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Author(s): Percy Ashley

Review by: Percy Ashley

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Local Government in England. By JOSEPH REDLICH. Edited with additions, by FRANCIS W. HIRST. 2 vols. (London: Macmillan and Co. 1903. £1 1s.).

EVERY student of English Local Government has long felt the need of an authoritative manual which should occupy a middle place between the purely legal treatises on the one side and the popular expositions on the other. That want is now largely met by Dr. Redlich's work, which, already favourably known in its German edition, now makes its appearance in English, with numerous alterations and additions by its translator-editor; and, though it cannot be regarded as in any sense definitive, the authors have produced a work which must be for a considerable time a standard authority. The first book is devoted to a survey of the development of Local Government in Great Britain, and its general point of view is sufficiently indicated by the title given to the account of the nineteenth century progress—"The growth of English Radicalism and its influence on the government of the country." In the second book, which occupies most of the two volumes, there is an elaborate examination of the structure and working of our Local Government institutions, and here the authors, in addition to a readable description of the legal position and powers of the various authorities, have made a valuable contribution to the study of the subject by their account of the committee system and of central control (particularly by the Local Government Board). Finally, Book III., which is entitled "The Theory and Criticism of English Local Government," and occupies some forty-five pages, is almost solely an attempt to show that Gneist's doctrine of self-government does not (and did not) apply to this country, and that his view of English institutions was radically false.

Valuable as the book most certainly is, a student of the economics of local administration will close it with considerable disappointment. The structure of the work has prevented any treatment of the problem of local finance as a whole, though there is much information to be found in the accounts of the various authorities. In Vol. I., p. 406, we are promised a later chapter "upon the growth of local expenditure and indebtedness," but, unfortunately, no such chapter appears in the work. Had it appeared, it would probably, if we may judge of the paragraph on I., p. 393, have been decidedly optimistic. The question of municipal ownership, with its financial and economic results, is the most interesting and urgent problem in local government to-day; but the authors expressly declare (I., p. 397) that "the subject of municipalisation, important as it is, lies outside our scope," and there is no description given of the wide extent and variety of municipal enterprise. The authors offer (I., pp. 404-6) some criticism of the Exchequer Contribution Account, but they fail to make clear the thorough badness of the present system, and it is unfortunate for them that they could not make as much use of Dr. Cannan's destructive

criticism of the Account as a whole (in the March number of this Journal) as they have of his onslaught on that part which is allotted to police.

There is a bad mistake in the note (Vol. I., p. 194) on the areas before the Act of 1888, and the total effect is to give these absolutely different numbers of square miles as the area of England and Wales. The authority quoted (Cobden Club Essays, 1882) does not say that "the average size of a county" was thirty-three square miles, but that it "would be represented by a square about thirty-three miles to a side," which is an altogether different thing. The average areas assigned to the union and parish in the note are wrong in the same way. Finally, it is to be regretted that the authors should have thought fit to display their political theories (which have coloured their historical sketch also) by such notes as those on pp. 391, 414, and 416 of Vol. II., which are not calculated to encourage a belief in their scientific impartiality.

PERCY ASHLEY

The Employment of Women in the Clothing Trade. By MAUD HURD WILLETT. (New York: Columbia University Press. 1902).

DR. WILLETT'S monograph on the employment of women in the clothing trade forms one of the series of studies in history, economics, and public law, which are being issued under the auspices of the Faculty of Political Science in Columbia University. It describes in detail the conditions under which the industry is carried on, mainly in New York, which is the centre of the trade, and the strange competition which has marked its development not only between different methods of production, between the small workshop and the factory, but between different races of workers, the Jews against the Germans, and later, the Italians against the Jews. This gives the subject a peculiar interest, while Dr. Willett's account of the working of the recent factory laws, particularly those dealing with the licensing and registration of home-workers, is well worthy of study in view of the movement in the same direction in this country.

Women's industry outside the home may be said to have begun in the United States with the rise of the cotton industry at the close of the eighteenth century and with the rapid growth of the factory towns of New England. Since then, the employment of women in manufactures has continued and increased, but the workers are mainly concentrated in a few lines of work, notably in the textile and the sewing trades. In the latter trade, the largest branch is that for the manufacture of men's ready-made clothing, in which over 34 per cent. of the total number of workers employed are concentrated in the city of New York. The trade is of quite recent origin, and was first introduced about the middle of the last century by the German immigrant.