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備など、ひとつひとつ例をあげて説明しており、とくにこの上に、「第九団結力ナキ事」、「第一項我独り利益ヲ得ント欲スル事」として、「団結力ナキハ日本商工者ノ通患ナリ。会社ト云ヒ諸仲間ト云ヒ、生絲荷預り所ト云ヒ商工会議所ト云ヒ、忽チ集リ忽チ散シ、更ニ帰着スル所ナシ。仮令ヘ団結スルモ、少シク自己ニ不都合ノ事アルトキハ、乍チ其仲間ノ人ニ難癖ヲ付ケテ退会シ、又ハ竊ニ反奸ヲ為スモノ出テ来リ、遂ニ全般ノ団結ヲ破ルハ今日ノ実況ナリ」(88-89頁)。このような前田の意見は、今日もなお、日本の社会で行なわれつつある。

「時弊」の適例は、まさに松方内閣のデフレ政策の下でおきた商業上の不振、製造業の衰退の原因について、農業政策の失敗などについて、いくつかの例をあげて説明しており、とりわけ、注目すべきことは、いわゆる「内地雑居」、外国資本の流入によっておこりうる結果を予想し、土農工商の現状よりすれば、日本の将来は真に民族の危機を招来する危険性をもつと述べている。

「之ヲ概スルニ米納ノ制ヲ金納ト変シ、而カモ亦旧藩政ノ時トハ其負担幾層ノ輕キヲ致シタルカタメニ、却テ仁政ノ恩波ニ安ンシ、毫モ此特典ヲ利用スルヲ知ラス。唯其身ノ自由ニ任セテ安逸ニ耽リ、懶惰ニ流レ、往時一人ノ力ヲ以テ容易ニ製出シタルモノモ、今ハ二人以上ノ勞ヲ費サドレバ及フ能ハサルカ如キ姿トナリ、或ハ投機ノ心ヲ萌シ、或ハ奢侈ノ風ヲ長シ、負担日ニ加リ窮困月ニ増シ、現ニ農家ノ負債ハ平均凡ソ旧草高一石ニ付三円ナリトイフ…」(101頁)。

「抑々我國ノ気風タル団結ノ一致ノ志操ニ乏シク、其力極メテ脆弱ナリシヲ、藩政ノタメニ僅ニ団結一致スルヲ得タルナリ。然ルニ全ク此力ヲ失ヒ以テ外商ニ抗敵ス、其困難ナル知ルヘキノミ。

我國四民ノ上ニ付キ仔細ニ之レヲ論弁シ来レハ、亦枚擧ニ遑アラサラン。之ヲ要スルニ廢藩置県ノ後ハ諸侯ノ銀行者タリシ大阪ハ倒レ、其他各藩ノ商業者皆尽ク諸侯保護ノ力ヲ失ヒ、土農工三者ノタメニ

商業ノ道ヲ沮メラレ、信用ヲ失ヒタルニヨリ、血脈ノ順環其ノ度ヲ誤リ、貧血症ノ上ニ血液不順ノ患ヲ重ネ日ニ月ニ衰弱ヲ増シ、殆ンド治スベカラサルノ難症ニ至ル、亦己ムヲ得サルノ事ナリトス。我四民今後ノ惨状猶ホ之ヲ掌ニ指スカ如シ、豈ニ恐レサルヘケンヤ」(101-102頁)。

以上のような前田の意見には、人民の側の欠陥を指摘し、国民の奢侈、贅沢を戒めるのに急で、為政者の政策的失敗についてはあまりふれていないという点は目立つけれども、そしてそれは多分に、農商務省の属吏としての彼の限界であったと思われるのであるが、しかし、それにもかかわらず、すぐれた政治家たるの一面をうかがわせて興味深い。

II 農区巡回書類は、岐阜県各郡長の報告、民間の景況であり、経済的不況、天変地異による人民の困窮の状況を克明に物語っている。

つぎにIII 士族生計一覽表であるが、これは、岐阜県管内の士族の生計の総計を表にして示したものであり、旧禄米、改正禄米、公債受領高、現在財産(地価・公債・株券)、現在収入、自宅・借宅の別、家族構成負、およびその性別、戸主名などにより調査したもので、各藩ごとにその収入によって、上等、中等および下等に分け、その生活状態を観察している。しかしこの表で注目すべきものは、士族出身者の職業の多岐にわたることである。大垣藩士族生計一覽表によれば、上等に属する士族ほど官員、医師、小学校教員などが多く、中等、下等になるほど、雑業、商人、職人、農民などが多くなっていることが印象的である。岐阜県一県にとどまるとはいえ、これは封建家臣団解体の重要な史料として高く評価されるべきであろう。しかしこれ以上の分析は、後の機会にゆづらなければならないが、ともかく、この史料は、わが国の資本の本源的蓄積期にかんする貴重な資料として必読の文献である。

(光生館、1971年刊、A 5、361頁、4,000円)

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Estimates of the Population Size, the Crude Birth and Death Rates in Japan, 1865-1920

Masaaki Yasukawa
by Keijiro Hirooka

The demographic data of Japan, that is, the annual series of population size, births and deaths prior to 1920 when the first census was taken, had some defects in their registrations. The best way, therefore, to estimate the population size, births and deaths prior to 1920 is to resort to the inverse survivorship method by a cohort life table prepared with the accurate census population by age covering the period in study. The cohort life table of the sort was made on the basis of *Model Life Tables for Japan* by M. Yasukawa (this journal Vol. 64, No. 5, 1971).

These estimates were computed separately by sex. Especially, to test for the consistency of the estimates, the sex ratios at birth for the period, 1865-1920, were calculated.

The estimates thus secured were as follows:

1. The population size in 1868 (the 1st year of Meiji Era) was around the 35,000,000 level;
2. The crude death rates was slowly falling, while the crude birth rates was gently on the rise;
3. The expectation of life at birth even for males was never below 35 years all the way through the entire period of Meiji (1868-1912);
4. In addition to the three significant results above, it was found that the sex ratio at birth never went down below 100, confirming their consistency.

Textiles Industries in an English Town

—Exeter since the Middle Ages to the Seventeenth Century—

by Minoru Yasumoto

Exeter, the county town of Devonshire in the south western part of England, remained to be the centre of cloth industries until the eighteenth century whereas cloth-making in most

of the English towns decayed at the end of the Middle Ages. It is the purpose of this paper to consider why Exeter continued to hold its cloth-making for almost five hundred years. Exeter cloth industries can be divided into the following stages according to the types of cloth produced.

1. Broad Cloth (to the mid-fourteenth century)
2. Kersey ("Straights") (since the end of the fourteenth century to the middle of the fifteenth century)
3. Kersey ("Devonshire dozens") (since the end of the fifteenth century to 1600)
4. Spanish Cloth, Serge (since the beginning of the seventeenth century to the middle of the eighteenth century)

1. Broad Cloth

As early as the beginning of the thirteenth century, the cloth industry of Exeter had more than local importance and provided the home and foreign markets with finer coloured broad cloth. As Devonshire wool was coarse and finer broad cloth could not be made of Devon's own wool, Exeter at this stage appears to have brought the wool or the unfinished cloth from other counties. That dyers and shearmen were found among the members of the common council or the mayors of the city seems to indicate that Exeter in the thirteenth and the early fourteenth century had been the centre of finishing process of the cloth industry.

2. Kersey ("Straights")

English cloth industries began to enjoy the recovery after the severe competitions from the industries in Flandre and Brabant at the end of the fourteenth century, exporting the coarser woollens to the markets in the southern Europe such as France, Spain and Portugal. Exeter, together with Barnstaple, an old town in the northern Devonshire, sustained this recovery with the inferior sort of kersey, "Straights". "Straights", made of Devon's own wool, were exported from Barnstaple and Exeter. As in the case of broad cloth, "straights" exported from Devonshire were finished and brightly coloured.

3. Kersey ("Devonshire dozens")

After a disastrous depression of the export of "Straights" in the 1450's, a new kind of industry, that of "Devonshire dozens", finer than the "Straights", was introduced into the suburbs of Exeter. Exeter's export of this new kind of kersey to France had risen suddenly after 1475 when the Treaty of Picquigny was concluded with the resumption of commercial relations with France. Between 1475 and 1510, "Devonshire dozens" had caught the ever growing demands in France and other southern Europe which were recuperating from the ravage of the Hundred Years War. This rapid growth of export of cloth from Exeter seems to have brought forth the changes in the industrial and commercial organizations in the city.

In the last decades of the fifteenth century, backed up by the Letters Patent of incorporation granted by Edward IV, one of the oldest guilds in the city, the guild of tailors who were

engaged both in tailoring and trading the cloth, challenged the power of the city authorities. The tailors in Exeter tried to come in for a share of the expansion of cloth exports from Exeter which had been monopolized by other cloth merchants who had been the powerful members in the city authorities.

During the same period, the rapid growth of export of finished and coloured kerseys from Exeter had strengthened the position of the artificers engaged in the finishing process of the cloth industry and the guild of Weavers, Tuckers and Shearmen of Exeter, like the guild of tailors, petitioned the King for the grant of incorporation of the guild. By the middle of the sixteenth century, weaving and other process of the industry had removed from the city into the rural areas and Exeter became the collecting and finishing centre of Devonshire cloth industry. Exeter merchants tried to control the activities of artificers engaged in the finishing process, on whom the merchants themselves had to depend so far as the foreign markets of kerseys demanded finished and coloured kerseys, by means of possessing or leasing fulling mills built by the city and fulling weirs. On the other hand, in 1560, Exeter merchants succeeded to take the grant of incorporation of the Company of Exeter Merchant Adventurers Trading to France, thus strengthened the monopoly of collecting the unfinished cloth produced in the rural Devonshire.

4. Spanish Cloth, Serge

At the end of the sixteenth century, the exports of kerseys from Exeter declined, for the markets for the English kerseys at the time were producing their own lighter and cheaper cloth for low-income consumers. Levant countries, for example, which had been flooded by the English kerseys, began to produce coarser cloth, "padded cottons", and in France the lighter and new types of cloth were beginning to be produced. Moreover, the cloth industries in Flandre and Brabant, particularly the "say" industry in Hondschoote, exported the vast volumes of "say" to the southern Europe. These growth of overseas competitions affected Exeter cloth industry and the merchants had to try to reduce costs of production of kerseys.

The endeavours of the merchants to reduce costs did not succeed for the guild of Weavers, Tuckers and Shearmen resisted and monopolized the finishing trade. Until at last, since the beginning of the seventeenth century, new draperies such as Spanish Cloth and Serge were introduced in Exeter. For a century since the introduction of Serge into Exeter, Exeter had been the centre of Serge industry in England.

The Peculiarity of Labour Power as a Commodity and a Method of Studying in Labour Problems

by *Takehiko Noguchi*

The labour power as a commodity is peculiar in the commodity groups, for it is the labour function of the mankind, while the other commodities are made by it. K. Marx argued the peculiarity exists in the fact that it creates surplus-value. It surely creates surplus-value which is the only source of the profit in the capitalism. But surplus-value has existed since the beginning of the history of the mankind, so this function is not restricted to the labour power of the wage-labourers who have not any other asset except for their labour power and cannot live on unless they sell it incessantly to the capitalist. The labour power as a commodity is, however, the labour function of the mankind having personality and will, so the capitalist cannot use it freely like other commodities. Here, I think, is the peculiarity of labour power as a commodity.

In the factory, once the wage-labourers are employed by the capitalist, they are forced to work as he orders, but they work under the principle of "higher wages and shorter working hours". Almost all their hope and desire are translated into the principle, because they want to sell their only asset as high as possible. In this aspect, the proletariat is involved in the same price mechanism as other commodities. They struggle for higher wages and shorter working hours against the capitalist, presupposing the maintenance of the capitalism. Section I~III deals with this point.

A method of studying in labour problems is summarized as follows: The capitalistic production system was established only in Great Britain in the first quarter of the 19th century. The landmark of the establishment of the capitalism is the appearance of business cycles initiated by the cotton industry with high productivity of modern factory system. Its high productivity was not achieved only by the cotton industry. English cotton goods could not be world-wide commodities without the advantage of other industries (coal, iron, machine, shipping etc.), marine transportation and finance. Therefore we have to study the industrial relations in these industries. Thinking that Great Britain established the capitalism controlling over the other underdeveloped countries as her trade partners, we must also study the situation of people of those countries engaged in farming, handworking, because they were exploited by Great Britain through the trade.

In the free trade era (1820-1860) the capitalist used armies and navies when the proletariat or people of the underdeveloped countries did not consent to the wages and working hours the capitalist offered. After 1870, world economy developed drastically and Germany thrust

in the world market controlled over by Great Britain, and this movement led to World War I inevitably. Such changes of the world economy caused the systematic social policy to appear in Great Britain and Germany in the age of Imperialism. Thus I pointed out a method of studying in labour problems in Section IV.