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BOOK NOTES.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

(United Nations publications may be obtained in Australia from Messrs. H. A. Goddard Pty. Ltd., 255A George-street, Sydney.)

Statistical Yearbook, 1948. Statistical Office of the United Nations, New York, 1949, pp. 482, \$6.00 (Aust. 54s. od.).

This is the first issue of what is to be an annual publication. It is probably the most comprehensive international statistical publication yet compiled and may well be regarded as indispensable by economists and all those who wish to have readily available first-hand information on world trends in finance, agriculture, secondary industries, population and a great many other matters.

The publication is divided into twenty sections together with several appendices. To mention just a few of the various section headings—population, manpower, agriculture, manufacturing, transport, balance of payments, social statistics, education, culture—indicates the scope of the volume.

Detailed statistics are given for all major countries separately and, while the period covered is not entirely uniform, in most cases figures cover the years 1928 to 1947; in some cases 1948 figures are included.

An alphabetical country index is provided, but, although there is a fairly detailed table of contents, a general alphabetical index would add appreciably to the value of the publication.

The text is in both English and French.

Inflationary and Deflationary Tendencies, 1946-1948. Department of Economic Affairs, United Nations, New York, 1949, pp. v., 52, \$0.40 (Aust. 3s. 7d.).

This publication, which contains a brief theoretical introduction, surveys inflationary and deflationary trends during the period 1946-48 by countries or groups of countries. A great deal of interesting and useful information is spread throughout the pages of this report.

In the concluding remarks it is stated that "the latter part of 1948 and the beginning of 1949 appear to represent a turning point in the post-war economic developments. This period was characterised (*a*) by a fall in prices, especially of food, in some important countries; (*b*) by many instances of partial derationing and decontrol as a result of easing of specific shortages; and (*c*) by an increase in unemployment in a number of countries."

Only the second of these three generalisations applies to Australia, where prices are still rising and where employment continues at record high levels.

Technical Assistance for Economic Development. United Nations, New York, 1949, pp. viii, 328. \$2.50 (Aust. 22s. 6d.).

This report was prepared to give effect to a resolution of the Economic and Social Council requesting—

“. . . the Secretary-General, in consultation with the executive heads of the interested specialized agencies through the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, and taking into consideration the suggestions of Member Governments, to prepare a report for the ninth session of the Council setting forth:—

‘1. A comprehensive plan for an expanded co-operative programme of technical assistance for economic development through the United Nations and its specialized agencies, paying due attention to questions of a social nature which directly condition economic development.

‘2. Methods of financing such a programme, including special budgets; and

‘3. Ways of co-ordinating the planning and execution of the programme.’”

The report is divided into two parts. The first part sets out the objectives and nature of the programme; the second gives, in detail, proposals of the various agencies of the United Nations. Readers of this journal will be interested in the proposals of the Food and Agriculture Organisation, which are set out in some detail in Chapter 9. As might be expected, the majority of proposals relate to under-developed countries.

National and International Measures for Full Employment. Department of Economic Affairs, United Nations, New York, 1949, pp. vii, 104. \$0.75 (Aust. 6s. 9d.).

Article 55 of the United Nations Charter reads, “With a view to the creation of conditions of stability and well-being which are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, the United Nations shall promote:—

‘(a) Higher standards of living, *full employment* and conditions of economic and social progress and development’”

In Article 56 “All Members pledge themselves to take joint and separate action in co-operation with the Organisation for the achievement of the purposes set forth in Article 55.”

In furtherance of the United Nations full employment pledge a small group of experts was appointed to report on national and international measures required to achieve full employment. Australian, E. Ronald Walker, acted as Chairman of the group.

This report embodies the group's recommendations on measures, both national and international, considered essential if full employment is to be maintained.

Recent Developments in the World Economic Situation. Department of Economic Affairs, United Nations, New York, 1949, pp. vi, 48. \$0.40 (Aust. 3s. 7d.).

This short report reviews major economic developments during the first half of 1949 and in some cases covers the third quarter of that year. It is in fact a supplement to the *World Economic Report*, 1948, which was published by the United Nations in July, 1949.

Economic Survey of Latin America, 1948. Department of Economic Affairs, United Nations, New York, 1949, pp. xx, 279. \$2.00 (Aust. 18s. od.).

This survey contains a mass of factual information on the industries, both primary and secondary, of the various South American countries. The chapters relating to Agriculture, Population Characteristics and Manufacturing are of particular interest.

The publication should prove useful to anyone wishing to obtain a general picture of the economic situation in South America as a whole or in individual countries of that continent.

Methods of Financing Economic Development in Under-developed Countries. Department of Economic Affairs, United Nations, New York, 1949, pp. vii, 163. \$1.25 (Aust. 11s. 3d.).

A report prepared in co-operation with the specialized agencies of the United Nations of "methods of financing economic development of under-developed countries, including methods of stimulating the international flow of capital for this purpose."

Relative Prices of Exports and Imports of Under-developed Countries. Department of Economic Affairs, United Nations, New York, 1949, pp. viii, 156. \$1.00 (Aust. 9s. od.).

A study undertaken "in order to provide a factual basis for consideration of international action which may be taken to aid economic development of under-developed and less developed countries."

An interesting, but brief, section of the study deals with price trends of various commodities since the mid-thirties.

Final Report of the United Nations Economic Survey Mission for The Middle East. United Nations, New York, 1949.

Part I—The Final Report and Appendices, pp. viii, 103. \$1.00 (Aust. 9s. od.).

Part II—The Technical Supplement, pp. vi, 74. \$0.80 (Aust. 7s. 2d.).

The final report of the Survey Mission established by the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine. The Mission was asked "to examine the economic situation in the countries affected by the recent hostilities" in Palestine and was requested "to make recommendations for an integrated programme . . . to promote economic conditions conducive to the maintenance of peace and stability in the area."

Part I contains the Mission's recommendations. Part II—The Technical Supplement—contains a useful survey of "Agriculture in relation to the Economic Development of the Middle East."

Economic Bulletin for Europe. Third Quarter, 1949—Vol. 1, No. 3, United Nations, New York, 1950. \$0.50 per copy, \$1.50 annually (Aust. 13s. 6d.).

A quarterly bulletin prepared by the Research and Planning Division of the Economic Commission for Europe. It is designed to provide a statistical summary and quarterly review of the economic situation in Europe in the intervals between the publication of the Economic Commission for Europe's annual economic surveys.

The current issue, in addition to providing up-to-date statistics of production, prices, trade, etc., in Europe, contains two special articles, one on "Coal Production and Trade in Europe since the War" and the other on "The Regional Interdependence of Germany."