WILEY

Review

Author(s): C. Grant Robertson

Review by: C. Grant Robertson

Source: *The Economic Journal*, Vol. 21, No. 81 (Mar., 1911), pp. 99-101

Published by: Wiley on behalf of the Royal Economic Society

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2222082>

Accessed: 25-06-2016 03:47 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*

British counter weapon, the Orders in Council, and to the maintenance of an inconvertible paper currency in defiance, as the Bullionists argued (and refutation of their argument would be a hard task), of true economic theory and sound practice? One of Miss Cunningham's contemporaries might, perhaps, be tempted to write a third Girton study to show that (as Brougham in a famous speech suggested) Perceval, Castlereagh, and Vansittart were really more dangerous economic enemies to Great Britain than Napoleon and all his Decrees. Our political and economic history requires a monograph on the Continental system as a whole, a work certainly *de longue haleine*, but imperatively needed to-day. Miss Cunningham has proved her interest in the question and her competence to deal with it. The expansion of her essay into a comprehensive study of the economic and political problems furnished by the great phases in the struggle, from Trafalgar to the war of 1812 and the Russian expedition, would be an admirable supplement to the third volume of "The Growth of English Industry and Commerce."

C. GRANT ROBERTSON

The English Factories in India, 1630-33. Calendar of Documents.
By W. FOSTER. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1910. Pp. 354.)

THE documents calendared in this volume cover the period from February 20th, 1630, to December 21st (o.s.), 1633, and number about 320, of which three-fourths come from the India Office, and belong mainly to "original correspondence" in these archives. But they also contain about seventy entries from the Surat Factory Outward Letter Book, "the oldest volume of English records now extant" in India. The Editor has done his work with the same care and thoroughness that were evinced in previous volumes noticed in these columns; he contributes a short but very useful Introduction, summarising and commenting on the chief features of interest in the text, and there is a good index.

Most of the entries will appeal only to specialists concerned with tracing the detailed growth of English trade and settlements in the East; and naturally, as with all such collections, the solid grains are embedded in a vast deal of chaff. The struggles with the Portuguese, the increasing competition of the Dutch, the relations of our traders with native Powers, the depredations on the Company's profits by the "private trade" of employees, and their fear of rivals from home poaching on the preserves of the

H 2

Company (exemplified particularly in the anxiety over the movements of one Captain Quail, commanding the *Sea Horse*, a small ship in the royal navy, sailing under a royal commission), and the inexhaustible energy of the Company's agents in pushing their trade, are illustrated in the documents. For example (p. 151), both the profits and risks of "private trade" can be seen in the case of one Boothby, who "for his own wrongs done to the Company," had been punished by six months' imprisonment at Surat, eight months at sea, "four months a close prisoner, four daies in irons, and two daies hunger bitt." Boothby, who was in the Company's employment, pleaded that the private trade of another servant, no less than President Wylde, "compared with his was as mountains to molehills," for Wylde allowed an Italian Sebastiani, "deepe drencht in Popery and sinn," to send goods freely to Persia. "Like will to like, quoth the Divill, when he danced with the collier."

The outstanding feature of the period is the terrible famine which raged in 1631 and 1632, and the extent and results of which, revealed piecemeal in these documents, are corroborated from other sources. No less important for the future is the attempt to extend the Company's operations by establishing, for the first time, permanent factories in Orissa or Bengal, made in the spring of 1633. But the venture was not particularly successful. Here, as elsewhere in the establishment of our Empire, the Englishmen who came to stay were the last to arrive, and in the Bay of Bengal Portuguese and Dutch and Danes had preceded us for many years. In 1633 Calcutta and Fort William are still a long way off.

The frontispiece to the volume is a reproduction of the portrait of the Earl of Denbigh, from the original by Vandyke in the Duke of Hamilton's collection. As the Editor points out, he was "the first English nobleman to go touring in the East." Curiosity, not private trade as the Company suspected, was his motive, and it was apparently easily satisfied; but on his return curiosity gave way to vanity, for he had himself painted "in a semi-Indian costume and attended by an Indian servant, with a background of tropical scenery." The documents tell us little about his trip, but a rapid reader will find from time to time some vivid paragraphs, one of which by Captain Weddell, describing the vengeance of the King of "Serash" on his brother, a Duke, is superbly vivid:—

"The King, seemingly satisfied, sent for the Duke and his sonnes to Court. The good man in obedience came with his two

sonnes, foreseeing and prepared for death. The King entertaynes him lovingly : but after a little tyme, sitting drinking with the youngest sonne of the Duke, that lived and was brought up with him att Court, hee caused the Dukes head with his two sonnes to be struck off and brought in before him, and demaunds of the young gentleman if hee knew these heads. Hee (deprived of his witts and memory by wyne) made answer 'No' : and, wisht by the King to peruse them more advisedly, could make no other answer but 'No.' The King then called for a bowl of wyne and, casting it on their heads, uttered these words : ' They drank wyne while they liv'd ; lett them drinke now they are dead ' ; and so sent forth the sonnes to know who they were in the next world or never " (pp. 294-5).

Economic material does not often provide the dramatic. How many companies to-day receive letters in which their agents could tell a story as Captain Weddell does ?

C. GRANT ROBERTSON

Norwich : A Social Study. By C. B. HAWKINS. (London : Philip Lee Warner, 1910. Pp. x + 326.)

THIS is a businesslike study, based on direct observation and accessible figures, of a city with a great economic past and a present of marked characteristics. "The one great town of East Anglia" is affected in various ways by its isolation amid a wide rural area—labour moves out of it slowly, the half-rural casual moves into it too readily. The economic consequences of a huge cattle market, with its drovers provide problems of their own ; the transition in the boot industry (one of those which came in the 'forties to relieve the tragedy of the decay of the ancient textile manufacture) from the stage of the garret-master to that of the factory is of general interest ; and it is useful to have some first-hand knowledge of the conditions under which much of the world's mustard, starch, and blue are produced. Among the textiles small and diminishing remnants of silk and hair-cloth alone survive—features of antiquarian interest only in a town which lives mainly (besides boots and mustard) on chocolate, mineral waters, and marketing, with some ready-made clothing, engineering, printing, cabinet making, and breeding of canaries, in bedrooms as a rule it would seem. A town of "low wages, low rents, and good housing" ; full of ancient charities, which one is glad to find appear less demoralising than is commonly thought, and unduly given to doles ; a town with problems and experience in unemployment relief and boy-labour not differing widely