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Les Budgets Comparés des cent Monographies de Familles publiées dans "Les Ouvriers Européens" et "Les Ouvriers des Deux Mondes." by M. E. Cheysson; M. Alfred Toqué

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system as practised in Cornwall, that it secures a community of interest between the adventurers and the miners, with the result that the maximum of output is obtained, whilst the intelligence of the miner is stimulated by the foresight he has to display in making the bargain. On the other hand he finds that the mortality is excessive, owing to the unhealthy conditions that are allowed to exist in the mines, that the accounts of wages are sometimes manipulated, that the articles sold to the miners are charged at too high a price, and that too long a period elapses between the payments of wages. Where wages depend on the price realized for the ore (tribute), the earnings fluctuate much more than where a fixed price per fathom is paid for excavation (tut-work), and it seems that the latter system is replacing the former. There is one point on which Mr. Price might have given further information, viz., how far the system tends to depress wages. Mr. Price states that the contracts usually result in the payment of the average wages of the district, but it is quite possible that this average is kept down by the selling of contracts by auction. In the districts of Prussia above referred to, the system has been abolished. This was one of the chief results of the strikes that occurred in 1889. The workers complained that the sales by auction resulted in low wages, even though a 'normal contract' was supposed to be kept in view. The auction sales were replaced by monthly contracts, the terms being agreed to by both parties.

It is to be hoped that Mr. Price will continue his inquiries into the origin of the system he describes, and extend his investigation to the Continent. The German and the Cornish customs in all probability have had a common origin. In the meantime all students of the economic history of our country must feel very grateful to him for his valuable contribution to our knowledge of how wages are fixed in our leading industries.

J. E. C. MUNRO

Les Budgets Comparés des cent Monographies de Familles publiées dans "Les Ouvriers Européens" et "Les Ouvriers des Deux Mondes." Avec une introduction par M. E. CHEYSSON en collaboration avec M. ALFRED TOQUÉ. Paris and Rome, 1890. Pp. 160, 4to, 5 francs. (Reprinted from the *Bulletin de l'Institut International de Statistique*. Tom. V., 1^{re} livraison, 1890.)

WHEN the century now drawing to a close had reached its dividing line, and the young Renan "looking before and after" pronounced its function to be the preparation of monographs and *mémoires pour servir*, Le Play was already toiling like an economic Nethinim to collect the trivial and otherwise unrecorded facts of humble family life, fulfilling the ideal of Renan's scientific hero who constrains himself arduously and ingloriously to prepare trustworthy materials for builders yet unborn.

This volume is a reminder that the works of Le Play do follow him. His treatise of 1855, *Les Ouvriers Européens*, contained thirty-six minute studies of fairly typical workmen's families in different parts of Europe. *The International Society for the practical study of Social Economy*, founded in 1856 to continue this work in the Old World and the New, has since published further monographs at intervals of about six months apiece, under the title *Les Ouvriers des Deux Mondes*. The series, including *Les Ouvriers Européens*, has now passed its hundredth monograph; and the Society is to be congratulated upon the quiet perseverance by means of which this result has been achieved.

M. Cheysson, favourably known on the Continent as a distinguished statistician and man of action in social science, has marked his term of office as president of the society above referred to, by extracting from each study its central statistical feature, the budget of receipts and expenses, and collating these under their several subheads. The hundred families are thus distributed: fifty-one in France; six in England; thirty-three in eleven other countries of Europe; six in Africa; two in Asia; one in Canada; and one in the United States. The analyses of sources of income and items of expense of each family are set out first in 'absolute numbers' (francs) and then in relative numbers (percentages of total). The comparative importance on the one hand of wages, common rights, allotments, bye-industries, housewifery, benefit allowances, and perquisites of all sorts,—and on the other of food stuffs *inter se* or with reference to lodging, furniture, clothing, fuel, light, heat, taxes, &c., is thus exhibited.

A doubt may be expressed whether, on the whole, this part of M. Cheysson's labour is justified by its result. The budgets of Le Play and his school are generally regarded as depending much upon their setting for the value which they possess. The monographs are in fact Meissonier-like pictures, and do not lend themselves to being cut up without injury into snippets. The *tout ensemble* is true: to generalise from any single part of it would be unsafe and unsound, having regard to the few cases brought under observation. M. Cheysson, it need hardly be said, attempts no such generalisation himself. 'Each monograph,' he says, 'is a complete though isolated family portrait. It may be of great interest to set these portraits side by side, just as in an ethnographic collection we arrange the principal racial types together and compare them trait for trait.'

Further question arises as to the policy of the slight modifications of the original budget arrangement. Thus, instead of the division of drinks into 'aromatic' and 'fermented,' we find tea and coffee lumped with mustard and other articles under the head of *condiments et stimulants*! Surely this gives little opportunity of comparing the incidence of indirect taxation through articles of drink or even of food. For does not M. Paul Leroy-Beaulieu defend the repeal of the sugar duty here and its retention in France on the ground that sugared tea is a necessary of life on the west of the Channel only?

The brightly written dissertation upon the nature, method, and utility of family monographs is particularly noticeable and should find many readers in this country, which, M. Cheysson can hardly be gainsaid, is practically the last to seriously attack the subject. The bibliographic essay appended to this publication, though now twelve months old, abundantly proves the activity of Germany, France, and the United States in this direction—an activity which shows no sign of slackening and must inevitably before long spread to the United Kingdom. The Board of Trade Return of 1889 (Expenditure of Working Men, C 5861) was a first step. Is it not time for a second?

HENRY HIGGS

Free Exchange: Papers on Political and Economical subjects, including chapters on the Law of Value and Unearned Increment, by the late RIGHT HON. SIR LOUIS MALLET, C.B. Edited by BERNARD MALLET. (Kegan Paul) 1891.

THIS is a remarkably full and logical exposition of the doctrines of the Manchester School. No member of the Cobden Club was more thoroughly imbued with the spirit of Cobden than Mallet. It is true that he sometimes goes beyond his master. In the chapter (I) which deals with Cobden's Political Opinions and which had appeared in 1878 as Preface to an edition of Cobden's 'Political Writings,' he sees in Bastiat the necessary complement of Cobden (see *e.g.* p. 23, and *cf.* later p. 230, &c.). He thereby gains for the doctrines a certain theoretical completeness, though the School is not bound to follow him here.

Our author has the common feature of all true followers of the founder; he has an intense faith in the necessary connection of politics with economics and of both with the moral law. 'A man who meddles in public affairs without having satisfied himself as to the relation in which the two phenomena of poverty and wealth stand to each other is a charlatan, and not entitled to have any share in the work of statesmanship' (Letter quoted p. viii.) He tells us he himself passed through every form of social heresy till he found 'peace in the free trade creed, and with it the necessary belief in the gradual emancipation of the millions both material and moral, and therefore political.' (*ibid.*, *cf.* p. 13). He believed (in 1869) that it was not the Manchester policy but a neglect of it and a reaction against it that 'left us with increased wealth indeed, but with a distribution of it more unequal and more unnatural than before, and with a large population, whose chronic wretchedness and degradation is a standing reproach to our civilisation and a sullen protest against our laws' (p. 5). 'Whatever progress has been made in the national prosperity has been principally due to the steps which have been taken in fulfilment of his [Cobden's] principles' (p. 10). A secure society rests upon 'the law of labour,' 'in the sweat of thy brow thou shalt eat