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CHAMBERS'S COMMERCIAL HANDBOOKS

COMMERCIAL GEOGRAPHY

OF

THE BRITISH ISLES

BY

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LECTURER IN REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, AND
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SECOND EDITION

LONDON: 47 Paternoster Row
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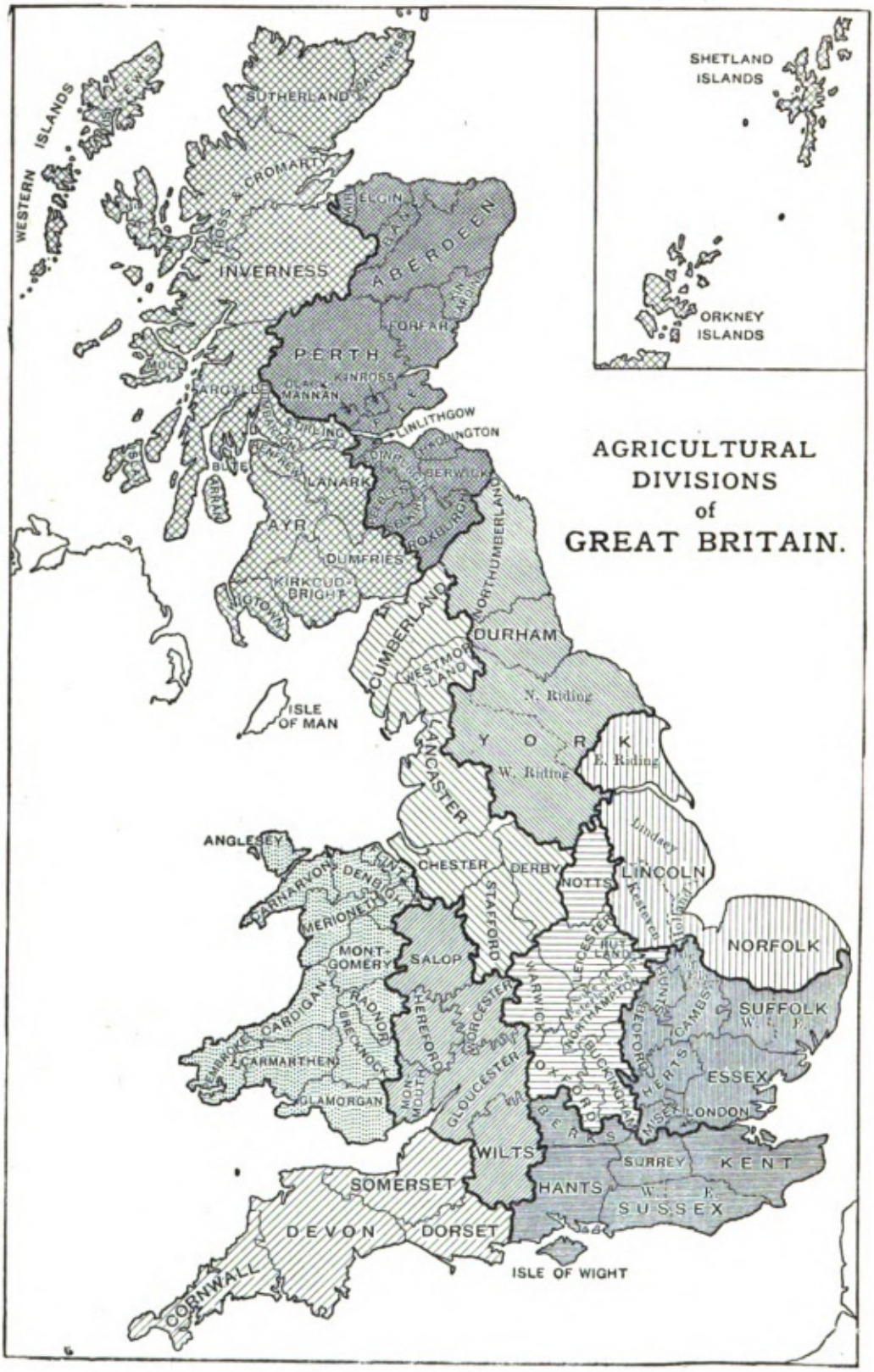

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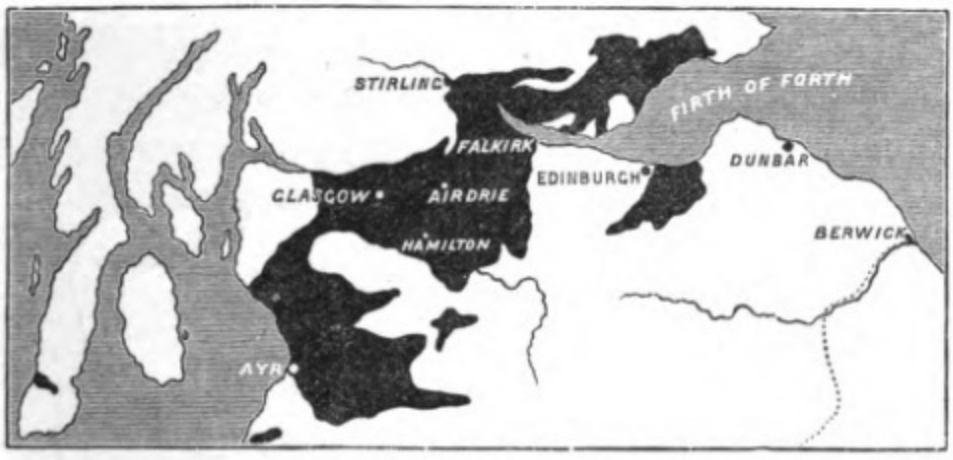
Anthracite from the South Wales coalfield supplies the smokeless coal for our navy, and is the fuel used in breweries.

The coal yielded in the various coalfields is put to very different uses.

In Scotland it is used in the iron and textile manufactories, more particularly in the west, as well as in Fife and southern Scotland. Much is exported from the Forth to the North and the Baltic Seas, to the Mediterranean, and even farther; from the west,



Scottish Coalfields.

chiefly to Belfast and the North of Ireland. The latter region also receives the surplus coal from the Cumberland coalfield, much of whose output, however, is used in smelting iron ores in Furness.

The output of the Northumberland and Durham coalfield is largely used in the iron industry. The surplus is exported, large quantities being shipped to London and all over the world.

The York, Derby, and Nottingham coalfield supplies the woollen manufactories of the West Riding of Yorkshire, the ironworks of Sheffield, and the textile

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works of Nottingham. Any surplus is exported to London by rail, or from Goole on the Humber.

The coal of the South Lancashire coalfield is almost entirely used in the local cotton manufactories and

English Coalfields.

engineering and chemical works. It also supplies fuel for steamers sailing from Manchester and Liverpool. Hardly any is available for export.

The North Staffordshire coalfield supplies steam-power in the pottery district.

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centres near good ports have an advantage over others, especially if they are also near a good coal and water supply. At the present time the woollen manufacture is carried on in three chief centres—in Yorkshire, the west of England, and the Tweed valley.

The **Yorkshire woollen centre** is exceptionally favourably situated as regards the easy supply of raw material and the distribution of the manufactured articles. It lies half-way between the Irish and the North Seas, with the great ports of Liverpool on the west and Hull on the east. The hills of Yorkshire afford pasture for innumerable sheep, its coalfield is of almost inexhaustible richness, and it is excellently watered. The chief centre of the woollen manufacture is Leeds, on the Aire. Many other large towns have grown up, such as Bradford, and the towns in the Calder valley—Halifax, Huddersfield, and Dewsbury.

Woollen District.

The **West of England woollen centre** has also its port, Bristol; the coalfields of Bristol and the Forest of Dean are near; and numerous streams drain the Cotswolds. Stroud in Gloucestershire, and Bradford in Wiltshire, are the most important centres. The scarlet cloth for uniforms is manufactured at Stroud.

The **South of Scotland woollen centre** has some of these advantages—uplands for pasture, mountain rills and streams, but less accessible coalfields. Peebles,

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of the linen manufactured is only one-fifth that of the cotton. By far the greatest proportion is manufactured in South Lancashire, in the towns surrounding Manchester, such as Stockport (which, however, is in Cheshire), Ashton, and Stalybridge;* Oldham, Rochdale, Bury, and Bolton; and in the towns on the north of the Lancashire coalfield, Burnley, Accrington, Blackburn, and Preston. Manchester manufactures little, but is the great market and distributing centre.

Cotton District.

In Scotland cotton is manufactured—chiefly into cotton thread—at Paisley.

Most machine-made lace is composed of cotton threads, for the linen threads of which the beautiful, delicate hand-made lace is formed are too fine for machinery to manipulate. Nottingham is the chief centre of cotton-lace and net manufacture.

Cotton, Woollen, and Linen Manufactures.—'A century ago the value of cotton, woollen, and linen yarns and piece goods produced in Great Britain and Ireland was about £22,000,000—say,

* Stalybridge is partly in Lancashire, but principally in Cheshire.

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SCOTLAND—Principal Railways.

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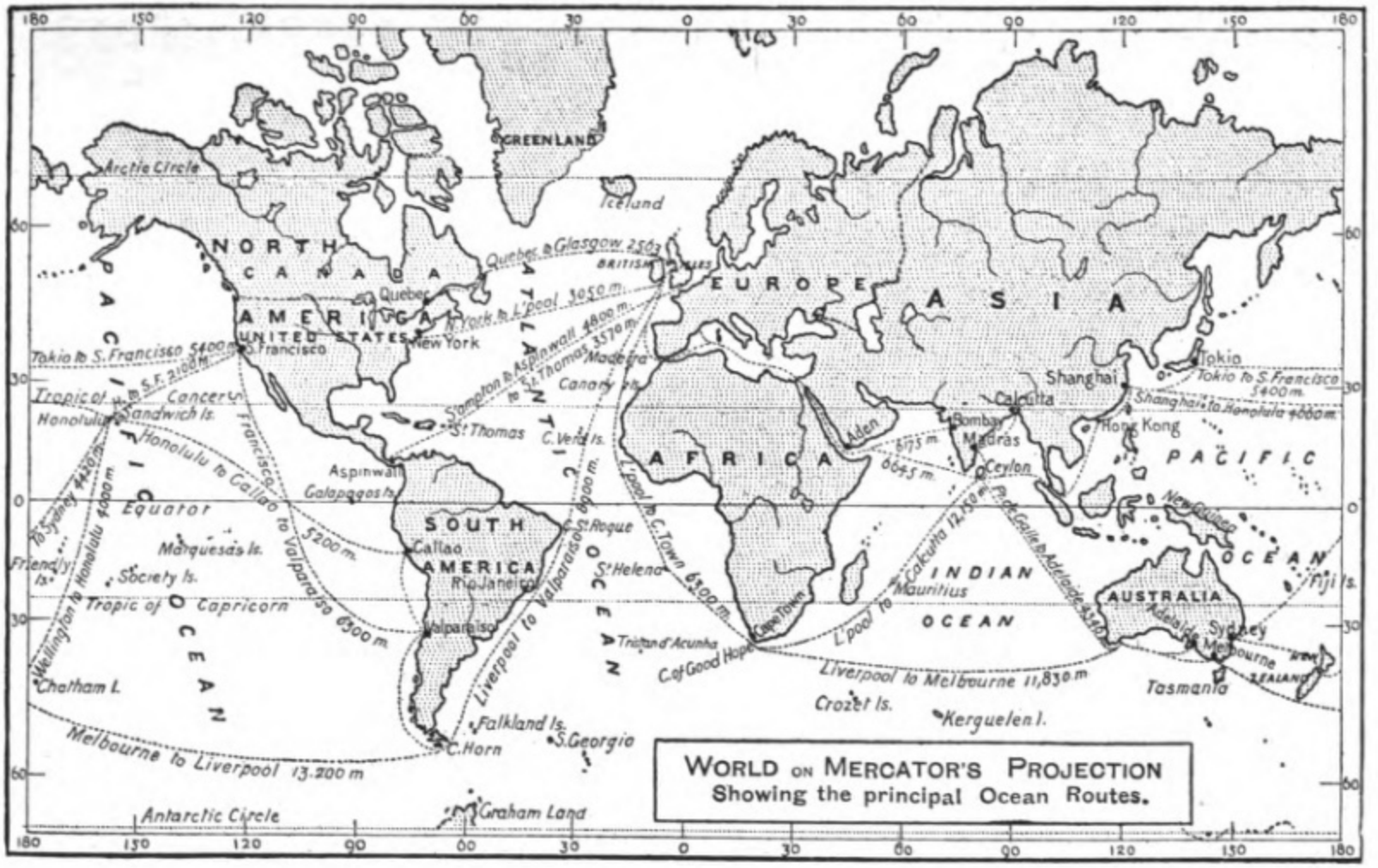

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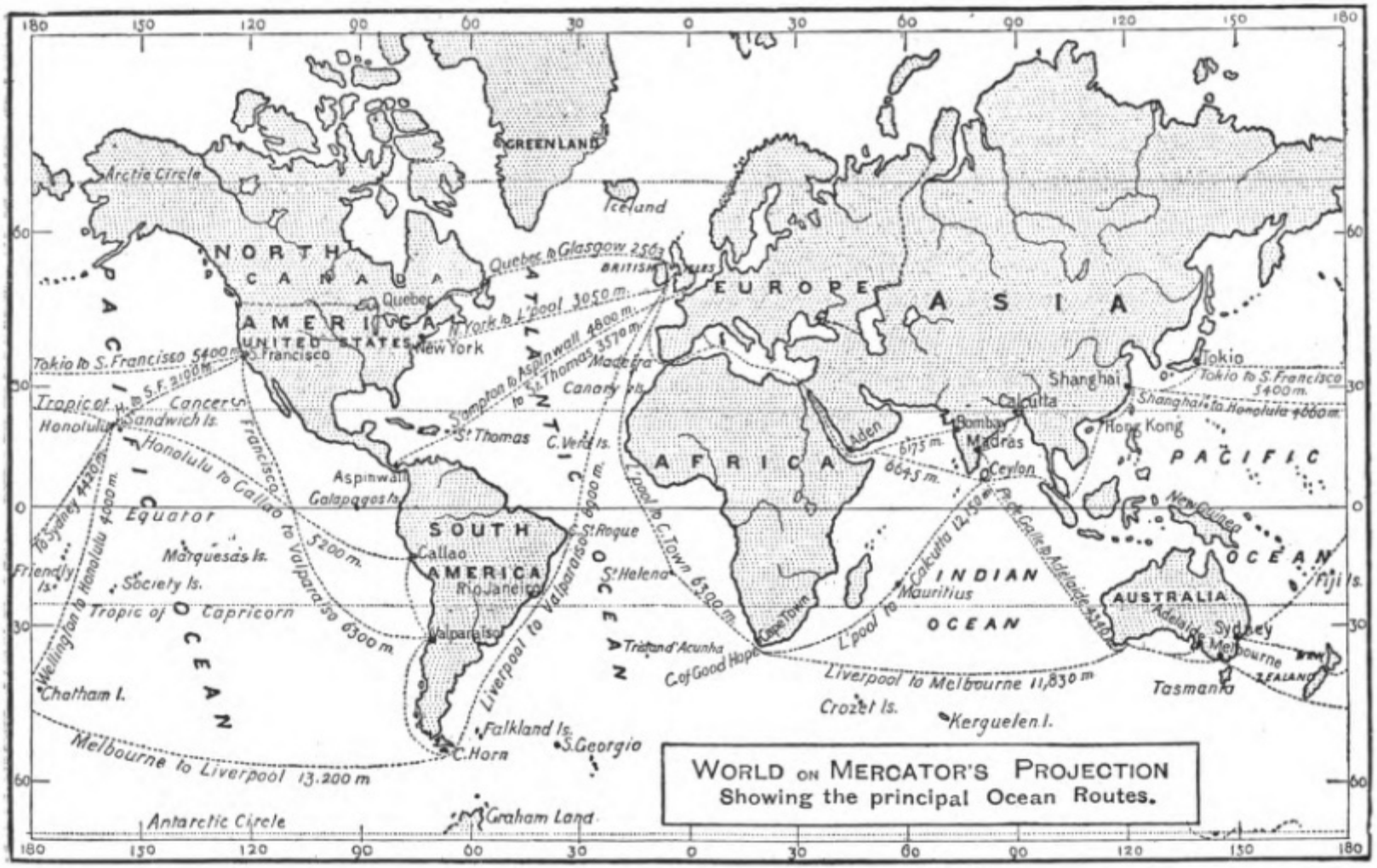

WORLD ON MERCATOR'S PROJECTION
Showing the principal Ocean Routes.

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