WILEY

Review

Author(s): L. L. P.

Review by: L. L. P.

Source: *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*, Vol. 71, No. 4 (Dec., 1908), pp. 714-715

Published by: Wiley for the Royal Statistical Society

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2339392>

Accessed: 27-06-2016 09:10 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 Statistical Society are collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*

of income-tax statistics. They, therefore, have recourse to statistics of agricultural and industrial production, derived in part from indication given by such taxes as the *contribution mobilière*. The total comes out at about 900 million £; but the authors describe these calculations as very problematical, and fall back on a "more scientific" plan of valuation of incomes (1) from capital, (2) from capital and labour combined, and (3) from labour. The proportions which their ingenious and careful investigations bring out, viz., 31·6 per cent., 22·8 per cent., and 2·6 per cent., respectively, are worth remarking; but they do not claim more than a partial and hypothetical authority for their total of 28 milliards of francs, or 1,120 million £, a figure, it may be observed, notably below that usually claimed (1,800 million £) as the national income of the United Kingdom. We have no space in which to give the results of a most interesting chapter on the apportionment of fortunes and income among the different classes, but we cannot conclude without congratulating the authors upon a very full and learned contribution to the study of a question which should be of supreme importance to all concerned in the raising of public revenues. It is much to be desired that some similar work, continuing labours like those of Sir Robert Giffen, and summarising and comparing the various recent sources of information and their results, might be undertaken in this country.

B.M.

10. *La progression des budgets en France du treizième siècle à nos jours : ses causes et ses remèdes*. Par Joseph Jacob. 180 pp., 8vo. Lyon : Imprimeries Réunies, 1908.

In this monograph the author has addressed his attention to an interesting and important topic. His readers may perhaps feel that he has been more successful in furnishing the means for making at any rate an approximate measurement of successive stages in the past growth of a movement, with the results of which they must be tolerably familiar at the present time, and in indicating the chief causes of this persistent accelerating tendency, than he can be pronounced encouraging in suggesting the possibility or likelihood in the future of any comprehensive effective remedy. For, as he shows in his final chapter, if old causes of increasing expenditure by the State have now disappeared, or have been curtailed, new demands and fresh opportunities have arisen, which may well overtake or outstrip the increase of national wealth which has actually occurred, however laudable, or even in the broader sense remunerative, may be the purposes they are intended to fulfil. He has indeed little difficulty in pointing out the reasons for the large increase which has been the dominant characteristic of preceding times. The growth of population, for example, has undoubtedly been by itself a promoting influence, bringing, however, in some degree its appropriate remedy in an augmentation of the total sum of taxable wealth. An advance in the rates of wages and of salaries paid has been another "economic" factor. In the "social" sphere, similarly, the enlargement of the rôle assigned to the State in modern life has exercised a marked effect, while, in the "political"

order, the development of military establishments has not been unaccompanied by leakage and by other deficiencies of public administration, such as the unnecessary multiplication of officials. These tendencies to increased expense have more than counter-balanced the economies produced, most notably perhaps in the diminution of the interest payable on debt, and in the decentralisation in France of functions previously devolving on the State.

The statistician will be more interested to see that Dr. Jacob is careful to note in this portion of his work the possibility of an apparent as distinguished from a real increase, due to changes made in the detailed arrangements of a budget, including at a later period items omitted at an earlier date, or to alterations in the value of money. The latter factor is one of which our author attempts, as he should, to take due account in the earlier historical section of his treatise, and he reviews the chief considerations which have been observed and examined by economists and statisticians in this particular connection with a fulness of knowledge (of which the bibliography appended to his brochure affords confirming testimony) and a discrimination of judgment which appear to us to be deserving of great praise. He himself follows as his main authorities Leber and Natalis de Wailly, supplemented by reference to M. D'Avenel's monumental writings on the history of prices, in adjusting the figures of the past centuries to a standard of comparison with those of the nineteenth. And he thus contrasts in successive chapters certain budgets, beginning in his first with the Middle Ages, at the time of Philip Augustus, St. Louis, and Philip the Fair, proceeding in his second to the period from 1547 to 1580, dealing in his third with the period from Henry the Fourth to the Revolution, in the fourth with the Revolution, and in the fifth and last chapter with the nineteenth century. His general conclusion is that the French budget of 1900 was nearly four hundred times as large as that of seven hundred years before, and nearly thrice as great as the highest budget of the *ancien régime*. Such a movement, he adds, is not however confined to France. It has been common to all civilised nations and every form of government, and he quotes illustrative figures for the nineteenth century from England, Russia, the United States, and Japan.

L.L.P.

11. *Hungary: a sketch of the country, its people, and its conditions.* By Julius de Vargha, D.Jur. Budapest: Office of the Athenæum, 1908.

The recent Hungarian Exhibition held in London has prompted the distinguished Director of the Central Statistical Office of the Kingdom of Hungary, Dr. de Vargha, to place before English readers a useful pamphlet, which is both historical and statistical, and which deals alike with the development and the present commercial and economic conditions of the State. With a kindly recognition of his friendly relations to his statistical colleagues here, Dr. de Vargha, who is one of the Hon. Fellows of this Society, has placed at the disposal of the Council a number of copies of this publication. These will be found to be of convenient reference on the many points on

3 B 2