

The book proper is devoted to the study of modern labor legislation. Part I traces the origin of labor departments, ministries of labor and the like in several countries, gives the history of the early repressive legislation, such as measures forbidding trade unions as "contrary to the spirit of the constitution," and shows the resistless victorious march of the labor movement in the acquisition of recognition, rights, and democracy.

The second part takes up the broad subject of industrial contracts—their kinds, terms, and legal restrictions and safe-guards.

Part III deals with conflicts between employers and employees, arbitration and conciliation, and the like. Upon a background of general legislation on this topic in several countries is thrown an extended history of the French laws governing the matter, winding up with several projects of desirable reforms. Throughout these sections, as well as in the following one, valuable references are made to American statutes embodying the principles under discussion.

The final section, entitled "A General View of Social Institutions," portrays the precarious position of the worker under the present organization of industry, and sounds a warning to those who consider that organization one of perfection and permanence. "No one today," says Professor Pic, "will dare, we believe, to present employership as potentially containing the solution of the social problem. We are denying neither the noble aim nor the happy results of certain employers' institutions, capably managed. But it is certain that the employment system is more and more dashing itself on a fearsome rock of disaster, which is pointed out by even the most convinced partisans of employment, namely, the ominous spirit of independence on the part of the workman toward his employer."

The section concludes with a chapter on "positive law," arguing for a number of plans of social reform, among them a comprehensive system of social insurance embracing protection for old age, invalidity, widow- and orphan-hood, illness, and unemployment.

The book is a splendid reference work, and its broadness of mind makes it grateful reading. It has already gone through several editions, and in the last is thoroughly revised and brought down to date.

SOLON DE LEON.

New York.

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PRATT, EDWIN A. *Agricultural Organization*. Pp. xii, 259. Price, 3/6. London: P. S. King and Son, 1912.

This book describes the various lines of agricultural organization which have taken place in England and Wales during the past few years. The farmers of continental Europe have long been organized into effective buying, selling, and credit societies, but English farmers were among the last to realize the importance of greater coöperative effort to secure the best results in the profitable marketing of their crops. Several years ago the author published a valuable work on *The Organization of Agriculture*, which dealt almost

entirely with the farmers' coöperative movement on the continent; and the present volume may be regarded as supplementary to that work by giving a review of the development of agricultural organization in England since that time. In this undertaking which has resulted in organizing the British farmers, due credit is given to the Agricultural Organization Society which was mainly instrumental in effecting the transition in England. In recognition of the value and importance of its services, the government is aiding this society by a grant of funds to enable it to enlarge the scope of its labors in promoting agricultural coöperative associations in Great Britain.

The author briefly outlines the continental situation as regards agricultural organization, describes the status of the movement in England and Ireland, summarizes the evolution of the Agricultural Organization Society, discusses the significance of the transport problem as applied to agricultural produce, and finally devotes a large part of the book to the work of organization as already done or contemplated for the immediate future. These efforts or projects include the coöperative sale of produce, such as poultry, eggs, dairy products, live stock, grain, hay, seeds, etc.; the organization of the wool industry, the hop industry, and grist milling; and coöperative bacon factories, credit, land renting, insurance and telephones. The subject of coöperative land renting is particularly interesting as showing the value of the movement in promoting the success of small holdings.

The facts as thus presented show the needs, aims, rights and wisdom of the principles and practices of agricultural organization. The book was written to commend the subject to the attention of the British public as a national question of great importance and well deserving of their most serious and most sympathetic interest. The author's own words are right to the point in this particular when he says:

"Although Great Britain has hitherto been behind certain of the other countries in taking this all-important work in hand, the right lines have now been adopted, the difficulties of the pioneering stage have been surmounted, and a happy combination of voluntary effort and state aid, each supplementing the policy and the possibilities of the other, should ensure in the immediate future a greatly accelerated rate of progress, to the advantage alike of agriculture, of agriculturists, and of the national well-being as a whole."

The book is written in the author's usual lucid style and with a knowledge of his subject probably second to none in Great Britain. A good index adds to the value of the volume for reference purposes. In view of the lack of agricultural organization and rural credit in the United States, this book will undoubtedly prove of considerable value to rural economists and others who are interested in promoting these and similar phases of American rural life.

JAMES B. MORMAN

*Kensington, Md.*

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PRICE, M. P. *Siberia*. Pp. xviii, 308. Price \$2.50. New York: George H. Doran Company. 1912.

The student of economic conditions in Asia finds *Siberia* a land of mystery and his efforts at enlightenment by means of written accounts of the country