

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON ALMANACK FOR 1882.

TRADE, COMMERCE, AND INDUSTRIES OF NATIONS.

A noteworthy improvement has been observed in the financial condition of mankind. The earnings of nations, it is found, have risen in twice the ratio of population. At the same time, the public debt has increased 43 per cent; but this is counterbalanced by the outlay in making new railways, which has exceeded since 1870 £184,000,000 over the total of new debts. In like manner, although taxation has grown 22½ per cent, which is more than the geometrical progression of earnings, the net balance per head of population is higher. The account stands, in millions sterling, as follows:—

	1870.	1880.	Ratio of increase.
Earnings	5652	6773	19'84 per cent
Taxes	794	971	22'34 "

Net earnings ... 4558 ... 5802 ... 19'42 "

If we distribute the earnings among the population of Christendom, we find as follows:—

	Population.	Net Earnings.	Average per Head.
In 1870	375,129,000	£4,858,000,000	£12 15 6
In 1880	411,728,000	5,802,000,000	13 15 2

This shows, as far as money can, how much the condition of mankind has improved in the last ten years. Perhaps the secret of prosperity has been the development of the carrying trade, by land and sea, which has risen 53 per cent, and cheapened all the products of industry by placing the producer and consumer in closer relation than before.

There are six industries of nations which reach in the aggregate a total of 10½ milliards sterling, thus showing an advance of 22½ per cent since 1870. The average produce of human industry per head is over £25; being a rise of 12 per cent since 1870. The advance in Great Britain is double the European average, the figures being as follows:—

INDUSTRY PER HEAD.

	1870.	1880.	Advance.
Great Britain	£53 13 0	£58 11 0	£4 18 0
Europe	21 2 0	23 4 0	2 2 0
United States	38 9 0	40 1 0	1 12 0
The World	22 10 0	25 2 0	2 12 0

The increase observed between *Cotton and Wool* is remarkable, and continues with varying fortunes, as appears from the following summary:—

	1870.	1880.
Cotton Manufactures	£240,000,000	£285,000,000
Woolen	246,000,000	278,000,000
Linen, Laces, Silks, &c.	162,000,000	220,000,000
Total	£648,000,000	£783,000,000

A glance at the production of wool and cotton in all countries, shows that the Australian clip has more than doubled since 1870; and a similar increase has taken place in the cotton crop of the United States. There is altogether a rise of 330 million pounds, or 22 per cent, in wool, and 994 million pounds, or 37 per cent, in cotton since 1870. In the case of iron, steel, and coal, Great Britain is still by far the largest producer; the figures being 42 per cent of iron, 36 per cent of steel, and 45 per cent of all the coal consumed by the world.

The *Commerce and Shipping*—that is, the trading of the world—has risen to £776,000,000 sterling, the principal increase being as follows:—

Great Britain	£145,000,000
United States	129,000,000
Germany	114,000,000
Other Nations	388,000,000

£776,000,000

In 1870 the British flag covered 51 per cent, and in 1880 56 per cent of all the carrying power of the merchant shipping of the world. The construction of railways has kept pace with trade and commerce, for since 1870 more than 100,000 miles of railways have been made, at a cost of 1759 millions sterling, and distributed as follows:—

	Miles.	Cost.	Per mile.
Great Britain	2,159	£187,000,000	£86,600
Continent	37,698	783,000,000	20,800
Europe	39,857	£970,000,000	£24,300
United States	41,883	578,000,000	13,800
Colonies, &c.	18,747	211,000,000	11,230
The World	100,487	£1,759,000,000	£17,520

British railways have been the most costly; nevertheless, they have rendered more service for capital expended than those of other nations. The traffic of the world may be taken, if a passenger and a ton of merchandise be taken as equivalents of each other, as follows:—

	1870.	1879.
Great Britain	518,000,000	844,000,000
Continent	617,000,000	943,000,000
Europe	1,135,000,000	1,787,000,000
United States	260,000,000	408,000,000
Colonies, &c.	50,000,000	95,000,000
Total	1,445,000,000	2,290,000,000

The traffic returns, however, on the whole, show a decline of 11 per cent. The *Telegraph Service* shows an increase of 280,000 miles.

Increase of Population is dealt with in another place. It may be remarked that Europe in 1870 showed a surplus of 25½ million births over deaths, but emigration reduced the actual increase to 22½ millions. Whilst the Franco-German War cost Europe 819,000 human lives, the French loss being 70 per cent of the total. With regard to the United States of America, the increase of population a good deal exceeds the aggregate number of inhabitants of three European Kingdoms—Holland, Denmark, and Portugal, but our Australian Colonies very much exceeds the ratio of the United States.

The *Art of War* shows that although there are fewer men under arms in Europe, the annual expenditure for both armies and navies has increased by about 25 per cent. As to the cost of the material, the British soldier

now costs £101 per annum, against £98 in 1869; but the burden of military and naval expenditure on each inhabitant or taxpayer in Great Britain is somewhat less than it was in 1870, although for the world the average is higher, viz. :—

	1870.	1880.
Great Britain	11'92 per cent	11'88 per cent.
Europe	13'87 "	15'38 "
United States	13'39 "	9'21 "
The World	14'05 "	14'34 "

And at present the armaments of Europe absorb 3 per cent of the total earnings of nations; and consequently the burden is heavier by 3 per cent than it was ten years ago.

Food Supply.—Of the food consumed, Europe has a great deficit. No less a quantity than 350 million bushels of grain and 853,000 tons of meat yearly. On the contrary, the United States have a surplus of 370 million bushels of grain and 1,076,000 tons of meat. On the whole, the world shows an over-consumption of 22 million bushels of grain and a surplus of 2,144,000 tons of meat. The consumption of food in Great Britain and the United States is much over the European average per head. It is as follows:—

	Grain, bushels.	Meat, lb.
Great Britain	20'02	119'10
United States	40'66	120'00
France	24'02	81'88
Germany	23'71	84'51
Europe	17'66	57'50
The World	20'19	68'87

Wealth of Nations.—Money in abundance has little to do with national prosperity. Spain has most money, compared with national industry; England the least. Switzerland has most coin per head. The paper money of the world has risen from 592 millions in 1870 to 799 millions sterling in 1880, being an increase of 34 per cent. The amount of gold and silver coin is 823 millions sterling. With regard to the gold coinage, one fourth disappears or is transformed in ten years; so that the net increase since 1870 has been only 210 millions, or 5 per cent over the yield. In all matters of business cheques take the place of coin—in England to such an extent that, on an average, only 10s. of coin are employed for every £100 of business transacted. If the commerce and money of all nations be compared (India alone excepted), it will be found that the world's trade in 1880 was transacted as follows:—

	Amount.	Aliquot parts.
Gold coin	£554,000,000	19'93
Silver "	269,000,000	9'61
Bank notes	773,000,000	27'81
Cheques, &c.	1,186,000,000	42'65
Total	£2,782,000,000	100'00

The total of new national debts since 1870 is £1,575,000,000 sterling, or £184,000,000 less than the cost of new railways in the same period. That is hardly 34 per cent of the increase of wealth. The increase in the wealth of the United States is most remarkable, and the same may be said with regard to Australia.

The average net earnings of mankind have risen nearly twenty shillings since 1870, as the following summary shows:—

	1870.	1880.
Great Britain—		
Earnings	£30 10 6	£33 10 4
Taxes	3 13 5	3 19 9
Net Income	£26 17 1	£29 10 7
Europe—		
Earnings	£13 14 2	£14 13 6
Taxes	1 18 7	2 7 0
Net Income	£11 15 7	£12 6 6
United States—		
Earnings	£27 11 8	£27 18 4
Taxes	3 13 10	2 12 7
Net Income	£23 17 10	£25 5 9
The World—		
Earnings	£14 17 10	£16 2 1
Taxes	2 2 4	2 6 11
Net Income	£12 15 6	£13 15 2

Although the net income has increased, the relative burden of taxation is heavier, as will be seen in the following ratio table:—

	1870.	1880.
Great Britain	16s. 8d. per inhabitant	16s. 0d.
Europe	7s. 10d.	9s. 2d.
United States	11s. 0d.	4s. 6d.
The World	8s. 1d.	8s. 5d.

A RETROSPECT OF ENGLAND'S PROSPERITY.

	In 1870.	In 1880.
Exports, in round numbers of millions pounds sterling, show an increase of forty-four millions in ten years	£244,000,000	£286,000,000
Savings Banks show a very considerable increase	£58,000,000	£78,000,000
Pauperism of England and Wales show a decrease of nearly a quarter of a million	£1,079,000	£837,000
Income Tax returns	£445,000,000	£578,000,000
In the consumption of tea there was an increase	117,000,000½ lb.	158,000,000 lb.

The last trade returns show that we have reached dimensions never before attained. The great increase in postage is chiefly due to our commercial relations, and the increase in post-cards alone reached the enormous number of 118,810,800, being an increase of 5,000,000 over that of any former period. Comparing the Imports for the same period, these were £303,000,000 in 1870 against £411,000,000 in 1880.