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1 Section A

This paper seeks to investigate the question: < How did the Import of Raw Cotton to Great Britain Influence Its Willingness to Recognize the Confederate States of America? >. It is well-known that the southern United States is a largely agrarian region of the nation, and further that the economy of these states has, since the colonial era, been heavily dependent on the exportation of various <cash crops>. Cotton, the crop with which the 19th century south is most associated, became the staple export of the region, and indeed may be argued to have kick-started or at least supported the lucrative textile industry of Great Britain. In this paper I examine the economic codependency of the Antebellum South (and subsequently the of the Confederate States of America [CSA]) with Great Britain, and the effects of this relationship on the prospect of the British Parliament's diplomatic recognition of the CSA as a sovereign nation. To do this, I shall rely on the vast contemporary records of exports and manufactures, the body of post-contemporary literature regarding the relations of both nations, and the large base of correspondences and personal records of those involved.

A source that shall be relied upon heavily in assessing the economic state of the Antebellum South in the decades leading up to the war is «H. Misc. Doc. no. 49» from the first session of the 48th Congress of the United States of America, held in 1884. The purpose for which this source was created was

2 Section B

12

3 Section C

References

House of Representatives, U.S. Congress. H. Misc. Doc. no. 49. 48th Cong., 1st. sess., 1884.

North, Douglass Cecil. The Economic Growth of the United States 1790 - 1860. The Norton Library 346. New York: Norton, 1966. ISBN: 978-0-393-00346-8.

^{1.} Douglass Cecil North, The Economic Growth of the United States 1790 - 1860, The Norton Library 346 (New York: Norton, 1966), Table A-III, ISBN: 978-0-393-00346-8.

^{2.} U.S. Congress House of Representatives, H. Misc. Doc. no. 49 (48th Cong., 1st. sess., 1884), Part 2, Table 2.

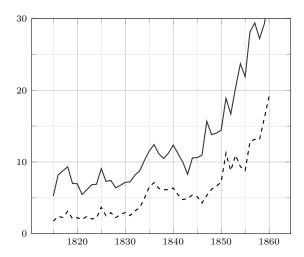


Figure 2.1: Value (hundreds of millions of dollars) of Total Exports (solid) and of Total Raw Cotton Exports (dashed) in the U.S.: 1815-1860