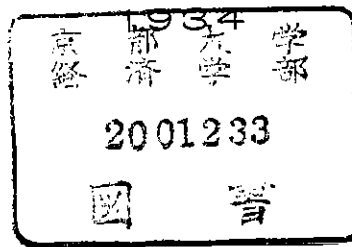


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ON THE NATIONAL WEALTH OF JAPAN IN THE YEAR 1930

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION.

There are people who contend that a national debt of over ¥10,000,000,000 imperils the foundations of national economy, while others maintain that, considering Japan's national wealth, a debt of this size need not cause any particular anxiety. Statistical investigations of national wealth or national incomes in the past partook largely of the nature of inquiries for inquiry's sake, but Japan to-day requires more practical figures in respect of national wealth, as such figures gradually furnish the basic reference material in framing national policy. Since, however, statistical investigations carried out to meet such practical needs are apt to suffer some subconscious distortion, it is important that the statistics of the national wealth of 1930, which were compiled in such an atmosphere, should be handled with special care.

Quite apart from the practical need of statistics of national wealth as a barometer of the power of absorbing national debt, the knowledge of how national wealth is constituted is very valuable in forming an idea of the general trend of national economy. For whereas economic statistics of all other kinds are concerned with certain particular economic activities only, statistics of national wealth are concerned with national economy as a whole. Concerning the national wealth of Japan, various figures have been made public in the past, but the first official statistics on this subject were those published by the National Census Board in October, 1921, regarding the national wealth in 1913, 1917 and 1919. These inquiries were made at the request of the League of Nations, which asked Japan to supply statistical figures regarding her national wealth, from the necessity of securing data for designating the eight great industrial countries of the world. In compliance with this

request, the National Census Board investigated the national wealth of the country. Subsequently, the Statistical Bureau of the Cabinet tried its hand at the compilation of statistics regarding national wealth in conjunction with statistics of national incomes, but for financial reasons, these inquiries could not be carried out in a thoroughgoing manner. As the need for statistics of national wealth became imperative, the Statistical Bureau of the Cabinet made a special appropriation for this purpose, and the statistics of the national wealth in 1930, compiled with the aid of this grant were made public in December, 1933.

The national wealth of Japan in 1930 is estimated at ¥110,188,004,000. If, however, one imagines that the capacity of the people to absorb national debt can be found by the simple process of working out the ratio in a formula which has this figure for the denominator and the amount of national debt for the numerator, one is guilty of hastiness. The published figures of national wealth were, it is true obtained after a good deal of labour and must, therefore, be made good use of, but at the same time it is not proper to expect too much from them. If the meaning of the figures of the statistics of the national wealth in 1930 is to be fully understood and adequate use to be made of them, the methods employed in compiling these figures and the results of this inquiry must be made clear.

CHAPTER 2. METHODS OF APPRAISING NATIONAL WEALTH

1. The appraisal of the national wealth in 1930 was carried out along the following lines of investigation:—

A. The scope of the inquiry: Both the total amount of physical property in Japan proper and the balance of oversea claims and obligations at the end of 1930.

B. The items and methods of the investigation:

(a) National wealth to be divided into the following 17 items, and valuation to be made in regard to each item,

the figures thus obtained being subsequently added together.

1. Land. 2. Mines. 3. Harbours and canals. 4. Bridges. 5. Trees. 6. Cattle and poultry. 7. Buildings. 8. Industrial machinery and implements. 9. Railways and tramways. 10. Vehicles and aircraft. 11. Shipping. 12. Electric and gas supply equipment. 13. Telegraph and telephone installation. 14. Water-supply equipment. 15. Goods in store (1. furniture, household goods and chattels. 2. Products. 3. Coins and gold and silver bullion). 16. Miscellaneous. 17. Balance of oversea claims and obligations.

- (b) The values of the properties of each of the above-mentioned items to be looked into and assessed either by reference to materials already in existence, or by inquiries addressed to proper quarters or by personal investigations on the spot, in accordance with the methods outlined in a separate document on the assessment of the national wealth in 1930. These values to be given under different categories, vis. State-owned, public-owned, and private-owned, and also classified according to prefectures. Where, in regard to certain kinds of wealth under various items, the values belonging to individual prefectures are not clearly known, the total of such wealth to be apportioned *pro rata* to the prefectures according to certain fixed standards.

The standard by which the above-mentioned values are to be assessed to be, as a rule, reproduction, values, in which case, however, wear and tear is taken into due consideration. In regard to those kinds of property to which this rule cannot properly be applied, the ruling market prices to be taken as the standard of assessment.

- (c) The inquiries on the spot to be conducted in regard to a number of typical families as they were on December 31st, 1932, the results of this inquiry to be converted into the values ruling at the end of 1930.

Individual methods of assessment I shall describe in Chapter 3, which deals with the results of the assessment of the national wealth, and in the present Chapter I shall study the general methods of assessment on the basis of the general lines along which this inquiry into the national wealth was conducted. For convenience' sake, I shall compare the present inquiry into national wealth with a previous one, the results of which were made public by the Statistical Bureau of the Cabinet in June, 1928, under the title of "Assessed National Wealth in 1924."

2. Inasmuch as the total amount of physical property in Japan proper was taken as the essential object of the investigation, objective methods formed the keynote of the inquiry in the present case as in the previous one. One salient feature of the present inquiry was that, whereas the previous inquiry extended over 22 items, in the present case physical property was divided into 16 items only.

In both inquiries, the first and the second items on the list were land and mines respectively, but the third item, which had referred to seas, lakes, rivers and harbours in the previous inquiry, in the present one comprised harbours and canals only. This was because, in the present case, the inquiry was confined to physical property. While excluding seas, lakes and rivers, artificially built canals were included.

The fourth item—bridges—requires no comment, but the fifth item—trees—in the present inquiry included, unlike that of the previous one, fire-wood, bamboo, fruit-trees, mulberry trees and tea plants, besides timber. The sixth item—cattle and poultry—also differed in contents from that of the previous inquiry in that it included farmed fish and bees.

The seventh item—buildings—differed in no way from that of the previous inquiry, but the eighth item—industrial machinery and implements—was exclusive of machinery for the supply of electricity and gas, which had been included in the corresponding item of the previous inquiry.

The ninth item—railways and tramways—was the same as that of the previous inquiry, while the tenth item consisted of vehicles and aircraft in the present inquiry, instead of vehicles only as in the previous inquiry. The eleventh item—shipping—showed no change.

Electricity and gas supply equipment in the twelfth item of the present inquiry had been included in the item relating to industrial machinery in the previous inquiry, and telegraph and telephone equipment, included in the previous inquiry under the heading of Departmental property of the Government, constituted, in the present inquiry, an independent item by themselves the thirteenth. The fourteenth item—water-supply equipment—was the same as the item water works in the previous inquiry.

With regard to the fifteenth item—goods in store—the first section—furniture, household goods and chattels—was the same as in the previous inquiry, but the second—products—included agricultural produce, forestry products, industrial products, mining products, aquatic products and imported goods, which had been listed under different items in the previous inquiry, while (3) coins and gold and silver bullion—corresponds to the item coins and gold and silver bullion of the previous inquiry.

The sixteenth item—miscellaneous—corresponded to the item others of the previous inquiry. It may also be mentioned that whereas in the previous inquiry there had been an independent item for the property of the various Government Departments, in the present inquiry such property was assessed under different items according to the nature of the property in question.

In short, although objective methods were adopted in both cases, the present inquiry was an improvement on the previous one in that the object of the inquiry was clearly defined as physical property, to the exclusion of natural things, that the formal item of Departmental property was discarded and all kinds of property were unified under practical headings, and that the contents of some items

were somewhat amended.

3. The object of the inquiry was the total amount of physical property in Japan proper, and while the principle of *statutus realia* based on objective methods was generally adopted, the principle of *statutus personalia* based on subjective methods was also applied in the case of the last, modifying item, viz. that relative to the balance of overseas claims and obligations. That is to say, national wealth was assessed by adding overseas claims to, and deducting overseas obligations from, the aggregate amount of physical property in Japan proper. The seventeenth item—the balance of overseas claims and obligations—in the present inquiry and the twenty-third item—overseas claims and obligations—in the previous inquiry afford the only cases in which subjective methods in contrast with the objective methods which characterise all the other items were employed.

One question that presents itself for consideration is how to deal with such wealth as covers Japan proper, Japan's colonies (Karafuto, Formosa, Korea, Kwantung province, the South Manchuria Railway zone, and the South Sea islands under Japanese mandate) and foreign countries. If the principle of *statutus realia* is to be enforced to the letter, only the physical property in Japan proper must be considered. To investigate the amount of wealth possessed by Japanese in countries other than Japan or the amount of wealth which foreigners possess in Japan proper would mean going into the field of subjective methods based on the principle of *statutus personalia*. If the principle of *statutus personalia* is to be applied as complementary to the principle of *statutus realia*, the necessity arises of making clear distinctions not only between Japanese and foreigners but between Japanese and the natives of the colonies. To help to make the problem clearer, let me denote the wealth in Japan, in the colonies and in foreign countries by A, B, and C respectively, in accordance with the principle of *statutus realia*, and the wealth possessed by Japanese, colonials and foreigners by a, b, and c respec-

tively, in accordance with the principle of *statutus personalia*. Then, the combinations, Aa, Ab, and Ac, Ba, Bb and Bc, and Ca, Cb and Cc, become possible. By assessing physical property in Japan proper in accordance with the principle of *statutus realia*, we can obtain Aa, Ab and Ac. Next, we must add oversea claims, Ba and Ca, to them, and then deduct oversea obligations, Ab and Ac, from the total. That is to say, as the result of harmonising the principle of *statutus personalia* with the principle of *statutus realia*, the wealth of Japan proper can be expressed in the following formula:—

$$(Ac + Ab + Ac) + (Ba + Ca) - (Ab + Ac) = \text{total amount of physical property in Japan proper} \pm \text{the balance of claims against, and obligations to, the colonies} \pm \text{balance of oversea claims and obligations.}$$

Since, however, the question of the claims and obligations between Japan and her colonies is very intricate and complex, the balance of claims and obligations in the present inquiry refers exclusively to such balance in regard to foreign countries. The national wealth-returns of the Statistical Bureau of the Cabinet, therefore, mean, after all:—

$$(Aa + Ab + Ac) + Ca - Ac = \text{total amount of physical property in Japan proper} \pm \text{balance of oversea claims and obligations.}$$

In the assessed wealth of Japan proper, therefore, the question of the claims and obligations of the colonies, is left out, but that of the claims and obligations of foreign countries is taken into consideration. Sandwiched between Japan proper and foreign countries, the colonies form, so to speak, a sort of vacuum. If, however, it so happens that the claims and obligations between Japan proper and the colonies cancel each other, this exclusion need not be considered as a serious matter. Indeed, as it is practically impossible to probe such relationships to the bottom, we must needs be content with the made of inquiry actually adopted, imperfect though it be.

Next, as to the meaning of the balance of oversea

claims and obligations. It is so laid down that it should be interpreted in a wide sense. That is to say, oversea claims include both the external funds supplied by subscribing to loans and debentures floated by foreign countries and the internal funds supplied by holding shares in foreign companies. Oversea claims include also enterprises directly undertaken in foreign countries.

4. The choice of the end of 1930 as the date of the investigation deserves attention. The first census in this country was taken in 1920, and subsequent censuses were taken in 1925 and in 1930. In 1930, the census was taken on October 1st, while the national wealth was assessed for December 31st. Thus, statistic inquiries into population and wealth took place in that year at an interval of three months. It will be advisable in future also for these two kinds of investigation to be carried out in the same year, as in the present.

It also deserves attention that the end of 1930 was the only year-end for some years past when the disparity in value between gold and paper money had become extinct and the yen exchange was stabilised. If national wealth is to be assessed at all, it is necessary that such wealth in terms of yen can be expressed foreign currencies also, for the purpose of comparison with the wealth of other countries. In countries like Japan, however, where the prices of many commodities fluctuate independently of the state of the foreign exchange, it sometimes happens that even a wide disparity in value between gold and paper money does not react on the prices of commodities at all. If, in such cases, national wealth is to be assessed on the basis of the prices in gold, it will have to be reduced to half when the exchange rate witnesses a 50 per cent. decline, for instance. The question also arises of how to interpret the gold clause in estimating the balance of oversea claims and obligations. Fortunately, however, at the end of 1930 there was no disparity between gold and paper money and the exchange was stabilised, and consequently this awkward question did

not present itself. As a problem likely to occur in connection with future assessments of national wealth, however, it is well to study how to deal with the disparity between gold and paper money.

5. Lastly, concerning the methods of assessment, the reproduction values, with due allowance made for wear and tear, were, as a general rule, adopted as the standard of appraising physical property. In the exceptional cases where this rule cannot properly be applied, the current prices were taken as the standard. The methods of assessment in the present case thus differed greatly from the methods adopted in the previous inquiry, in which the current prices and capitalized prices were adopted as the standards of assessment.

In regard to the values of physical goods, it is possible to find the cost value by the expenses involved in the past, or the present benefit value can be worked out by the current prices or by capitalized prices. Capitalized prices have their merits, but it is difficult to determine the multiplier. As, moreover, the Statistical Bureau of the Cabinet was then engaged in the work of assessing national incomes, besides national wealth, they were ruled out, and reproduction values, with due allowance made for wear and tear, were adopted as lying half way between cost values and benefit values. The current prices were, however, adopted where reproduction values could not properly be applied, as, for example, in the case of land.

CHAPTER 3. RESULTS OF THE INQUIRY INTO THE NATIONAL WEALTH

1. As already mentioned, the national wealth at the end of 1930 was assessed at ¥110,188,004,000. This figure shows that the national wealth at that date was bigger than that at the end of 1013, or that at the end of 1919 or that at the end of 1924. But since the methods of inquiry in the present case were different from those adopted in pre-

vious inquiries, the figure calls for due amendment, if a comparison is to be made. After the necessary amendment has been effected, it is seen that the national wealth at the end of 1930 was smaller than that at the end of 1919 or that at the end of 1924, though bigger than that at the end of 1913. Another point deserving attention is that there were violent price fluctuations between 1913 and 1930, a circumstance which makes it necessary to convert this nominal national wealth into real national wealth. Taking the real national wealth at the end of 1913 to be 100, that at the end of 1919 is 114, that at the end of 1924 is 160 and that at the end of 1930 is 177.

These relations are shown in the following table:—

| | Estimated amount. (In ¥1,000) | Amount assessed by unified methods. (In ¥1,000) | Index number of real national wealth. (%) |
|-------------|----------------------------------|--|---|
| End of 1913 | 32,043,130 | 41,580,348 | 100 |
| End of 1919 | 86,077,070 | 111,696,783 | 114 |
| End of 1924 | 102,341,600 | 132,802,238 | 160 |
| End of 1930 | 110,188,004 | 110,188,004 | 177 |

2. The following table shows the national wealth at the end of 1930, divided into State-owned, public-owned and private-owned property, and sub-divided into the various items with their respective amounts:—

It is noteworthy that private-owned property constitutes 84 per cent. of the total amount of national wealth, State-owned property 12 per cent., and public-owned property 4 per cent. Private-owned property is thus predominant. The figures of the previous inquiries failed to reveal this circumstance clearly.

The property under all items except the last one, which refers the balance of oversea claims and obligations (which was excluded because it is a modifying item) was divided according to prefectures so as to determine the

| | Actual amount. (In ¥1,000) | | | | Per thousand | | | |
|--|----------------------------|---------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|--------|
| | State-owned. | Public-owned. | Private-owned. | Total. | State-owned. | Public-owned. | Private-owned. | Total. |
| Land. | 3,125,048 | 1,412,335 | 36,553,965 | 41,091,348 | 232 | 305 | 397 | 373 |
| Mines. | 4,912 | — | 6,494,739 | 6,499,651 | 0 | — | 70 | 59 |
| Harbours & canals. | 247,228 | 94,621 | 1,294 | 343,143 | 18 | 20 | 0 | 3 |
| Bridges. | 10,274 | 472,726 | — | 483,000 | 1 | 102 | — | 4 |
| Trees. | 2,118,546 | 543,460 | 4,044,809 | 6,706,815 | 157 | 117 | 44 | 61 |
| Cattle & poultry. | 23,456 | 179 | 322,721 | 346,356 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 3 |
| Buildings. | 887,545 | 1,223,305 | 20,732,450 | 22,843,300 | 66 | 264 | 225 | 207 |
| Industrial machinery & implements. | 145,160 | — | 1,664,221 | 1,809,381 | 11 | — | 18 | 17 |
| Railways & tramways. | 2,585,935 | 258,001 | 754,202 | 3,598,138 | 192 | 56 | 8 | 33 |
| Vehicles & aircraft. | 346,892 | 17,092 | 269,310 | 660,294 | 26 | 4 | 3 | 6 |
| Shipping. | 1,048,867 | 9,581 | 1,001,788 | 2,060,236 | 78 | 2 | 11 | 19 |
| Electric & gas supply equipment. | 76,311 | 129,251 | 1,699,482 | 1,905,044 | 6 | 28 | 19 | 17 |
| Telegraph & telephone installation. | 195,902 | — | 3,200 | 199,102 | 14 | — | 0 | 2 |
| Water-supply equipment. | 3,219 | 343,285 | 6,275 | 352,779 | 0 | 74 | 0 | 3 |
| Goods in store. | 832,485 | 320,609 | 17,694,216 | 18,847,310 | 62 | 69 | 192 | 171 |
| Miscellaneous. | 2,055,160 | 14,102 | 181,253 | 2,250,515 | 153 | 3 | 2 | 20 |
| Balance of overseas claims & obligations | - 237,588 | - 203,359 | 632,539 | 191,592 | -18 | -44 | 7 | 2 |
| Grand Total. | 13,469,352 | 4,635,188 | 92,083,464 | 110,188,004 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |

geographical distribution of the national wealth. In this regard, it is necessary to take note of the fact that in this division of property according to prefectures, the principle of *statutas realia* was exclusively adopted, no regard being paid to the principle of *statutas personalia*. That so much property is in such and such a prefecture means here that it exists in that prefecture physically. The question of the residence of the property owners is entirely left out of consideration.

3. The inquiry into the national wealth at the end of 1930 has an advantage over the previous inquiries in that whereas the previous inquiries were conducted in sole reliance on materials already existing, in the 1930 inquiry, not only were the existing materials utilised but fresh inquiries were instituted either by reference or on the spot. Accordingly, the methods adopted in assessing the property under each item were, as will be stated below, necessarily different from those adopted in previous inquiries.

Of the total amount of national wealth, land accounts for 37 per cent., and buildings for 21 per cent. These two items combined thus constitute 58 per cent. of the total national wealth. In reference to private-owned property only, the aggregate of these two items represents 62 per cent. of the total. The fact that immovable property forms the nucleus of the national wealth is in itself worthy of special study. At the same time it is worth pointing out that according to the methods employed in assessing immovable property, the resulting appraisal of national wealth yields pretty different figures.

Land is divided into four classes, viz. taxed land, land temporarily exempt from taxation, untaxable land and other land. The taxed land consists of paddy fields, truck-farms, residential land, etc. Land values are greatest in regard to paddy fields, truck-farms and residential land. The values of these three classes of land, if put together, constitute 29 per cent. of the total national wealth, or 34 per cent. of the total amount of private-owned property. The

values of paddy fields, truck-farms, residential land and salt-fields were worked out by multiplying the sale price per *tan* of medium-quality land of each class in each prefecture, as found by the Finance Department's investigation, by the total acreage in *tan* of each class of land. This method of calculation may be a natural outcome of the current price principle adopted in the present inquiry, but it is tenable only on the assumption that the sale price of medium-quality land is a satisfactory basis for the calculation. Any change in this figure is bound to affect the assessed amount of national wealth to no negligible extent. If the capitalization principle is to be adopted, as we have an accurate figure for the rental value of land, found by a statistical inquiry which cost ¥11,000,000, land values can be found by multiplying this figure by a certain fixed number. There are, of course, two strong objections to the idea of working out land values on the basis of the rental value of land. One objection is that the rental value of land is a fiction in the case of those who are owners of the land they cultivate and those who have their residences on land owned by themselves. The other objection is that the proper multiplier by which the rental value of land can be capitalized cannot be easily found. The question, after all, hinges on the consideration of which is open to greater error, the multiplier chosen in capitalizing the rental value or the sale price of medium-quality land. As a practical question, however, it seems that the results obtained by the use of these two modes of calculation tally on the whole. Moreover, once the adoption of the current price principle was decided upon as the basis of the inquiry, it would have been inconsistent to make an exception and apply the principle of capitalization in the case of land only. There was, therefore, some good ground for the application of the sale price principle.

With regard to buildings, in the previous inquiry, registration statistics had been utilised, but in the present inquiry, the results of inquiries on the spot into typical

buildings were made use of. Buildings can be divided into dwellings and non-dwellings. The values of dwellings are very high, constituting 11 per cent. of the total amount of the national wealth and 19 per cent. of that of private-owned property. As in the case of paddy fields, truck-farms, residential land, and salt-fields, the results of the inquiry into typical buildings furnished the basis of calculation, as already mentioned, but while in the former inquiry the Finance Department's figures were applied *mutatis mutandis*, the present inquiry had the advantage that it was carried out on the spot. If the capitalization principle had been adopted, the results of the inquiry into the rental value of houses in each prefecture, already available, ought to have been taken into due consideration. But the inquiry into the rental value of houses, unlike the inquiry into the rental value of land, betrays a lack of uniformity. As, moreover, the question of rents for houses occupied by their owners is a fiction that claims consideration, as in the case of the rental value of land, besides there being much uncertainty as to how to find the right multiplier, it can hardly be said that the results of the inquiry into the rental value of houses furnish very valuable statistical materials. Since, however, the method adopted in assessing the values of buildings was to multiply the value of the building per household, which forms the fundamental figure, by the number of ordinary households, special care was needed in finding this fundamental figure.

Special care was exercised in working out the values of paddy fields, truck-farms, residential land and dwellings generally, as the aggregate of the values of these four items constitutes 40 per cent. of the total amount of national wealth, or 53 per cent. of the total amount of private property.

4. So far, I have dealt with the methods adopted in assessing land and buildings. Furniture and household goods and chattels rank third in the size of their percentage to the total, as they constitute 11 per cent. of the national

wealth. Then follow in order trees (6.1%), mines (5.9%), products in store (5%), railways and tramways (3.3%), miscellaneous (2%) and shipping (1.9%).

As regards furniture and household goods and chattels, they had been estimated in the previous inquiry at 50 to 60 per cent. of the values of buildings, but in the present inquiry, their values were worked out by inquiries by reference or by direct inquiries into typical cases, dividing them into two groups, one group consisting of those kept inside dwellings and the other group of those kept outside.

With regard to trees, although the present inquiry was conducted on a more extensive scale, the methods of assessment adopted were the same as in the previous inquiry.

Mines were assessed on the basis of the estimated values of deposits, secured by inquiries addressed to proper quarters, although in the previous inquiry they had been appraised at the capitalized prices.

So far as products in store are concerned, whereas in the previous inquiry their values had been estimated at a certain percentage of both the total value of the entire production of the year and the total value of the imports of the year, in the present inquiry, their values were worked out by utilising materials already available, by inquiries addressed to the quarters concerned and by inquiries on the spot into typical cases, classifying the entire amount of products in store into those kept in warehouses, Government, public and private, those in shops and those in transit.

With regard to railways and tramways, the methods of assessment employed were different from those adopted in the previous inquiry. In the previous inquiry, the capitalization prices had been, as a general rule, taken as the basis of calculation, but in the present inquiry, they were assessed by multiplying the cost of building per kilometre of railway or tramway, as given in the Railway Department returns, minus the amount of average wear and tear, by the total

mileage of each line in terms of kilometres. It is noteworthy that State-owned railways and tramways account for 72 per cent. of the total value of railways and tramways, public-owned ones for seven per cent., and private-owned ones for 21 per cent.

CHAPTER 4. MEANING OF THE ASSESSED NATIONAL WEALTH

I have thus far explained the methods of inquiry adopted in appraising the national wealth of 1930 and the results of this inquiry, on the basis of the "Report on the Investigation of the National Wealth in 1930", made public by the Statistical Bureau of the Cabinet in December, 1933. When this Report is compared with the "Assessed National Wealth Before and After the War," which was published by the First Department of the Census Board in October, 1921, and also with the "Assessed National Wealth in 1924," published by the Statistical Bureau of the Cabinet in June, 1928, it will be seen that it shows a distinct improvement.

The assessed national wealth in 1930 embodies the results of a statistic inquiry into wealth. Its figures embody the aggregate of the re-production values or current values of physical goods in Japan proper, irrespective of their being revenue-making or non-revenue-making property. The present statistics help one to form a good idea of the economic conditions of Japan in the period intervening between the lifting of the gold embargo and the outbreak of the Manchurian affair. Statistics of this kind are apt to be compiled in an attempt to explain conclusions, but the present inquiry was fortunately carried out in a very matter-of-fact manner. The value of the present statistics lies not so much in the aggregate figure, or in the conclusions of the inquiry, as in their analysed contents. The really important points are how State-owned, public-owned and private-owned goods are interwoven in national wealth, how

wealth is distributed among the prefectures and what kinds of goods constitute national wealth. That portion of national wealth which furnishes the barometer of loan issues and the other portion that does not will become obvious. Inasmuch as the statistics were compiled within a limited space of time with a limited fund, they will, no doubt, be found not quite up to the mark in many respects. But by repeating inquiries of this kind at regular intervals, as is done in the case of the national census, it is to be hoped that the trends of Japanese national economy will become clear.

One drawback of the present statistical figures is that economic relationships between Japan proper and the colonies are not clearly expressed in them. It must also be admitted that some of the existing materials, which ought to have been scrutinised, were adopted as they were without the necessary scrutiny or that inquiries on the spot were not carried on in a really adequate manner. These defects will, however, be remedied in future inquiries. By their very nature, the present statistics fail to divide the physical goods into those which bring no revenue and those from which revenue accrues and to make clear how national economy is operating organically. This want will, no doubt, be provided by the statistics of national incomes, which, it is expected, will be published shortly. The assessed amount of national wealth at the end of 1930 is valuable in its way, but its value will be enhanced by the assessments of national wealth and national incomes to be undertaken hereafter.

SABURO SHIOMI.