

promote the development of private enterprise." A group of French thinkers, convinced of the evils of excessive officialism and bureaucracy in France and the tendency to socialistic thought and action, have been working to develop a sounder sentiment on political questions. M. Demolins has been the most tireless of workers in this cause, and, studying widely both history and the facts of contemporary society, he has become more fully convinced that the era of communism is in the past, that future progress along social lines must be in the development of greater energy, independence, self-restraint and self-respect in the individual. This is the principle of far-reaching and permanent validity which he has succeeded in stating with true Gallic piquancy while appearing merely to discuss a question of immediate practical importance to the people of France. The book was not written primarily to explain the superiority of the Anglo-Saxons, but to prove the superiority of the individualistic over the communistic view of the direction of social progress.

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*Bevölkerungslehre und Bevölkerungspolitik* (Hand und Lehrbuch der Staatswissenschaften gegründet von Kuno Frankenstein 1 Abteilung Band 6). By ARTHUR FREIHERR VON FIRCKS. Pp. 492. Price, 13.50 *mk.* Leipzig: C. L. Hirschfeld, 1898.

The author of the foregoing volume is a highly esteemed official in the Prussian statistical service. He has here attempted to present the salient facts of demographic statistics and to draw some general conclusions as to the proper attitude of the state in view of the tendencies in the evolution of the population.

The statistical portion of his work is exhaustive and painstaking. He has collected a mass of material which is of value to the specialist and is richer in all that relates to Germany than that presented in other hand books. He has not hesitated to wrestle with some of the more complicated problems of population statistics, notably the census of occupations which is luminously treated. Nor do the difficulties of mortality tables deter him from his purpose of popularization. Here as elsewhere he is authoritative, correct and heavy.

The author's work when he is dealing with the facts of population is excellent, but his reasoning on them is cumbersome and platitudinous. After a brief discussion of whether a rapid increase of population should be a national ideal, he gives us a short and perfunctory disquisition upon the doctrines of Malthus, and passes over to the more sympathetic consideration of the effect of modern life on the

fighting capacity of the population. It need not be stated that the Prussian state militant is the author's ideal.

An exhaustive bibliography on population comprising nearly a hundred pages begun by Dr. Frankenstein and completed by the learned and industrious Dr. Lippert of the Prussian Statistical Bureau, gives the book great value and insures its reception into every well appointed statistical library.

I wish that I could speak of the text with equal commendation. But the author is hopelessly heavy. Never sprightly at its best, in the hands of a mere literary workman who has not the slightest trace of the artist, statistics is a profoundly soporific subject. This can perhaps be forgiven when the bookmaker furnishes us a handy-reference volume. But the present author has locked his treasures of information in a box and thrown away the key. The book has no index while its arrangement and table of contents is sadly lacking in that most amiable of German characteristics, *Uebersichtlichkeit*.

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*Ouvriers du temps passé* (xv, xvi siècles). Par H. HAUSER, Professeur à la faculté des lettres de l'université de Clermont-Ferrand. Pp. xxxviii, 252. Price 6 fr. Paris: Felix Alcan, 1898.

This work is not a history, but a picture of the conditions prevailing during that interesting period of the industrial history of France extending from the middle of the fifteenth to the latter part of the sixteenth centuries. The study might properly have been entitled "the labor problem during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries." In successive chapters the author treats of the organization of labor, the state regulation of trade, apprenticeship, journeymen, the labor contract, labor organizations, wages, employment of women, strikes, and poor relief. The essential features of the labor problem in the past have been clearly and succinctly presented.

The impression we gain from reading this work is that the problems of industrial organization and labor were scarcely less important then than now. Just as during recent years a struggle has been going on between the principles of state action and regulation, and what is called individualism, so the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries were characterized by an equally acute contest between the system of free cities where the prosecution of a trade was untrammelled by legal restriction, and that of *villes jurés*, where each trade was organized into a sort of close corporation. Competition on the part of persons outside of this body or by other cities was restricted in every possible way. The guilds of each city thus not only sought to prevent the use