

**THE INDUSTRIES OF  
GREATER LONDON**

# THE INDUSTRIES OF GREATER LONDON

BEING A SURVEY OF  
THE RECENT INDUSTRIALISATION  
OF THE NORTHERN AND WESTERN  
SECTORS OF GREATER LONDON

BY

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WITH A FOREWORD BY

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## FOREWORD

THE Survey of Industrial Development to the north-west of London which Dr. D. H. Smith has made, is one of great value in itself, and of even greater value as indicating the kind of information which ought to be available for the whole of the London region, and for many other districts where industrial expansion is taking place, or where efforts to promote it are badly needed. Those engaged upon town and regional planning find the greatest difficulty in obtaining the kind of information upon which their proposals should be based. Many statistics are collected for such purposes as factory inspection, unemployment insurance, population, and so forth; but the planner finds usually that some important element is missing to give a complete picture of what has taken place. He may know the number of new factories opened; but how far they are fresh ventures, or how far they have migrated, or, if the latter, whence they have come, is not recorded. Yet the most vital matter for the planner may well be to know whether he is faced with an industrial drift to London from the north of England or abroad, or whether it is a decentralising movement from the heart of London towards the outskirts. He may seek to check results with figures for unemployment insurance or population; but even so, may be puzzled to know how far London is attracting industries in a positive way, or how far depression in other districts impels them to move in spite of difficulties.

For these reasons such a careful investigation as that here published is very welcome; the results are enlightening and helpful to the planner, and one must hope that other districts will be dealt with. Moreover, such studies should help to show how the collection of information and the compiling of statistics for different purposes, and by different authorities, might be the better co-ordinated, not only to

serve each its individual purpose, but each to contribute a helpful quota to a more complete and valuable survey of conditions.

I strongly commend this survey of recent industrialisation to all who are interested in industrial, social or planning progress.

RAYMOND UNWIN.

*March 31st, 1933.*

## PREFACE

IN 1924 I visited certain parts of Greater London and came to the conclusion that the growing industrialisation, which was then apparent, would probably be accentuated in the next decade. The subsequent development of new industries in the northern and western sectors of Greater London has justified this assumption.

At the time I found little statistical material available indicating the nature and direction of this growth. I therefore determined to undertake an industrial survey of the area and collected evidence directly from industrialists and the local authorities. This volume gives the results of my investigations.

If this book stimulates further enquiry into new developments of industry in other parts of the metropolis, it will have been worth the effort expended. While many attempts have been, and are still being, made to trace the growth of industries and population in the metropolitan area, much field work remains to be done. If we are to be proud of the greatest metropolis in the world, we should at least endeavour to remove some of the social tumours caused by the sporadic growth of residential areas in juxtaposition to factories, with no regard to the health, safety, and æsthetic welfare of the people. The stimulus of economic gain, with entire freedom from control, has not always proved to be productive of good planning in the past. This enquiry does, however, show that the pressure of economic forces is leading to a decentralisation of industries from overcrowded areas in London—a movement which is all to the good, provided we do not perpetuate on the fringe of Greater London the evils which have been allowed full play in certain parts of London itself.

I am indebted to Professor J. F. Unstead for his advice and stimulating influence during the four years in which I had the pleasure of working under his guidance at Birkbeck College.

To my friends and colleagues, Thomas Beach and Edwin C. White, I am grateful for constructive criticism and advice, given freely during my whole period of research ; and to the local authorities for giving me all the information they had at their disposal.

To my wife, I am indebted for the typing and re-typing of the MS. and for the support and encouragement without which this book would not have been written.

D. H. SMITH.

LONDON,  
*April, 1933.*

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