

seem to have been less varied : of customs duties we find only five classes, and of internal revenue or of excise taxes only four varieties. The remaining payments are largely of a private economic character.

When it is remembered that well-nigh all of these taxes are not only mentioned by name, but explained in more or less detail, it will be seen what a vast addition is made to our knowledge of fiscal history. It puts the earlier works on Egyptian finance out of date, not only as regards the mere enumeration, but also in respect to the details of assessment and levy of the taxes. Incidentally, Professor Wilcken adds chapters on "The Evolution from Credit to Money Payment" and on the "Relations between Slavery and Free Labor." He refers in some interesting passages to the recent controversy between the historical economists represented by Bücher and the economic historians represented by Meyer ; and, while acknowledging with appreciation the stimulus received from the former's suggestive writings, he thinks that the latest contributions to Egyptian economic history tend rather to fortify the conclusions of Meyer. The second volume, which includes the texts of the potsherds themselves, will be of interest primarily to classical experts.

The history of Egyptian finance cannot yet be written. But if the discoveries of *papyri* and *ostraka* continue at the same rate as during the past few years, it will not be long before a complete reconstruction of the Egyptian fiscal system will be possible. In this reconstruction Professor Wilcken's volumes will form no mean part.

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*Politische und soziale Bewegungen im deutschen Bürgerthum zu Beginn des 16. Jahrhunderts, mit besonderer Rücksicht auf den Speyerer Aufstand im Jahre 1512.* Von KURT KASER. Stuttgart, Kohlhammer, 1899. — viii, 271 pp.

Dr. Kaser's work owes, if not its origin, at any rate its form, to the controversy which has been raging of late between Professor Lamprecht and Professor Lenz, as to the meaning of the town disturbances in Germany in the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries. Considering the heat of that controversy and the language which has been freely used on both sides, Dr. Kaser must be credited with keeping his head pretty cool and with setting a good example in the way of propriety of expression to the two principal contestants.

The work consists of four parts : a general survey of civic conditions about the year 1500 ; an account of the disturbances of the fifteenth

century, collected from various modern town histories; an account of the disturbances of the years 1509-1514, from like sources, together with a detailed history of the rising in Spires in 1512 (pp. 34-185), based largely upon the author's examination of the unprinted documents in the municipal archives; and, finally, an account from modern histories of the town disturbances contemporary with the Peasant Rising. We have really, it will be seen, two treatises in one—a review of the whole field and an original investigation of the history of one particular town, Spires. Dr. Kaser in more than one place expresses his fear that this combination may have disturbed the "composition" of his treatise, but he need feel no distress on that score. It is not difficult—as recent instances have sufficiently shown—to cull from the town histories of Germany a catena of quotations to support almost any contention. It is much more to the point to exhibit in detail the forces at work in any particular town.

As will have been expected by any unbiassed reader of Professor Lenz's attack on the *Deutsche Geschichte*, Bd. V; in the *Historische Zeitschrift* (Bd. LXXVII), and Professor Lamprecht's reply in his *Zwei Streitschriften*, Dr. Kaser's general survey supports neither of the extreme contentions. The occasional disturbances during the course of the fifteenth century were, in the majority of cases, occasioned by the demands of the craft guilds for some share in the government of the towns: they were, in short, a belated continuation of the characteristic civic movement of the fourteenth century. The disturbances caused by social distress were few and comparatively unimportant. So far Professor Lamprecht's view requires correction. On the other hand, in the town risings of the year 1525 there are three distinct movements traceable, each most markedly in a particular set of towns: an anti-clerical, a moderate-reforming and a radical-communistic movement (p. 188). Here Professor Lenz's statement of the situation receives a necessary modification. To speak, as the former does, of "a hypertrophy of capitalism" and the growth of a "proletariate" as the causes of all the trouble, is to exaggerate and to substitute impressive generalizations for the awkward complexity of real life. To declare, as the latter does, that the troubles were all due to the craftsmen, leaves unanswered the question why the craftsmen should be discontented. Even if Professor Lamprecht does sometimes seem, as I must confess is the case even to a sympathizer, to have *Geldwirthschaft* on the brain, Professor Lenz would none the less be the better for a little more serious attention to the economic history of the period he has done so much to illumine.

It is the complexity of real life with which Dr. Kaser's study of the internal history of Spire must most impress us. He begins by describing how in 1349 the patriciate had lost their exclusive powers and had been compelled to associate the craft guilds on equal terms with themselves in the government of the town, and how very soon the guild constitution became practically almost as oligarchic as that which had preceded it. This is, indeed, a common phenomenon, which is sufficiently illustrated by the London "companies." Dr. Kaser, however, would have done well to tell us, if he could, how the *Rath* was henceforth constituted. But, having thus prepared us to find in an oligarchic government the cause of the trouble, he tells us that it was chiefly in the relations of the town to the clergy that lay the roots of the deep dissatisfaction which came to the surface in 1512 (p. 37). And then follows a long history, going back to the middle of the thirteenth century, of the disputes with the clergy, concerning clerical immunities from lay taxation and jurisdiction and, above all, — for this seems to have caused most irritation, — as to their claim to sell the wine they produced without paying certain dues. Dr. Kaser takes the municipal side with ardor: he pictures a positively wicked attempt on the part of the ecclesiastical foundations to escape from the burdens of citizenship. But it may be remarked that we have not the other side of the story, and that every one of the arbitrators who were called in from time to time allowed the clerical claims, on the score of precedent. Evidently we cannot judge fairly of the matter, without having before us the outlines of the earlier history of the town. Dr. Kaser, however, makes us imagine the town as writhing beneath the heel of the priests; so that it is the greatest possible surprise to find, when the rising of 1512 comes, that there is hardly a word said about this supposed tyranny. The occasion of the rising was the discovery by the guild of carpenters in their archives of a certain document, from which it appeared that the *Rath* had reduced the size of the wine measure in 1375, with a promise, never since fulfilled, to restore it to its former amplitude in eight years. "My dear fellow, would n't you rather drink a big pot of wine than a small one?" (p. 56) seems to have been the rallying cry! It is true that this was bound up with a demand for a reduction of the civic excise (*das Hausumgeld*) on wine, corn and meal; so that we seem to be finding a demand for the alleviation of the indirect taxation imposed by a selfish oligarchy. And yet, when the revolutionary committee formulates its five demands, the first two deal with a reform of the administration of poor

relief — a matter of which there has been no previous mention! The claims put forward in the protracted discussion between the *Rath* and the committee perhaps justify Dr. Kaser in saying that the rising was due to "a fundamentally democratic impulse": it seems as if the insurgents were desirous to break down the oligarchic monopoly of office and to open the financial administration of the town to public inspection. But it is not easy to see what all this has to do with the contemporary dispute with the clergy.

Dr. Kaser's work is full of promise. If, as I suppose, he was originally a pupil of Professor Lamprecht, he has made his way to a scientific independence from which much may be expected, and he has gone for himself to the original sources. His one danger is his style, which, like that of his master, is easy and flowing enough to serve only too readily as a cloak for vagueness of thought.

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*La Propriété paysanne.* Par A. SOUCHON. Paris, 1899. — viii, 258 pp.

*Das Landwirthschaftliche Genossenschaftswesen in Frankreich.* Von THADDÄUS KUDELKA. Berlin, Puttkammer und Mühlbrecht, 1899. — vii, 178 pp.

These two little books, taken together, afford a fairly comprehensive view of the agrarian situation in France. Both books treat largely of the legislation on their subjects, but chiefly with the purpose of bringing out the social and economic effects of legislation.

In *La Propriété paysanne* M. Souchon has undertaken to discuss the much debated question of the relative social and economic value of large and small farms. Despite the wearisome controversies which have been waged over this question from the days of Arthur Young to the present, the author observes that the conditions of the problem have so changed, owing to the growth of democracy and, especially, of socialism, that a new treatise will find no temptation to follow old ruts. The book fully bears out the statement. The author defines the *propriété paysanne* as that exploitation which is large enough to support the farmer and his family, on the double condition that they be not too numerous and that they devote all their activities to the farm. It is thus distinguished from the *grande propriété*, which cannot be worked without regular recourse to hired labor, and the *petite propriété*, which is insufficient to support the cultivator without additional earnings. The social advantages of