THE LANDED INTEREST AND THE SUPPLY OF FOOD

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649222544

The landed interest and the supply of food by James Caird

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd. Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JAMES CAIRD

THE LANDED INTEREST AND THE SUPPLY OF FOOD



THE LANDED INTEREST

AND

THE SUPPLY OF FOOD.

THE

LANDED INTEREST

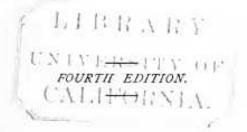
AND

THE SUPPLY OF FOOD.

BY

JAMES CAIRD, E.R.S.,

Author of "English Agriculture in 1850 and 1851."



CASSELL, PETTER, GALPIN & CO.:

LONDON, PARIS & NEW YORK.

1880.

[ALL BIGHTS RESERVED.]

PREFACE.

This Treatise was prepared at the request of the President and Council of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, to exhibit a general view of British Agriculture, for the information of European Agriculturists at the International Agricultural Congress of Paris, in 1878. For this purpose it was trans lated into French by M. de la Tréhonnais, and so published in Paris. It was then published, with other contributions on analogous subjects, in the Fournal of the Royal Agricultural Society, and as a separate work in this form. A fourth edition having been called for, the opportunity has been taken to make such emendations as have been rendered necessary by the increasing pressure of foreign competition.

J. C.

Queen's Gate Gardens, London, June, 1880.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

Home and Foreign Supply of Food.

PAGE

Functions of Government in regard to the Supply of Food-Value of Cereal and Animal Food imported from Abroad-Rapid Rise in the Value of Meat-will be checked by Importations from America-Proportion of Home and Foreign Supply of Food in this Country-England now chiefly dependent on Foreign Supplies for further Increase-Cost of Carriage equal to the Rent of Land here-Agricultural Statistics sufficiently accurate for use-Their main Features-Diminution of Corn in Ireland-Present Agricultural Prosperity of that Country-Extent of the various Crops and Numbers of Live Stock-Quantities and Value of Home and Foreign Produce, respectively, consumed annually in this Country ...

CHAPTER II.

Changes and Progress in Agriculture in Recent Years.
PAGE

Reaping and Mowing Machines-Steam Plough -Double - furrow Plough - General use of Steam-power-Successive Corn-crops-use to which this might be put in time of Warcapable of checking a permanent great Rise in Price of Wheat-Autumn Culture and Steampower, with imported Manures, have given great command of Crops-Mr. Lawes' Experiments: their Value and some of their special Lessons-The Experiments at Woburn-Extension of Land-drainage and Improvement of Farm-buildings and Labourers' Cottages-Change within 30 years, more in general diffusion of Improved Practice, and better Breeds of Stock, than in the introduction of New Systems-Greatest Change caused by the Prosperity of the Country and the Rise in the Value of Animal Food-vast consequent Increase in the Capital Value of Live Stock and Landed Property 15-31

CHAPTER III.

Soil, Climate, and Crops.

Extent of Country and Proportion of various Crops
—as influenced by Climate, Situation, and Rain-

PAGE

fall—Weight and relative Value of Corn-crops

—Examples of Soils of greatest and least Natural

Fertility—and of an average Soil unmanured and

specially manured—Plants which predominate
in uncultivated Land 32—39

CHAPTER IV.

Distribution of Landed Property.

Tendency to Diminution in Number of small Estates-Proportion of Landowners to whole Population as one in a hundred-These, being Heads of Families, equivalent to one in twenty-Hence one-twentieth of Population interested in Landed Property-Increased to one-fifth by the Interests of Tenant-farmers as part Owners of Agricultural Property-One-fifth of the Land held by the Peerage-Not cultivated by Owners but by Farmers-relative Extent of their Holdings in England and in Ireland-Trade and Colonies enable us to dispense with Checks on Increase of Population-that checked in Ireland by Potato Famine-Decrease in Number of smallest Holdings there on return of Prosperity-Diminution of Agricultural Population-and of Yeomen farming their own Land-Experiment of Peasant Proprietors in Ireland-Plan Recommended ... 40-55

CHAPTER V.

Landowner, Farmer, and Labourer.

PAGE

The Landowners, their Position, Duties, and Influence-Their Number, and the immense Capital Value of their Property-The Tenant-farmers, the proportional Extent of their Holdings, their Numbers and Capital-the Labourers-Condition now better than at any previous Period, comparing their Wages with the Price of Bread -Each of the three Classes constantly recruited by changes of Property and Employment-Result of the System, compared with that of other Countries, shows larger Returns at less Cost-Special Features of System in England-in Scotland-in Ireland-Tenancy-at-will in England-Leases in Scotland-Middlemen in Ireland, and the Result ... 56-78

CHAPTER VI.

Land Improvement.

Hindrances by Settlements and Incumbrances— Expedients adopted to overcome the incapacity of Owners to provide Capital for Improvement —State Loans for Land Improvement—Followed by Loans from Land Improvement Companies—