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Review

Author(s): S. J. Chapman

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justifiable. What is justifiable must be a matter of judgment, and possibly to some extent of experimentation, but the burden of proof rests upon its advocates. Such projects should be carried out by the localities interested, and the burden should be borne by those who derive the benefit. Only in large undertakings of national concern should the general Government be called upon for aid. But I protest most vigorously against the deluge of schemes poured in upon Congress at every session by reckless advocates, who, disregarding altogether the cost of their crazy measures in the increased burden of general taxation, argue for the inherent cheapness of water transportation, and urge the construction at public expense of works whose traffic will never cover the cost of maintenance."

W. M. ACWORTH

*L'Imperialisme économique et la grande Industrie anglaise.*

Par PAUL GAUNAY. (Paris : Librairie Générale de Droit et de Jurisprudence. Pp. xxi., 325. 1905.)

THE author is thoroughly well posted with information : the book begins with bibliographies in which we have not detected any noticeable gaps. It is an account of the present fiscal question in the first part and a review of the chief British industries in its second part. The first part contains five chapters : the opening one is a sketch of our commercial policy since the Methuen treaty, and the other three deal respectively with contemporary Imperialism, the proposed Imperial Zollverein, preferential tariffs, and retaliation, from the point of view of the sympathetic expositor rather than of the critic. Our relative economic position has changed, we are told ; to continue producing in the face of foreign competition has become one of our prime needs, and hence the Colonial trade federation will come about ultimately without any doubt. If it does not, Great Britain is doomed to rank with second-rate Powers, or even to sink to the same level as Spain (in what respects exactly we are not told). It is almost needless to say that in view of the present relative economic positions of the leading countries this forecast is very bold and premature, especially as no close proof is attempted of the way in which the Colonial Zollverein is to avert our impending ruin. Our author admits (p. 106) that preferential treatment of Colonial produce will raise our costs of production and so weaken our competing power in foreign markets, but he seems to find in this fact only a need for reciprocity and retalia-

tion, which are quite rightly represented as dangerous double-edged weapons. There is no necessity to examine further the contents of Part I.: it contains, I think, nothing new, but it is a perfectly fair representation of the main ideas at work: analytically it is not strong, and the writer gives no hint that he is possessed of sufficient scientific equipment to appreciate fully the true inwardness of the Free Trade reply. Part I. concludes: "Reform is not imminent, but it approaches. I should like to believe that it will be liberal. Such is the tradition of England. Such is also her interest."

Part II. is a survey of the position of our leading industries. They are treated under the headings of coal, iron and steel, mechanical engineering, tin-plate and galvanised iron, cotton, wool, linen, silk, and chemicals, and chapters follow upon industrial concentration, railways, and canals. The book concludes with an account of how France—who is not to escape scot-free—would be affected by an alteration of the English commercial system, and with two pages of alarmist summing-up, in which we are warned that we must find a remedy for our threatening decadence rapidly, and apply it energetically. On the whole, there are no serious gaps in the statistical representation of the state of our industries, but it is wildly inaccurate to say that, though a good number of employers in the cotton industry follow Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. Balfour represents better the aspirations of the cotton industry. There is no doubt that the bulk of Lancashire employers are opposed to any departure from our present policy. The great defect in Part II. is the want of a fully reasoned account of how our various industries would be affected by the fiscal changes suggested.

S. J. CHAPMAN

*L'Assistance par le Travail, et les jardins ouvriers en France.*

Par MARCEL LECOQ. (Paris: Giard et Brière, 1906.)

THE enormous difficulty of dealing with the unemployed problem has been so acutely realised in England during the last few months that the attempts of other countries to grapple with the same difficulties must be of considerable interest to us at the present moment.

In *L'Assistance par le Travail* M. Lecoq deals with some of the methods adopted in France. His book is mainly a historical account of past experiments made by the State, especially those of the critical periods following the revolutions of 1793 and of