

UNITED STATES TARIFF COMMISSION

**THE TARIFF
AND ITS HISTORY**

**A COLLECTION OF GENERAL INFORMATION
ON THE SUBJECT**

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES





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UNITED STATES TARIFF COMMISSION

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FOREWORD

The contents of this brochure are brought together under one cover in response to the many requests received by the Tariff Commission for general information on the subject of the tariff. Most of the information herein set forth is carried through the Tariff Act of 1930, which is the tariff law of the United States at the time of the preparation of this edition. Copies of the Tariff Act of 1930, which is not a publication of the Tariff Commission but a congressional document, are obtainable from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, in this city at 20 cents a copy.

The material contained herein consists in large part of excerpts from the Dictionary of Tariff Information, a publication issued by the Tariff Commission in 1924 and now out of print. This dictionary, containing technical information and statistical data relative to commodities mentioned in the Tariff Act of 1922 and a description of tariff systems, methods, practices, and history, is a reference book to be found in most general libraries.

The Tariff Commission has no authority to devise or alter the national tariff policy or to construct the general tables of rates of duty. These powers reside in the Congress. The Commission has certain powers to advise Congress and the President, to exercise other powers and certain functions in cases falling under those provisions of the Tariff Act of 1930 which prescribe and limit what the Commission shall do. Its publications, therefore, do not contain or discuss arguments for or against any form of tariff, but are for the most part economic studies of specific articles covered in the tariff act, of industries, or of international trade as affected by our customs law. For its own use, the Commission has compiled a subject index to its publications; this index has, however, had some public distribution and may be had upon request.

There are many private organizations whose main functions are to keep informed of all activities that affect in any way the duties, or the collection thereof, on imported articles.

Such organizations as the American Tariff League, 25 West Forty-third Street, New York City; the Home Market Club, 38 Chauncey Street, Boston, Mass.; the National League of Women Voters, 532 Seventeenth Street, Washington, D.C.; the World Trade League, 366 Madison Avenue, New York City; the Rawleigh Foundation, Freeport, Ill.; the Foreign Policy Association, 18 East 41st Street, New York City; National Foreign Trade Council, 1 Hanover Square, New York City; Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 700 Jackson Place, Washington, D.C., have literature dealing with tariffs. Persons interested in making a study of the various phases of the subject may obtain additional information from these organizations.