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WESTERN ENTERPRISES AND THE DENSITY OF THE  
POPULATION IN THE NETHERLANDS INDIES.

BY

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I.

*General Introduction.*

There is an unmistakable connection between the development of the economical life of a country and the density of the population of the country concerned.

But simple this connection is certainly not. The various factors which cooperate in regard to these connected phenomena play at times an active role as driving forces and at others a passive one dependant on certain causes. There are plenty of instances that the increase of the density of the population led to an increase of the production capacity, be it intensively or extensively. There are no fewer proofs for the hypothesis that increase of the production leads to increase of the population.

What is more, facts prove that heightened prosperity acts as a brake on the increase of the population and sometimes it even brings the increase to a standstill. Still more complicated, however, is the connection between the production of goods and the production of human beings in countries where the colonial form of labour has created two spheres of production viz. an indigenous and a foreign sphere, sharply contrasted in character and in their fields of operation. As is known, this is the case in the Netherlands Indies, which belong to the richest tropical agricultural regions. As in all other branches of the social and economic life, the Western activity has made a deep impression on the peculiar nature of the population problem in this country.