

because a century ago nearly all labor was rural. He found that everywhere those who were migrating to the towns were those who were too poor to be able to live in the country, or those too rich to be willing to live there; making the cities centers of both wealth and poverty, and leaving the farming districts the strongholds of the great middle classes.

It was on the northern farm that Dr. Spahr found the conditions most hopeful — not because of the 50 per cent. dividends paid by the co-operative dairies of Minnesota, nor even mainly because he believed the farm of moderate size to have certain economic advantages which would enable it to compete successfully with and even supersede the bonanza farm, but chiefly because he found the independent northern farm, worked for the most part by the owner and his family, giving men and women “the training in self-reliance and self-respect upon which the development of democracy rests.”

MAX WEST.

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*Das Aufsteigen des Arbeiterstandes in England. Ein Beitrag zur sozialen Geschichte der Gegenwart.* By HANS VON NOSTITZ. Jena: Gustav Fischer, 1900. 8vo, pp. xxiii + 808.

IN the present work Mr. von Nostitz endeavors to bring together the various factors which have entered into the elevation of the laboring classes in England. Beginning with an historical account of labor and industrial conditions and the growing evils following the introduction of machinery and the development of manufactures in the early part of the nineteenth century, under the *laissez faire* policy, the author presents in turn each of the various influences which have tended to overcome these evils and have raised the English workingman to the high plane on which he stands today. As an historian he has taken up the various social movements individually and collectively and has traced them from their inception, through their various vicissitudes to the present time. As an economist he has sought to determine the causes for the conditions presented in the historical account, to measure the relative influence which each factor exerted in the upbuilding of the working classes, and to show the present condition and tendencies of the various phases of the social question in England.

The task of Mr. von Nostitz was an enormous one and gives evidence of earnest study and vast research. During a six months'

sojourn in England he visited many persons and institutions and made a careful selection of original and other sources. That he has successfully accomplished his task is evident to anyone who examines this volume. In presenting the labor conditions at the present time Mr. von Nostitz has done, in a measure, for the Englishman what Mr. Levasseur has done for the American in *l'Ouvrier Americain*, although the work of the former is primarily historical while that of the latter is statistical.

The present work consists of two parts and an introduction. The introduction contains a review of industrial, social, and political tendencies at the beginning of the nineteenth century, the enormous growth in manufactures with the resulting increase of the urban population, the accumulation of capital in commercial, manufacturing, and agricultural enterprises, and the social consequences as manifested in the increased public wealth, the creation of a plutocracy, the misery of the proletariat and the growing dissatisfaction of the working people. Then follows a review of social and economic developments since the middle of the nineteenth century and the influence exerted by public spirited men, the Christian socialist, etc., in averting the great revolution which seemed to threaten the English nation.

In the first part the author gives an account of the development of constitutional government in England, of elementary and higher education, and of the movements for popular education, such as university extension work, university settlements, the Workingmen's College in London, etc.

In the second part he considers those factors which have more directly affected the working classes, chapters being devoted respectively to trade unions, friendly societies, protective legislation, wages, hours of labor, labor disputes, the housing of the working people, etc. Each subject is treated historically and in its economic and social aspects.

The three principal agencies which, according to Mr. von Nostitz, are responsible for the progress of the working classes of England are association, the work and influence of the higher classes, and the public authority. Through the agency of trade unions, friendly societies, and co-operative associations the English workingman has established a system of self-government which enables him to pursue certain aims and to accomplish results which have not only improved his own condition but have wrought changes which have exerted an important

influence upon the life of the entire nation. Association keeps the individual in wholesome restraint and gives him a new intellectual and moral aspect of life, for it teaches him to feel and act in common with his associates and to work for and make sacrifices for the common interests of all. The extension and development of trade unionism in England is simply extraordinary. The trade unions must therefore, according to Mr. von Nostitz, take the front rank as a factor in the progress of the working people, but he thinks that it would be an exaggeration to regard them as the sole factor or as one which immeasurably exceeds all others.

In all the movements for the improvement of the condition of the working people the aid of the upper classes has a prominent part. Although the great development of association may have been possible without the aid of the higher classes, the progress would have been slower and the results achieved, less favorable. Numerous friendly societies and co-operative associations were founded and are aided by the higher classes, and many from their ranks co-operate in the work of the trade unions. In considering the movements for better housing, for the solution of the question of the unemployed, for improved educational facilities, etc., the efforts and sacrifices of the higher classes must not be overlooked.

As the political authority has thus far been exercised by members of the upper classes, and as they have enacted and enforced the laws, they must be credited with a large part of the progress which has resulted from the third great factor in the development of the working classes.

The author draws three important conclusions from the elevation of the English working people during the nineteenth century. The first is that it refutes the theory of Marx, that the submerged sink lower and that the poor must necessarily become poorer, for it is shown that, on the contrary, the progress was greatest where the economic, social, and intellectual conditions were worst, namely in the textile and mining industries. The second conclusion is that the hope and the safety of the future lies in the fact here demonstrated that the power of progress, no matter how weak in the beginning, becomes constantly stronger from time to time; that no object is so insignificant, no sphere so small, no locality so distant, but that honest, striving, and an earnest effort has its part in the great and common work of mankind; that the most modest life may find riches and comfort

in the fact that it need never be valueless; and that each can serve in his own sphere to create and accomplish something for the better. The third conclusion is that the economic, while it has aided, has not permanently dominated the social development, and that although the elevation of the condition of the English workingmen was not accomplished without a struggle, it was not due exclusively or even preponderatingly to their own efforts.

The book contains bibliographical notes and a very comprehensive list of references.

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*The Trust Problem.* By JEREMIAH WHIPPLE JENKS, PH.D. New York: McClure, Phillips & Co., 1900. 8vo, pp. xix + 281.

PROFESSOR JENKS'S utterances upon the subject discussed in this volume must be considered authoritative. He has long been known as a thorough and painstaking student of industrial combinations, and during the past year has had unsurpassed opportunities for gathering material in the course of his work as expert agent of the Industrial Commission. This book "is not intended for the student of economic theory," but presents, in a lucid popular way, the main facts concerning the status of "trusts" in the United States, for general reference. A more complete discussion is promised.

*The Trust Problem* formally consists of eleven chapters and an appendix, but falls logically into two parts—one dealing with general statements and tendencies, the other with the actual working and effects of particular organizations. Of the theoretical portions of the work not much need be said. They contain no explanations of the growth of trusts and no analyses of the phenomena of monopoly price that are not already familiar. Not much more attention is demanded by the sections devoted to concrete investigation. They contain a series of brief monographs on the prices of certain trust-made products, and give valuable information, presented largely by the graphic method, in a clear and succinct fashion. Those of the sections which find a place as illustrations of the theoretical discussions often yield facts and figures not elsewhere available.

It is rather the general tone of the book and the judgments of the author that will arrest the student's attention, and at the same time will rouse the greatest doubt in his mind. Three things in this connection