

NEW BOOKS

THE ST. LAWRENCE DEEP WATERWAY. By C. P. Wright. The Macmillans in Canada, Toronto, 1935. 450 pages.

This is an example of a kind of work badly needed in Canada, since it is the study by a competent economist of a practical project which is likely, if undertaken, to cause great expense to the country. The ordinary voter usually has to decide about such from the more or less partisan discussions appearing in the daily press, which are quite inadequate to give a true picture. He can get the enthusiastic assurances of interested parties, and it seems comparatively easy to obtain technical engineering advice, also acute forecasts of the probable political effect; but it has been in the past extremely difficult to get proper consideration from an economic stand-point, and a fair estimate of the economic profit (if any) that is likely to accrue. Many of the undertakings on which Canada has so lavishly spent her money have turned out to be anything but the economic assets which were so glowingly foretold. Witness our railway problem! Hence Mr. Wright is to be thanked by the Canadian public for his painstaking examination of the history and economic merits of the proposed St. Lawrence Waterway. He appears to be quite impartial, and not to be a propagandist for any interested persons. Also he has conducted his enquiry in a thorough and able fashion, and has made his book eminently readable.

Two-thirds of the book are taken up in giving a history of the promotion of the Deep Waterway for the past forty years. This portion is especially valuable as it brings into high relief the various interests that have worked for and against the Waterway, also the influences, blunders, and actions that have contributed to the present situation and which led up to the signing of the St. Lawrence Waterway Treaty by the Government of Mr. R. B. Bennett with that of the U.S.A. in 1932. The story is an enthralling section of the history of our own times, but on occasion not particularly savoury, as it includes among other things an account of the notorious Beauharnois scandal.

The author goes on to discuss independently some questions which should be most carefully weighed before any decisive action is taken. These are principally the problem of the appropriate depth of the Canals, the problem of Canadian need for it, and the suitability of the terms of the treaty.

In view of his severe criticism of some of the economic studies that have supported the project, it is somewhat surprising that Mr. Wright himself finally finds in its favour, although apparently by a narrow margin, on the ground of economic benefit to Canada. However, he thinks that it should be planned for an initial depth of at least 35 feet (instead of 27). He holds, too, that tolls should be charged for the domestic traffic of the two countries, in order to compensate somewhat for the preponderant use that the United States is likely to make of it. Other terms in the treaty he considers should be revised in the interests both of Canada and of the U. S. A.

This is the only examination of this big question, which is at all adequate, that has been offered to the Canadian public. If President Roosevelt succeeds in his efforts to have the treaty passed by the American Senate, as may happen at any time, then it will come before the Parliament of Canada and will be a very live question. It may even become the major issue in an election campaign. It behooves every thinking Canadian to form some opinion on it in advance. For this he cannot do better than read Mr. Wright's illuminating study, which is suited not only to the professional economist but also to the ordinary lay public. Even if he does not always agree with the conclusions, he will be enlightened by the presentation.

A. K. GRIFFIN

LANDLORD AND PEASANT IN CHINA. By Chen Han-Seng. International Publishers, New York 1936, xviii, 144. \$2.00.

This admirable study of the agrarian problem of South China, by a distinguished Chinese scholar who has lately visited Canada, is a welcome addition not only to the literature in English on China, but to economic science as well. While essentially a statistical study, it is not overburdened with statistics or learning, and the vigor and clarity of style makes it a thoroughly interesting volume for the layman. It discusses such questions as the size of land holdings, landlordism, tenancy, rents and prices, trade and credit, and labour. The picture of the Chinese peasant, exploited under a surviving feudalism and a thriving capitalism, is one of poverty below that of the Indian peasant. Dr. Chen sees no hope except in a social revolution which will destroy the shackles of both. This little book is worth many volumes of travelogues and impressionistic studies for anyone who wants to understand what is probably the most fundamental problem of all China, viz., the agrarian problem.

R. A. MACKAY

A HISTORY OF ROME DOWN TO THE REIGN OF CONSTANTINE. By M. Cary, D. Litt. London, Macmillan and Co. Pp. xvi—820. \$3.50.

This is the first satisfactory history that comprises the entire span of Roman affairs to appear in recent times. All others with which I am familiar follow the inevitable line of least resistance, recounting with equal fidelity the facts and the palpable absurdities of Livy, Sallust, Tacitus, and Suetonius—with a passing sigh, it may be, for the nonsense, but offering no alternative. Dr. Cary is too honest to resort to the facile method of offering a stone for bread. He discusses frankly such matters as the chronology of early Rome, and he offers rational solutions for the problems that arise from the representations of the Roman annalists. Then, too, he has something better to present than the dreary and colourless style that renders the stock

history of the present century so thoroughly repellent to the reader. He writes with remarkable clarity and vigour, and his work will stimulate the general reader no less than the serious student of ancient Rome.

The format of the book is that of the classic *History of Greece*, by the late J. B. Bury, which Messrs. Macmillan and Co. first brought out in 1900. It has been revised or reprinted no fewer than eighteen times since. Seldom can a work of fiction boast of a reign of popularity of equal duration. One ventures to think that Dr. Cary's book may well be destined to pursue an equally distinguished career.

A. D. FRASER

FEDERAL SUBSIDIES TO THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS IN CANADA.

By James A. Maxwell. Published by Harvard University Press. Price \$3.00.

This is an objective study of the granting of federal subsidies to the provinces, from Confederation to the present day. Beginning with the original subsidies, it fails to find any governing principle but that of political expediency. The original terms were essentially a compromise. Once fixed they were intended to be final, "in full settlement of all future demands."

The first breach in the Constitution came in 1869. Nova Scotia was dissatisfied, her trade with "Canada" was practically nil, 90 per cent of her revenue had been taken away and only 55 per cent of her expenditure, there was no compensating advantage, and the so-called "Better Terms", increasing her subsidy, were given. Once again this was to be final. (Incidentally it is noted this change in the Act or Constitution was made unilaterally by the Dominion without recourse to London).

Manitoba, created a province in 1870, was assumed to have 17,000 people for the purpose of subsidy—she had 12,200—and was given a debt allowance of nearly half a million, but had no debt. She actually received *per capita* more than four times as much as Nova Scotia or New Brunswick, and nearly nine times as much as Ontario.

British Columbia was assumed to have 60,000 people—she had only 34,100,—her debt allowance was fixed at \$1,662,000 when her actual debt was a million, and she was given another hundred thousand for a belt of land, which was but a scheme to award the extra grant. There was as well the pledge to build the railway through the Rockies within ten years.

Prince Edward Island in being brought into the Union was given \$50 *per capita* debt allowance instead of the approximately \$25 of 1867, the subsidy in support of government was increased, she was given the year round ferry service, and an annual sum of \$45,000 to buy out the absentee proprietors. Capitalised, this amounted to \$900,000.

In 1873, because of financial difficulties, the debt allowance to Ontario and Quebec was scaled up. This made necessary scaling up the debt allowance to all the provinces, Nova Scotia claiming, and

receiving, revision on the terms of 1869, not of 1867. The story is intricate, but no general principle is evident. In 1884 debt allowances were further scaled up, resulting by pressure coming from Quebec.

New Brunswick was given \$150,000 a year to relinquish her export duties on lumber which were bringing her in practically nothing. After Confederation she had subsidised a railway from Painsic Junction to the Nova Scotia boundary, which was later bought as a link of the I.C.R., but in 1884 she was paid \$150,000 additional to reimburse her, for which sum she had no possible legal claim. Prince Edward Island had maintained a penitentiary up to 1878, and was paid \$20,700 to reimburse her. Financially embarrassed, in 1887, she asked for, and received, an additional \$20,700 subsidy. In 1882 the grants to Manitoba were almost doubled by the expedient of assuming the population to be 150,000 when it was actually but 70,000. Three years later its debt allowance was raised by calculating at the higher population figure.

Despite repeated finality clauses the demands continued, every province in the eighties, except Ontario, being financially embarrassed.

In 1884 the Dominion bought the Eastern Extension Railway from Nova Scotia, and seven years later in 1901 paid the province \$611,700, which the province had paid to it in subsidies. In 1900 something similar was done for New Brunswick. In 1888 Manitoba was given an additional half million by a re-interpretation of a previous settlement. In 1901 Prince Edward Island was given an additional \$30,000. In 1907 subsidies were again changed all round on the basis of actual population. This last general settlement was once more to be "final and unalterable," and was regarded as the price of stability.

When Alberta and Saskatchewan were created, they were given debt allowances, but had no debt and lost no assets. Then Manitoba asked to be put on an equality with the two prairie provinces, and was given better terms. In 1911 Prince Edward Island was given an additional subsidy of \$100,000 without specifying exactly for what. Following the Duncan Commission, the Maritime subsidies were increased in 1927. Then came the Natural Resources agitation in the West, and the various settlements with the provinces which the author describes as "unedifying and intricate legerdemain". Finally came the additional subsidies to the Maritimes awarded by the White Commission.

The author deals with each new award and finds no general principle common to them, political expediency or the pressure of provincial need producing an apparent hocus pocus thoroughly unsatisfactory, awards to one province leading to demands from another. The finality clauses meant nothing, but were shot to pieces at every turn.

In the beginning it was believed that while the Dominion had taken away major sources of revenue, since it had also assumed certain responsibilities, the demands on the provinces would be lessened. This turned out otherwise, the provinces being obliged to assume new and heavy responsibilities with changing ideas of government.

In discussion of unconditional subsidies—one authority raising the money and another spending it—the experience of Australia is reviewed.

She felt called upon to return to the principle of financial responsibility, unconditional subsidies proving entirely unsatisfactory.

Readjustment of some kind has become imperative. Up until the Great War the stresses and strains were not so great. Up till that time customs and excise were the main source of federal revenue. In 1913-14 out of Dominion tax receipts of \$127 million, \$126 million came from these two sources. Now this is a minor source of revenue. Meantime the provinces have assumed ever heavier burdens—highways, health, old age pensions, mothers' allowances and expanding social services.

One suggested way out is that the Dominion take over some major part of provincial responsibilities, keeping in mind the danger of over-centralisation. Another is that the Dominion assume a major portion of provincial debt in return for the withdrawal of unconditional subsidies. A third is the greater use of conditional subsidies.

Conditional subsidies have proved more or less successful. They have been granted over a period of years in aid of agriculture, technical education, highway construction etc., and in aid of old age pensions. This last is cited as an example where the subsidy is based on particular need—the number of pensioners—and not on fiscal need, which varies so greatly, and not on population, which would have very unequal results. But in any expansion of conditional subsidies the Dominion must have at least partial control where it pays over monies.

The survey shows how the financial arrangements were a compromise from the very first, how the effort at finality broke down at every step, how political expediency so often was the deciding factor, and how the changing ideas of government, together with the major dislocation brought about by the war, accentuated the difficulties inherent from the beginning. The chief value of the book lies in bringing together into one compact whole the subsidy story from the beginning, showing its thoroughly unsatisfactory nature and the imperative necessity of finding some more equitable basis. The study comes at an appropriate time when the Rowell Commission is beginning its work.

G. FARQUHAR.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUSINESS CORPORATION IN ENGLAND, 1800-1867. By B. C. Hunt. Harvard University Press, 1936. Pp. 182.

This book, by the former Professor of Commerce at Dalhousie University, describes the struggle of the joint stock company, with limited liability, for recognition from the public, the courts, and parliament. It had to contend with the usual forces of conservatism and also "what is much more serious", as Adam Smith said long ago about the tariff, "the interested opposition of private persons." But, like the hero in the movies, it triumphed in the end, though it still must suffer the indignity of restrictions imposed by government, designed to protect the public from injury. Dr. Hunt's attitude toward all this is indicated in the Preface, when he speaks of "the limitations on the

power of regulation to save a fool from the fruits of his folly, which is in marked contrast with the blithe optimism which has characterized our own recent ventures into the same field." The judgment of John Ramsay McCulloch in the principle of limited liability, quoted by Dr. Hunt, might have suggested a warning against verdicts of this sort. "The adoption of limited responsibility," said McCulloch, "would be productive of the most injurious results, and would go far to annihilate whatever there is of solidity in the present system." So difficult it is to throw off the shackles of interest and tradition, and reach the objectivity of science! However, this is merely a sentence in the Preface, and even those who do not share his attitude will be grateful to Dr. Hunt for his scholarly and interesting survey of a development the full significance of which has not yet been appreciated.

W. R. MAXWELL.

MAGNA BRITANNIA. By J. Coatman, C.I.E.,M.A. Jonathan Cape, London, 1936.

Judgment in the social sciences resembles judgment in the aesthetic realm, in that it lacks demonstrable finality. This is because all we see directly are discrete events, never cause or significance. This principle is of particular interest when (as in the book under review) judgment concerns historical processes which have not as yet reached finality. The work is essentially an interpretation of the British Commonwealth of Nations. It contains many data illustrative of the political, economic and cultural bonds, in support of the thesis that the British Commonwealth—which is being continually evolved from the Empire as colonies become Dominions—is a moral entity founded on a new general will for the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth arose as a result of two separate and at first sight mutually destructive ideals. (p. 63). The ideal of the general *imperium* of the United Kingdom was opposed by the ideal of colonial nationality, but in the clash we do not find one ideal giving way before the other. Rather, the two ideals became fused into the ideal of the Commonwealth. Thus the attainment of Dominion status was but a necessary prelude to a higher synthesis. Contrary to customary belief, the Statute of Westminster is not the end of the British Empire, but merely the end of the *imperium* of the mother country. It is the formal beginning of the Commonwealth.

It is not the treatment of this theme (which is both thorough and scholarly), but the theme itself, to which exception must be taken. Dominion status is essentially a product of colonial nationalism. The Balfour Report of 1926 and the Statute of Westminster are a guarantee of national status by the mother country to the Dominions severally, not an expression of collective Imperial will. It is true that the Dominions are bound to Great Britain by ties of sentiment, but this sentiment is not a wholly new spiritual dynamic, a synthesis of colonial and Dominion sentiments, replacing both. On the contrary, local nationalism, which called the Commonwealth into being, is by far the strongest spiritual dynamic in the Dominions to-day.

The book emphasizes the remaining legal formalities as evidence of the new dynamic. (pp. 100-1). That Westminster did not sever all bonds, that there is reality in the will to co-operate, is true, but it is a co-operation based on nationhood. The fact is that we do not know the end to which the Commonwealth is moving. That it is imperial federation in disguise, as the book would make us believe (pp. 81, 119, 136), is a theory which runs counter to the history of the last century. Therefore to liken so negative a document as the Statute of Westminster to a Constitution (p. 100) is hardly convincing.

With the loftiness of the ideal which forms, as it were, a second *motif* in the argument—the ideal of a world order based on moral force—we are not here concerned. Our task has been to challenge the book's interpretation of the ethos of our Commonwealth.

W. H. TROOP

ROGER FRY, AND OTHER ESSAYS. By Howard Hannay. London, 1937. George Allen and Unwin. Pp. 208. \$1.75.

Discussions about Art are far too frequently vitiated by the uncritical acceptance of ill-defined terms and ambiguous catch-phrases. The particular merit of these seven essays lies in the patient use of the analytic method which, tempering the heat of partisan enthusiasms, admits the cooler light of reason. It must be admitted that the results are limited, and largely negative in value. But work such as this is really indispensable, if we are ever to get below the lush and tangled growth of verbiage which has been allowed to obscure the fundamental issues of contemporary aesthetics.

Many of Mr. Howard Hannay's readers will find themselves in immediate sympathy with the majority of his conclusions. They may perhaps hesitate before accepting the statement that the imaginative sensibility and formulated principles of taste cannot be divorced, but they will hasten to welcome his close association of art and morality as the expression of values. They will agree that the formal and the representational, the medium and the emotion cannot, in fact, be separated, truths which are obscured in Roger Fry's theory of "plasticity" and Bergson's account of "tactile values", and explicitly denied in practice by abstract art. They will share his taste for the great Post-Impressionists, and will welcome his condemnation of literary and academic art no less than his attacks on Cubism and Surrealism.

Surrealism at least is an easy mark. The incompetence of much of the work shewn at the recent exhibitions at London and New York will no doubt serve to discredit the movement more than an analysis of its questionable theoretical basis. Yet the fact that Surrealism is proclaimed as a doctrine does make such an analysis necessary. It is highly curious that a theory of the human mind which very few professional psychologists would accept (though this is less true of psychologists in Great Britain than in this country) has so often been taken up by literary and artistic (and incidentally by medical) people with an implicit trust that must surely rest on a *Credo quia impossibile*. Perhaps it is not so curious when one reflects that more recent work in

psychology (people persist in speaking of psychoanalysis as the New Psychology—actually it is the oldest of the contemporary schools) is almost completely unknown outside professional circles.

The case for abstract art is entirely different. Mr. Hannay suggests that Cubism is "not what it claims to be, a new form of art. It is the old art of pattern-making masquerading as something more profound and significant". The pattern divorced from its functional connection is put into the frame devised for the representational picture. But while there may be difficulties in the way of establishing the nature of a specifically aesthetic emotion, it is surely simply a matter of experience that certain formal and entirely non-representational arrangements do bring us keen pleasure and speak particularly clearly to our own age. Mr. Hannay believes that all really significant modern art "is essentially traditional and can be judged by the same principles as classical art and described in the same terms." Actually the idea behind abstract art has never been better expressed than it was by Plato in his maturity. "True pleasures are those which arise from the colours we call beautiful and from shapes. . . . I do not now intend by beauty of shapes what most people would expect, such as that of living creatures or pictures, but for the purpose of my argument I mean straight lines and curves and the surfaces or solid forms produced out of these by lathes and rulers and squares, if you understand me. For I mean that these things are not beautiful relatively, like other things, but always and naturally and absolutely; and they have their proper pleasures, no way depending on the itch of desire:" (*Philebus*, 51b) Though he will not admit that abstract pictorial art is a legitimate form, he agrees that his view "does not *ipso facto* condemn the Cubist work as unattractive or ineffective". And he thinks that it "has brought about a distinctive style in architecture and decorative art, the first style with any real merit and promise since the eighteenth century." That is a good deal.

HILTON PAGE

1825—D'ARCY MCGEE, A Collection of Speeches and Addresses, selected and arranged by the Honourable Charles Murphy, K. C., LL. D. Toronto, Macmillans, 1937. Pp. xvi, 366.

This handsome volume is a posthumous tribute of the late Senator Murphy to the culture, statesmanship, patriotism and general goodwill of Thomas D'Arcy McGee. In order to keep McGee's memory green, and to make his fine qualities of mind and character better known to Canadians of this generation, Senator Murphy arranged the centennial celebration of McGee's birth which was held in Ottawa, on April 13, 1925. On that occasion many distinguished personages were present; discerning remarks were made. All these have been recorded in this book; but in addition Senator Murphy has included twenty speeches or addresses of McGee, only four of which were hitherto published, and these were out of print. It is significant of Senator Murphy's interpretation of McGee's character and contribution to his day and

generation that more than half of these twenty addresses deal with purely literary and cultural subjects. Moreover, they show that McGee, himself an ardent believer in nationality as a thing of the mind and spirit, was a close student of the literature and national spirit of all the British peoples. Thus he speaks on the mental outfit of the new Dominion, the great poets or orators of England, Scotland and Ireland, as well as on political, economic or constitutional questions. In fact, he was more at home in the former than in the latter, and his great contribution to Canadian history lies in his advocacy of mental and spiritual unity in diversity, of mutual tolerance and goodwill. It was no doubt to emphasize this aspect of McGee's career that Senator Murphy republished several tributes from recent biographers who had called attention to these characteristics of the great Irishman in his adopted country. All admirers of McGee and all advocates of a distinctive Canadian civilization will be eager to read this book, and will be grateful to the late Senator Murphy for its conception as well as to Edward F. Murphy for the completion of his brother's unfinished work.

D. C. H.

ENGLISH MONKS AND THE SUPPRESSION OF THE MONASTERIES.

By Geoffrey Baskerville, M. A. Jonathan Cape, 30, Bedford Square, London. 15/—net. (\$4.50).

The professed scheme upon which this book is written may be put in the form of the old tag, *in medio semper tutissimus ibis*. Mr. Baskerville, therefore, admits but refrains from emphasising the irregularities of monastic life, and recognises, but attempts to justify, on what some might think definitely Erastian principles, the drastic methods of reform adopted by the government of Henry VIII.

It is the rank and file of dispossessed religious that interest him, and it must be admitted that he makes out a very complete case to prove that these were well cared for financially. To make this point, however, the author assumes that sixteenth century incomes may fairly be multiplied by thirty to produce a modern equivalent—a suggestion that some might well think rather stretches a point in order to make one.

The style of the work is occasionally a little turgid, and page 168 seems to have little connection with what immediately precedes it. Administrators of the sixteenth century, too, are occasionally credited with sentiments rather belonging to twentieth century political administration.

But there is good new matter in this book. It is a splendid corrective to what have long been fixed prejudices on one side or the other, and no study of the Reformation period can now be complete without taking into serious consideration the new thesis set out by Mr. Baskerville.

A. S. WALKER

ENVOYS EXTRAORDINARY, THE ROMANTIC CAREERS OF SOME REMARKABLE BRITISH REPRESENTATIVES ABROAD, by Edmund B. D'Auvergne. Oxford University Press, Toronto. Pp. 318, \$3.00.

Edmund D'Auvergne has given us the stories of five British diplomats who made use of their positions to work for peace in Europe and America. These men, believing that Britain had a mission to lead the world along the path of justice and freedom, thought nothing of interfering in the domestic affairs of the countries to which they were accredited. More important still, they worked for peace. James Harris, Earl of Malmesbury, after distinguished service as minister to Spain, Russia and Holland, was sent as an envoy to France in 1796 to endeavour to improve the relations between Britain and that country; unfortunately success in this was impossible. Hugh Elliot stopped a war between Denmark and Sweden, and as minister to the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies from 1803 to 1806 went out of his way to improve conditions in that miserable country. Lord William Cavendish Bentinck, minister to Sicily from 1809 to 1814, befriended the Sicilians by forcing their troublesome queen to go back to her homeland of Austria. Later Bentinck, as Governor-General of India, made himself famous by abolishing the practice of suttee. Stratford Canning began his career by arranging a peace between Britain and Turkey, and followed this with practically imposing a peace between Russia and Turkey. He did more than any other British diplomat to help the Greeks to win their independence. At one time Stratford was believed to have been largely responsible for bringing on the Crimean War, but as the author points out, this has since been disproved; in reality he worked strenuously for peace. Sir Henry Lytton Bulwer is included because of his improving Anglo-American relations by arranging the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty in 1850. These men worked for the good of humanity, their actions speak for themselves, yet the author has a tendency to moralize more than is necessary. Apart from this minor fault, the book is interesting and is good history. It reveals wide reading and research, and contains a number of very fine anecdotes which readers will remember in order to repeat to others. From his comments it is evident that the author believes that Great Britain again should throw herself actively on the side of peace and humanitarianism.

His comment is apt: "In those days England was not afraid to throw her sword into the balance on the side of right". The last few years have shown the wisdom of Viscount Stratford when he wrote that "The extreme desire for peace, if care be not taken, may bring on the danger of war."

W. RONALD COPP

THREE COMRADES. By Erich M. Remarque. Hutchinson & Co. London.

This third novel by the author of "All Quiet on the Western Front" reads as if it were the third act of the same tragedy. Although the *dramatis personae* are not identical, they are similar, mostly German

ex-service men, who retain extraordinarily vivid memories of their war-time experiences. The third phase here depicted, of about ten years after the war, shows the remainder of the old soldiers still desperately trying to fit themselves into civil life.

The three comrades are middle-class men, who once looked forward to professional careers, but who have gradually been forced lower and lower in the social scale, which is so carefully observed in Germany, until they have become garage mechanics and rather unsuccessful ones at that. They are unmarried and without resources. They find consolation in consuming large quantities of alcohol and in clinging together in extra warm friendship. They feel that the whole of an abnormal society is against them. The inference to be drawn seems clear, that they will never fit into a peace-time scheme, but will inevitably be eliminated by a remorseless and misunderstanding world.

Two of them disappear in the story, the most light-hearted of the men, and the woman, who is the sweetheart of one of the comrades. She, too, is a war casualty, dying slowly and valiantly of tuberculosis, which has gripped a frame weakened by the war's deprivations of food. The story of the beautiful relationship of the two lovers and the selfless camaraderie of the men lends light and value to the depressing events of a cheerless life. It is a rare blossom of beauty that the author has brought to flower amid unpromising surroundings.

A. K. GRIFFIN

CANADA CAVALCADE. THE MAPLE LEAF DOMINION FROM ATLANTIC TO PACIFIC. By Robert H. Davis. D. Appleton-Century Company, New York and London, 1937. Pp. 411, 43 illustrations.

This book is dedicated to A Good Neighbor: Canada, and comprises sixty-nine descriptive sketches of Canadian scenes or incidents arranged in five groups: Western Canada, Interior Canada, Eastern Canada, The Maritimes and Captains All. These essays were written for the *New York Sun* under the title *Bob Davis Reveals*, and first appeared on the editorial page of that paper. They are intimate and friendly, and demonstrate clearly the sort of thing that a discerning traveller and journalist can discover and reveal in a foreign country during a brief sojourn in it. The sportsman, the lover of wild life and of varied scenery, the artistic and the historically-minded will all find something in this volume to hold their attention and pass the idle hour; and no section of Canada can feel that it has been ignored or that the special attractions that it is accustomed to hold out to tourists have not been noticed and sketched with sympathy.

D. C. H.

RAIL, ROAD AND RIVER. By W. W. Swanson. Macmillans in Canada, 1937. Pp. vi, 121.

The Preface says: "This study purports to be in the main an objective examination of Canada's transportation problems." This, however, does not exclude an attempt to justify the ways of the Canadian Pacific Railway to man, or the deliverance of such judgments as "Transportation is a dangerous field for state action." The origin of the Canadian Pacific is represented as being "to the men of its day . . . an almost hopeless undertaking, a last throw of the dice, an attempt to work the miracle which was to save this country from absorption into the great republic to the south." The task, necessary and worthy in itself, of recalling to the minds of the Canadian people the service rendered to it by this great company will not be advanced by rhapsodies like this.

The desire of a scholar to contribute "something of value in informing public opinion" is laudable. It becomes effective in proportion as his work is above reproach, and above suspicion.

W. R. MAXWELL.

LIFE OF JOHN KEATS. By Charles Armitage Brown. Edited by D. H. Bodurtha and W. B. Pope. Oxford University Press. Pp. 129. Price \$1.75.

Keats had a circle of loyal friends. If only they had come together after his death and composed a biography, we might now have a picture of the poet that might well rival Boswell's *Life of Johnson*. Every friend wanted justice to be done to Keats's memory; yet because of jealousy, suspicion and quarrels no biography was written by an intimate friend. The closest approach to such work was the essay read by Brown before the Plymouth Institution in 1837 and now published for the first time. Unfortunately Brown spent more time in attacking reviewers and George Keats than in recounting information that might have been priceless. Nevertheless this essay, though most of the facts are already known, was worth printing for the personal note. The introduction gives a clear account of the quarrels among Keats's friends, and marshals evidence to show that the attacks in *Blackwood's* and the *Quarterly* contributed to the death of Keats. The volume is a fine example of good bookmaking.

B. M.

CURRICULUM GUIDES FOR TEACHERS OF CHILDREN FROM TWO TO SIX YEARS OF AGE. By Ruth Andrus and Associates. A John Day Book; published by Reynal and Hitchcock.

During the past decade much has been written concerning the education of what used to be termed the pre-school child. This book is certainly a valuable addition to that literature. It is the work of a group of New York teachers who have carefully observed the activities

of small children in the nursery school, and who have utilised their observations to build up a scheme of organisation and a curriculum for the nursery school. As might be expected, they have discovered nothing strikingly new. The research does not compare, from the point of view of scientific interest or breadth of scope, with the similar research carried out in England by Dr. Susan Isaacs and described in her book, *The Intellectual Development of Young Children*. But the results of the research are set out in such a simple and practical form that the book will be of great value to all concerned with the teaching of children of nursery school age. The illustrations are excellent, and there is a very useful appendix dealing with the practical equipment of the nursery school.

B. A. F.

OUR RUDE FOREFATHERS, AMERICAN POLITICAL VERSE, 1783-1788.

By Louie M. Miner, Ph. D. The Torch Press, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 1937. Pp. viii, 274.

This book, originally designed as an edition of political verse in its historical environment, has become in the hands of the author a brief political satire. The period covered is the five years which followed the War of Independence, and this was a period of intense excitement and activity, during which the Constitution was wrought from varied and discordant principles by men who thought with emotion and moved with passionate energy. No longer subordinate to the King of England, the new Americans found that although they had shown a decent respect to the opinions of mankind in their declaration of independence, this same mankind of Western Europe had little respect for the discordant policies of those states which constituted the new federation. With little sympathy, even from those Powers which had helped them to break away from the British Empire, they had to formulate a foreign policy and to deal with pressing internal problems of politics and finance which threatened to overwhelm them. In dealing with these problems, the statesmen of the period were literally bombarded by writers of both prose and verse, friendly and unfriendly. It is this verse, crude as much of it is, that Dr. Miner revives to help us to recapture the spirit of the age.

Dr. Miner begins with a clear-cut, close-knit, sane and balanced introductory chapter which outlines the problems and sketches the work of those who commented upon them at the time; then takes up these problems in greater detail under such headings as Foreign Affairs, the Tories, and the Nation's Purse, and illustrates contemporary division of thought by extracts from political satire. Both the selection and the interpretation are well done, and the result is illuminating. As Dr. Miner says of this verse, "with all its lack of literary value and, in the main, of definite authorship, it still retains the power to convey to readers of to-day the very form and colour of the political scene." Moreover, most of this volume is quite as interesting to Canadians as to citizens of the United States.

D. C. H.

PRELUDE TO CHEMISTRY. By John Read, F. R. S. G. Bell and Sons, Ltd.

In "Prelude to Chemistry" Mr. John Read traces the development of alchemy from early beginnings in China and Egypt to its overthrow in favour of the Phlogiston Theory.

The popular conception of alchemy as a pseudo-science in which the chief aim was to transmute base metals into gold receives little support from the alchemical literature. Transmutation had an important place, but it was in the sense that gold was the primordial element, and that the other metals were impure forms of gold which could be converted to gold by purification. Transmutation was, in reality, merely one phase of a broad subject, for in the words of the author, alchemy was "a complex and indefinite aggregation of chemistry, philosophy, religion, occultism, astrology, magic, mythology, and many other constituents."

The book is not limited in its appeal to those familiar with chemistry. It is a study of the past through its science. The chemist will appreciate the occasional passage among the many quotations from alchemical literature that deal with chemistry in a style that would not be out of place in a modern text-book.

The author gives an excellent selection of illustrations, of which there are over a hundred.

ALLAN C. TOPP

STAR-BEGOTTEN. A Biological Fantasia. By H. G. Wells. Macmillans in Canada. Pp. 217. Price \$2.00.

Mr. Wells has let his imagination play with another scientific fact. Cosmic rays do pour on the earth—can it be that they cause mutations by affecting the chromosomes, and can it be that the Martians are thus trying to improve the human race? Such is the frame-work. It is the early Wells at his best. Of course the author is always an optimist, and so we are left with a feeling that all will be much better in the future when a race of clear hard thinkers occupy the earth. For delightful farce nothing could be better than the activities of Lord Thunderclap, the great press peer, when he hears of these Martians. But Mr. Wells needs to be careful: in the past bishops have always been a source of harmless amusement for him; but if the present book is an indication, they are fast becoming obsessions. What a pity it would be to have a fine novelist ruined by a "King Charles's head"!

B. M.

ROMANCERO DU CANADA. By Marius Barbeau. Macmillans in Canada. Pp. 254. Price \$2.75.

Once again Canadians, of whatever origin they may be, are indebted to Dr. Barbeau for a delightful and valuable work on one phase of Canadian culture. This volume contains a selection of fifty French Can-

adian folk songs from the vast collection in the National Museum. Words and tunes are both supplied; likewise, notes on the nature of the individual songs, their provenance, their French origins, verse structure, musical analyses, and bibliographies for not only Canada, but France, and at times for other European countries. It is interesting to note that some songs, though originally French, are found now only in Canada. The volume should do much to introduce French Canadian folk songs to English Canadian choirs and similar organizations. ■

B. M.

POOR FRED: THE PEOPLE'S PRINCE. By Sir George Young.
Oxford University Press. Pp. xxxi, 232. \$3.75.

This is a biography with a thesis. Democracy is in a parlous state in Britain, but it can yet be saved if we do not delay: let us put in charge of a council of reconstruction a prince so popular that no cabinet would dare thwart his plans; then a much needed reconstruction will take place without a dictatorship. Bolingbroke had a similar idea in his conception of the Patriot King; the much maligned Frederick, son of George II, would, but for death, have saved Britain from a crisis not dissimilar to ours. This is an interesting thesis, but one that will not win many converts to-day. Fortunately, Sir George has kept the thesis pretty well to the introduction; so without being burdened by it, the reader can go slumming in the family affairs of the early Hanoverians. What monsters George I and George II were to their families, outdone only by George II's queen! The author does make a good case for Frederick by using more recently discovered sources than the Herveys and Horace Walpole. His writing is lively, though the reader is often irritated by an obsession for phrases and subordinate clauses instead of sentences. This book can be recommended to the specialist in 18th century history, and to the person who enjoys Butler's *Way of All Flesh*.

B. M.

THE SETTLEMENT OF CANADIAN-AMERICAN DISPUTES. By P. E. Corbett. Yale University Press. Toronto: The Ryerson Press. 1937. vi and 130. (\$2.75).

The query has often been raised whether the experience of the United States and Canada does not suggest something in the way of method and procedure for settling international disputes which could be used advantageously in other parts of the world. Any sort of conclusive answer has been hard to come by, mainly for want of a study of the various controversies between the two countries which takes adequate account of this larger aspect. The present volume will go far towards rectifying this condition. The soundness of the author's approach is indicated by the statement in the introductory chapter that "Universal arbitration is coming to be regarded as a *sine qua non* in any organization for the future peace of the world,

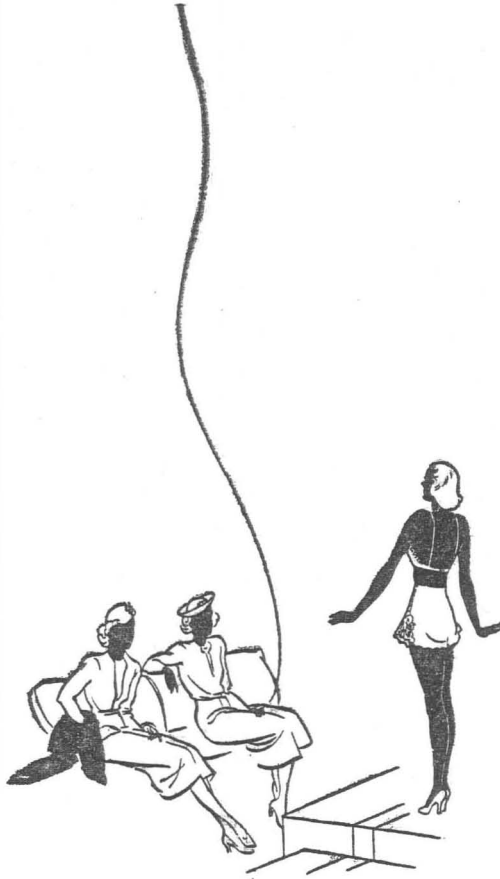
and these cases furnish some of the elements from which a consistent jurisprudence may be built up for the guidance of arbiters."

The first part of the book is taken up with a consideration of the various claims. A thoroughly sound decision has been to classify these under the respective headings of boundaries, fisheries, inland waterways and miscellaneous. The cases have been stated with clarity, and the decisions subjected to careful and informed criticism. What does seem somewhat regrettable, however, is that the author has been so limited in space in this part of the book. Unhappily the need for compression seems at times to have made the recital of facts and issues too summary, and the narrative therefore is less striking than if more had been said about the extraneous factors—the motives, interests and ambitions of individuals and groups—which in some cases have heightened controversy and in others have made for settlement.

Some conclusions the author comes to are of high interest. The uniform success of arbitration when it has been used by the United States and Canada leads him to challenge emphatically those who say that while certain disputes between nations fall to be decided by legal processes, others concerning what are often called "vital interests" can be dealt with only by negotiation and diplomatic means. Our experience suggests the contrary to be true. When the case is one which is not covered by existing rules, the tribunal can be given power to decide on the equities of the case. In certain instances, indeed, it has been possible to go further. The North Atlantic Fisheries Arbitration is notable because the arbitrators were vested with authority to recommend new rules which in their opinion ought to be adopted to govern the rights of American and British nationals. They accepted this commission, and their recommendations were loyally carried out by appropriate domestic legislation.

The device of choosing an umpire by lot, from two names submitted by arbitrators who are in disagreement, is properly condemned in strong terms. The ready acceptance of an adverse ruling is hampered when it is known, as it must be when the drawing of lots is resorted to, that the umpire did not enjoy the confidence of one of the arbitrators. A more satisfactory procedure is to have the nomination made by a neutral party. Concerning the choosing of arbitrators, the author's view is that it is not desirable to have them appointed *ad hoc*. The acrimony that followed the Alaskan boundary award is seen to be due in part at least to the fact that the nominations were made in circumstances which encouraged allegations of partiality. Trouble of this nature is largely avoided when it is possible to select from a panel of arbitrators which has been provided in advance by a convention drawn up in an atmosphere of confidence.

The contributions which have been made to substantive law by the Canadian-American arbitrations do not appear to have been numerous. To some extent this seems due to the fact that one of the common sources of litigation between states is the protection of nationals, and the standards of justice in the United States and Canada are so much alike that there has not been much occasion for the application of this branch of the law. The award in the *I'm Alone* case



"I don't see you at many fashion shows . . ."
"I'd go to more—if they'd pass around Sweet Caps!"

SWEET CAPORAL CIGARETTES

"The purest form in which tobacco can be smoked."—Lancet



does, however, appear to have broken new ground. There the arbitrators departed from the unsatisfactory rule by which interests of the state and the individual were so identified that no sum beyond the amount of the damage suffered by the individual was allowed to the complaining state; instead they gave the sum of \$25,000 to the Canadian Government in addition to amounts for the losses of the individuals injured, and the author argues convincingly that this may properly be regarded as a penal sum awarded to compensate the complaining state for the infringement of its rights, as distinct from those of the nationals concerned.

A suggestion of much contemporary interest is that our common experience has shown the need for a doctrine of international servitudes. The want of such a doctrine has already caused awkward situations to arise over the fishing concessions which Canadians and Americans have enjoyed for many years in each other's waters, and also over the mutual rights of navigation on boundary waters. The growth of aerial transport, especially between the United States and Alaska, has brought this matter to the fore. The author's view, contrary to the traditional one, is that the existence of such a doctrine ought not to be denied on the theoretical ground that a right of servitude is inconsistent with the so-called sovereignty of a state. He argues with justice that these mutual rights are intended to be perpetual and irrevocable, and it would advance understanding if legal recognition were given to this fact.

The existing machinery for peaceful settlement of disputes between the two countries is passed in review in the closing chapters. In this connection a warning is uttered. It is pointed out that, in spite of the fact that we have found arbitration so singularly valuable, there does not presently exist any arrangement for the arbitration of all disputes. Such machinery as there is covers only a limited field. For instance, the mandatory jurisdiction of the International Joint Commission is limited to boundary waters, and its powers of enquiry and report are confined to questions arising along the common frontier. It is true that it can serve as an arbitral tribunal generally, but only with the consent of both parties. The anxiety is expressed that conditions so markedly favourable to an "all-in" arbitration treaty as exist at present may not always be with us, and it is urged therefore that steps should be taken to have such a treaty concluded. The advantage of the provision of a regular procedure, at least so far as Canada is concerned, is clear. As the author says; "A small country involved in a dispute with one having twelve times its population may be expected to harbour some doubt as to whether it will obtain justice". No one will deny that this feeling has been held at times in the past, especially over such matters as the Maine and Alaskan boundaries, and if, as seems likely enough, the creation of a permanent arbitral body would avoid its recurrence, every effort should be made to that end.

G. F. CURTIS.