

Book Reviews

A. A. PREOBRAZHENSKII, *Ocherki kolonizatsii zapadnogo Urala v XVII-nachale XVIII v.* Akademiya nauk SSSR, 1956. 302 pp. 11 rubles 70 kopeks.

V. I. SHUNKOV, *Ocherki po istorii zemledelii Sibiri, XVII vek.* Akademiya nauk SSSR, 1956. 432 pp. 18 rubles 30 kopeks.

At first sight it might seem that these two works, Preobrazhenskii on the colonization of the western Urals in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and Shunkov on the history of agriculture in seventeenth-century Siberia, are of little relevance for West European readers. But even in a narrow sense the colonization of the western Urals is part of European history, since the Urals are the accepted boundary between Europe and Asia. Preobrazhenskii's book is also of interest in showing one late aspect of the vast process of agricultural settlement in Europe, while Shunkov's book, on the other hand, is concerned with settlement across the Urals in Siberia and with the spread of European farming techniques into Asia. Both books are thus of interest in providing material for comparison with the phase of colonial settlement experienced by many other European nations. Moreover, consideration of Russian colonization may help in focusing attention on one of the central economic problems of agrarian countries, the problem of accumulation.

In 1552 Kazan' fell before the artillery of Ivan the Dread. The collapse of the Kazan' khanate led to a rapid expansion of Muscovy, southwards down the Volga to the Caspian Sea and eastwards to the northern half of the Urals and beyond them into Siberia. In 1598 Verkhotur'e (60° E.) was founded; in 1649 Okhotsk (140° E.). In the previous year Popov and Dezhnev had sailed into the Pacific from the Arctic Ocean.

This extremely rapid expansion from the Urals to the Pacific was, of course, far from uniform and left behind vast areas of this sparsely occupied land untouched by Russian colonization. Preobrazhenskii is concerned

with the colonization of one such area, the main town of which, Kungur (which gave its name to the area), was not founded until 1649. Settlement was carried out mainly by fugitive peasants from more northerly territories bordering on the White Sea, sometimes with assistance from the merchant family of the Stroganovs, who were greatly concerned in the development of the area, or of the state. The native population, mainly semi-nomadic hunters and fishers, paid dues, known as *yasak*, in furs, which constituted a valuable item in Russian trade.

Colonization for the most part seems to have been peaceful, although the difference in culture between the Russians and the native Tatar, Ostyak, Vogul, and Bashkir peoples made the latter easy prey to merchants engaging in usury and to simple expropriations by the Muscovite state and land-owning monasteries. The Russian peasantry who settled the area also came to suffer increasingly from feudal imposts; peasants settled by the state were subject to a predial tithe, and there was a continued growth of money rents. The opening up of mines for iron and copper ores led to an increase in the services demanded. Such conditions sometimes led to revolts both by the native peoples, as in the Bashkir rising of 1662-4, and by the Russians, many of whom took part in Stenka Razin's revolt in 1671; but the ultimate resort was always flight into Siberia where land was abundant even if climatic conditions were more severe.

Shunkov's book consists of a series of essays on each of the five main agricultural areas in seventeenth-century Siberia and on a number of specific topics, such as pre-Russian agriculture in the areas, techniques used, the grain trade, and the feudal system in the countryside. From 1598 till 1763 Verkhotur'e was the officially recognized gateway to Siberia. The government strove, for fiscal and other reasons, to restrict entry into Siberia to the recognized route starting at Verkhotur'e, going east along the Ob' to

Narym, then across the Yenisei and along the Lena to Yakutsk. Four of the five regions described by Shunkov lay along this route. The fifth was the less important Transbaikal and Amur region. In fact, there was a general tendency, as one moved eastwards away from the more densely populated European areas with their long-established agricultural techniques, for agriculture to be relatively less important and to have less advanced techniques. Even in the seventeenth century the Verkhotur'e agricultural area and the Yenisei area produced a surplus of grain, and there was some individual production for the market. But other areas remained consumers of grain, which often had to be imported over very great distances. While the three-field system was well established in western and central Siberia, eastern Siberia retained the two-field system. The techniques in use, in fact, varied considerably, but all appear to have been based on Russian experience supplemented by local knowledge, especially in the question of the crops to be grown. The traditional centres of agricultural activity which had formerly existed in Central Asia lay far to the south and were only incorporated in the Russian Empire in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries; moreover, they had never regained their former level after the Mongol invasions of the thirteenth century.

Both books make a real contribution towards reassessing Russia's eastward expansion. This has usually been explained as due to trade expeditions, largely for the furs to be won from the peoples of the Siberian forests. Even the works of so eminent a scholar as Bakhrushin contain hardly any references to peasant colonization. Yet, even if the later colonization of Siberia had its ancestry in the plundering expeditions sent out by the city of Novgorod from the early Middle Ages, the regularization of similar expeditions and the growth of *yasak* required peasant settlement. The scale of operations by the state and by such merchants as the Stroganovs, the distances to be covered, and the severely continental nature of the climate meant that the forces used to extract *yasak* had to be self-

supporting. The native agriculture was inadequate for such a task. The result was that by the end of the seventeenth century almost half of all Russians in Siberia were peasants and many of the remainder engaged partially in agriculture.

The development of Siberian agriculture described in these books, although at a higher level in that it was more productive than native forms, was extensive rather than intensive in its efforts to increase output. The horse-drawn *sokha* (a two or more tined ard) replaced the hoe and digging stick; but the iron shoes for tipping the *sokha* long continued to be imported from European Russia and consequently were extremely costly in the more easterly regions. Moreover, such imports could only be undertaken by those with large capital who could wait the long periods necessary before any return was obtained. Shunkov points out that the grain trade, similarly, was to a large extent in the hands of the state and large merchants. The need for capital and the results of this in the particular conditions of seventeenth-century Siberia are not as fully developed as they might be in Shunkov's book; but such a large question is perhaps outside the scope of such a work.

Both books are particularly valuable to a reader in this country in that they make use of many sources, some unpublished, not available here, and they are well documented. It is regrettable that the only map included by Preobrazhenskii should be the Academy of Sciences map of 1745 which, although of interest, is so badly reproduced that the inscriptions can hardly be deciphered. The maps in Shunkov's book are clear and well produced but diagrammatic. Both books lack an index.

R. E. F. SMITH

HAIM HALPERIN, *Changing Patterns in Israel Agriculture*. Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1957. 28s.

The agricultural historian accustomed to a study of the relatively slow changes in the agriculture of most European countries might at first raise his eyebrows when con-

fronted with this book. It sets out to trace the developments in Israel's agriculture over a period of only six years, from the time Israel achieved statehood in 1948 till the year 1954. The author, however, succeeds in showing that even in this very short time significant trends are discernible.

One is apt to think of Israel as an agricultural country because the whole process of the Jewish return to recognized nationhood had been conceived by Zionism as a return to the land. It is, therefore, interesting to learn that the share of primary occupations of the total earning population had declined from about 47 per cent in 1942 to only about 18 per cent in 1954, and that, conversely, the earners in tertiary occupations had increased their share from about 31 to roughly 50 per cent. Equally, in 1942 the rural population still constituted 54 per cent of the total population, but by 1954 it made up only 30 per cent. The contribution of agriculture to Israel's national economy was estimated in 1954 to amount to 13.8 per cent, producing only about 50 per cent of the country's consumption of agricultural products.

We are told that hand in hand with the mentioned national trends went an urbanization of originally purely agricultural settlements. The first of the modern Jewish settlements established in Israel had been created by private settlers on their own individual initiative and with their own private funds. The author traces how many of these settlers—particularly in the settlements in the plain near towns—have taken on urban occupations in addition to their agricultural pursuits. One is reminded, for instance, of the similar experience of the mid-nineteenth century Chartist settlements in Oxfordshire.

Another important trend has been emphasized by the author. The outstanding achievement in the settlement of the country and in the development of Israel's agriculture by the collective type of settlements is well known. The author compares the development of the relative importance of the two main types of settlement, the "individualistic" and the "collectivist" ones. In 1947 still over 7 per

cent of the total population of Israel lived in "collective" settlements, but by 1952 only just under 5 per cent. On the other hand, the share of the people in the "individualistic" settlements had risen from 3 to 5 per cent. However, the "collectives" in 1953 still cultivated an area double that of the "individualistic" villages, i.e. somewhat less than half of the gross cultivated area of the country.

The book provides a well documented account of one of the most fascinating spectacles in agrarian history: the development in less than a lifetime from the Arab village in which a biblical agriculture was still carried on in the twentieth century to the most modern experiments in human and technical effort to produce food. For a person not familiar with Israeli technical terms it is sometimes not easy to follow the author, and his knack of often providing differently arranged sets of figures to show or prove the same point is slightly disconcerting. G. P. HIRSCH

M. W. BERESFORD and J. K. S. ST JOSEPH,
Medieval England, an Aerial Survey.
Cambridge University Press, 1958. xiv +
276 pp. 45s.

This handsome volume provides the best possible introduction to the visible remains (churches excepted) of medieval England. It contains 111 fine air-photographs by Dr St Joseph, and twenty-eight maps and plans. The subjects include field systems, villages, parks, mills, market towns, ports, castles, mines, quarries, salterns, roads, causeways, and hundred meeting-places. One might perhaps wish that the subjects had been more evenly distributed geographically: the index map on p. 275 shows that Wessex is but thinly represented, and the west midlands hardly at all. But the survey is not meant to be exhaustive; it is rather a selection of typical sites. To each illustration Mr Beresford appends a commentary in which he relates the history of the place, drawing upon a wide range of published and unpublished sources, and frequently supplementing them from his personal explorations. Always an interesting and scholarly writer, Mr Beresford has found

here a medium which suits him better than a work *de longue haleine*, and this succession of short articles displays him at his very best.

One example, chosen at random, will show the wealth of interest to be found in these pages. Fig. 98 illustrates Bentley Grange in the West Riding parish of Emley, a farm which until the sixteenth century belonged to the Cistercians of Byland. Behind the farmhouse ridges of ancient ploughland are discernible. These must be at least 750 years old, for the lines of the ridges are interrupted and overlain at frequent intervals by spoil-heaps, consisting of waste material from iron-pits which were worked from the late twelfth to the early sixteenth century. In the centre of each spoil-heap a hollow, now harbouring a tree or thorn-bush, marks the position of the ancient shafts which have collapsed. A light-coloured strip in the foreground was produced by the bull-dozer in 1951, when open-cast mining for coal was in contemplation.

Two points in Mr Beresford's remarks on open-field agriculture invite criticism. On p. 23, speaking of "the basic units of medieval fields," he seems to equate the selion with the strip and also with the unit loosely described in Latin documents as *acra*. But in west midland charters we find references to "two acres containing five [or it may be six] selions," and in two examples from an east midland village cited by Dr Hoskins, fourteen out of forty-one strips consisted of two selions together, and twenty-three consisted of a single selion. Secondly, no one reading Mr Beresford's remarks about grass balks would gather that these balks occur as boundaries of strips in practically all our surviving open fields except at Laxton, and that Miss Beecham, writing in this REVIEW (IV, pp. 40-4), cited numerous instances from the past. Moreover, the survey of Newark-on-Trent published by Mr M. W. Barley provides the medieval evidence for these balks (*metae*) which the late Dr Orwin desiderated: evidence which, by the way, can be supplemented from a medieval court-roll of that most unlikely place, Tooting Bec.

H. P. R. FINBERG

MARY D. LOBEL (ed.), *A History of the County of Oxford*, Vol. v, Bullingdon Hundred. O.U.P., 1957. xxvi+344 pp. 63s.

The Victoria History of Oxfordshire enjoys some important advantages, notably the use of the Bodleian Library's rich collections of topographical material and the presence, in the muniment rooms of Oxford colleges, of a mass of documents relating to the administration of estates in the county. This wealth of material is fortunately in the hands of an enlightened editor, and the present volume, which deals with the twenty-six parishes of Bullingdon Hundred, is a lively and in many ways an exemplary contribution to the series.

Bullingdon is "one of the larger and . . . the most central" of the hundreds of Oxfordshire, stretching eastwards from the Isis and the Cherwell to the Ray and the Thame, and its constituent parishes range from St Clement's, by Magdalen Bridge, and industrial Cowley, through Iffley and Wheatley to the remoteness of Waterperry and Piddington. There is as much variety to be found in these few miles as anywhere in the country, and it is perhaps a pity that the introductory chapter has to deal baldly with the hundred as a fief and an administrative unit, and so misses an opportunity of unifying the diverse parish histories that follow. It is true that hundred boundaries often trace an arbitrary pattern on the ground, as do those of Bullingdon, but it is at least arguable that as the hundreds have been chosen as the units of county history their geology and topography should receive the same attention as their descents.

This deficiency does not impair the parish histories themselves, which are written on an unusually generous scale. The villages are carefully described; their churches and great houses are illustrated by reproductions of prints and drawings, while an excellent series of field maps deserves special mention as an innovation that could profitably be imitated in other counties. Another striking feature of this volume is the length of the sections on social and economic history, which are written with a careful eye to topography, and present in particular a coherent and reason-

ably detailed history of agricultural practice in the region.

Inevitably there is more to be said on some topics than can be included in such a survey, and such matters as the foundation of Cuddesdon Theological College and John Buchan's residence at Elsfield receive only summary notice, but compression weakens the history only when we turn to the industrial and suburban parishes of Oxford, where Cowley in particular suffers from the cramping scale to which the editor has to work. The "history and topography of this area after 1928" are to be treated in the volume on the city of Oxford, but even so the following passage seems under-emphatic: "Early in the 20th century the Church Army opened a small printing works in the disused Congregational chapel in Temple Road, and in 1912 the firm of Morris Garages began to assemble the parts of motor cars at Temple Cowley. The working of the poor law between 1714 and 1833 can be gathered [&c.]." St Clement's, which contains nothing so intractable as Morris Motors, has fared rather better, although the description of the parish in the eighteenth century and after, enlivened by reminiscences of Thomas Hearne and Richard Steele, may not prepare the reader for a sight of its scruffy reality. In the rural parishes, on the other hand, the presence of council houses and the infrequency of omnibus services are justly recognized as matters of no less significance in village history than are fractions of knights' fees, and they are scrupulously noted.

The lack of balance between the urban and rural parish histories is a failing not of this book but of the series to which it belongs, and derives from the uniformity which the Victoria History seeks vainly to impose upon English local history. There is another and more dangerous pitfall which the Oxfordshire editor and her learned contributors have avoided, and for this the reader may be grateful. The most unsatisfactory feature of the Victoria History is commonly its unnatural and monotonous impersonality, qualities that remind us that the history of this village

or of that is included, not because some one thought it urgently interesting and wanted to write it, but because this is the Victoria History and it must be done. There is little zest in reading where there is none in writing, and there can be none where the writer's own judgement is superseded by arbitrary rules mechanically applied. In this history of Bullingdon Hundred an ampler scale and a freer use of material carry a conviction that the work is worth doing for its own sake. It would be as well if this quality were to spread widely, but there is unfortunately a prefatory note that speaks of the best articles here as "an experiment," and one that is "not for universal imitation." Imitation, that is to say, within the little universe of the Victoria History: subscribers in the other counties will regret the decision. GEOFFREY MARTIN

ROBERT DAUVERGNE, *Les caractères originaux de l'histoire rural française, Tome deuxième*. Paris: Armand Colin, 1956. xxviii+230 pp.

The first edition of this work was published in Oslo in 1931. Its author, Marc Bloch, had collected material for a second edition and most of this was retrieved in 1944 and, with the remainder of his library, is now lodged in the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris. Marc Bloch served with the Résistance and was shot near his birth place at Lyons in June 1944.

This supplement, based on his published papers and manuscripts, has the same chapter headings as the first edition. M. Dauvergne integrates into each chapter the work of Marc Bloch and that of other authors subsequent to 1931. He shows how the inquiring mind of a great scholar was ranging widely over customs and clearances, settlements and farming methods. Marc Bloch was examining both variations throughout Europe and in French regional patterns. The work is prefaced by a bibliography of related works, mainly by French authors, published between 1930 and 1955, and it draws attention to a mass of widely scattered material. Above all, it shows how much is owed, in studies of rural life, to the work and stimulus of Marc

Bloch. Subsequent work, still so inspired, may make a further supplement necessary. In this case, some illustrated examples, comparable to the fine series in the 1931 edition, might be added, together with a full index to replace the inadequate place-names index in this volume.

MARGARET DAVIES

JOHN T. SCHLEBECKER and ANDREW W. HOPKINS, *A History of Dairy Journalism in the United States, 1810-1950*. University of Wisconsin Press, 1957. xi+424 pp., illus. \$6.

Since the middle of last century a large number of American journals have been started which have been concerned with dairy farming, cattle breeding, or the dairy industry itself. Many of these journals had a short life before ceasing publication or being absorbed by other periodicals. This book is an attempt to survey these journals and the influence that their editors and contributors have had on dairying in the United States, and to assess the rôle of dairy journalists as interpreters and translators of scientific discovery and information for the benefit of the dairy industry generally. The survey is not concerned with the scientists and others who have actually contributed to the developments in the American dairy industry.

In compiling the information for this book, the authors state that in most cases they have read one volume in every five of each journal but have examined every volume when the periodical lived for less than five years. In addition, to get a large cross-section of editorial opinion on important events in American history, many publications were read for such years as 1893 (the panic and Columbian Exposition) and 1898 (the Spanish-American War). Information was also obtained by direct contact with the editors of the journals which still exist.

The period 1810-1950 is divided into thirteen chapters, some covering a short and others a much longer period of time. The reason for choosing these very unequal lengths of time is not very evident to the reviewer but they appear to be roughly related

to periods of development or recession in American farming and dairying circles. Before 1852 there were no dairying periodicals, the agricultural press supplying the medium for any journalists' articles on dairying subjects, but two journals were started between 1852 and 1875, thirteen between 1875 and 1883, and six between 1883 and 1885. This latter period saw the advent of two of the best-known journals, *Hoard's Dairyman* and the *Jersey Bulletin*. The editors of these two periodicals, W. D. Hoard and D. H. Jenkins, had a great influence on the dairy-farming public and became leaders of opposite camps in the dairy world, fighting many a wordy battle between 1885 and 1910. During this period a further seventy-one dairying journals appeared but none of them assumed the prominence of Hoard's and Jenkins's publications. Since 1911 some seventy more journals have begun publication. A large number of them are, however, no longer in existence, but *Hoard's Dairyman* still continues to have a very large subscription list, now believed to be over a third of a million.

Throughout this survey, brief references are made to editorial comments on the introduction of such developments as silos for conserving feed, cream separators for butter-making, starters for cheese-making, pasteurization of milk, tuberculosis eradication, and the Babcock test for butter-fat. The authors also frequently quote editorial columns on such topics as monopolies, oleomargarine, State legislation, and other controversial subjects, and show how the editorial policy of these dairying journals attempted to sway farming and dairying opinion.

Throughout, the picture is purely a national one, and as such, will probably be of limited interest outside the United States except to the student of American social or agricultural history and possibly some dairying students and librarians. The book is printed by the photo-offset process from typescript and contains over 100 pages of appendices, notes, bibliography, and a good index.

A. W. MARSDEN