

? Febr. '39

Dear Dr. Kittredge,

I am glad to give you the following particulars as to Dr. Derksen's capacities and work.

During the time he was preparing his doctor's thesis and afterwards, as my first collaborator in the Central Statistical Office, Dr. Derksen proved to be a well-trained mathematical statistician and a careful official, fully aware of his responsibilities and duties. Recently, while revising and improving the Dutch production index, he showed much independency of judgment and constructive originality in the treatment of these problems. He combined, in a very able way, all the information available and arrived at a number of well-founded estimates for items which hitherto had been left out of account.

In many discussions on what we call "the system of relations describing the Dutch business cycle mechanism" I found that Dr. Derksen indicated various valuable improvements as a consequence of thorough reflection on the sense and implications of the hypotheses underlying that system.

His booklet on correlation calculus has met with much approval of the experts as well as of the readers; and his study on the demand for beer and spirits had a great success. We had to reprint the issue of our review in which it appeared.

Dr. Derksen is, and will be after his return, in charge of improving the statistics of national income in the Netherlands. These statistics are very backward now and it is certainly possible, even with the existing material to improve them, considerably. It will be of much use if Dr. Derksen could get in personal contact with the American experts in this field who are generally recognised as the world's example. On the other hand we hope that the experience with the special type of business cycle research now done at The Hague may be of some interest to American investigators too; and we expect that their criticisms will be highly valuable to our work.

Hoping that these particulars will be of some value to you, I remain

Yours very sincerely,

(J. Tinbergen).

NORMAAL

