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PREFACE

This issue of Keio Economic Studies is devoted to Migration before and during industrialisation. Four of the contributions deal with Japan and one with England.

Little quantitative research on this subject has been done in Japan. Recently, however, we have been extending our demographic researches into this field. As for Japan, we have no nation-wide statistics before the Meiji Restoration except for the population survey made by the Tokugawa Government, whose reliability is—unfortunately—not so high in many respects. Therefore, the source material of our demographic study is town or village records; above all, the *shūmon-aratame-chō*, on which the first three contributions in this issue are based, is a unique and reliable source. Since the *shūmon-aratame-chō* were made up by town or village officials every year from 1671 to 1871, and are usually owned privately, it is not a easy task to obtain a good series of this source. Despite some progress made, the local historiography of the Tokugawa period is still in its infancy, so that researchers can hardly obtain the necessary information about an area concerned. Given the circumstance, to put one village study on another is, I think, the only possible way towards a comprehensive analysis.

In contrast, the Meiji population can be treated in the aggregate form, whether national, prefectural or regional. But, before the first census was taken in 1920, the valiability of the population statistics was so low that demographers have hardly utilized them. It is migration in this very period that the fourth article deals with. In this regional study, moreover, the author, O. Saito, tries to find out possible interrelationships between migration and economic variables during the Meiji industrialisation.

M. Yasumoto's article, the only one that deals with the non-Japanese experience, also examines population movements during industrialisation. Using the parish registers in Leeds as the main source material, he discusses urbanisation during the Industrial Revolution.

For some readers unfamiliar with the Japanese history and geography, a map with the place names appeared in the articles is provided. A list of the books in Japanese referred to in the articles on Japan is also added.

Finally I should like to thank the editorial board of this journal for making possible the realisation of this special issue.

Akira Hayami