

Arthur Young's estimate of the state of the nation in 1770

(Arthur Young, *A Six Months Tour Through the North of England, IV* (1770), pp. 493, 515-516, 517-520, 543-547; in D. B. Horn and Mary Ransome, eds., *English Historical Documents, Vol. X, 1714-1783*, N.Y: Oxford University Press, 1969, pp. 425-29. Young's proportions show that the economy of the country was still largely agricultural in 1770.)

STATE, RENTAL, and VALUE OF THE SOIL. [England, excluding Wales]

Acres in all,		32,000,000
Ditto of arable land,		16,000,000
Ditto of grass,		16,000,000
Number of farms,		111,498
Rental*,	..	16,000,000
Value Of the soil at 33 and 1/2		536,000,000
Years purchase,		

INCOME *of the* SOIL.

The preceding calculations give us the income of the following ranks of the people.

Landlords,		
Tenants,		
Parochial clergy,		
The industrious poor employed by the soil,		
The non-industrious poor.		
The landlord's rent was found to be		£16,000,000
The tenant's profit,		18,237,691
The clergy,		5,500,000
The industrious poor (being the amount of labour)		4,596,937
The non-industrious poor, (being the amount of rates)	866,666	
Interest of money		4,400,000
Total of these several incomes arising from the soil,		59,601,294

It is, however, to be remarked, that these incomes are exclusive of those very considerable receipts which manufacturers draw from all these classes, amounting perhaps to half the total.

* The exact rent is 9s. 11d. but I call it here IOs.

POPULATION.

Number of men servants,	222,996
Maid ditto,	167,247
Boy ditto,	111,498
Labourers,	334,494
Men servants and labourers,	557,490
Farmers,	111,498
Number of souls according to the average of fifteen per 100 <i>l.</i> a year, exclusive of extra labour,	2,400,000
The extra labour I before calculated as a third of the labourers, according to which it amounts to of souls	557,490
Total,	2,957,490
[Deduct on account of the maids and boys being part of them children of the labourers]	157,490
This will reduce the total to	2,800,000 souls:
And this is about eleven acres and a half <i>per</i> head; and 51.15 s. rental.	

This amount is exclusive of a vast number of people as much dependent on, and maintained by agriculture, as the very plough-man who cultivates the soil; for instance, the whole tribe of landlords; a vast body, branching into a wonderful variety; all those manufacturers who work for the farmer alone; and for the landlord in his rural capacity alone; such as wheel-wrights, blacksmiths, collar-makers, carpenters, brick-makers, masons, thatchers, glaziers, &c. &c. And in another path, all those that *cloath* these numerous bodies of people, furnish their houses, and administer to their luxuries. Besides, there are a vast portion of the clergy, and the parochial poor: all together most undoubtedly form a number, which bears a great proportion to the sum total of the kingdom's population.

RECAPITULATION

Rental,	£16,000,000
Value,	536,000,000
Supposed rental houses included,	21,000,000
Value of total	636,000,000
Stock in husbandry,	110,000,000
Product -of the soil in husbandry, excepting woods, parks, chaces, &c.	83,237,691
Expenditure of husbandry,	65,000,000
Profit of husbandry,	18,237,691
Income arising from the soil, exclusive of manufacturers,	59,601,294

This little table may be called that part of THE STATE OF THE NATION which depends on rural economics....

But let us, for a moment, enlarge the sphere of our discourse, and take a transient view of the *whole* kingdom.

AGRICULTURE.

The income we have from products specified amount to	£60,000,000
Suppose woods, timber, inland fisheries, parks, mines of all sorts, yield a product of	6,000,000
Total	66,000,000

MANUFACTURES.

The average of five accounts now before me, makes the value of the labour added to our wool to amount to	7,000,000
The labour bestowed on leather, exclusive of the consumption in the article wear and tear in husbandry, consisting- of shoes, breeches, coaclics, chairs, harness, &c. &c . &C. Suppose	4,000,000
The manufactures of lead, tin, iron, copper, &c. is one of the first, if not the greatest in the kingdom. Suppose the labour is	6,000,000
Flax and hemp, glass, paper, and porcelains. Suppose	2,000,000
Silk and cotton must be considerably more than	1,500,000

Total 20,500,000
 Total 27,000,000

COMMERCE.

The amount of the income arising from commerce, can only be conjectured: But when we consider that it includes that, not only of the merchants, but also of all the numerous bodies employed by them, such as sailors, shipbuilders, boatmen, writers, porters, servants, with a vast number of & *cetera's*, it must certainly be very considerable, suppose £10,000,000

The public revenue, exclusive of the interest paid to foreigners 9,000,000

The interest of the savings in agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, exclusive of the public funds, which are included in the last article; and the sums borrowed by farmers; such as mortgages, bond-debts, &c. &c. &c. Suppose 5,000,000

Law, physic, the fine arts, literature, &c. &c. cannot create an income of less than 5,000,000

Besides these articles there are all the earnings of the whole body of artisans that are scattered, (except in the hard-ware way) such as carpenters, masons, cabinet-makers, upholsterers, glaziers, &c. &c. with an infinite number of shopkeepers: The whole aggregate of labour, exclusive of the preceding manufacturers, must be prodigiously great: However, that we may not exaggerate, let us suppose it, including all trades, not before specified, at 6,500,000

RECAPITULATION

The soil,	£66,000,000
Manufactures,	27,000,000
Commerce,	10,000,000
Publick revenue,	9,000,000
Sums at interest,	5,000,000
Law, physic, &c	<u>5,000,000</u>
 Total income of <i>England</i>	 122,000,000

Now the most inattentive eye must be able, at the slightest glance, to specify abundance of various kinds of income omitted in this table; but I by no means aim at an accuracy in a matter that requires it not: All I would endeavour to show, is, that the income of the whole people is a very great sum, compared to all public wants! and that it, in all probability, amounts to considerably more than an hundred millions....

From this review of the agriculture, &c. of this kingdom, I apprehend there is no slight reason to conclude, that *England* is, at present, in a most rich and flourishing situation; that her agriculture is, upon the whole, good and spirited, and ever-y day improving; that her industrious poor are well fed, cloathed, and lodged, and at reasonable rates of expence; the prices of all the necessaries of life being moderate; that our population is consequently increasing; that the price of labour is in general high; of itself one of the strongest symptoms of political health; but at the same time not so high as to leave any reason to fear those ill effects which have been prognosticated concerning it; that the wealth of all other ranks of people appear to be very great, from the almost universal manner in which the kingdom is adorned with stately as well as useful buildings, ornamented parks, lawns, plantations, waters, &c. which all speak a wealth and happiness not easily mistaken: That all kinds of public works shew the public to be rich; witness the navigations, roads, and public edifices. If these circumstances do not combine to prove a kingdom to be flourishing, I must confess myself totally in the dark.

This conclusion, I am sensible, will by no means render my undertaking popular. The generality of readers are seldom so well pleased, as when an author lays before them a melancholy picture of accumulated evils under which a nation groans: This is not to be wondered at; it is human nature. But I conceive it a duty incumbent on one, who engages in such a journey as this, to lay a fair and genuine account of all these matters before the public. I have, it is true, offered some reflections on them; perhaps it was an error, and I should have dealt only in facts; but these reflections do not alter those facts, which may be viewed naked, and applied to any use more penetrating minds can make of them.....