

**COLLECTED NOTES ON  
THE TROPICS FOR  
A LIVING; FINANCE,  
LABOUR, EDUCATION**

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Collected notes on the tropics for a living; finance, labour, education by Harold Hamel Smith

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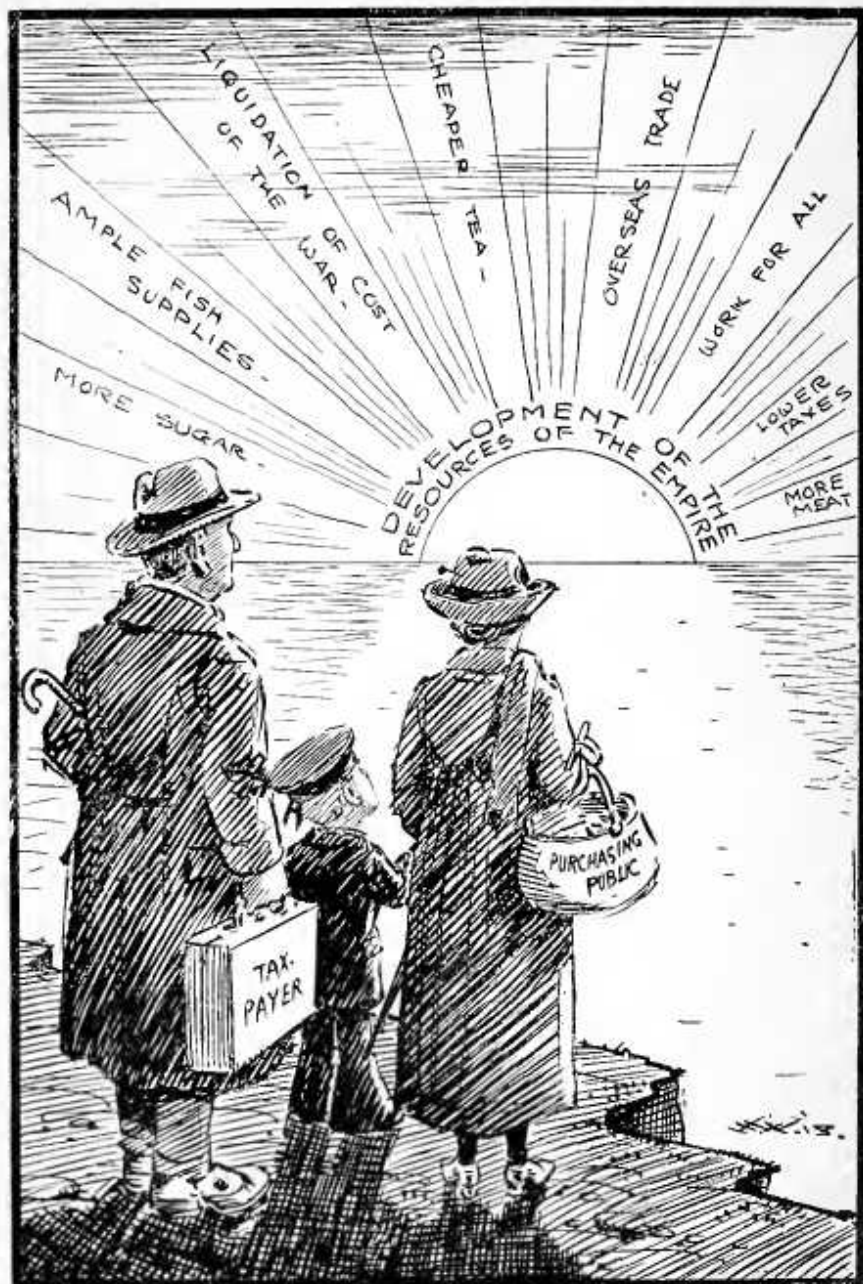
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**HAROLD HAMEL SMITH**

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## THE OUTLOOK.



As one at night in anguish, who smiles on her child at morn,  
So out of the pangs and pain of war shall plenty and peace be born.

THEODOSIA GARRISON.  
(Slightly altered.)

SECOND  
IMPRESSION

COLLECTED NOTES

ON

# THE TROPICS FOR A LIVING

*FINANCE*  
*LABOUR*  
*EDUCATION*

BY THE  
EDITOR OF "TROPICAL LIFE"



LONDON :  
JOHN BALE, SONS & DANIELSSON, LTD.,  
33-91, GREAT TITCHFIELD STREET, W.1.

1922

HC  
S. 50  
20/10  
1940

## AUTHOR'S NOTE TO THE SECOND IMPRESSION.

This book was originally published under the title that appears as the head line to each left hand page. In those days the question of native labour supplies and how far they would go round, was the dominant factor at all producing centres.

The trouble still exists, although the world is now suffering from a bad attack of under-consumption. When we all settle down and ask for normal supplies of tropical products, the labour question will become acute in the rush to plant up new areas so as to satisfy the demands of those who have gone short for so long. With such a prospect, the future planter and trader in the tropics must be trained accordingly. With an Agricultural College (about to start) in Trinidad, British West Indies, those able to finish their training there, after a sound practical training at home, will be able to learn much concerning the latest time and labour-saving appliances. It will be necessary to do so, as the producers of to-morrow will find labour a luxury that they cannot always afford.

Of late, judging by what one hears, the need of cutting down costs is causing many women to be taken back again into employment after having given up their berths to ex-soldiers. Such women badly need the money and are not "joining up" for fun. As they cannot go abroad as easily as men, especially to tropical centres (although we may yet see a demand grow up for scientifically trained women in connection with laboratory and analytical work or insect and fungoid pest troubles), we must give them every

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chance to earn their living on this side, and the best, in fact the only way that this can be done, is for the men to look elsewhere for a living and for a chance to help extend the trade and prosperity of the Empire at the same time.

We are told that the United Kingdom has twelve million more mouths to feed than she can properly fill, and that these extra millions should be encouraged and guided to our vast territories overseas. Included in this is a surplus of about two million women, whilst Canada, America, &c., need just that number. We must, therefore, do all we can to start the stream, and to see that it follows the easiest and safest course. I trust that both those who wish to make the journey as well as those who are to act as guides, may find some useful points on how to go ahead in the following pages.

In the section on Finance, I specially commend pages 67 to 70 and 75 to your notice, whilst all that is claimed as to the value of Agricultural Colleges in the tropics should be carefully studied, so that when the cry comes for more colleges, those who have need of their help will realize what a fight we had—from 1906 to 1921—to get the first started.

H. HAMEL SMITH.

5, Great Tower Street,  
London, E.C.3.

*July 1, 1922.*



Discussing the original issue in 1919, Lord Leverhulme was good enough to say:—

“I congratulate Mr. Hamel Smith on his great and successful labour in his book ‘How to Pay for the War.’

“The citizens of the United Kingdom cannot have their attention too strongly directed to the importance and value of the tropical portions of the British Empire. Life in temperate regions is dependent upon the tropics for a very large proportion of its necessaries. Nature has been generous to the tropical portion of the British Empire in giving it a rich fertile soil, capable of production ten-fold to that of the most fertile soil in the United Kingdom. There the rain falls and the sun shines in a temperature which is maintained as in a hot-house, but without the necessity of one single shovel-full of coal or any expenditure upon glass. A few years ago we heard a great deal of what was called ‘Intensive Production’ by means of cultivation under glass, and of the enormous increase in yield from land under such a system, but in the tropics we can have our intensive production without the cost of glass roofs or greenhouses or bell glasses, without the cost of hot-water pipes or boilers, and we can have the certainty that any development in the tropical portions of the British Empire will not only give us increased food supplies at home but will help to raise and civilize the natives of those outlying portions of the Empire and, in a few generations, lift them from their present condition, which are in many parts similar to those periods which we call the Stone Age and which it has taken Europe thousands of years to develop herself out of and to reach our stage of civilization.

“The whole human family the world over, of all races and

colour, looks to the United Kingdom and its people for help and guidance in development and progress. It is our duty to respond fully and immediately, without hesitation, to these calls upon us, and we are deeply indebted to Mr. Hamel Smith for his book which indicates so clearly the many directions in which such help and assistance can best be given.

“(Signed) LEVERHULME.”

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Referring to Lord Leverhulme's remarks the position as he described it three years ago is, to-day, not only unchanged but accentuated. Feeling this, in the paper I read before the Anglo-Spanish Society on January 17 of this year (1922), when discussing the need of fully utilising both the men and the land at our disposal, I claimed that “It is noticeable that those who cannot make the most of their labour seldom make the most of their land. Too many men live only for the present, when running an estate or opening up fresh land. You must give back to the soil and to the trees the full equivalent of what you take away year by year, otherwise, even in your own time, you will find crops fall off and your own value to the community grow less.” . . . improved methods . . . “increase crops considerably whilst reducing costs, for it is cheaper for five men to produce five tons of sugar than ten men to do so. With improved methods all benefit, planter and Government, because the total output of the community producing on the lowest possible basis of costs is sure to increase in quantity and therefore in taxable value.”

THE AUTHOR.

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