

ization and operation, while the Kniffin book proceeds topically according to the somewhat loose logical connection that obtains between the different topics. But taken together the books supplement each other very well and for some time will fully meet the need that has so long gone unsatisfied.

An opportunity to study the development of a nation's economic life, as that development is influenced by its banking institutions, is afforded by Mr. Victor Ross's *History of the Canadian Bank of Commerce* (Toronto, Oxford University Press, 1920; vol. I, xvi, 516 pp.). The occasion of the publication was the bank's fiftieth anniversary. The first volume deals with the history of the institutions whose amalgamation produced the present-day Canadian Bank of Commerce. These institutions in different sections of the Dominion grew out of the life of their districts. The history adequately sets forth the early conditions of production and trade in the areas concerned and the problems and vicissitudes which the banks had to encounter. The second volume will probably deal with the later history of the amalgamated institution. As a whole the work promises to be a genuine contribution to economic history, because the interests of this bank are as wide and almost as old as Canada itself.

It is, of course, a truism to say that our modern economic system with its division of labor and exchange depends upon capital. We speak of it as "capitalistic", but rather to emphasize the character of the ownership than the real function and importance of capital. In *The English Capital Market* (London, Methuen and Co., Ltd., 1921; ix, 297 pp.) Mr. F. Lavington supplies an interesting and valuable study of the gathering together and apportioning to use of capital in England. He makes no distinction between the different "kinds" of capital and the uses to which they are put, but he regards as a unit the whole machinery of commercial and investment banking in the task of accumulating capital and putting it to use. Throughout he is concerned with interpretation rather than with description, and the changes in detail wrought by the war are, therefore, scarcely noticed. The purpose is to set forth the general lines along which the machinery making up the capital market really functions, and this purpose Mr. Lavington fully accomplishes.

One of the results of the French interest in Syria has been the publication of an archæological and historical library, under the auspices of the high commissioner of France. The first volume is a well printed edition of a work on the land tax by the celebrated Abou Yousof Ya'Koub. Professor E. Fagnan has translated and annotated this

classic, which dates from the eighth century, under the title of *Le Livre de l'impôt foncier—Kitāb el-Kharādj* (Paris, Paul Geuthner, 1921; viii, 352 pp.). While the work will be of interest primarily to archæologists, it is not without value to students of the history of taxation, for we find here in detail a picture of the fiscal conditions of the eighth century. Not an insignificant part of the book deals with general social problems, including those of slavery and penology.

Before his retirement from public life Lord Rosebery was in great demand as the orator of the day at centennial celebrations, unveilings of statues and similar occasions, and he responded generously to the invitations that were showered upon him; nor was he deaf to the solicitations of magazine editors for articles and reviews. Mr. John Buchan's collection of Lord Rosebery's *Miscellanies, Literary and Historical* (London, Hodder and Stoughton, 1921; 2 vols.: vii, 372; vi, 347 pp.) consists mainly of reprints of occasional speeches and articles, many of them previously difficult of access, to be found only in the files of newspapers and periodicals or in small privately printed editions. The brochure on Lord Randolph Churchill, included in Mr. Buchan's collection, is a brilliant interpretation, by a contemporary and friend, of one of the most baffling personalities in the history of English politics; the essay on Peel lifts a little the veil of mystery behind which the British cabinet, in the last decade of the last century, did its work; the address on the union of England and Scotland, delivered before the speaker was twenty-five years old, was a masterly performance. Yet Mr. Buchan is right in calling this a collection of *opuscula*. It is not by these, charming and penetrating and stimulating as they often are, that Lord Rosebery will be judged, but by his great parliamentary speeches, which delighted, even when they did not convince, the House of Lords, and which must one day be disinterred from their resting place in the massive mausoleum of *Hansard*.

In *The King's Council in the North* (London and New York, Longmans, Green and Co., 1921; x, 532 pp.) Miss R. R. Reid has expanded a dissertation submitted to the University of London for the degree of Doctor of Literature into a comprehensive history of an institution about which very little had previously been known. Like the Star Chamber, the Council in the North was one of the prerogative courts that flourished in England under the Tudor and early Stuart sovereigns and were swept away by the Long Parliament. It has generally been regarded as a creation of Henry VIII's, established by him for the purpose of restoring order in the North