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### BOOK NOTES.

**Economics with Applications to Agriculture**, Edwin F. Dummeier, Richard B. Heflebower and Theodore Norman. McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York, Third Edition, 1950. Pp. xv, 718, \$5.00.

A third and substantially revised edition of this book, which is so well known in the United States, has recently been published.

The book in its earlier form was the work of Edwin F. Dummeier and Richard B. Heflebower. This third edition has been thoroughly revised and in parts completely re-written by Dr. Theodore Norman, formerly Head Agricultural Economist in the Food Distribution Administration of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The general plan of the book remains much the same as in the earlier editions, but the sections relating to money and the business cycle, in particular, have been brought into line with modern economic theory. In contrast to the earlier editions, the Keynesian approach is emphasised. Considerable re-writing and alteration of emphasis is evident in other parts of the book also.

The book was originally designed as a college text-book in agricultural economics and in its field it is probably the most comprehensive publication available. However, like so many American text-books, it is bulky and rather too detailed for use as a text by students at Australian agricultural colleges. Overmuch attention still seems to be paid to out-moded economic theories. Nevertheless the book should prove invaluable to university students taking courses in agricultural economics.

Economists and other interested in the economic aspects of agriculture who are not already conversant with this book will undoubtedly find it of considerable value.

### PUBLICATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

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

**Economic Survey of Europe in 1949.** Research and Planning Division, Economic Commission for Europe, Geneva, 1950, pp. xv, 299, 18s. 9d. (Aust.).

The third in an annual series dealing with economic conditions in Europe, this publication, like its predecessors, *Survey of the Economic Situation and Prospects in Europe*, published in 1948, and *Economic Survey of Europe in 1948*, published in 1949, contains a wealth of factual information relating to industrial and agricultural production and general economic trends in Europe during 1949.

Trends in production, employment, output per man, investment and trade are examined. The conclusion is reached that "the general slowing-down of economic progress which Europe experienced during the inter-war period need not be repeated" and that, "given appropriate policies, the potentialities exist for a large and sustained increase in

production and a more efficient utilisation of growing man-power resources." It is estimated that, given appropriate policies, Europe's total industrial production could be increased by about 50 per cent. in the next decade. The position with regard to agriculture does not appear to have received detailed examination, but the view is expressed that agricultural production could be expanded "substantially."

It is of interest to note that agricultural production has recovered much more slowly since World War II, than has industrial production. It is estimated that agricultural production in 1949 was only 90 per cent. of the pre-war level. On the other hand, industrial production in 1949 in Europe (excluding the U.S.S.R.) was estimated to be 10 per cent. above the 1938 level.

**Economic Survey of Asia and the Far East 1949.** Department of Economic Affairs, United Nations, New York, 1950, pp. xix, 485, 28s. 9d. (Aust.).

Another factual survey containing a wealth of useful information is this report prepared by the Secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East.

The survey is divided into two parts. Part I deals with general economic developments during the year, together with trends in production both agricultural and industrial. Part II examines factors and problems underlying the post-war economic development of the area. The region's place in the world economy is examined in this section, while there is also a brief analysis of population changes, and an examination of developments in flood control and water resources generally. A chapter is also devoted to a brief examination of planned development in some, but not all, of the countries concerned.

As in Europe, industrial production in Asia and the Far East has increased at a much greater rate than has agricultural production. In 1949 the agricultural production of the region was only 92 per cent. of the pre-war average. Industrial production was generally above pre-war levels, while in some cases, it was substantially greater.

**Catalogue of Economic and Social Projects 1950.** United Nations, New York, 1950, pp. xx, 515, 34s. 5d. (Aust.).

As the title implies, this is essentially a work of reference in which the work of the United Nations and its specialized agencies is listed, described and classified.

The catalogue outlines the functions of the United Nations and of each of its divisions and specialized agencies.

In all, 723 projects, either completed or in hand during the period covered by the catalogue (January, 1949, to January, 1950) are listed and an account is given of the origin, character and scope of each project.

This publication should prove of great value to workers in many fields who wish to keep abreast of research being undertaken in their own particular field. Details of all publications issued by the United Nations and its specialized agencies during the year under review are listed, while a detailed analytical index is also provided.

**Economic Development in Selected Countries—Plans, Programmes and Agencies. Volume II**, United Nations, New York, 1950, pp. xiii, 271, 18s. 9d. (Aust.).

This is the second volume in a series of studies dealing with economic development programmes in selected countries. This volume covers programmes in Australia, Bulgaria, Colombia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Southern Rhodesia and the Union of South Africa.

The report is limited to a factual descriptive account of the various countries' programmes for economic development, together with a brief survey of the governmental organisations responsible for the implementation of the programmes. The material contained in the report is based primarily on information derived from official sources.

It is apparent that there has been an appreciable delay in publication but, nevertheless, the report should prove useful to those wishing to obtain background information relating to production and developments in the countries dealt with. There is no index.

**Agricultural Requisites in Latin America**, Department of Economic Affairs, United Nations, New York, 1950, pp. xvii, 156, 11s. 3d. (Aust.).

This report by a Joint Working Party established by the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Food and Agriculture Organisation, deals with the use and availability of agricultural requisites in Latin America and the effect that shortages of such requisites are having, or have had, on agricultural production.

While the position varies considerably from country to country, the overall supply position now appears to be rather similar to that existing in Australia. The Joint Working Party found that, while lack of availability of supplies is not now a serious impediment to the increased use of agricultural requisites in Latin America, some materials and equipment are still in short supply. Supply shortages appear to be confined to heavy equipment, particularly crawler tractors, equipment needed for well drilling and fencing wire, including barbed wire.

The report deals, in turn, with farm machinery, fertilisers, pesticides, storage facilities and programmes for increasing the area under cultivation and fisheries. Impediments to the greater utilization of agricultural requisites are examined, and on this and other matters dealt with in the report the Joint Working Party makes a number of suggestions.