

The chief difficulty encountered in a study of this sort is, of course, the paucity of materials; and in this respect Dr. Joranson's plight is far worse than that of students of Danegeld in England. For the West Frankish Danegeld never developed into a regular annual tax, as did the English; and it has left no records which are to be compared in importance with the *Inquisitio Geldi*, Domesday Book, and the early Pipe Rolls. Consequently there are many questions concerning it which really are not susceptible of definite answers. In such cases the temptation to resort to hypothesis and even to conjecture is natural and understandable, but it is a temptation which ought to be restrained more rigorously than Dr. Joranson has done. The book is valuable, but it would have been distinctly better had it been more concise, less occupied with theory, and more closely confined to demonstrable fact.

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*Transactions of the Royal Historical Society*, fourth series, volume VI. (London, the Society, 1923, pp. 211.) Of six articles in this volume, the first is one on the Relations of Great Britain with Guiana, by the Reverend G. C. Edmundson. Readers of British writings on this subject will not be surprised to perceive from Mr. Edmundson's narrative that all the acts of aggression were on the part of Venezuela. No aggressions by Great Britain; the meek inherit the earth not by any activity on their part, but by Scriptural promise; yet, to put the matter briefly, it is observable that the official *Colonial Office List* of 1885 gave the area of British Guiana as 76,000 square miles, that of 1886 as 109,000 square miles, while in the edition of 1922 it stands at 89,480. Mr. Edmundson says: "On this [appeal from Venezuela] the American President, Grover Cleveland, without approaching the British Foreign Office, and with no knowledge of the rights of the case or of the grounds on which the British government had taken decisive action, issued a decree, December, 1896, appointing a Commission to investigate the merits of the boundary dispute", and so on. One who can write thus may well be asked to read the twenty-five historical and argumentative pages of Mr. Olney's instruction of July 20, 1895, a copy of which Mr. Bayard left with Lord Salisbury on August 7. Next, on the basis of Lord Egmont's diary, Mr. R. A. Roberts writes interestingly of the Birth of an American State (Georgia). Mr. Charles Johnson of the Public Record Office describes the System of Account in the Wardrobe of Edward I. The wardrobe at that time including nearly all the spending departments, its system is of much importance to the student of administration. Dr. Emilio Re of the Archivio di Stato in Rome presents some documents found in his archives relating to the English Hospice in Rome in 1365. Sir Charles Firth gives in a most entertaining manner a large amount of information on the Portraits of Historians in the National Portrait Gallery. The volume concludes with the Alexander Prize Essay, by Mr. E. W. Hensman, on the East Midlands in the Second Civil War, May to July, 1648.

*Honors and Knights' Fees. An Attempt to identify the component Parts of certain Honors and to trace the Descent of the Tenants of the same who held by Knight's Service or Serjeanty from the Eleventh to the Fourteenth Century.* By William Farrer, Litt.D. Volume I. *Bidun, Chokes, Visdelou, Wahull, Curcy, Peverel of Nottingham.* (London, Spottiswoode, Ballantyne, and Company, Limited, 1923, pp. ix, 296.) Future historians of honors in their more general political and economic aspects, scholars interested in genealogy, and those editing manuscripts and seeking to identify the names of many good knights who have long since worn "their brave state out of memory" will be grateful to Dr. Farrer for these arduous studies in the descents of lands, of which this volume is the first fruit. His purpose, as he states it none too fully or clearly in the preface, is to trace the descent of tenements comprised in honors and knights' fees that remained more or less intact for a considerable period of time downward from Domesday Book, to trace also the descent of the multitudinous subtenants of these fees, and also upward and downward from the earliest extant evidence the tenants of all tenements of which an honor formed at a later date than Domesday Book was composed. His authorities are the printed sources in which information as to the descent of fees would be naturally sought for, and such of the manuscript sources of the same character as he has had time and opportunity to use. Of the six honors treated in this first volume, Peverel, Chokes, and Wahull are given as examples of the type of honor that remained for some time without disintegration, Bidun and Curcy as examples of accumulated tenements erected into honors at a later date. The method adopted is to give first an introductory statement of the general descent, in which the reader may wish there had been contained some of the more general conclusions Dr. Farrer must have drawn from the great amount of evidence he has collected, and thereafter sections dealing with the descent of the individual fees, each section ending with references to the sources from which the information has been compiled. An index of persons and places gives the key to the use of the book, although one may perhaps regret the omission of some of the less important place-names within the vill. A subject index, while entailing much additional labor, would have added to the value of the work. The mass of detail is so great that it is difficult to find the valuable information the book contains on various feudal matters, reliefs, serjeanties, *terrae Normannorum*, and the like. The fairly constant relation suggested between pre-Conquest owners and Norman tenants would be of interest, if proven.

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*The Story of the English Towns: Halifax.* By J. S. Fletcher. (London, Sheldon Press, 1923, pp. viii, 116, 4 s.) This little volume of barely over one hundred pages does not pretend to be more than a popular account of the famous Yorkshire borough. Halifax still lacks an