
" (Surroundings and Harbours)	132-134
" (Surface)	134-135
" (Pasture)	135-137

CONTENTS.

ix

	PAGE
(5) SOUTH AFRICA— <i>Continued.</i>	
CAPE COLONY (<i>Agriculture</i>)	137-139
" (<i>Minerals</i>)	139-140
BASUTOLAND	140
NATAL	140-144
BECHUANALAND	144-145
MATABELELAND AND MASHONA- LAND	145-146
(6) NEW ZEALAND	146-153
(<i>Surroundings and Harbours</i>)	146-148
(<i>Surface</i>)	148-149
(<i>Pasture, Timber, and Agriculture</i>)	149-151
(<i>Minerals</i>)	151-153
(7) NEWFOUNDLAND	154
(8) BRITISH CENTRAL AMERICA	155
(9) BRITISH POSSESSIONS IN THE PACIFIC	156
(10) TRANSVAAL AND ORANGE RIVER COLONIES	157
INDEX	161

INDEX.*

A

AFRICA, South, 131-146.
 Agriculture, 3, 91-94, 111-114,
 125-129, 137-139, &c.
 Atlantic Ocean, The, 61.
 Atmosphere, The, 8, 17-23.
 Australia, 12, 39, 104-117.
 Austria, 50.

B

BASUTOLAND, 140.
 Bechuanaland, 144, 145.
 Bermudas, 155.
 Birmingham, 78.
 Bombay, 48, 119, 126, 127.
 Brazil, 11.
 British Isles, 58-82.
 „ East Indies, 156.
 „ Guiana, 155.
 „ Honduras, 155.
 „ West Indies, 155.
 Burma, 130, 131.

C

CALCUTTA, 119, 120.
 Calms, 21.
 Canada, 82-103.
 Canadian Pacific Railway, 53.
 Canals, 48, 49, 52.
 Cape Colony, 47, 132-140.
 Ceylon, 130.
 Cheese, 69, 98.
 Climate, 3, 6-16, 22, &c.
 Coffee, 129, 156.
 Colonies, 10, 61.
 Columbia, States of, 37.
 Competition, 42, 50, 56.
 Corinthian Canal, 49.
 Cotton, 54, 126, 127.

Currents, 25-27, 45, 46, 58, 104, &c.
 Cyclones, 21.

D

DESERT, 22.
 Dominion of Canada, 82-103.

E

EARTHQUAKES, 16.
 Ecuador, 37, 38.
 Egypt, 11.
 Electricity, 13.
 England, 62-65, 67-82.
 Esquimalt, 86.

F

FIJI ISLANDS, 156.
Fish, 39, 40, 55, 74, 75, 87, 154.
 Floods, 15, 16, 94.
Fruit, 47, 99, 100, 112-114, 138.
Furs, 103.

G

GLASGOW, 65, 80.
Gold, 102, 103, 115, 116, 152, 153,
 157.
Grapes, 47, 112, 113, 138.
 Great Lakes, The, 86.

H

HALIFAX, 85.
 Harbours, 35, 47, 48, 60, 62-67,
 85, 86, 105-107, 119, 120, 133,
 147, 148.
 Holland, 11.
 Hudson Bay Route, 83,
 Human Wants, 2.

I

INDIA, 118-131.
 Industries, 3, 40, 55, 62, 71-82, &c.

* Only a few of the most important subjects and places are referred to in this Index.

Insular Position, 59.
Irrigation, 31, 137, 144.

J

JAMAICA, 156.
Johannesburg, 157.

L

"LABOUR," 2, 3, 12, 142, &c.
Lakes, 34, 86.
Leeds, 77, 78.
Light, Artificial, 8, 13, 14.
Liverpool, 64, 77.
London, 63, 75, 78.

M

MANCHESTER, 77.
Manufactures, 3, 70, 76-82, &c.
Marine Industries, 40, 55.
Markets, 2, 73, &c.
Melbourne, 105.
Migrations, 4, 57.
Milk, 74.
Minerals, 30, 62, 64, 69, 70, 76-82, 100-103, 114-117, 139, 143, 145, 152, 153, 157.
Monsoons, 20, 21.
Montreal, 84.
Motive Power, 35.
Mountains, 7, 17, 28-31, 66-70, 89, 108, 120, &c.

N

NATAL, 12, 140-144.
Necessaries of Life, 2, 4.
Newcastle, 62, 76.
Newfoundland, 27, 154.
New Zealand, 13, 39, 146-153.
Nile, The, 33, 34.
Norway, 13.

O

ORANGE RIVER COLONY, 157, 158.

P

PASTURE, 69, 73, 74, 98, 99, 109-111, 124, 135-137, &c.
Population, 3-5, &c.

R

RAILWAYS, 38-44, 50, 52, 71, 77, 78, 125, &c.
Railway Rates, 41-44.
Rhine, The, 33.
Rice, 126, 130, &c.
Rivers, 31-34, 62, 63, 89, 121, &c.
Roads, 35-38.
Routes, 41, 45, 46, 53, 55, 56, 77, 78, 83, 84, &c.
Russia, 29.

S

SEA, The, 8, 24-27, 61, &c.
Seasons, The, 14.
Sheep, 69, 135, 136, 149.
Snow, 22, 96.
Soil, 9, 28, 29, &c.
Steamers, 46, 57.
Straits Settlements, 156.
Sugar, 113, 143, 155, 156.
Switzerland, 29.
Sydney, N.S.W., 107.

T

TASMANIA, 12, 117.
Tea, 128, &c.
Thames, The, 25.
Tides, 25, 85.
Timber, 53, 95-98, 125, 130, 150.
Tobacco, 128, 137, 146.
Towns, 3, 15, 35, 40, &c.
Trade, 1, 50.
" British, 72.
" Winds, 18-21.
Transport, 35-51, 59, &c.
Transvaal Colony, 156, 157.

W

WANTS, Human, 2, 4, 73.
War, 52-56, 68.
Water-Power, 12, 13, 117.
Wheat, 87-94, 112.
Winds, 17-22, 46.
Wine, 112, 138.

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CONTENTS

	PAGE
COMMERCE	3
DIVINITY	3
DOMESTIC SCIENCE	4
ENGLISH	4
FRENCH	7
GENERAL	7
GEOGRAPHY	8
GERMAN	8
GREEK	9
HISTORY	10
LATIN	11
MATHEMATICS	13
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TECHNOLOGY	16
<hr style="width: 20%; margin: 5px auto;"/>	
SERIES OF EDUCATIONAL WORKS	17-20

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