

*Finance Act; and Liquor License Duties, Death Duties, Income Tax, Stamp Customs and Excise under Parts II-VIII of the Finance Act.* (London, Jordan and Sons, 1910; 265 and 326 pp.). In these volumes the text of the various sections of the law is accompanied by valuable annotations, which include lucid explanations, cross-references and interesting historical retrospects.

Mr. C. Ashmore Baker has made an interesting contribution to the statistics of public finance in a thin folio on *Rates, being the Revenue and Expenditure of Boroughs and Urban District Councils of Ten Thousand or more Inhabitants Analyzed and Compared* (London, P. S. King, 1910; 38 pp.). He has examined the reports issued by the Local Government Board and by the education authorities and has attempted to standardize the figures of expenditures by a rather novel classification, apportioning, for instance, the figures for street maintenance, public lighting, sewerage and the like, not only per head, but also per mile. In another table, under the head of trading results, we find, in separate categories, the loan capital outstanding, the revenue, the loan charges and other expenditure and the balance. Such tabular statements are made in the case of water works, gas works, electricity supply, tramways, markets *etc.* Most of the figures are reduced to pence *per capita*, which facilitates comparison. The author proposes to expand the tables in future issues and, among other things, to analyze the results obtained from municipal services.

One of the penalties of successful authorship is the general expectation that the writer of a standard work will keep it up to date. Each revision of our tariff, accordingly, imposes a burden of revision upon Professor F. W. Taussig; and the passage of the Payne-Aldrich Act has constrained him to prepare a fifth edition of his *Tariff History of the United States* (New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1910; x, 422 pp.). The distinctive feature of this edition is, of course, the chapter on the latest of our tariff laws. The Payne-Aldrich Act, according to Professor Taussig, "brought no essential change in our tariff system" and "still showed an extremely intolerant attitude in foreign trade." He believes, however, that the spirit in which this law was passed indicates that the high-water mark of protection has been reached, and that from now on the tide may be expected to recede. The chapter entitled "Some Aspects of the Tariff Question," which appeared in the earlier editions, has been omitted.

The Columbia University Press has recently issued the lectures delivered in 1909, on the George Blumenthal Foundation, by Professor Henry J. Ford of Princeton, under the title: *The Cost of our National*

*Government: A Study in Political Pathology* (xv, 143 pp.). The volume deals with the American budget, or properly speaking, with the absence of a budget, for Mr. Ford presents in an illuminating way the shortcomings of the American method of committee control. He finds the chief hope of the future in section 7 of the Sundry Civil Appropriation Act of March 4, 1909, which makes it the duty of the president to coördinate income and expenditure; but he points out that even this will be inadequate to bring order out of chaos unless the president uses his veto power in connection with the separate items of appropriation bills. That the president possesses this power Mr. Ford does not doubt. Whether he will think it wise to use it, and thus perhaps precipitate a contest with Congress, is another matter. The author is not afraid of vigorous statements: he tells us, for instance, that "at present state sovereignty is a sham, with no more solid content than a dead tree eaten out by white ants" (page 79), and that "the present rule of privileged interests must be overthrown. Committee government must be superseded by responsible government" (page 120). In an interesting appendix is printed a letter from the Hon. James A. Tawney, chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, which explains the present method of budgetary procedure.

It was a happy thought that led the Society of the Graduates of the School of Political Science in Paris to arrange for a series of conferences on the present budgetary outlook in the most important countries of Europe. These conferences have been published under the title: *La Politique budgétaire en Europe; Les Tendances actuelles: Allemagne, France, Grande-Bretagne, Empire Ottoman, Russie* (Paris, Félix Alcan, 1910; 316 pp.). Among those who took part in the conferences and whose reports are included in this volume are Messrs. Émile Loubet, D. A. Hussien Hilmi, André Lebon and Georges Blondel. The volume will be instructive to the student of public finance, not only because of the wealth of statistical material which it contains, but also because of the authoritative description of present-day tendencies in each country. A general comparison of the five countries is made by Professor Raphaël-Georges Lévy.

Under the editorial management of Professor Frank Moore Colby, *The International Year Book* has become a standard work of reference. *The New International Year Book* (New York, Dodd, Mead and Company, 1910; 792 pp.) has several new features. The book, as the title page announces, is "a compendium of the world's progress for the year 1909."