

*Economic Development of Modern Europe.* By FREDERIC AUSTIN OGG. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1917. Pp. xvi, 657.)

In his preface the author tells us "It is the purpose of this book to indicate the origins, and to explain with some fullness the nature and effects, of a number of the more important economic changes and achievements in Europe during the past three hundred years." He also calls attention to the fact that some of the more technical subjects such as public finance have been omitted from consideration; and that attention has been restricted to the three leading countries, France, Germany, and Great Britain with Ireland. Part I, on the antecedents of nineteenth century growth, bridges the gap between mediaeval and modern economic conditions, and the remaining three parts concern themselves mainly with the century just past. Part II treats of agriculture, trade, transportation and industry; part III of the movement and growth of population and of labor organizations and legislation; and part IV of socialism and social insurance. A companion volume is promised which is to consider European social legislation intensively.

This volume is not intended for the casual reader, but is a student's and a scholar's source of information and stimulus. A large amount of material is presented, both of historical facts and of theoretical exposition. At the end of each chapter are several pages of selected references to the literature of the subject. Helpful footnotes and fifteen pages of index complete the aids offered by the book to the student of recent economic evolution. That this is the work of Professor Ogg is sufficient guarantee of its scholarly character. A few insignificant slips of proof readers' oversights such as (p. 72) that prices "fell" because of the increase in the stock of money, and the dates 1794 (p. 37) and 1858 (p. 538) will doubtless be corrected at the next printing.

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*Excess Condemnation.* By ROBERT E. CUSHMAN. (New York: D. Appleton and Company. 1917. Pp. 323.)

The student who described excess condemnation as "the practice of putting a man to death for stealing a loaf of bread" now has a thorough, nontechnical and readable treatise at his disposal. Dr.

Cushman has entered virgin ground and presents from the standpoint of social control a "direct and effective means of solving certain city planning problems, of serving highly important social and esthetic ends." His treatment of this subject interests the student of law, finance and city planning, or rather, re-planning. Lot remnants, protection of both beauty and usefulness, and recoupment or profit are adequately treated by numerous specific instances of practical application in American and foreign cities.

Clear-cut and constructive conclusions are drawn in each chapter. The author believes that "the risk of loss is too serious to warrant its adoption as a method of municipal finance," but that "the financial risks are not so dangerous as to render unwise the use of that policy for the purpose of controlling remnants of land or protecting public improvements." His final conclusion is that excess condemnation is "not merely the best solution available for that problem, but also that it is the only policy which adequately and effectively meets the public need. It strikes the wisest and fairest balance between social control and the protection of individual rights."

The tables of constitutional provisions and statutes would have been strengthened by an appendix of about ten pages giving the full texts in each state. An adequate citation and discussion of cases is presented. Illustrations or diagrams of the Fairmount Parkway in Philadelphia or Avenida Central in Rio Janeiro would have added value. This study must be considered an admirable specific for our lack of foresight in previous municipal planning. It is a valuable addition to the National Municipal League series in which it appears.

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*An Introduction to Political Philosophy.* By J. P. FARRELL, M.A. (London: Longmans, Green and Company. 1917. Pp. vii, 220.)

This work, written by a former principal and professor of history in Dayaram Jethmal Sind College, at Karachi, is designed to provide English and Indian students who "go up to the universities and commence to read political philosophy for an honors examination in history" with an introduction to the subject as a whole and some explanatory comment and criticism of the principal classical writers in the field. About half of the book is taken up with an elaborate analysis