THE AGE OF FOLLY; A STUDY OF IMPERIAL NEEDS, DUTIES AND WARNINGS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649039975

The Age of Folly; A Study of Imperial Needs, Duties and Warnings by Charles J. Rolleston

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

CHARLES J. ROLLESTON

THE AGE OF FOLLY; A STUDY OF IMPERIAL NEEDS, DUTIES AND WARNINGS

Trieste

THE AGE OF FOLLY

A STUDY OF IMPERIAL NEEDS DUTIES AND WARNINGS

CHARLES J. ROLLESTON



JOHN MILNE 29 HENRIETTA STREET, COVENT GARDEN LONDON 1911

640345

THE author has to thank the Editor of the Westminster Review for permission to reprint from that periodical two articles which form Chapters VIII, and IX. of the present work. Both have been revised since their publication in 1904.

JV 1018 R65

CHAPTER I

THE WRITING ON THE WALL

A bypath in India—The City of Victory—The Empire of Vijianagar—Its wealth and culture—Causes of its decay— The Mohammedan conquest—Sack of the city—Now lost in the jungle—A political object-lesson

CHAPTER II

THE LESSON OF ROME

The beginnings of decay—The policy of doles—Inequality of wealth—Official corruption—Decline of agriculture—The craze for amusement—Public insecurity—Development of trades unionism—Rome's warlike neighbours—Warnings disregarded—Art and beauty a prey to barbarism.

CHAPTER III

THE LESSON OF SPAIN

Natural endowments of the Iberian peninsula—Wealth of the Jews and their expulsion—The Moors in Spain—Economic results of their banishment—Poverty and depopulation of Spain in the seventeenth century—False conception of wealth—Dissolution of the Spanish Empire

25

PAGE

1

11

CHAPTER IV

THE LESSON OF THE NETHERLANDS

Natural characteristics of the country-Condition of its first inhabitants-Their struggle for existence-Their wealth and culture-The War of Independence-Amsterdam the warehouse of Europe-Germs of decay-Particularist tendencies-Policy of John de Witt-Free Trade and decentralisation-False security-Neglect of national defence -Effects of Free Trade on Dutch industries-National poverty and oligarchical wealth-War with France-Murder of De Witt-Wars with England and Prussia-Subjugation by Napoleon-Future prospects of the Netherlands

36

PACE

CHAPTER V

THE VOICE OF CASSANDRA

Causes of national decay—Symptoms in Great Britain— Conditions of national security—Industry and employment —Foreign policy—Military obligations—Democracy and its responsibilities—Colonial preference and Imperial union —Danger of delay

61

CHAPTER VI

THE LEAKAGE OF BRITISH WEALTH

Character of the Anglo-Celtic people—Is it retaining its vitality? —Dependence for food on foreign countries—Decay of agriculture—Pauperism and unemployment—Difficulty of restoring vanished industries—Dumping and its results— Flight of British industries—Advantages and disadvantages of dumped imports—Manifest unsoundness of our present economics

74

CHAPTER VII

THE MANUFACTURE OF PAUPERS

Public and private charities—Unsatisfactory results—Profits of mendicancy—Pampering the pauper—The farm colony at Laindon—Poplar Workhouse—Past history of Poplar—Its present condition—The unemployed—South Ockendon farm colony—A workhouse menu—Insubordination of inmates — Attempts to relieve unemployment — Mr. Mackenzie at Canning Town—The tyranny of taxation—A scheme of reform

97

CHAPTER VIII

MISCHIEVOUS CHARITY

Profits of begging—Causes of vagrancy—Dutch labour colonies —Scheme of Mr. Wilson Carlile—Attitude of the State towards vagrancy—Old age pensions—Example of the Jews —Discussion of the Act—Charitable organisation in general—Evils of indiscriminate charity—Of charitable bequests—Cases of the Lichfield, Canterbury, and Bedford charities

CHAPTER IX

BEHIND THE MASK

AGE

CHAPTER X

WASTED NATIONAL RESOURCES

Wasted national resources-Waste lands and foreign timber-Forestry in France-In Germany-In Belgium - The coming timber famine-Resources of North America-Potential resources of Britain-Present treatment of these resources compared with foreign countries-The New Forest-Advantages of afforestation-Prospects in Ireland -Coniferous timber and oak in England and Ireland-Objections answered-Probable profits-Methods of promoting forestation-Public action necessary - Financial basis of the scheme-Instances of success

. 176

PAGE

CHAPTER XI

THE HUNTING GROUNDS OF CREESUS

CHAPTER XII

OUR NEGLECTED GARDENS

viii

CHAPTER XIII

REVIVAL OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign imports of agricultural produce-Deserted fields and idlers in the towns-The secret of agricultural success-Cooperation on the Continent-The question of transit-Report of the Earl of Jersey's Committee-Apathy of the British farmer-Beginnings of co-operation-A lesson from Ireland -The work of Sir Horace Plunkett-Mr. G. W. Russell on rural organisation - Mr. Chamberlain's scheme-Potential resources of Great Britain-Comparison with Japan-Views of Mr. Lawson on the future of agriculture-Physical deterioration-Evidence of Miss Sayer on mental defectives-Probable results of the reforms indicated

CHAPTER XIV

AID FOR THE ENEMY

Character of the Anglo-Celtic race—Failure to deal with unemployment—Foreigners in the merchant service— Dangers of the present situation—Foreign pilots—Handicapping of British vessels—Leakage of official secrets— Secret orders to British trading ships—Cerman naval development—The German point of view—Dangers of national apathy

. 277

CHAPTER XV

THE SCEPTRE OF POWER

Wealth and military power-Our export of steam coal-National purchase of-coal fields-Efficacy of the army-Lessons of the Boer War-Alternative methods of providing for home defence-Conscription-Provision for discharged soldiers and sailors - Military conditions in India and Africa-Delusion of the working classes upon Imperialism-Lord Dufferin's views on Indian Empire in relation to British working classes-Effects on India of our retirement-Summary and conclusion

ix

PAGE

241

304