

INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE.

THE International statistical institute held its first meeting at Rome from April 12 to April 17. Among the distinguished scientists present were Sir Rawson W. Rawson of England, president of the institute; Signor Bodio, director-general of statistics in Italy; Professor Neumann-Spallart of Vienna; Professor Levasseur of Paris; Professor Wagner of Berlin; Dr. Engel, formerly director of the Prussian statistical bureau; Dr. Broch of Norway; and M. Léon Say of Paris. It was resolved that the working members of the institute should be limited to a hundred and fifty, and they are to be chosen exclusively from those who make a special study of statistics, and take a real interest in them.

One of the most important papers presented was that of Dr. Engel, on "Consumption as the measure of the prosperity of individuals, families, and nations." The paper is described as elaborate and ingenious, and gave a valuation of the minimum cost of maintenance from birth to the age of twenty-five. Dr. Engel calculates that an infant cannot be nourished from birth to the end of the first year at a less cost than five pounds, and that by the age of twenty-five each individual has cost, in the way of maintenance, not less than nearly three hundred pounds.

He also gave a statement of the estimated share of the earnings of a family, contributed by each member of it. The estimate is based on the cost of maintenance of a family consisting of a father and mother, and six children under eleven years of age. Taking the total as 16.1, Dr. Engel's figures, representing the consumption of the different members, are these:—

The father.....	3.5
The mother.....	3.0
One child eleven years old.....	2.1
One nine years old.....	1.9
One seven years old.....	1.7
One five years old.....	1.5
One three years old.....	1.3
One a year old.....	1.1
Total.....	16.1

Dr. Kekti of Hungary had a paper which confirmed Dr. Engel's conclusions, though it was written from a different point of view. Professor Ferraris of Italy read a paper on the movement of the precious metals between Italy and other countries, — a subject of peculiar interest to his countrymen, in view of their recent successful return to specie payments. Mr. Robert Giffen argued in favor of establishing a common measure of prices in different countries. Mr. Bateman, of the English board of trade, touched another important

point when he presented the question of how to establish a better basis than now exists for the comparison of the trade statistics of various countries.

THE MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC AND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS.

THE fourth annual meeting of the American historical association, and the second annual meeting of the American economic association, opened at eight o'clock on Saturday evening, May 21, in Huntington hall, of the Institute of technology, Boston. Among the members of the associations present were Francis A. Walker, Justin Winsor, Alfred Emerton, Dr. F. W. Taussig, Prof. C. F. Dunbar, and Prof. W. W. Goodwin, of Harvard; Prof. A. T. Hadley of Yale; Profs. R. M. Smith, F. J. Goodnow, E. M. Smith, N. M. Butler, and E. R. A. Seligman, of Columbia; Prof. Alexander Johnston of Princeton; H. C. Adams and ex-President A. D. White of Cornell; Profs. E. J. James and C. J. Stillé of Philadelphia; Profs. H. B. Adams and R. T. Ely of Baltimore; Dr. Philip Schaff, Judge C. A. Peabody, Hon. John Jay, and General Cullum, of New York City.

President Walker's opening address was a brief analysis of the present industrial status. He followed the development of thought with reference to the manual-laboring class, and pointed out the sources of our present industrial troubles. He was most outspoken in condemnation of the boycott and of the methods of the demagogues among the Knights of labor. His appeal for a re-assertion of the spirit of American men and American institutions as against the methods of our immigrant population was forcibly stated, and was greeted with enthusiastic expressions of approval.

President Winsor of the Historical society followed with a scholarly address on the 'Documentary sources of American history.' He told what had been done by Jared Sparks, Peter Force, and George Bancroft for the collection and publication of state documents. He instanced the history of the Trumbull papers as evidence of what vicissitudes important documents might be called upon to pass through. He closed with the practical suggestion, that, before it is too late, the U. S. government should establish some body, like the Historical manuscripts commission of England, charged with the task of collating and preserving papers of value for the history of the development of the political life and thought of the country.

After the addresses a reception was tendered the members of both associations by the trustees of the Museum of fine arts, in that building.