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is evident from many sources, and was the text for a wild outburst in the Canadian Press when it was discovered that the census population of 1911 was about 800,000 less than had been estimated.

The book contains a fairly complete but by no means exhaustive bibliography. It is unfortunate that no mention is made of the volume of evidence on the subject given before the Dominions Royal Commission in 1912 and issued ten months before the book was published. Though we have to criticise Dr. Johnson's book from the statistical standpoint, we acknowledge it to be a valuable contribution to the subject and, with the proviso that those inferences depending upon statistical evidence should be taken with some amount of scepticism, can thoroughly recommend its reading.

E.C.S.

5.—*An Agricultural Faggot*. By R. H. Rew, C.B. x + 187 pp., demy 8vo. London: P. S. King and Son, 1913. Price 5s. net.

In publishing these Papers on agricultural subjects, written at various dates during the past twenty-five years, Mr. Rew has placed under double obligation many of his numerous agricultural friends on the one hand, and, on the other, a wider circle of less well instructed political and economic enquirers whose attention to rural problems has been provoked by the trend of recent controversy on social problems bearing on the land, its use and its development. The range of the matters here dealt with, in their aspects at the periods of the original production of the separate essays, is wide. Historical English farming, labour movements, market practices and efforts at agricultural co-operation in several different directions, as well as reflections on the different features of British and French agriculture are discussed in detail, and the reader will find in the volume the concisely summarised statistics of the actual portion of the nation's food supply, which attracted much attention when presented in 1912 on the occasion of the first meeting of a distinctly agricultural section of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

Although latest in date of production, Mr. Rew naturally places first his review of farming in olden times, read before the Farming Club only in May last, and the student who would rightly appreciate the possibilities of some favourite modern theories would do well to weigh what so competent and so impartial a writer calls to mind in both the lessons and the warnings of our older agricultural record. In a second essay, dealing with the later experience of agriculture under Free Trade, 1846-96, occasion is taken to trace with an accuracy not often apparent in the writings of more partisan historians, a clear account of what the Corn Laws actually were. The Paper shows how the course of events since their repeal differed in many instances from earlier anticipations. Mr. Rew quotes McCulloch in claiming for the arable land of the United Kingdom a surface of nearly 22,000,000 acres in 1846, while the first complete agricultural returns gave 23,000,000 acres in 1867—a figure not reduced to 20,000,000 acres until quite thirty years later.

In dealing with the migration of agricultural labourers more than twenty years ago—and on the basis of the census of thirty years ago—Mr. Rew again touches a problem still alive to-day and incidentally quotes estimates which are sometimes overlooked in the wage controversies of to-day, and dealing with the relation which wages bear to the aggregate value of agricultural produce he reveals the magnitude of the share which inevitably falls to labour.

To the defects of our English system of marketing produce Mr. Rew it may be noticed, devotes no less than five of his ten chapters. In the Paper reproduced from the *Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society* in 1892, an historical retrospect of the origin and growth of the markets and fairs of the country recalls a story which has not perhaps received the attention it deserves, and serves as a useful introduction to the subsequent articles showing the real position of the middleman and the relation of the costs of distribution to the course of prices. Many clumsy, unbusinesslike and costly methods still persist, and the steps taken to improve them are here traced. The slow progress in such an acknowledged reform as selling livestock by weight is acknowledged, and the many efforts, not always successful, to extend modes of co-operation and of combination among farmers should be studied in the light of the striking calculation reproduced, which suggests that more than a fourth part of the whole revenue from the produce sold off the agricultural land is absorbed in the cost of conveyance, distribution and sale. The carefully compiled data which these suggestive articles afford are no less useful to-day than when first written.

Since a primary object of all agricultural enterprise is the production of food, the statistical reader will note the estimates which this volume offers as to the extent to which—even under all the handicaps encountered in these days of lowered values and enormously enhanced oversea competition—the farmer still provides quite half the requirements of our swollen population. The details were shortly shown in a recent issue of this *Journal*, and will be welcomed in the more permanent form, as rightly finding space among this collection of thoughtful essays on agricultural problems which have lost none of their urgency, and on which clear thinking is more than ever seriously demanded on the part of all concerned for the well-being of our primal industry.

P.G.C.

6.—*British Railways: a Financial and Commercial Survey.* By W. R. Lawson. xxxii + 320 pp., 8vo. London: Constable and Co., 1913. Price 6s. net.

Quite recently there has appeared a whole batch of books on railway questions, three or four books within the last three or four months. The quantity is all that can be desired; the quality, unfortunately, leaves something to be desired. Mr. Lawson, as we learn from the title-page of the present work, has written on "American Industrial Problems," "British Economics," "Modern