

**THE TARIFF DICTIONARY,
A COMPENDIOUS
HANDBOOK TO THE
FISCAL QUESTION**

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The tariff dictionary, a compendious handbook to the fiscal question by Anonymous

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PREFACE.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY has expressed a desire that the Blue Book published by the Board of Trade last autumn, usually known as "The Fiscal Blue Book," should be boiled down into handy form for the consumption of the public at large. The TARIFF DICTIONARY is a boiling down of that Blue Book, and many other Blue Books, and many other statistical compilations besides, and contains in addition original matter relating to the Tariff question not to be found in the before-mentioned sources. It is hoped, therefore, that it will supply the need felt by Lord Rosebery.

The TARIFF DICTIONARY is not a book to read : it is intended for a handy book of reference. Considerable trouble has been experienced in the selection and preparation of the facts and figures contained in it ; but it is hoped that usefulness and relative completeness have not been sacrificed to the necessary conciseness. The statistics have been obtained from the best available sources, and efforts have not been spared to ensure the accuracy of the figures. As to the sources of the

information, they are too numerous for detailed acknowledgment, but among them may be named the various publications of the Board of Trade, the Statesman's and other Year-Books (of Germany, Argentina, &c.), the American Consular reports, the reports of the British Iron Trade Association, Lloyd's Register, Mr. T. J. Pittar's "History of the Customs Tariffs of the United Kingdom," and Mr. G. B. Curtiss's American work, "Protection and Prosperity," in addition to "The Case for Protection," and the columns of the daily and the periodical Press.

THE TARIFF DICTIONARY.

ABYSSINIA.—*Area*, 150,000 square miles. *Population*, 3,500,000. *Chief Products.*—Cattle, sheep and goats; coffee, velvet, gum, wax, ivory. The forests abound in valuable trees. There is a primitive iron manufacture.

		EXPORTS. (From Addis Abeba and Harrar.)		IMPORTS.
Av.		£		£
1899-1900	...	494,700	...	679,965

TRADE WITH UNITED KINGDOM.

		EXPORTS TO,		IMPORTS FROM.
Av.		£		£
1899	...	760	...	13,859
1900	...	1,776	...	20,412
1901	...	246	...	19,599
1902	...	40	...	10,062

AFGHANISTAN. — *Area*, 215,000 square miles *Population*, 4,000,000. *Chief Products.*—Cereals, castor oil, madder and assafœtida; temperate and sub-tropical fruits; iron; precious stones. *Chief Industries.*—Sheepskin manufacture, silks, felts, carpets and various articles from camel's and goat's hair. *Foreign Trade* (no satisfactory statistics).—Imports from India, chiefly cotton goods, dyeing materials, sugar and tea. *Fiscal System.*—Heavy transit dues prohibit transit trade

between India and the country north of the Oxus. A duty of 106 rupees is levied on every camel load (about 450 lbs.) of Indian tea passing through Kabul to Bokhara.

AGRICULTURE is strictly applicable only to those of the farming industries which are directly connected with the cultivation of the soil, and is often even more narrowly confined to arable cultivation pure and simple. Speaking generally, however, the agricultural industry includes almost all the distinctively rural industries, such as dairy-farming, stock-raising, butter and cheese making, &c. In the course of development of industrial communities, agriculture as an important industry comes almost, but not quite, at the beginning; *i.e.*, the pastoral industry (and sometimes mining) usually precedes it. Agriculture, of course, implies, at least a fairly well settled condition of the country, and therefore succeeds the roaming tribal system.—In this country agriculture has been practised as far back as history carries us. Even in the days of the Britons corn was cultivated, and exported to other parts of the Roman Empire. From those early days onwards until modern times agriculture has been England's greatest industry, and no small part of mediæval legislation was for the purpose of encouraging husbandry and discouraging excessive sheep-grazing. Even to-day, though, both relatively to the larger population and actually, the number of persons and the amount of capital engaged in agriculture is less than formerly, agriculture still remains the principal industry, in the sense that it employs more people than any other one industry.—The idea that the state of agriculture is a matter of minor importance to a country was never promulgated until the era of the Corn Law Repeal agitation—at a time, that is to say, when many were looking forward to an era of permanent peace and to the advantages of securing cheap foreign food for this country, in order that England might devote itself with greater energy to, and have larger markets for, its manufactures. The belief, however, that a healthy agriculture is essential to

the welfare of the country has never entirely died out, though its spokesmen have been very few and hesitating; but latterly more has been heard of these views. The reasons for desiring a healthy agricultural industry in the country may be summarised as follows: (1) Agriculture is the most healthy occupation. (2) It is from the villages that the best of our soldiers and sailors are drawn. (3) The agricultural life tends to the physical well-being of the race, while the urban life tends to its deterioration. (4) Owing to the decline of agriculture the Navy has found more difficulty in getting recruits, and the Army has had to reduce the standard measurements of soldiers in order to enable it to recruit from the more stunted inhabitants of the towns. (5) The agricultural life also tends to national stability. (6) In the interests of national defence it is necessary that we should be able to feed ourselves to a much greater extent than we do to-day, as in times of naval war food might be cut off. (7) A well populated country side is also in the interests of the manufacturing industries, since it provides them with their best and readiest market. (8) A healthy agriculture also relieves congestion of the labour market in towns. (9) An immense amount of capital has been expended upon English agriculture, and great economic waste is involved in the present dereliction; it has been estimated that in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, owing to agricultural depression, a thousand millions of landlords' capital and 150 millions of farmers' capital have been lost. (10) A native food supply is, further, advantageous in that its quality can be more securely guarded than in the case of imported food. (11) It is in the interest of the adequacy and permanent cheapness of the national food supply that the lands of this country, as well as of other countries, should be tilled to their utmost reasonable capacity.

Decline of British Agriculture.—Early statistics are not available, but in the forties, at the time of the Corn Law Repeal, it was estimated that England produced 22 million quarters of wheat annually. This was probably a little in excess of the amount, since the

consumption to-day, with a much larger population, does not much exceed 30 million quarters annually, and in the forties England was not a large exporter. There is reason to believe, however, that in spite of the increase in population, a check in the expansion of agriculture was the immediate result of the Corn Law Repeal, and that a decline shortly afterwards commenced. Owing, however, to the fact that foreign sources of supply were not then developed to the extent of to-day, English agriculture was maintained in a condition of prosperity up to the middle of the seventies. Since then the development of new lands in America and elsewhere and the increased facilities for transport have, owing to the lack of a protective tariff, caused England to buy more and more of her food from over seas, resulting in the decline of arable cultivation and the impoverishment of the industry at home. The extent of the decline will be seen in the appended statistics of cultivation.

The total area of Land and Water in the United Kingdom (including Isle of Man and the Channel Islands) is 77,682,516 acres.

TOTAL ACREAGE UNDER CROPS AND GRASSES.

Av.	Acres.	Av.	Acres.
1871-5	... 46,984,000	1896-1900	... 47,826,000
1876-80	... 47,403,000	1901	... 47,761,000
1881-5	... 47,741,000	1902	... 47,753,000
1886-90	... 47,932,000	1903	... 47,709,000
1891-5	... 47,988,000		

WHEAT.—ACREAGE.

Av.	Acres.	Av.	Acres.
1871-5	... 3,737,000	1896-1900	... 1,957,000
1876-80	... 3,190,000	1901	... 1,746,000
1881-5	... 2,830,000	1902	... 1,773,000
1886-90	... 2,488,000	1903	... 1,621,000
1891-5	... 2,016,000		

BARLEY OR BERE.—ACREAGE.

Av.	Acres.	Av.	Acres.
1871-5	... 2,599,000	1896-1900	... 2,178,000
1876-80	... 2,753,000	1901	... 2,141,000
1881-5	... 2,479,000	1902	... 2,083,000
1886-90	... 2,314,000	1903	... 2,022,000
1891-5	... 2,277,000		