

L'industrie dans la Grèce ancienne. By HENRI FRANCOTTE. Two volumes, pp. viii, 343, and vi, 376. Bruxelles: Société belge de Librairie.

Professor Francotte's scholarly work won the prize offered, a few years ago, by the Royal Academy of Belgium for the best study of "the organization of private industry and public works in ancient Greece, from the legal, economic and social points of view." No greater praise can be bestowed upon these volumes than to say,—what is perfectly within the truth,—that they deserve a place side by side with the work of such eminent scholars as Boeckh and Eduard Meyer.

The commonly accepted theory of economic evolution emphasizes the thought, first clearly set forth by Rodbertus, that the economic organization of antiquity was based on the autonomous family or household, which produced all that its members required and which depended on other producers only for a very few objects. This doctrine has since been vigorously developed by Bücher, and quite as vigorously attacked by Eduard Meyer, who maintains that the Greeks had an extensive commerce and an elaborate system of industrial specialization and exchange. The present writer occupies a position midway between these two extremes; he holds that the doctrine of Rodbertus and Bücher is too rigid and absolute.

The first chapters contain a discussion of the rise of commercial and industrial centers,—of Corinth, Athens and Delos. At Corinth and Delos, commerce was more important than industry. Athens was an industrial center. But all three cities were primarily agricultural. Subsequent chapters take up exports and imports, population, the ethical ideas concerning labor and laborers, domestic industry, the systems of remunerating labor, the real value of wages, slave competition, public works, labor legislation, and plans for social reform.

The author reaches the conclusion that there were undoubtedly independent industries in Greece, but certainly no large-scale production, no "large manufactures," such as some modern authors have seen fit to discover in antiquity. Greek industry did not pass beyond the purely embryonic stage, except in those few branches of production in which industry was allied with art. For ordinary products, each city was sufficient unto itself under ordinary circumstances, the cost of transportation for such goods exceeding their selling price. Artistic labor had to be applied to goods in order to impart exceptional beauty and sufficient value to justify transportation. The Greeks were fortunate enough, from the standpoint of posterity at least, to manufacture only things of beauty.

Particularly interesting are the author's investigations with regard to the wealth of the Greeks and the uses to which this wealth was put. The commerce of Athens appears to have been largely in the hands of foreigners; yet both foreigners and Athenians were accustomed to the loan of their wealth. Commerce, in fact, cannot develop without institutions of credit; it is natural, therefore, to find frequent mention of bankers among the Athenians. Most of them belonged to the class of liberated slaves and the banking personnel was recruited from among the slaves. The principal banking

function was making loans, usually guaranteed by mortgages or tangible pledges of some sort.

The whole book is characterized not so much by absolute dogmatic conclusions as by an exceedingly careful examination of all the possible sources of information regarding the business life of the ancient Greeks; not so much by sweeping generalizations like those of Rodbertus and Bücher, as by the constant and conscientious endeavor to picture the material life of the Greeks in all its peculiar complexity and variety. It furnishes the reader with a complete tableau of classic Greek economics and produces the impression of careful research and brilliant analysis.

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Actual Government as Applied under American Conditions. By ALBERT BUSHNELL HART, LL. D. Pp. xxxiv, 599. Price, \$2.00. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1903.

This is the latest and, in some respects, the most valuable contribution to the recent output of high-class text-book literature on American government of which the manuals of Ashley and Woodburn are the other most notable examples. The volume under review represents a distinct departure from the conventional text-book on civil government in that it emphasizes, first of all, the actual workings and functions of government rather than the structure and machinery. It brings to the front what may be called the *personal* element in government, a feature which adds interest and vitality to the treatment of the subject. Again, our federal system is not treated as though it consisted of two entirely separate governments, one national, the other local, but as integral parts of one system, each as important in the general mechanism as the other. Finally, the historical element is interwoven with the descriptive in a manner which leaves hardly a dull or uninteresting page in the book. Perhaps the feature that most impresses the reader is its encyclopedic character. Certainly no book of the kind has yet appeared which contains in so compact a form such a vast range of information on so many phases of American government. Hardly any aspect of government activity is left undiscussed. Besides the usual discussion of the structure and operation of government, there are special chapters on such topics as the organization of commerce, transportation, education, religion and public morals, public order, land and landholding, boundaries and annexations, territories and colonies, taxation, public finance, foreign intercourse and commerce, suffrage and elections, the physical basis of government, etc., etc. To each chapter is prefixed a list of classified references, while a general bibliography is placed at the beginning, both features adding greatly to the value of the work. Unfortunately, however, the work otherwise so valuable is marred by evidences of apparent haste in preparation, which has led the author into a good many inaccuracies of statement. Some of these may be noted. On page 16, and again on page 494, the date of the fourteenth amendment is given as 1870, while on pages 31 and 69 it is given as 1868. On page 17, the