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DEPARTMENT OF OVERSEAS TRADE.

REPORT

ON THE

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL
CONDITIONS

IN

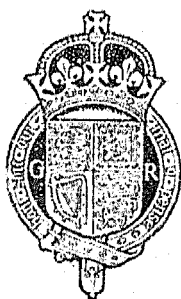
BRAZIL

Dated September, 1923.

BY

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Commercial Secretary to His Majesty's Embassy, Rio de Janeiro.



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DEPARTMENT OF OVERSEAS TRADE.

COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATION ABROAD.

To foster British overseas trade, the Department has developed and controls the following Services of Commercial Intelligence Officers:—

I. IN THE EMPIRE.

The Trade Commissioner and Imperial Trade Correspondent Services.

At the present time there are 13 Trade Commissioners' offices. These are situated, four in Canada (Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, Winnipeg); two in South Africa (Johannesburg, Cape Town); two in Australia (Melbourne, Sydney); two in India (Calcutta and Bombay—to cover also Ceylon); and one each in New Zealand (Wellington), British East Africa (Nairobi), and British West Indies (Trinidad).

The Trade Commissioners in the Dominions have the assistance of Imperial Trade Correspondents at a number of important centres.

In various parts of the Empire in which at present there are no commissioners, there are correspondents with whom the Department deals direct.

2. IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

(a) *The Commercial Diplomatic Service attached to the British Diplomatic Missions.*

This service consists of between thirty and forty posts in all, and the officers of the service are stationed in all the more important foreign markets of the world. The members of the Commercial Diplomatic Service are styled "Commercial Counsellors" in the highest grade, and "Commercial Secretaries" in the three lower grades. They are members of the staff of the British Embassy or Legation in which they serve.

The Commercial Diplomatic Officer has general supervision over the commercial work of the consular officers in his area, and, with the co-operation of these two services, a complete network of Government commercial representatives is thrown over foreign countries.

(b) *The British Consular Service.*

This service has been re-organized. Particular attention has been given to the commercial side of consular work.

Members of British firms are urged to call upon the Department's representative abroad when they visit an overseas country. It is also important that they should make a point of their representatives abroad keeping in close touch with the Department's officers.

A handbook giving fuller details of the overseas organization of the Department can be obtained on application at the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.

NOTE.

It should be understood that the views expressed in annual reports are the views of the officers themselves, and are not necessarily in all respects the views of the Department.

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

Area of Brazil : 8,524,777 square kilometres, or 3,291,416 square miles.

Greatest length : 2,691 miles.

Seaboard : 4,060 miles.

Population : 31,000,000 inhabitants.

Language : Portuguese.

Weights and measures : Metric system.

Other measures :

1 Alqueire = 6 acres.
1 Arroba = 15 kilos.

Currency units : Milréis (1\$000). Conto de réis (1:000\$000).

Exchange rate : This is the rate on London in pence per milréis.

Rates on New York, Paris and other financial centres are expressed in terms of the value in milréis of the foreign unit.

Legislative : Two Houses of Congress, viz., Chamber of Deputies and Senate.

Executive Government : Vested in the President, elected for a period of four years and a Cabinet nominated by him and responsible to him only. Members of the Cabinet are not members of Congress. The Cabinet consists of the following Ministers :—

Justice and Home Affairs.
 Foreign Affairs.
 Finance.
 Traffic and Public Works.
 Agriculture, Industry and Commerce.
 War.
 Marine.

Brazil occupies 33 per cent. of the whole South American sub-continent. It comprises 20 autonomous States and the Federal District, in which is situated the capital of the country, Rio de Janeiro. Each State has its own elected President and Congress. The Federal District is administered by the Prefect (nominated by the President of the Republic) and an elected Municipal Council.

Export taxes are levied by the various States of the Union
 Import Taxes (Customs) are levied by the Federal Government.
 45 per cent. of all the inhabitants of South America are Brazilians.
