



# WILEY

---

Review

Author(s): Hélène Reinherz

Review by: Hélène Reinherz

Source: *The Economic Journal*, Vol. 16, No. 61 (Mar., 1906), pp. 111-113

Published by: Wiley on behalf of the Royal Economic Society

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2221151>

Accessed: 23-06-2016 01:28 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](mailto:support@jstor.org).



*Royal Economic Society*, *Wiley* are collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *The Economic Journal*

book is that which deals with family budgets; from this we learn that out of 217 cases investigated only 41 men were found capable of supporting their families by their own labour, the rest were dependent on financial help from their wives or children.

The report on Home Industries is somewhat disappointing: we get many pages of detail concerning wages and hours of work and a minute description of the development of the industries investigated, but a very meagre treatment of such questions as hygiene, legislation, &c.

*Les Industries Chimiques* gives interesting statistics as to the number and disposition of the various factories in the kingdom, the work undertaken by each, the labour employed and the wages earned. There is besides a large mass of technical information, no doubt useful to those in search of it, but somewhat disjointed in arrangement. The monograph obviously suffers from a plurality of compilers.

Of the *Annuaire de Législation* we have already spoken above, and we need only add that, if the facts are correct, it is an excellent piece of work. It is interesting at this date to note that the only piece of industrial legislation undertaken by Russia in 1904 was the removal of the restrictions on Sunday labour. There is a good Table of Contents which serves as a summary and guide to the volume, but a few pages of introduction, pointing to the main features of interest in the year's events, would have added much to the usefulness of the *résumé*.

HÉLÈNE REINHERZ

*Die Organisationsbestrebungen der Arbeiter in der Deutschen Tabakindustrie.* (Staats-und Sozialwissenschaftliche Forschungen.) By WALTHER FRISCH. (Leipzig: Duncker und Humblot, 1905. Pp. 252. Mark 5'60.)

THIS book is intended as a contribution to the study of German Trade Unionism. There are many persons who, adopting the English Trade Union as the model of organisation, are inclined to deny the title to its German counterpart altogether. But this is hardly fair. An institution may be world-wide—it will none the less take on a special colour and characteristic form in every country where it thrives. The German Trade Unions came into being in times of political agitation and strife, and the manner of their birth has left a lasting mark on their constitution. Their history is a complicated tale, full of en-

tanglements with political parties and extraneous influences of many kinds—there is nowhere any sign of that singleness of aim and clearness of purpose which is responsible for the success of the British Trade Union. The writer has selected the Tobacco Industry for special study because, although it covers only a small field, it yet brings out very clearly and instructively the typical features of the German efforts at organisation. He traces its history from 1848 to the present day through 240 closely-printed pages of the most elaborate detail. There are here, as in other industries, three distinct organisations. The first and most important is the Social Democratic Union, which has from the outset identified itself with the Social Democratic Party in politics. Twenty years later, in 1868, was formed the Hirsch-Duncker Verein, an independent Association without political bias. This new Union was essentially pacific in disposition, its fundamental tenet being a belief in the identity of interests of employers and employed. It made very little way except in the Duchy of Baden, where the Social Democrats had never obtained a footing. The chief defect of this Association was that in its anxiety to gain adherents, it admitted workers of other trades quite indiscriminately to its ranks, and never therefore became a power within its own province. A more serious rival to the old organisation was the Christian Social Union of Tobacco-workers, founded in 1899. The creation of these Unions—for the Tobacco Union was only one of many—was no doubt a bold bid on the part of the Ultramontanes for the working-class vote. But the fact remains that there were throughout the country a large number of workmen who felt the need of organisation, but would not belong to any Union which was directly under the influence and dominion of the Social Democrats. Although the Clerical party was largely responsible for the existence of this new Association, yet it is anti-Social-Democratic rather than Clerical. It adopted a Christian but not a sectarian basis, includes Catholics and Protestants, and is pledged to attach itself to no political party and to lend itself to no discussion of party questions.

Whatever the success of Trade Unions in other industries, the writer comes to the conclusion that the efforts of the tobacco-workers have been conspicuous by their failure. Out of 140,000 only 24,700, or 17½ per cent., are organised, and the standard of wages is deplorable. The fault lies partly in the conditions of the industry itself, partly in the baneful influence of the political element in their associations. The industry is largely carried on

in the homes of the workers and female labour plays a considerable part, two facts which have militated seriously against successful organisation. Female labour is at all times difficult to organise—home industries are past praying for. The position, which was anyhow discouraging, is further aggravated by the obstinate adherence of the old Association to the Social Democratic Party, and the consequent exclusion of all persons of moderate views.

As regards the future of the three separate Associations, the writer is of opinion that the free-lances, *i.e.* the Hirsch-Duncker element, will remain powerless. The other two must yield points to each other, and sink their differences in a joint attempt to raise wages and improve the conditions of labour. Hitherto the opposition and distrust which workmen's Unions have invariably met with, their undoubted wrongs and the injustice of the laws against Socialists have practically driven the budding Unions into the arms of the Social Democrats. But the time is not far distant, says the writer in conclusion, when the development of the Social Democratic Party in one direction and of the Social Democratic Trade Unionists in another, will afford the opportunity for withdrawing the Unions from the injurious dominion of Social Democracy. How or why this is going to happen is not very clear. That it is a consummation which the writer ardently desires, and to which he hopes to add his little quota of effort, is evident. Trade Unions are a necessary and natural feature of every healthy community, and it must be the aim of social reformers to prevent such deserving institutions from becoming the tools of an unpatriotic and unscrupulous party. It is perhaps not altogether unreasonable that the reformer should detect the faint and distant signs of the change which he is anxious to bring about, and it is at any rate never too early to point out the direction in which opportunities for reform may be expected to arise.

HÉLÈNE REINHERZ

*La Monnaie et les Prix.* By ED. DOLLÉANS. (Paris : Larose et Forcel, 1905.)

M. DOLLÉANS examines with penetration all aspects of the problem of measuring and accounting for changes in the value of money. His aim is to discover whether any confirmation can be found, in statistics of prices and currency, of the quantitative theory.

No. 61.—VOL. XVI.

I