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The Commerce of Nations by C. F. Bastable

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The Economic Journal, Vol. 2, No. 6 (Jun., 1892), pp. 324-325

Published by: [Wiley](#) on behalf of the [Royal Economic Society](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2956153>

Accessed: 27/12/2014 08:39

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panied by some conditions, which limit their freedom of striking for higher wages, or leaving the business in which they are working. It is frequently not paid in cash at all, but devoted to some insurance fund, which will be forfeited by their dismissal, or even by their voluntary withdrawal from the employment of some particular firm. As compensation, therefore, for this real sacrifice of freedom the workmen would naturally look for some very tangible advantage in the shape of bonus on wages ; and yet there is some reason for thinking that in some cases this bonus on wages may only substitute an addition to what are really lower wages for the higher wages which would otherwise be obtained. These, and other similar arguments, are urged by Mr. Schloss with very great cogency, and they deserve attention when they do not carry conviction. It would, perhaps, be wrong to say that he is an entirely unprejudiced observer, but, if he sometimes seems anxious to establish a case, he never, consciously at least, has recourse to unfair arguments, and the position for which he is contending has certainly none of the attractions of popularity. We cannot but think that the destructive criticism contained in his book is as opportune and as wholesome at the present moment as his collection of facts is full and varied ; and we have dwelt on the criticism because it admits of easier analysis than his detailed presentation of facts. But he himself, it must be added, does not seek any support for his criticism outside the actual facts which he has observed and collected, and a successful opponent of his conclusions will have, we imagine, to explain away his facts as well as his inferences.

L. L. PRICE

The Commerce of Nations. By C. F. BASTABLE. London : Methuen & Co., 1892.

THIS is undoubtedly the most scientific volume which has yet come under our notice of the series to which it belongs. Professor Bastable's previous writings on the subject of international trade form a guarantee for sound and careful reasoning, which is fulfilled in the little book before us. He has, if we may say so, made a department of economics, which is, perhaps, the most intricate and perplexing within the range of the science, in a certain sense his own ; and yet he has also in this book, as it appears to us, been singularly successful in combining fullness of knowledge and profundity of thought with lucid and interesting explanation of practical fact. It is a strange coincidence that, in England at any rate, perhaps the greatest success of economics in the domain of practice has been achieved in the department—so difficult in theory—of international trade ; but the success was won by the help of the inevitable logic of stubborn fact rather than by the assistance of the nice refinements of theory ; and the persistency with which protectionist fallacies linger among us, and still continue to captivate even able intellects, is one indication of a failure to grasp the essential elements of the economic theory of international trade. In discussing, then,

the subject of the 'commerce of nations,' Professor Bastable is dealing with what is still a 'question of to-day,' and will, we imagine, for some time continue to be so, although the tendency of thought and of practice may really incline in the hopeful direction indicated by him in his last chapter. He has endeavoured throughout his treatment of this burning social question to be both scientific and popular, and to combine an account of facts with a statement of theory. He, therefore, begins by giving a brief review of the theory of international trade, and by examining the part played in it by money. This naturally leads to a temperate account of the mercantile system, and its later development into protection. The English customs system from 1815 to 1860, and the tariff system, so contrary in its methods and tendencies, of the United States, are then reviewed. The reform of continental tariffs from 1816 to 1865, and the recent protectionist reaction, which has succeeded to the marked and general inclination in the direction of greater commercial liberty, which followed on the adoption of free trade by England, are considered in the following chapters, and the similar recent tendencies of colonial tariffs next receive attention. Professor Bastable then passes back from the region of fact to the sphere of theory, and supplies a fair but destructive account of the modern protectionist theory. He presents and criticises successively the chief economic arguments advanced in its favour, and then proceeds to review the non-economic arguments, which are based on social or political grounds. This is followed by a criticism of the other expedients of the system besides import duties, such as bounties or export duties, and by an account of the practical complications and jobbery and smuggling to which protection seems inevitably to lead; and then two concluding chapters are devoted to the more modern proposals for reciprocity or retaliation and for commercial federation. Within the necessarily confined limits of a convenient handbook Professor Bastable has thus managed to compress what would otherwise have to be sought through many volumes of no inconsiderable size; and this is, we think, especially apparent in his chapter on the arguments put forward on behalf of protection. The same chapter reveals most manifestly another quality, which characterises the whole book, and that is the candour with which Professor Bastable endeavours to set in its most favourable light an argument, which he has nevertheless little difficulty in proving untenable. Marshalled together, as it is in this little volume, the reasoning against protection seems to us to be truly overwhelming. Here and there protection may appear to be both plausible and persuasive, and free traders may have not infrequently weakened their case by dogmatic extravagance but, subjected to the searching test to which it is here exposed, the real weakness of protection is laid bare, and its marked contradictions are made manifest. Few more useful services could be rendered at the present time than that thus performed by Professor Bastable.

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