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Methuen's Commercial Series. A Commercial Geography of the British Empire by Lionel W. Lyde

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**LIONEL W. LYDE**

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"I shall be glad  
If all my labours, failing of aught else,  
Suffice to make *some* inroad and procure  
A wider range for thought."

—Paracelsus.



## PREFACE

THIS volume will be found to consist of two parts—an Introduction, which treats of general principles, and the Application of such principles to the larger areas of the British Empire. Apart from the personal interest of the Empire to ourselves, it may also be looked upon as an epitome of the world.

With this in view, special prominence has been given to special products from different parts of the Globe, *e.g.* Canadian *wheat*; and, in the case of that particular product, I have added a detailed account of the conditions under which it is produced—partly because of the intrinsic importance of the subject in a country which cannot provide its inhabitants with home-grown *bread*, and partly to illustrate a method of treatment which may be applicable elsewhere.

The study of Geography from the economic point of view is of great moral and social importance, for it is essentially concerned with the production of *necessaries*. The Multitude have no leisure; their Standard of Comfort is bare necessity; and their lives are made utterly sordid and sad by the constant struggle with grinding poverty. Consequently, the physical conditions of their lives make moral and mental growth practically impossible. Of course, *wheat could* be grown on Ben Nevis, but only at an enormous expense; and souls *are* saved amid scenes of the deepest want and suffering, but it is—as it were—reaping upon Ben Nevis.

Thus, the production of cheap, good food in abundance has a direct and vital bearing on the leisure and, therefore, on the possible higher development of the Many; and one great obstacle to it at present is ignorance of the Geographical conditions under which necessities of life are produced.

I gladly take this opportunity of acknowledging my long and increasing indebtedness to my former Chief, J. J. Rogerson, Esq., LL.D., of Merchiston Castle, Edinburgh, for his very kind encouragement and valuable advice. Through him I am also indebted to Merchistonians all over the world, from whose conversation or letters to him I have obtained most useful information on Geographical and kindred subjects. I am similarly indebted to my friend, Cyril Harrison, Esq., formerly of Qu'Appelle College, Assiniboia.

#### PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

A few misprints have been corrected, and the statistics have been brought up to date; but otherwise no change has been made in the book except the addition of a few facts about some of the smaller British possessions—on page 154.

*October 21, 1897.*

#### PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION.

The demand for a third edition has given me an opportunity of expanding the sections referred to above on the smaller British possessions, and of adding a short account of the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies.

L. W. L.

*November 20, 1900.*

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