

the tariff wars in which European nations are now engaged. He shows the effect of extending the privilege of self-government to great populations that are not ready for it, and exhibits the ignoble quality of modern politics which resolve elections into *quasi*-economic contests for the possession of lucrative positions. These are only a few of the prominent points in the discussion of the general theme. The concluding part of the work is devoted to a study of "the new order" that is establishing itself by the merging of many nations in a general "economic state." The volume contains appendices on "the results of the wars of the Revolution and the Empire," and on "a plan for the establishment of a league of neutral powers."

J. B. CLARK.

*Histoire des droits d'entrée et d'octroi à Paris.* Par A. DE ST. JULIEN et G. BIENAYMÉ. Paris, Paul DUPONT, 1887. — 8vo, 148 pp., tableaux iv, 148 pp.

Among the most grievous of all forms of taxation are the municipal customs duties or excises which are still found to-day on the continent under the name of *octroi*. In the middle ages they were all but universal. The nineteenth century has witnessed strenuous efforts on the part of several governments to secure their total abolition. But in France these taxes continue in almost unabated vigor, and still form the main source of municipal income to-day. The present work is interesting as being the first to give an exhaustive history and description of the Parisian *octroi*. Mention is made of the indirect taxes during the Gallo-Roman régime, but the first definite trace of municipal duties is found in the twelfth century, on wine. From this period until the Revolution the taxes gradually increased in number and extent, until they covered almost everything. Some of the most common were known as *chaussées, petit ponts, rouages, riviages, conduits, chantelages, tonlieux, coutumes, congés, and hallages*. The Revolution abolished them all, but they were quickly reinstated, at least in part, under the somewhat timid name of *octroi municipal et de bienfaisance*. The only difference now was, that the taxes were henceforth levied only on commodities destined for local consumption. The revolution of 1848, and the financial exigencies of 1870-71 led to a further increase in the number of articles subject to the duties, so that to-day seventy-eight commodities, including all the necessaries of life, are dutiable. An appendix contains a detailed description of each of the one hundred and twenty-three tariffs, beginning with the year 1121.

E. R. A. S.

*Die Frage des internationalen Arbeiterschutzes. Nebst einer Kritik der Ansicht Gustav Cohns.* Von Dr. GEORG ADLER, Dozent der National-ökonomie und Finanzwissenschaft an der Universität Freiburg. München u. Leipzig, 1888. G. Hirth's Verlag.—8vo, 113 pp.

Dr. Adler's whole argument for 'international legislation in behalf of the laboring classes is based upon the assumption that labor laws, when carried to a satisfactory extent, — as, for example, in England at the present time, — tend to lessen the productive capability of the laborers in proportion to their wages. In consequence, the labor cost of articles produced is increased, and the nation with such laws is placed at a disadvantage in competition in the markets of the world. The "Reports of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the Depression of Trade and Industry" in England (1885-1887), and an article in Conrad's *Jahrbücher für National-ökonomie und Statistik*, by Professor E. Nasse, are cited as authorities for this view, — a view that has often been controverted; though, of course, the whole question turns upon the opinion of the writer as to what legislation in behalf of laborers would be considered sufficient.

As such laws, regulating the labor of women and children, fixing the length of the normal working-day, *etc.*, are necessary to prevent the physical and moral deterioration of the working classes, such legislation should, by means of treaties, be entered upon simultaneously by all the leading industrial nations of Europe. Unless the nations are placed upon an equality in this regard, the probable result will be that in the more advanced nations, by international competition, wages will be forced down, and the condition of the laborer will eventually be reduced to that of the laborer in the countries less advanced. It is even suggested that in the course of time it may become necessary to force China and Japan into such a league, or to cut off their competition by tariff laws, or otherwise. In support of this view, it is urged that wages in England are already on the decline; the competition of Germany has already become too strong, and unless Germany passes labor laws as advanced as those in England, the English workingman will be forced still nearer to the condition of the German laborer.

The legislation recommended by the author as suitable for adoption by the leading industrial nations is certainly in itself not at all unreasonable. It may be briefly summed up as follows:

- (1) Children under thirteen years of age not to be employed in factories and shops.
- (2) Working day of ten hours for men.
- (3) Prohibition of Sunday labor in factories and shops.