

**MAN AND HIS
MARKETS; A COURSE
IN GEOGRAPHY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9781760578626

Man and his markets; a course in geography by Lionel W. Lyde

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LIONEL W. LYDE

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Man and his Markets

A Course in Geography

BY

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London

MACMILLAN AND CO., LIMITED

NEW YORK: THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

1903

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HF 1027
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GENERAL

First Edition 1896.
Reprinted 1898, 1901, 1903.

GLASGOW : PRINTED AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS
BY ROBERT MACLEHOSE AND CO.

PREFACE.

THIS book is intended to supply a course of study in Geography, and is a companion volume to *Man on the Earth*. My experience as an examiner for the Oxford Local Examination Board and for the College of Preceptors, has confirmed that gained in teaching Geography to boys and in lecturing on it to working-men—namely, that it is impossible to teach the Geography of any particular area, with really satisfactory results, to any class which has not a substratum of geographical knowledge in two special lines.

The first of these is concerned with the great phenomena of the science, which I have already endeavoured to treat in *Man on the Earth*; the second is concerned with the chief necessities of human life, which form the main subject of the present volume.

The two books are written from exactly the same point of view, and on exactly the same lines; but they have this difference of subject-matter, as their titles indicate: *Man on the Earth* deals rather more with the physiographical, and rather

less with the economic, element than *Man and his Markets*.

The much greater attention paid to Geography in recent years, especially in Germany and the United States, has attracted notice in this country; and parents are constantly and urgently demanding that their boys should have "a *good general* knowledge of Geography," such as will fit them for business. The time allotted to the subject in school is, however, still very small—in my own case, forty-five minutes a week with each class. Consequently, there must be from the outset a recognition of these limitations; and this involves an arbitrary selection of the matter to be taught, and every possible device for saving time.

In making this selection I have been guided by two considerations; that the matter *must* be at once valuable and interesting, and that it *must* be presented in such a way as to appeal primarily to the reason and the imagination.

The most valuable information is that which bears most closely on our daily life; and this was found to be also the most interesting to the boys, because they heard it discussed at home or saw it referred to in the daily papers.

With regard to the saving of time, I found that the greatest waste of it was caused by the necessity for beginning afresh with every new country, and for repeating over and over again great principles, *e.g.* the reasons for the growth of towns. In other words, the boys could not make full use of physical and geological maps because they had not the necessary knowledge of principles. Practical experiment proved, however, that a whole term "wasted" on the

great phenomena of the science and on the chief necessities of life, was amply repaid when we came to deal with the earth piecemeal by continents and countries. And it is the result of this experiment with my own classes that is embodied in *Man on the Earth* and *Man and his Markets*.

This substratum of knowledge enabled us to understand the atlas, to argue constantly by cause and effect, and to apply known conditions instantaneously to new cases. It also involved us in constant verification of facts, and in constant appeals to observation.

Of course, it is absolutely essential to do such work in close connection with the atlas; and, in view of this, care has been taken to mention very few places which will not be found even on the cheapest atlas; e.g. "The Satchel," or Keith-Johnston's "Sixpenny." A wall-map is certainly very useful, especially a really large *Mercator*; but I have come to the conclusion that the most satisfactory results are obtained when every member of every class has an atlas of his own. Then every place can be looked out by every one every time that it is mentioned; and, if this is done carefully and constantly, names and positions come to be remembered with great ease and accuracy.

The experience of ten years has convinced me that Geography thus treated not only gives boys a mass of general knowledge of considerable practical value, but also arouses in them a keen interest in their relations to the planet on which they live; and the mental training is thoroughly scientific.

I hope that the large number of pictorial illustrations will help to make the information more concrete, and that the full triple index will be of use in systema-

tizing facts which are necessarily distributed over various parts of the book.

I have to thank Messrs. Methuen for their courtesy, in allowing me to make use of some of the material in my *Commercial Geography of the British Empire*, published by them.

L. W. L.

June, 1896.

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