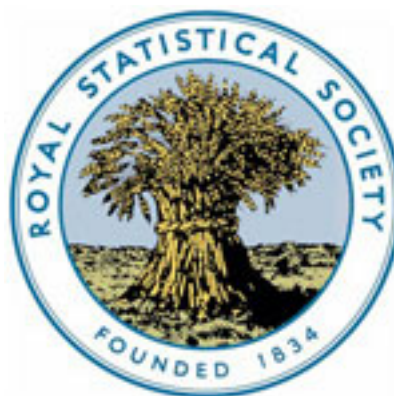


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Co-Operation in Scotland by James Lucas; Co-Operation in Denmark by L. Smith-Gordon; C. O'Brien

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sure they are practicable (*e.g.*, 15); but about his general scheme he is as confident as Robert Owen. "A new moral world is in formation," he tells us (97). It would need to be, for among the postulates of the scheme are change of heart and growth of intellect. If the small self-governing workshops of the Christian Socialists broke down, from lack of wisdom and training, the self-governing guild embracing all the workshops of a trade can hardly be within reach of the workers without preparation.

Mr. Hobson has himself well described the difficulties of control and management (85). There are other passages which appeal even to the unconverted reader. Such are the account of the Influence of the War on Labour (226 *seq.*, *cf.* 280), the chapter on the Workshop (172 *seq.*), and that on the Civil Service (292 *seq.*). When Mr. Hobson touches on currency, he is less helpful. It is impossible for such theorists, with all their efforts, to rid themselves of the present monetary basis of trade and production. A new kind of money and credit is hinted at (184, 250, and Pref. XI), but there is no more than a hint. The impression is given here and there that the new plan will be Barter (*e.g.*, 118). Many economists have described foreign trade so. But even in foreign trade we need a measure of value; the experiment of Owen's Equitable Bank of Exchange with its Labour Notes and all their difficulties would hardly be worth repeating.

It is known from the daily newspapers that Mr. Hobson has taken the chief part in the work of the Manchester Building Guild, an experiment which will be watched with great interest and sympathy even by sturdy individualists.

Many of us are prejudiced against Socialism as tyranny wherever found. There is much in this book to justify the prejudice (*e.g.*, 221). It depresses us also to hear that under the new régime our members of Parliament are likely to be mere delegates (123), in spite of Burke's time-honoured warning. But we recover our spirits when we go back to the concluding words of our author's Preface (xvii): "The threat of the compositors not to print certain opinions distasteful to trade union sentiment had better be considered very seriously before it is accepted as a principle. *A la guerre comme d la guerre*; it was incidental to the railway strike; but the preservation of our right to speak, write, and publish what we do veritably believe is a cardinal matter. It is more precious to the community than any conceivable industrial organisation." A saying worthy of all acceptance. J.B.

11.—*Co-operation in Scotland*. By James Lucas, M.A. 93 pp., 8 ins. × 5. (International Co-operative Series, No. 2.) 1920.

Co-operation in Denmark. By L. Smith-Gordon, M.A., and C. O'Brien, M.A. 74 pp., 8 in. × 5. (International Co-operative Series, No. 4.) 1919. Manchester: The Co-operative Union, Limited, Holyoake House, Hanover Street. Price 2s. 6d. each.

The object of the series to which these two books belong is stated to be to enable both the student of co-operation and the general

reader to obtain knowledge of the co-operative movement. Volumes for England and Sweden are in course of preparation, and the authors of the volume for Denmark have also contributed one for Ireland. Others will be published shortly.

Mr. Lucas surveys the early days of co-operation in Scotland. His book is based mainly on the pioneer History of Scottish Co-operation by Sir William Maxwell, who was the chairman of the Scottish Wholesale Society, but he goes further back in tracing the genesis of co-operative organisations, as far back indeed as the time of William the Lion, A.D. 1179. Of modern co-operative stores, Maxwell dates the earliest at 1770, when a weavers' friendly society at Keswick combined to purchase oatmeal in bulk, and divide it among the members. One formed at Govan in 1777 survived until 1909 and then had to close its doors. It is curious that the same fate attended the Hull Flour Mill in England after an existence nearly as long.

It was at New Lanark, in Scotland, that Robert Owen founded his mill; but Mr. Lucas rightly urges that this "was not co-operation, but benevolent and skilful despotism. Co-operation teaches men to do things for themselves. Owen did things for them." He quotes as a typical society of those which originated upon the revival of the co-operative movement in the middle of the nineteenth century, the St. Cuthbert's Society, Edinburgh, established 1859, and traces its history and progress. As a type of the productive society, he cites the Paisley Co-operative Manufacturing Society, registered in 1863, which has extensive factories in and about Paisley, and the United Co-operative Baking Society of Glasgow, which is a federation of societies. Greatest of the federated class of society is the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, founded in 1868. Statistical tables appended to the volume show the progress of this institution from that date to December, 1918. In the twenty years 1898-1918, its shares subscribed by other societies increased from 223,669 to 597,883; those subscribed by its own employees from 5,054 to 25,791; its total capital from 1,333,078*l.* to 5,778,569*l.*; its net sales for the year from 4,692,330*l.* to 19,216,763*l.*; its net profit from 165,581*l.* to 481,318*l.* The rate of dividend, which had varied from 7*d.* to 9*d.* was reduced to 5½*d.* in the year 1917 and 1918, probably on account of the war. The retail distributive co-operative societies in Scotland had, in 1911, 406,411 members, equal to 8½ per cent. of the population; their sales were 15,242,951*l.* on 3*l.* 4*s.* per head of the population, an average of 37*l.* 10*s.* for each member. In 1916 the co-operative societies of Scotland had 514,321 members, and a retail trade of 24,065,214*l.* or nearly 47*l.* per member; their wholesale trade was 12,287,448*l.* or 51 per cent. of the retail trade. The volume is illustrated by thirteen photographs and has a bibliography.

The book on co-operation in Denmark tends to show that the movement in that country has been the foundation of national prosperity. The great majority of the population of less than

three millions are farmers, and the conditions of the movement are widely different from those of the co-operative movement in Great Britain. The authors discuss the political events which have led to the adoption of the co-operative system in Denmark. The first co-operative creamery was founded in 1882. It is pointed out that the legal constitution of societies is different from that of societies in the United Kingdom. The period for which a creamery is formed is generally from ten to fifteen years. Within that time all borrowed capital must be paid off out of profits. At the end of it the members may start again. We are informed that co-operative credit societies play only a small part in the movement. The first distributive store was founded in 1866, on the model of the Rochdale Pioneers. A wholesale federation was created in 1871. There are in Denmark 400 cattle breeders' societies, 250 pig breeders' societies and 270 horse breeders' societies. The authors are of opinion that the co-operative movement in that country has triumphantly surmounted the difficulties it had to face during the war.

The statistics given in the volume do not correspond with those in the volume for Scotland, and it would perhaps be an advantage if the general editor of the series could arrange for as nearly uniform a set of statistical tables in each of the volumes belonging to it as could be obtained. By 1892 there were 800 creameries, and in 1914 there were 1,190. The distributive societies were 500 in 1890; and in 1915 there were 1,488 such societies in affiliation with the Danish Co-operative Wholesale Society, having 232,128 members, a distributive trade of 3,958,333*l.* and reserve funds of 139,583*l.* A bibliography is appended to this volume also.

The Co-operative Union is to be congratulated on its undertaking. The series of small handy volumes to which these two books belong will serve admirably to interest the public in the movement now making progress in so many countries, and to enlighten them as to its methods and its possibilities. In our own country, at least, these have been much misunderstood. The variety of the forms in which the movement expresses itself in the different countries, taking colour from their varying necessities and modes of thought, is well brought out in small treatises like these, written by well-informed authors, in a popular and pleasing style.

E.B.

12.—*Essays on Indian Economic Problems.* By Brij Narain, M.A. 307 pp., 8vo. Lahore: Panjabee Press, 1919. Price Rs. 2·8 as.

This little collection of essays opens with a sensible and broad-minded protest against the misconception common amongst Indian economists that their science, as expounded in the West, is inapplicable to their country, the conditions of which demand a different and independent set of principles. The author, on the contrary, thinking historically, looks upon economics as the scientific expression of the rules of sound business carried on under the social and material conditions of contemporary life. He holds,