

PREFACE

TRANSPORT problems are not of recent origin. In one form or another they have arisen ever since man had any goods to move from place to place, and as transport has become more completely organised they have provoked increasing controversy. Nor can it be said that their solution has never been attempted. In the railway period alone Parliament and traders have given much time to their elucidation. But it is only in recent years that they have been systematically studied. The new Universities and Schools of Economics having included the subject of transport in the curriculum for their commerce degrees, it has come to be treated as a branch of economics deserving of accurate, scientific inquiry and study. The aim of this volume is to assist this study, and consequently much that has been written is elementary. There is also much that, necessarily, is sketchy, because, with a subject so comprehensive, it has been found impossible to deal in detail with every branch ; to have done so would have required several volumes. There is much also that, inevitably, touches controversial ground. Where this is so an attempt has been made to present both sides of the question as fairly and as adequately as possible. But while the primary aim has been to produce a text-book for the student, the authors hope that it will be found interesting to the general reader, particularly to the business man whose daily affairs bring him into close contact with the problems of transport.