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Relations between the Agricultural Books and the Level of Prices after the Middle Period of Tokugawa

by Takao Shimazaki

"Nogyo-zensho" published in 1697 by Yasusada Miyazaki is called "the most important and first agricultural book in the world", and the complete knowledge about the Japanese agriculture at that time. This book had influences upon the many agricultural books. In this book Yasusada Miyazaki gives a comprehensive explanation of the agricultural technique in general which prevailed at that time, while the authors of the later books described the somewhat more concrete knowledge about agricultural techniques each of which contains its own particular characteristic reflecting the differences in their location.

At the so-called "Genroku-Kyoho" period (from the last of seventeenth to the beginning of the eighteenth century) the social and economic conditions developed. Consequently the expenditure of the feudalistic government increased so much and rapidly that its financial embarrassment became serious. One of the various remedies that were proposed, was the policy of recoinage. Owing to the recoinage, the level of price rose so extremely that lords, knights and peasants at that time were pressed by poverty. The educated class, namely Confucian scholars, researched into the serious problems about the rise of level of prices, especially the condition and causes of the rise of the level of prices. Consequently this period produced many books on social and economic conditions at that time. The Collapse of the social and economic conditions of the peasant which was the result of the same condition made the educated class, who wrote the agricultural books, begin to research into such problems as the money system, the rise and fall of the rice price and the level of prices. In this article, I survey the relation between the agricultural books and the level of the prices, referring to the several books such as "Demppo-tai", "Nagashimashi-Nosho" and "Kokon-bukka-tsuko" by Nizaemon Nagashima.

The Historical Study of Rural Wages in Kantō District

by Akira Hayami

The survey of the history of prices and wages is, though it is important, a pending problem of social and economic history. The reason is not only that it needs for long times and considerable expenditure, but few complete historical materials make statistical accounts possible. We think, however, that it is possible to fill the space within the limits of conditions we are given today, if we collect and account many available and fragmental materials in the districts equal in the social and economic structure with critical consideration of materials.

In this study, we survey the rural wages as an attempt of this view. We use mainly "*Hōkōnin-Ukejō*" (the indenture papers) about 300 cases and some documents of paying wages in Kantō district of the Tokugawa era, which we have studied. As the historical materials, the former indicates the amount of contracted wages, and the latter really paid. In both cases, the employer paid wages not to the servants themselves but mainly to the "*Hitonushi*" (the person in their parental authority). The servants were provided with clothes and food, but got only little pocket-money from their employer. Really, in many cases, the servants had to serve as a security for the loan between the employer and *Hitonushi*.

An average annual amount of male wages was 1 *bu* (a quarter *ryō*) in the latter part of 17th century; 1 *ryō* in 1720s; 4 *ryō* in 1790s; 5 *ryō* in the middle of 19th century; and at the years of the Meiji Restoration (1860—70), the amount rose to 10 *ryō* according to the general inflationary tendency. The advance of those wages was accompanied by the reduction of serving years of indenture. In the 17th century it lasted for five or more years, but in the 19th century it was only one year.

Though these changes show the social and economic changes of status of rural indentured servant, moreover, they show the following matter: that we must take attention to the changes of conditions by

which the amount of wages and the length of services are decided on a standing extent in their periods.

Die historische Bedeutung des deutschen Bauernkrieges

von Makoto Terao

Der grosse deutsche Bauernkrieg war der Höhepunkt der allgemeinen Volksbewegung nicht nur in der Reformationszeit, sondern in der ganzen deutschen Geschichte. Für die Erklärung der historischen Bedeutung dieser Ereignisse müssen wir unsere Augen auf die Entwicklung des deutschen Bauerntums in der 12., 13. u. 14. Jahrhunderte wenden. In diesem Zeitalter der Ost- u. Innerekolonisation u. Stadtgründung fing die Tendenz der Auflösung des Salland (Herrenland) od. der alten Villikation an. Die relative günstige bäuerliche Besitzrechte, besonders, erbliche u. lebenslängliche, entstanden im Südwesten, Franken u. Mitteldeutschland, nämlich im Schauplatz des Bauernkrieges. Die Kleinbauernswirtschaft wurde die herrschende Betriebsform der Landwirtschaft u. darauf wurde der genossenschaftliche Verband im Dorf enger u. entscheidender. Die Möglichkeit der Mehrprodukte u. die weitere Entwicklung der Stadt gab den Bauern die Gelegenheit, dem Kleinwarenproduzenten zu werden, hier, wo auf dichtstens die Städte begründet wurde u. damit das breite lokale Markt, die Exportindustrie u. der internationale Fernhandel emporkam.

Es gab aber die Hindernisse für ihre selbstständigen Fortschritte wie folgendes. *Erstens*: Das Feudalproduktionsverhältnis zwischen den Grundherren u. Bauern. *Zweitens*: Die Marktlage auf diesem Produktionsverhältnisse.

Darum hatte die Möglichkeit der „Feudal Reaktion“ fortgelebt u. verwirklicht mit der „allgemeiner Krise der Feudalherren“.