

economic decay of Great Britain is imminent; the former exposes the shallowness of the reasoning of those who propose an imperial customs union as a step toward the consolidation of the British Empire.

Professor Achille Viallate's *La Crise Anglaise* (Paris, Bibliothèque de politique contemporaine, Dugarric et Cie.; 306 pp.) is a sane and lucid discussion of some of the broader problems involved in the so-called fiscal controversy now occupying so large a share of the activities of British political writers. The ideal of British imperialists is treated with sympathy; the author is convinced that its realization alone can prevent England from falling out of the rank of great nations; but the practical difficulties which confront the imperialist statesman appear to him insurmountable. Too many immediate sacrifices are involved; the colonies cannot be expected to abandon their independence, nor will the mother country be content to yield her hegemony by entering into a confederation of equal states. Even commercial union appears to be quite impracticable. The colonies will not permit British competition to destroy their growing manufactures; the British public will not endure taxation of food for the benefit of the colonies. Altogether, the outlook appears disheartening to those who wish to see the British supremacy of the last century perpetuated.

The Right Hon. A. J. Balfour's *Economic Notes on Insular Free Trade* (Longmans, 1903; 32 pp.) treats the same subject from a purely economic point of view. The method employed is so similar to that of the economic theorists that it almost takes an expert to detect the spurious quality. The author constructs a series of hypotheses to establish the fact that a free-trade country which is not self-sufficing is in a bad way if all its neighbors pursue a policy of high protection. Unfortunately he makes no endeavor to show that a protectionist country, in the same situation, would be much better off. He arrives at a sufficiently sound conclusion however: that a British protective system, used as a basis for negotiation with other countries, might possibly serve to open foreign markets to British goods. And it seems to him absurd that the British should hesitate to experiment with retaliation, simply because its failure would involve protective taxation.

M. Jivoïn Péritch, professor of law at Belgrade, reprints from the *Bulletin* of the French Society of Comparative Legislation a careful study of the organization of government in the Servian constitution of 1901 — *La nouvelle constitution du royaume de Serbie: Première partie: De l'organisation des pouvoirs de l'État* (Paris, Lahure, 1903; 127 pp.) — together with an appendix explaining the genesis of this constitution. Both are excellent pieces of work. A second part,

setting forth the constitutional guaranties of private rights, will appear shortly.

A detailed comparison of the position and powers of the executive heads of the two most important federal governments in the modern world is given in Rudolph Steinbach's *Die rechtliche Stellung des deutschen Kaisers verglichen mit der des Präsidenten der Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika* (Leipzig, Rossberg, 1903; 149 pp.). The comparison is suggestive because it brings out in a striking way the similarity of the two offices in all important respects except title and tenure. It might seem to justify Frary's over-clever remark that the United States is really a monarchy with an elective king; but Steinbach rightly insists upon the opposite view, that the German emperor is not "*Reichsmonarch*" but "*Organ des Reiches*."

Among the latest publications in the *Johns Hopkins University Studies* is an essay on *White Servitude in Maryland*, by Eugene Irving McCormac. In eight chapters Mr. McCormac discusses thoroughly and satisfactorily such subjects as the number and importance of servants in Maryland, their conditions under indentures and under the "custom of the country," fugitive servants, the status of servants and freedmen and the enrollment of servants in the militia.

M. André E. Sayous, who promises some day to write a work on the Far West, gives his impressions of Wyoming in a little monograph entitled *Le Wyoming* (Paris, Larose, 1904). The description of the natural resources of the state is interesting, if not containing much that is new. More entertaining is the discussion of social and political conditions. If we are to trust our author, Wyoming is owned by the Union Pacific, which practically appoints the governor of the state and prescribes ordinary legislation. Masked men parade the streets of the towns and plunder pedestrians at will; unpopular citizens are hanged or burned alive; immemorial custom dictates that any man who is arrested shall shoot the sheriff on regaining his liberty. And the best people, not only of Wyoming, but of the far West generally, are the Mormons.

In his *Les états-Unis au xx<sup>e</sup> siècle* (Paris, Armand Colin, 1904; 469 pp.), M. Pierre Leroy-Beaulieu gives a succinct account of the present economic condition of the United States. The work is almost purely statistical and draws its data chiefly from the volumes of the twelfth census, although other sources, such as the statistical abstracts of the United States and the reports of the Interstate Commerce Commission, are employed to supplement the census reports. The work, as one would expect, is thorough-going and scholarly, and presents a clearer view of the American industrial situation than any other of the