

BRITISH AND FOREIGN TRADE AND INDUSTRY
(SECOND SERIES).

SECOND SERIES OF
MEMORANDA, -STATISTICAL TABLES,
AND CHARTS

PREPARED IN THE

BOARD OF TRADE

WITH REFERENCE TO VARIOUS MATTERS BEARING ON

BRITISH AND FOREIGN TRADE AND
INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.



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To the RIGHT HONOURABLE G. W. BALFOUR, M.P., PRESIDENT of the
BOARD OF TRADE.

SIR,

IN compliance with your instructions the present collection of Memoranda and Statistical Tables and Charts bearing on British and Foreign Trade and Industrial Conditions has been prepared in the Commercial, Labour, and Statistical Department of the Board of Trade in continuation of those contained in the volume (Cd. 1761 of 1903) presented to Parliament last year.

In the prefatory note to that volume it was stated that the memoranda contained therein did not profess to cover the whole ground, and that there were "points on which the available data are inadequate, but which prolonged inquiry would be necessary in order to clear up." The conditions as regards limitation of time under which the memoranda had to be prepared precluded the inclusion of the results of any fresh inquiries, except such as could be carried out within a few weeks. Since the publication of the volume, however, it has been possible to continue and to extend the inquiries with regard to a number of points on which the collection of fresh data was requisite, and the present volume includes the results of these further inquiries, so far as they have as yet been carried.

While the principal object of the present memoranda is to cover ground which was wholly or partially left uncovered by previous inquiries, the opportunity has been taken to furnish in Appendices the figures necessary to bring up to date a number of the tables included in the previous volume, and also to correct the printers' and other errors which have been discovered therein.

I desire also to direct special attention to the concluding paragraph of Mr. Llewellyn Smith's Prefatory Note to this volume from which you will observe that the Department is actively engaged upon the preparation of a Statistical Abstract of the British Empire. I venture to think that this Abstract will be found to be of great utility and importance.

I have, &c.,

FRANCIS J. S. HOPWOOD.

Board of Trade,

December 1904.

PREFATORY NOTE.

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To the SECRETARY of the BOARD OF TRADE.

SIR,

THE volume of Memoranda, Statistical Tables, and Charts which I have the honour to present herewith, consists of seventeen Memoranda, some of them divided into several sections, together with two Appendices.

The first group of memoranda (I. to VI.) deals broadly with questions directly relating to the condition of the working classes, *i.e.*, their consumption of food, their cost of living, including food, rent, clothing, fuel, and light; and the fluctuations in employment, pauperism, emigration, and savings banks deposits. The first two of these memoranda (consumption of food and cost of living) relate solely to the United Kingdom, but the others give particulars so far as available for some of the principal commercial countries.

The above memoranda are followed by two (VII. and VIII.) relating to prices, *viz.*, a comparative statement of the prices of cereals and flour in the principal countries for as long a period as possible; and the preliminary results of an inquiry by the method of index numbers with regard to the average course of ocean freight rates for the past twenty years.

The next three memoranda (IX. to XI.) deal with Customs duties; the first showing the changes in duties on grain, flour, and meat in the principal countries for a period of years; the second dealing much more completely than was possible in the previous volume, with the relative incidence of foreign and colonial tariffs on the exports of British manufactured goods; and the third consisting of a revised and more complete statement of the Tariff treatment of British goods by foreign countries.

The next five memoranda (XII. to XVI.) relate to various aspects of foreign trade. The imports and exports of manufactured goods into and from the United Kingdom are analysed in various ways, and a table based on figures supplied by the Customs shows for a period of six months the results of the adoption of the new method of registering imports by country of consignment, as well as by port of shipment. The exports of the chief commercial countries to protected and unprotected markets are shown for a series of years according to the method previously adopted for the United Kingdom; and information is given in addition to that already published in the previous volume on the subject of drawbacks and kindred methods of remitting Customs duties, and on the proceedings of the German Commission on Kartells.

The last of the memoranda (No. XVII.) gives the preliminary results of an analysis made in the Department of the materials contained in various official returns of the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries with regard to the distribution of the population engaged in some of the chief industrial occupations.

The two Appendices which follow consist of information bringing up to date certain tables in the preceding volume of Memoranda (Cd. 1761 of 1903), and correcting the errata which have been discovered in that volume. The former Appendix is mainly confined to bringing up to date some of the more important comparative tables giving statistics for a series of years. No general attempt has been made to substitute later figures for those given for single years, or to indicate the changes in the text of the memoranda which would be required as a consequence of inserting more recent figures.

An Index to the present and the previous volumes is now being prepared, and will be issued shortly.

It may be desirable to indicate very briefly some of the principal points on which entirely fresh statistical data have been collected for the purpose of the above-mentioned memoranda, apart from the examination and rearrangement of already published materials.

The memorandum on Consumption of Food rests almost entirely on new data collected by special inquiry during the present year. The sections of the memorandum on Cost of Living relating to changes of rent, clothing, fuel and light are also to a large extent the outcome of original investigation, and the "index numbers" thus obtained as well as the final "index numbers" of workmen's cost of living (as represented by expenditure on food, rent, clothing, fuel, and light) are, therefore, fresh statistical results.

In the memorandum on Fluctuations in Employment, the figures for employment in the United Kingdom have been carried back for a long period of years by special inquiry and the analysis of unpublished records of trade unions. The foreign figures, however, are solely based on published returns, and the same is true of the statistics of Emigration and for the most part of Savings Banks, though the available information on the last-mentioned subject has been supplemented to some extent by fresh inquiries. The section of the memorandum on Pauperism which relates to Germany is based largely on special inquiries addressed to the poor-law authorities of German cities, and the results now published are therefore new.

The memorandum on the course of Ocean Freights is entirely based on special inquiries, and the resulting "index number" is therefore a fresh addition to the statistical data available on the cost of transport. The statistical tables in Memorandum No. XIII. with regard to the true countries of consignment of our imports are based on hitherto unpublished information.

The statistics given in the remaining memoranda are mostly derived from data published in some form either in the United Kingdom or abroad, or serve as a continuation of such data, but in some cases (notably the statistics of prices (No. VII.) and the distribution of population among industrial occupations (No. XVII.)) much research and rearrangement have been necessary before the information could be put together in its present form.

The qualifications with which statistical memoranda of the kind here presented should be read, and the caution necessary in drawing general inferences from imperfect and approximate data, have been fully referred to in the prefatory note to the previous volume, and it is only necessary to state that the caution there enjoined is fully as requisite in dealing

with the present collection of memoranda, which relate in many cases to subjects on which the information obtainable is very imperfect and incomplete.

It is to be understood that some of the investigations are still in progress, and that the results now published are in some cases to be regarded as only preliminary.

It will be noted that the powerful method of "index numbers," which was adopted to a considerable extent in the previous inquiries, has been still more freely utilised in connection with several of the investigations included in the present volume, and it is therefore desirable to refer to the paragraphs in the prefatory note to the previous volume which explained at once the basis and limitations of this method.

Finally, it may be observed that the present volume deals to only a limited extent with statistics of trade with and among the various British Colonies and Possessions, inasmuch as a collection of statistics relating to Imperial Trade, Shipping, and Production is now being prepared by the Board of Trade, and will be shortly presented to Parliament in the form of a Statistical Abstract of the British Empire.

I am, &c.,

H. LLEWELLYN SMITH.

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