WILEY

Grundriss zum Studium der Politischen Oekonomie von Prof. Dr. J. Conrad. Vierter Teil: Statistik

Review by: A. Hesse and A. D. W.

Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Vol. 72, No. 3 (Sep., 1909), pp. 645-646

Published by: [Wiley](#) for the [Royal Statistical Society](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2340374>

Accessed: 28/06/2014 17:52

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at <http://www.jstor.org/page/info/about/policies/terms.jsp>

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 and Royal Statistical Society are collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*.

<http://www.jstor.org>

Bank of England as the "Bank of London" (p. 55 n), and the confusion of the Mint with the Bank (p. 63), among other things, seem to indicate either a lack of care or of complete familiarity with financial questions. The proof-reading, too, might have been done with somewhat greater thoroughness. A.W.F.

12.—*Grundriss zum Studium der politischen Oekonomie von Prof. Dr. J. Conrad. Vierter Teil: Statistik. II. Teil, II. Hälfte. Gewerbestatistik von Prof. Dr. A. Hesse. ix + 379 pp., 8vo. Jena: Gustav Fischer, 1909. Price 9 marks.*

This volume forms one of a series designed by Professor Conrad as a foundation to the study of political economy. Former volumes have treated of national economy, political and financial sciences, statistics of population, occupations, agriculture, &c. The present book gives a statistical survey of industry, or rather that part of industry "which consists in changing the form of raw materials." Transport and commerce are therefore excluded and reserved for separate treatment, while agriculture, mining and smelting, &c., are also placed outside the scope of the volume, having already been dealt with in an earlier work. Though this narrow definition of his subject-matter may have been imposed on Dr. Hesse by the general scheme of the series, it unfortunately results in a more or less incomplete picture of the industrial side of man's activities.

As a preliminary to the discussion of industrial statistics, considered under the twofold head of statistics of the means of production and of the results, the author gives a short and useful description of the sources of information. Most important are the industrial censuses taken in several countries. It is significantly pointed out that England, "the first industrial State of the world," is lacking a general census of this kind—a deficiency that is made apparent in several subsequent sections of the book, though it will doubtless be largely made good by the results of recent inquiries by the Board of Trade. Other sources of information are those more or less extensive compilations of statistics necessary to fiscal and commercial arrangements; also certain labour statistics, and the results of special investigations. The data furnished by these sources are extremely varied in character, while those relating to one country are rarely comparable with those pertaining to another.

In the second part of the book, the principal industrial statistics available are briefly summarised and described. First come particulars of the number of industrial undertakings or concerns, classified under some twelve or more groups of industries; then the size of the undertakings, as measured by the number of persons employed, followed by chapters on the legal form of the undertakings (whether joint-stock or other companies, &c.); their personnel; their use of mechanical power; seasonal industries; and domestic industries. Certain groups of industries are then considered separately, largely from the standpoint of output. The amount of information available, as regards both the several branches into which the author divides his subject, and also the different

countries, varies greatly. Especially is this true as to statistics of output or production. In many instances the nearest approach to output is afforded by international trade statistics. Occasionally the author gives a table showing the value in one year only (1906) of the imports and exports of certain products into and out of the principal countries concerned. Such tables appear to us of no very great use. In a book giving a comprehensive view of industry, not only should quantities be stated, to correct the impression given by values, but, more important still, the trade figures for several successive years should be quoted, or, if space does not permit of this being done, the annual average of, say, five years should be given, to allow for, or to eliminate, the accidental fluctuations from year to year. It is also a matter of regret, though this is in no way the fault of the author, that many statistics are extremely out of date, some being no more recent than 1896 or even an earlier year. For example, most of the statistics relating to industry in Belgium are for the year 1896—the date of the last Belgian industrial census.

In the final sections, Dr. Hesse briefly describes the results of the German industrial census of 1907, which were published too late to be incorporated in the body of the book. It is not unimportant to point out in a review of a statistical work that, although the author is, of course, aware that the personnel does not mean the same thing in the census of 1907 as in the earlier censuses of 1882 and 1895 (see notice of German census of 1907, herein), he yet discusses it (p. 362) as though it did.

Despite some defects, however, many of which arise from the paucity of authentic data, and some of which are inevitably attendant upon all summaries of such complex statistical works as censuses, the book is of great value as a reliable epitome of such industrial statistics as do exist. A.D.W.

13.—I. *Statistik des Deutschen Reichs*. Band 231, 1. *Berufs- und Betriebszählung vom 12. Juni, 1907*. *Gewerbliche Betriebsstatistik*. Abteilung I, Heft I. 166* + 67 pp., 4to. Berlin, 1909.

II. *Statistik des Deutschen Reichs*. Band 215, 1. *Berufs- und Betriebszählung vom 12. Juni, 1907*. *Gewerbliche Betriebsstatistik*. Abteilung III, Heft I. 5* + 462 pp., 4to. Berlin, 1909.

In these two volumes are published further results of the German industrial census of 1907. The first volume of census results, containing general information, and giving a detailed classification of the occupations of the people, was reviewed in the June number of this Journal, p. 410. In the present volumes are given statistics of industrial undertakings and their personnel. Agriculture, railways, the postal, telegraph, and telephone services, the medical, legal, scholastic, and other liberal professions are not included.

Two schedules were issued, the first for undertakings in which not more than three persons were employed, which had no out-workers and used no mechanical power; and the second for all other concerns. The information asked for included the name of the owner, locality of the undertaking, kind of business, details of the