WILEY

Review

Author(s): H. A. L. Fisher

Review by: H. A. L. Fisher

Source: *The Economic Journal*, Vol. 8, No. 30 (Jun., 1898), pp. 214-216

Published by: Wiley on behalf of the Royal Economic Society

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2957363>

Accessed: 26-06-2016 04:16 UTC

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at

<http://about.jstor.org/terms>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Wiley, Royal Economic Society are collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *The Economic Journal*

Alien Immigrants to England. [Social England Series.] By
W. CUNNINGHAM, D.D. (London: Swan, Sonnenschein
& Co., 1898.)

IF all the volumes of the Social England Series contain as much valuable and interesting matter as Dr. Cunningham's little book on alien Immigrants to England, the projectors of the series may congratulate themselves. The book is just what a popular book should be—clear, terse and full of information. It is possible that some readers may say that it is overladen with detail, but we should not agree with this criticism.

When has England not been liable to alien immigration? Defoe suggested the question in his *True-born English Gentleman*, and Dr. Cunningham boldly faces it. He decides that there, "is some justification for treating the Danes as original elements of the English stock," for they were akin to the Jutes and Angles; they were on the same level of culture; their incursions were but a wave of barbarian invasion; and "the influence which they brought with them was dissimilar from that of later aliens, through whom England came to share more and more in that heritage of civilisation which had been developed in classical times and preserved in the Mediterranean lands." We begin then with the Norman conquest. This, the most important of all alien immigrations, is in the main military. The improvement of estates between 1066 and 1086 must have been due to an increased supply of labour, which could only be obtained if the common soldiers in the Norman army were willing to settle down as tenants and cultivate the land. The mercenaries who were so abundantly employed on both sides during the hundred years' war between crown and baronage which succeeded the conquest, must in many cases have been planted on the land as military colonies, or turned on to the work of castle-building. There were, it is true, others who came to the country to pursue their calling as tradesmen and artisans, and it is probable that the London and Winchester guilds of weavers, which are heard of in the reign of Henry I., were composed of alien immigrants. The influence which this Norman immigration exerted upon the country can hardly be overestimated. The private economy of a king or a great baron would exercise an influence over a very wide area. The monasteries diffused new forms of practical activity. If the earliest industrial guilds were, as Dr. Cunningham surmises, composed of aliens, it is possible also that the earliest pieces of industrial legislation, such as the assize of bread and the assize of cloth, may be due to alien influence, for "there may have been rules which were laid down by the earliest craft guilds for the guidance of their members." The name "mayor" too, as Dr. Cunningham remarks, points to Norman influence. Alien influence too is of course decisively felt in all matters of administration. Dr. Cunningham argues that the Domesday survey was

probably "based on a model derived from pagan Rome"; that the taxation of movables was copied from the scheme of papal taxation; that the development of building and sheep-farming, as well as the use of money, were greatly stimulated by the Norman conquest; that the introduction of the avoirdupois weights was due to the representations of Spanish merchants; and that since most of the financiers of the early middle ages were aliens, we are indebted to the foreigner for our instruments of credit and bills of exchange.

The immigrations of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries were due to economic, not to military reasons. They were less general and less generally influential than those which had accompanied or followed William the Bastard. But if the influence of the immigrants during this period was merely economic, "as an economic influence it was of first-rate importance." It is felt in finance until the failure of the Bardi in 1345. It is felt in commerce and in industry. Of Edward III. Dr. Cunningham says "that he may be said to have taken the first steps to render this country the workshop of the world." Yet the disturbances in the Low Countries, and the unfriendly attitude of the merchant companies in the great Flemish towns were, as the author acknowledges, as important factors in determining the immigration as the policy of the kings, and it was also a fortunate coincidence that the capitalist and mercantile class had not attained such power in England as to cause artisans to fear oppressive restrictions. At any rate, there was during the reign of Edward III. a considerable immigration of skilled artisans, who made their way to the wool-growing districts. The statute of Edward IV. shows that cloths of distinct makes were being produced in Kendal, Guildford, Norfolk, the eastern counties, and Devonshire, and it is possible that a large part of this clothing trade may have been due ultimately to the enlightened patronage of Edward.

The middle of the sixteenth century marks a third stage in the history of alien immigration into England. The motive is now primarily religious, although of course many foreigners still continue to be attracted to the country by other considerations. We have the Walloon weavers of Glastonbury in 1550, who were banished to Frankfort under Queen Mary; the German refugees, who fled from the interior, and who were granted the use of the Austin Friars under the superintendence of John A'Lasco; the wholesale immigration from the Low Countries in the time of Elizabeth; the influx of Huguenots in 1562, 1572, 1621; the close intercourse with the Dutch during the Commonwealth and the reign of Charles II.; the great wave of Protestant immigration on the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. It is difficult to define the amount of economic and social influence exercised by this religious exodus. Apparently it starched the ruffs of the Elizabethan ladies; introduced glass-engraving and new potteries into London; began silk-weaving at Canterbury, and thread-making at Maidstone; started lace-making; improved the knives of Sheffield; introduced the

manufacture of cotton. The draining of the Fens was financed by Dutch capitalists, directed by a Dutch engineer and executed by Dutch workmen. Brewing, gardening, mining, clock-making, the manufacture of cables and cordage gained new impetus from Dutch cleverness and resource, and the general introduction of root crops in the early part of the seventeenth century was due to the influence of Brabant husbandry. The later immigration of Huguenots was perhaps as important. To it we owe a great development of the silk and paper industries, and so completely was the hat trade of Caudebec transferred to England that it was commonly said that the hats of Roman cardinals were manufactured here, until the secret was restored to France in 1730.

Dr. Cunningham observes that the experience of the effects of alien immigration in the past does not necessarily lend encouragement to hospitality in the present and the future. As long as manual dexterity was the chief factor in the production of goods, the importation of persons possessing that dexterity was worth stimulating. But now our concern is to import not men but machines. We had something to learn from the Flemings, the Lombards, and the Huguenots. We have nothing to learn from the Polish Jews. Their one trade secret, the art of miserably enduring on a starvation wage, is happily incommunicable to Englishmen. Even great industrial exhibitions, as M. Paul Leroi-Beaulieu has so forcibly pointed out in the *Economiste Français*, have had their day. The diffusion of mechanical and industrial knowledge is obtained less expensively through the medium of trade journals, and the result of a great exhibition is to dislocate trade and temporarily to disorganise the city in which it is held.

We trust that Dr. Cunningham and the Cambridge ladies whose assistance is acknowledged in the preface, may see their way to filling in the preliminary sketch which they have so skilfully drawn. Might not, for instance, some information be procured as to the agrarian influences of the early Flemish settlements, especially since Meitzen has collected so much evidence concerning the Flemings and Westphalians in the Slavonic parts of Germany?

H. A. L. FISHER

The State and Charity. By THOMAS MACKAY. (London: Macmillan and Co., 1898, pp. vi. 201.)

THE relation of the State to Charity seems at first sight—like the relation of Law to Morality—to be necessarily a negative one. The moral deed which is done upon compulsion ceases, *ipso facto*, to be moral, and the charity which is given upon compulsion has not the spontaneity which makes it charity. But we can get out of the difficulty by disregarding the motive in the man, and confining our attention to the meaning of charity, which Mr. Mackay defines as “a certain abnormal economic method for distributing the good things of this world.” With this aspect of charity the State concerns itself much, both by way of limitation and administration; and the discussion both of what it has