

# THE KING'S REVENUE

BEING

A HANDBOOK TO THE TAXES AND  
THE PUBLIC REVENUE

BY

W. M. J. WILLIAMS

"The revenue of the State is the State. In effect all depends upon it,  
whether for support or for reformation."

BURKE—

"Reflections on the French Revolution."

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To

THE RIGHT HON.

DAVID LLOYD GEORGE, M.P.

CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER;

AND THE DISTINGUISHED

SON OF MY FATHER'S FRIEND ;

WITH MUCH RESPECT AND ADMIRATION.

## PREFACE.

THE experience of some years has shown the need of a convenient reference on our Revenue and Taxation. The attempt made to supply this want in the following pages will, it is hoped, be of service to many classes in our population. The work should be found to contain most of the facts pertaining to the Taxes of the United Kingdom, and the Revenue which they yield, which will be required in ordinary by busy men of all grades. Without any attempt at treating the various subjects touched exhaustively, all the chief avenues of the Public Revenue have been treated separately under their various heads of Customs, Excise, and other Inland Revenue, while a reference will be found in their place to the minor taxes which are imposed also. Every chapter has been divided into three sections, viz., *History*, the *rate* at which a tax is imposed now, and some *statistics* of the yield of revenue during recent years. In that way it is hoped that the work will prove useful to very many of our citizens. If the questions which are addressed to one almost daily may be taken as an indication of a want, then this work may be calculated to supply that want.

I trust, however, that this first attempt to do so will be met with great indulgence. No one can be more conscious than I how many open doors to mistakes and blunders, and worse, such a task as the preparation of such a work offers. Any corrections, therefore, will be received gladly at the Publishers'.

My debt to many workers in the domain of the public finances is great, and I should like to be allowed to acknowledge it heartily. To the great work of Mr.

Chisholm,<sup>1</sup> which he prepared in 1868, and to Sir T. J. Pittar's<sup>2</sup> most valuable report on the customs, my obligations are very great; and the reference to these fine State documents causes me to add that the work as a whole is based throughout on official documents, and in some cases liberal use has been made of such official matters as suited my purpose. This will be quite apparent to those whose eyes are accustomed to scan such things.

Throughout also it has been the sole object to present the facts respecting the Taxes and the Revenue in as objective a manner as possible. The title, it is hoped, will be acceptable also, especially as the scope of the work passes beyond the taxes only, and embraces the whole of the King's Revenue.

By references to the chief Acts of Parliament touching the Revenue it is hoped the value of the work has been increased substantially.

W. M. J. W.

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<sup>1</sup> Pp. 366 and 366-1 of 1869—"Public Income and Expenditure."

<sup>2</sup> C. 8706 of 1898—"British Tariffs, 1800—1897," and "The History of the Tariffs since 1660."

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