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Statistical Office, the task of preparing a fit *Denkschrift* by which to commemorate the auspicious anniversary, and an ample and laborious volume bearing the foregoing title is the excellent result. The book contains a review of the administrative achievements of all the 110 Prussian towns with a population exceeding 25,000 at the last census. The first 137 pages are taken up with brief historical memoranda relating to all these towns; there are over 500 pages of statistics covering the entire field of municipal life and administration; and the editor himself has contributed a careful and illuminating study of the statistical data which he has collated in such overwhelming affluence. Among the subjects specially dealt with both by the tables and the editorial review are growth of population (with particular reference to birth, death, infantile mortality, and marriage rates), education and its cost, public health, social welfare (from which the poor-law is unfortunately excluded), transport, municipal enterprise, savings banks and local taxation. Upon all these subjects Professor Silbergleit gives a mass of comparative statistics relating to the whole of the 110 towns, making his volume an incomparable storehouse of facts of inexhaustible interest to students of municipal organisation and administration in Germany. As a piece of statistical literature *Preussens Städte* is worthy of the fine work which so many of the Municipal Statistical Offices of Germany, and not least that under Professor Silbergleit's able direction, every year produce.

WILLIAM HARBUTT DAWSON

Le entrate Pubbliche dello Stato Sabaudo, durante la guerra di Successione Spagnuola. By L. EINAUDI. (Torino, 1907.)

La Finanza Sabauda durante la guerra di Successione Spagnuola. By L. EINAUDI. (Torino, 1908.)

Il costo della guerra di Successione Spagnuola. By A. PRATO. (Torino, 1907.)

Censimenti e Popolazione in Piemonte nei Secoli XVI., XVII., XVIII. By A. PRATO. (Roma, 1906.)

It is impossible in a brief review to do adequate justice to these elaborate monographs, which are monuments of patient work and careful research in the financial archives of the former duchy and kingdom of Savoy. The first three, which are the opening instalments of a series of investigations to be conducted under State assistance by economists of established repute in the

University of Turin, are intended to throw light on the financial history of Piedmont during a critical epoch in the evolution of the House of Savoy. The war of the Spanish Succession which divided Europe into two great camps, and two great leagues, was the period when a skilful, persevering, and unscrupulous ruler, Victor Amadeus II., by his courage and diplomacy permanently laid the fortunes of his State and converted a duchy, that was a Naboth's vineyard to the Houses of Bourbon and Habsburg, into a kingdom. The financial aspects of this war, so far as they affect Savoy, are illustrated and discussed with a wealth of detail based on official records that make selection and discussion both unsatisfactory and difficult. It is not easy to over-estimate the labour that the compilation of these statistics must have cost their editors, nor to admire too much the care and ingenuity with which the figures are disentangled, rearranged, and so lucidly explained. The results broadly have both a historical and an economic importance; historically because they will enable the student to understand more clearly the financial basis on which the policy of the Duchy of Savoy necessarily rested; economically because they provide a documental investigation into the statistics and public finances of a progressive political organisation with a great future before it. Professors Einaudi and Prato have not only published a complicated series of treasury records; they have combined them into a complete picture of the public and domestic economy of the Savoy State as a whole. In his general estimate of the total cost of the war, Signor Einaudi refers, with praise that no one would wish to qualify, to the model study by Sir R. Giffen on the cost of the Franco-German war of 1870-1, and while expressing his obligations, explains with convincing lucidity the difficulties of applying Sir Robert's methods and tests to the more limited subject in hand. But Professor Einaudi in four separate sections endeavours to estimate the cost (a) proper of the military operations; (b) of the conduct of the war for the head of the State; (c) "*dei risultati patrimoniali*" (a term difficult to translate, but the sense of which is perfectly intelligible); and lastly (d) the burden imposed on the people of Piedmont. These estimates and calculations (which are illustrated statistically also very fully by Professor Prato) give, if I understand them correctly, a final figure equivalent to about six millions and a half English pounds (reckoning the Piedmontise lira at the rate of exchange given by the treaty with England of August 4th, 1704). This is obviously a very large sum, if it is remembered that Savoy was one of the minor States of Europe, and that the value of money

was different two centuries ago. As to the modern value of £6,500,000, it would not be possible without very careful statistics and inquiry to offer an opinion. But no economist would probably place it at less than £20,000,000 of our money to-day. It is not surprising therefore, as the documents show on every page that the financial strain on a small State such as Savoy was excessive, and it says much, both for Government and people that this crushing burden was somehow met without a complete collapse.

The financial methods—direct or indirect taxation, contributions in kind, loans, exactions imposed on districts conquered or occupied—employed to provide resources are fully explained and statistically worked out with almost embarrassing wealth of detail by the editors. But it may be questioned whether without the subsidies of her allies Savoy could have paid her way or continued in the war. The greater part of these payments in aid came from England. The figures as to these, with explanatory text, will be found in Professor Einaudi's fifth chapter. From Holland the amount received would seem to be rather more than two million lire, but from England (between 1703 and 1713) the sum is calculated at 32 million lire, or, on another calculation, at 28½ million lire, in the money of 1703—1713.

Apart from the richly-seamed mines of information on public issues in which the student can now quarry, Professor Prato's volume provides some interesting peeps into the domestic economy of the Savoy Court. The items here are minute, entertaining, and suggestive. On an average more than three times as much was spent on wine from Champagne and Burgundy as from Nice (Nizza). The "bibliotecario e istoriografo" receives 900 lire as against 1,000 allotted to "un parruchiere e barbiere della Persona," and 1,500 to "un Chirurgo." And England not only provided subsidies during war, but dogs and horses also for hunting in time of peace. The figures, carefully analysed by the editor, bear out his conclusion that the expenditure of the Royal and ducal household was conducted on economical lines. Though an exception must be made in the benefactions to the church, and under the heading of "Piaceri Minuti," where the ducal favourite, the Contessa di Verrua, cost her princely lover on an average at least ten or twelve times as much annually as his historiographer and librarian. The Countess's allowances indeed make a singular contrast to the modest monthly payment of forty lire allotted for "pocket-money" to the three (legitimate) sons of Vittorio Amedeo. To the student alike of social habits, costume,

and comparative prices the tables and statistics of Signor Prato will furnish no small returns.

Professor Prato's other monograph, a statistical study of the material for determining the population of Piedmont in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries, is a valuable supplement to the above works. In his first chapter the writer examines critically the sources from which the Piedmontese census returns may be compiled, and tests their information by modern requirements in statistics. In his second chapter he gives the results of his investigation on these various lines of inquiry. In his third he devotes himself to the city of Turin, while the fourth chapter, working on eighteenth-century records, aims at classifying and distributing the figures obtainable under specified heads. The whole inquiry illustrates the writer's ingenuity and patient research, and is replete with instructive and interesting conclusions. For example, in 1734 the males in Piedmont exceeded the females in the proportion of 50·18 to 49·82 respectively; conversely in 1901 females are 50·56 per cent. of the inhabitants. The disastrous effects of the plague of 1630, and of the war of the Spanish Succession are very strikingly shown (pp. 36 and 37), though the exact losses in each case cannot be calculated with irrefutable certainty. When we come to the middle of the eighteenth century we are on surer ground, and nothing can better illustrate the steady progress of Piedmont than the tables on p. 116, where the density of the population per square kilometre is shown to have risen from an estimated 46 in 1589, dropping to 44 in 1700, rising to 69 in 1750, and reaching 113 in 1901.

These detached comments scarcely more than scratch the surface of the vast area covered by those various monographs; but they may induce the historical and statistical economist to examine more closely the information now at his disposal. Professors Einaudi and Prato indeed have set to their successors in the work that they have begun under State auspices a standard which it will be difficult to attain.

C. GRANT ROBERTSON

A Study of the Topography and Municipal History of Præneste.

RALPH VAN DEMAN MAGOFFIN. (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, September, October, 1908.)

THIS is a volume in the Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political Science. The author, a Fellow in Latin