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The History of the Woollen and Worsted Industries. by E. Lipson

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expressed by Barclay Head in the latest edition of his work. Nor can it be said that "the Greeks had a definite manner of reckoning the proportion of gold to silver and the more common ratio was 10 : 1." On the contrary, the various attempts to find out their relative values have met with little success, and there is a good deal of disagreement between the various writers. Nor are we justified in stating as a fact the fanciful theory that King Croesus introduced bi-metallism. The statement that the Roman As coins date from 450 B.C. is not now held to be correct. Though the As is believed to have been in use as a money-unit at that time, the best opinion seems to be that the earliest coins are a century later. And there is no evidence of any value that the coins originally weighed a Roman pound. They were from the outset extremely variable.

The nineteen pages of the chapter on "The Principal Monetary Systems" are rather a short allowance for so big a subject, but are useful as an introduction to the study of it. The last chapter, "Money in International Commerce," is, as might be expected, altogether admirable. It gives, in the shortest possible space, a wonderfully clear idea of how international commerce is carried on. But both these chapters would have been more useful to the student had the author appended a list of works in which the subjects might be pursued in more detail.

A. M. INNES

The History of the Woollen and Worsted Industries. By E. LIPSON.
(London : A. and C. Black. 1921. Pp. x + 273.)

THIS is the first of a series of Histories of British Industries, of which Mr. Lipson is General Editor. It has been "designed to meet the needs of Training Colleges, Continuation Schools, Workers' Tutorial Classes, and all similar institutions." It is, therefore, written without footnote apparatus, but with a bibliography, a bibliography which shows the learning that one would expect from its author. Besides the results of his own research, Mr. Lipson has had the advantage of Professor Heaton's remarkable *History of the Yorkshire Woollen and Worsted Industries*. He has adopted, so far as possible, the method of letting contemporaries tell their own tale, with excellent results. Although not writing primarily for scholars, he has put them under an obligation to him in many places. There is, for example, an account of wool smuggling (pp. 88 *sqq.*) under the export prohibition system of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, both illuminating

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and amusing. So far as I can remember, the explanation (p. 180) that the workmen's opposition to machinery was partly based on a belief that the stock of wool was fixed—as in fact it very nearly was, before Australia developed—and that therefore machinery must mean both immediate and ultimate unemployment, has not been put forward before; it has certainly not been put forward so clearly.

A few technical and a few general criticisms suggest themselves. Probably it was to avoid burdening his unlearned readers with controversy that Mr. Lipson (p. 28) allowed himself to give the impression that masters, journeymen, and 'prentices were all "members" of a craft-gild in the same sense. He does once speak of the "inner circle" of the gild; but he nowhere states that masters made all the rules. "The aim of the gild system was, in short, to establish as nearly as possible a condition of absolute equality [among masters]; and the gild ordinances seem inspired almost by a spirit of communism." The words in brackets are the reviewer's. The evidence of "communism" is that if one master among the London Shearmen had three journeymen, and another had none, the man with none might take one from his neighbour. That is what I should call "jealous egalitarianism" among masters. I cannot think that the taken journeyman was conscious of much "communism" in the system. But I fear that the unlearned reader, probably familiar with Gild Socialist distortions of medieval history, may go away with the impression that there was really something "communistic" about a gild.

Is the sweeping statement that "the fuller bought the cloth raw and sold it fulled" generally true? Mr. Lipson gives evidence for the fact from a statute of 1391, and other evidence is, of course, available. But commission fulling, or fulling at manorial mills for a fee, began very early and may have been, so to speak, primitive.

Coming to the inventions (p. 142), Mr. Lipson says that all except the fly-shuttle and the combing machine "were first intended for the cotton industry"; but explains a few pages later that Paul and Wyatt's spinning machine was first used for wool. He quotes several lines from Dyer's "Fleece" about it. And in a footnote he admits that Paul's carding machine is also perhaps an exception. This leaves few for the rule.

On p. 174 that mysterious word of the wool technologist "loftiness," as denoting a character of wool, is used without explanation. But all these are small matters.

Three criticisms of the general structure of the book in relation to its purpose have more weight. The first, and slightest, is that the significance of the widespread and unregulated "household industry" of the Middle Ages is perhaps underrated. When we talk of industry "spreading" to the country, I am inclined to think that often we are pointing to the fact that in a certain district "household" became "market" weavers. Probably Mr. Lipson agrees, as some words on p. 223 suggest. But I should like to have seen the guilds pictured as working against this dim domestic background.

Secondly, the book almost completely neglects all history since 1850, except for a few figures from the industrial census and a reference of readers to a book by Dr. Clapham. I cannot but think that, for the purposes of the series, this is a very grave omission. The introduction of cotton warps, of alpaca and of mohair, the whole shoddy industry and the whole of nineteenth-century trade unionism get into a twelve-line footnote! The industries in 1850 were almost as different from those of 1920 as they were from those of 1800. In 1850 the Woollen Clothiers' Company Mills were in full swing; the mule was far from universal in woollen spinning; very many important woollen businesses used hand-loom only; Leeds was a centre of broadcloth manufacture; and the industrial atmosphere was not really "modern." Upon economic, more perhaps than upon any other class of historians, is laid the duty of bridging the blind spot between fully written history, which always stops a generation or two short of actuality, and the world of to-day. The bridge is not made here.

Thirdly, which is probably the explanation of "secondly," nowhere in the book can one catch the beat of the looms or sniff the rank smell of the wool-washing troughs. Perhaps it is a literary accident; but the text certainly suggests a knowledge of the world of to-day based more on reading about it than on looking at it.

J. H. CLAPHAM

The Yorkshire Woollen and Worsted Industries from the Earliest Times up to the Industrial Revolution. By H. HEATON. (Vol. X of the *Oxford Historical Literary Studies*, edited by C. H. Firth and W. Raleigh.) (Oxford : Clarendon Press 1920. Pp. 459.)

AMONG the industries of England, the woollen manufacture—*inter reipublicæ columina*, as Camden described it—enjoys pre-

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