

**STAPLE TRADES
AND INDUSTRIES.
VOL. I. WOOL**

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Staple Trades and industries. Vol. I. Wool by Frank Ormerod

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FRANK ORMEROD

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AND INDUSTRIES.
VOL. I. WOOL**

STAPLE TRADES AND INDUSTRIES
EDITED BY GORDON D. KNOX
Vol. I.

W O O L

FRANK ORMEROD



"THE LANDS WHERE MILLIONS OF SHAGGY-COATED SHEEP ARE BEING RAISED."
(Reproduced by courtesy of the *Australian Government*.)

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W O O L

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BY

FRANK ORMEROD

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1918



EDITOR'S PREFACE

WERE it not for the logic of facts it would seem unnecessary to emphasise to any British subject the vital importance of British trade. Recent events, however, have shown that the country in the past was far from being alive to the possibilities of development that lay and still lie before it. We have been content to let other nations benefit by and exploit the discoveries made by British men of science and British artisans and looked on idly while the trade of which we might have had a monopoly slipped from our grasp.

To-day we are faced with an expenditure so vast that only a rapid development of British trade can restore our prosperity. Various steps have been taken by the Government to spread a greater knowledge of trading conditions all over the world and to foster the growth of British and Imperial trade. Government activity, however, has never succeeded in creating a nation's trade and must inevitably be dependent on the initiative of the trading community.

Every year, partly because of and partly in spite of the increasing specialisation of trade, the need becomes greater for the closest possible study

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of the national trade. And a study of the national trade involves a close knowledge of trade conditions in the dominions and colonies, in Allied countries and throughout the whole world. Experience in every department of life has shown the weakness of purely *ad hoc* knowledge. Much has to be learnt by all classes of the community that has no direct bearing on their immediate concerns, and the penalty for not acquiring such knowledge is a narrowing of the outlook and a lessening of efficiency. In commercial life wide knowledge is equally essential to individual and national prosperity. The mistakes of the past—the whole history of the dye trade is only one of many glaring examples—are mistakes for which commercial men must share the blame with the politicians. New problems which can only be solved by those possessing that power of foresight which depends on wide, well-digested knowledge are continually arising and the old problems are perpetually requiring fresh solution.

Knowledge of this essential sort is lacking in Great Britain and the Empire, largely because it is not available in a form that can easily be appreciated by those without expert training in the individual trades. Yet the knowledge is vital to all those who have the interests of the Empire at heart. Events have shown that the public dare not remain in ignorance. It is the duty of the individual citizen to realise the factors on which the

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prosperity of the Empire depends, to have exact knowledge as to the sources both of the raw materials and of the manufactured products that enter so largely into the life of the country. On more than sentimental grounds he should be able to distinguish clearly what goods are prepared or produced in the British Isles, what come from the overseas Empire, what are of Allied origin, and what come from neutral and what from actually or potentially enemy countries.

It is the purpose of the present series to supply this want. Each volume in it is the work of an expert, and in every case care is being taken to give an exact but general view of the staple trades as a whole. It is hoped that the information so presented will be of value to those who may be brought actively into contact with the industries concerned, that they will enable the nation as a whole to form a sound judgment on questions of commercial importance, and that they will thereby serve a cause of the highest national and Imperial magnitude.

GORDON D. KNOX.

