

## NEW BOOKS

CHAMPLAIN: THE LIFE OF FORTITUDE. By Morris Bishop. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1948. Pp. 364, VII, map and 6 illustrations.

This is a biography with a thesis, which the reader is never allowed to lose sight of; and yet is so naturally introduced and so skilfully maintained that it seems to be the only possible interpretation of Champlain's life and work. I am sure that, if the author had to defend his thesis before the assembled editors, living and dead, of the publications of the Champlain Society, presided over by Champlain himself, he would be acquitted *magna cum laude*: for, while it is true that without their previous work his could not have been done, they in turn could have learned something new from his coordination of their individual efforts and his interpretation of the collective results. They were concerned with the collection, translation and annotation of the different texts; but he, while basing his study on Champlain's own narrative, was able to eke out Champlain with Lescarbot, Sagard, and others, and thereby to bridge obvious gaps in that narrative or to treat in greater detail the background on which Champlain lived, developed and revealed his fortitude.

I am inclined to think that Professor Bishop has given the definitive life of Champlain and, in so doing, has provided a worthy model for all the youth of this continent—not so perfect as to be unattainable, yet so outstanding as to command their admiration: for, though conditions of life in America to-day are very different from those with which Champlain had to contend, there is still the same need of fortitude in meeting them.

But apart from the moral of the story and the worthiness of the character here portrayed, the author has given a good demonstration of scientific historical research, without intruding his technique more than was necessary to show when he was attempting to reconcile conflicting authorities, or was allowing his imaginative insight to penetrate the occasional pocket of mist or fog. To those who have read only short secondary accounts of Champlain's life and work and have not enquired as to an author's source of information, this volume may appear only as an exceptionally full biography of a man who has long been venerated as the "Father of New France"; but, to one who has read Champlain's own works and those of his contemporaries, it is a critical appreciation of a noteworthy historical figure in American history, by a mature scholar, who has mastered all the literature of the period, reflected upon the contemporary mentality, and from this vantage point given a sympathetic yet objective view of his subject.

Professor Bishop does not introduce Champlain to his readers as the full-fledged embodiment of an abstract virtue but shows him serving a hard apprenticeship to fortitude in the wars of the League and at sea before his character was put to the test in Acadia and Canada; nor as dedicated to the search for the South Sea by a northern route, until he had crossed the Isthmus of Panama and gazed upon it from Spanish territory; nor as entirely absorbed in exploration and colonization to the exclusion of marital bliss or family fortune, as his rather

ill-conceived marriage to a child of twelve, who from her birth and training was ill adapted to pioneer life, would indicate.

However, as the narrative proceeds and Champlain turns from Acadia to Canada, makes the fateful alliance against the Iroquois, which alliance Professor Bishop repeatedly defends, and strives to maintain the confidence of his fickle and suspicious allies in New France and also of the fickle and suspicious courtiers and merchants in France itself, a clear-cut policy begins to emerge; and, through the many reverses national and international which he meets in attempting to carry out that policy, his character is shown gradually becoming tempered to fortitude.

Despite the author's critical examination of his sources, one or two errors have crept into his narrative: e.g., that the priest Aubry died in Acadia (p. 89) and that Argall was Governor of Virginia (p. 121); nor does there seem to be any evidence that *two* of Poutrincourt's sons were in Acadia (p. 121), or that Mme. de Poutrincourt ever visited it (p. 265). However, when one considers the amount of conflicting primary and secondary material which had to be checked in writing this biography, it seems ungracious to mention these details.

D. C. H.

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HUDSONS' BAY COMPANY SERIES X. Simpson's 1828 Journey to the Columbia. Part of Despatch from George Simpson Esqr. Governor of Ruperts Land. Edited by E. E. Riech, with an Introduction by W. Stewart Wallace. Toronto, The Champlain Society, 1947. Pp. lii, 277.

This is one of the most interesting volumes of the Hudson's Bay Company Series as it gives, in addition to a brief sketch of each post visited by Governor Simpson between York Factory and Fort Vancouver, considerable detail as to the reason why each strategic post had been established and how far its purpose was being realized. It was on this trip also that Governor Simpson decided that Fraser River could no longer be thought of as a practicable communication with the interior, and that every effort should be made to maintain the Company's position on the Columbia.

In regard to progress in Fort Vancouver itself, which had been established four years earlier to provide subsistence for the Company's employees on the Pacific coast, he gives a glowing report; and at the same time he discusses at some length the activities of the Americans in actual or projected opposition to the Company. While urging the fullest development of its resources and trade, he suggests in the meantime the establishment of a strong post at the mouth of Simpson's River in Lot 54, as a means of controlling the trade of the coast and interior in view of the possibility that the Columbia should be given up to the Americans. As the Editor points out, and Mr. Wallace illustrates at considerable length in his introduction, the Americans were already negotiating for the termination of the arrangement for joint occupation of the Oregon territory and, though they had not yet been able to induce the British to give up their claims

in that region, were convinced that time and the comparative indifference of the British would ultimately work in their favor. It is interesting to note that at this time the Americans were suggesting the 51st parallel of north latitude as the desirable boundary between their territory and the British, though as a last resort they were willing to accept the 49th parallel.

Though Simpson does not say so, it seems clear that the main reason for his long voyage of 1828 was to get first-hand knowledge of the actual conditions on the Pacific Coast; and that as a result of his strenuous voyage the Company was able to prepare against future adversity.

Appendix A gives a number of miscellaneous letters and reports which throw further light upon the problems raised in the main despatch. Appendix B is biographical.

D. C. H.

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ON BEING CANADIAN. By Vincent Massey. J. M. Dent & Son (Canada) Limited, Toronto and Vancouver, 1948. Pp xiv, 198.

No one should dispute the author's statement that *On Being Canadian* is "a well-meaning" book, or doubt his sincerity, when he says it will have achieved its main purpose if it encourages "others to ponder the problems of their country and to form opinions of their own."

That he, himself, has not rushed into print without pondering the problems of his country, his references to his own experiences during ten years' absence from home, which should have sharpened his powers of observation, and to his subsequent tour of Canada which gave him an opportunity to exercise those powers, as well as, to a rather extensive bibliography, bear ample testimony; but they also bear testimony to the difficulty of distinguishing between the salutary prejudices of one's home-town and the subtle suggestions of one's associates in other lands, when trying to form opinions of one's own.

If, for example, one should ape Kipling and ask what should they know of Canada who only Canada know? One might also ask, what should they know of the Pacific and Atlantic provinces of Canada who only know the central provinces? In attempting to answer these questions, the author observes representative Canadians in London; and sees them as products of history and geography, the latter seeming to be the stronger, though chiefly for its influence in bringing Canada into immediate neighborhood of the United States. Thus the underlying theses of the book are that we have been, are, and of right ought to be Canadian, because if we are not careful we will cease to be British and become American; that we have been, are, and of right ought to be united from coast to coast, and if we will only shut our eyes and think so we will be so; that we have been, are, and of right ought to be interpreters of the British to the Americans and vice

versa, although the British take their ideas of Americans from Americans and most of our ideas of the British are filtered to us through American sources, and after all "it is less important for Canada to interpret other nations' points of view than to have one of her own."

Now it seems to this reviewer that these ideas are vestigial remains of post-confederation conflicts rather than a prophetic vision of the future unless the poetic injunction "Let thy past convince thy future" be misconstrued as the clutch of the dead hand. Yet, despite this very Canadian confusion of thought, there are many sound ideas in every chapter of this volume and more than one well-reasoned appreciation of Canada's problem in formulating a foreign policy. Of the latter, the arguments against joining the Pan American Union and the criticism of Canada's early withdrawal of her forces from Germany are quite convincing; while of the former, the eloquent pleas in behalf of the fine arts and education should not only warm the hearts of painter, musician, writer and educator but should loosen the purse-strings of both the individual and the nation: so that these weavers of the national fabric shall not lack warp and woof for their weaving, just rewards for their labor, or any of the freedoms which are essential to a healthy national outlook. So, too, the discussion of "The Projection of Canada" should have a stimulating effect upon national thinking, as it must have had upon that of the author: for it is undoubtedly true that "an effort to explain Canada to the outside world would help us to understand her better ourselves;" and the conflicting opinions of ourselves, which this modest attempt has revealed, should emphasize the necessity of further pondering on what Canadians have been, are, and of right ought to be, before we attempt to formulate a *credo* for posterity.

D. C. H.

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DEEPER INTO THE FOREST. By Roy Daniells. McClelland & Stewart. Pp. 76. \$2.50.

THE STRENGTH OF THE HILLS. By Robert Finch. McClelland & Stewart. Pp. 132. \$2.75.

The appearance of these first two volumes of McClelland and Stewart's *Indian File Series* is a publishing event of some importance not only because still another publisher has dared to risk hard money on serious Canadian verse, but also because this publisher has discovered that book-making is an art as well as a business. The typography and design are excellent, and it is to be hoped that Mr. Paul Arthur will be given further and varied opportunities to dress our letters in such strong finery.

We have become, if not hardened at least accustomed to interesting and skilful verse by Canadians. Our standards and our expectations have risen. The sentimental naturalism of the Roberts imitators seems far off now—so much so that we may soon be able to restore Roberts himself to his proper place in our literature! We have had not only Pratt, but also A. J. M. Smith, Abraham Klein, Dorothy Livesay, Patrick Anderson, P. K. Page, L. A. MacKay. Clearly,

our poets have come to feel their position in time as well as in space, and this has meant something of a Renaissance for Canadian letters these past ten years. Without claiming too much for what has happened, we can at least read our own writers without apologizing in our heart of hearts for them and for ourselves. We can even judge them without fear of betraying either our native land or our native intelligence.

This was scarcely the case ten years ago, and ten years ago these books by Daniels and Finch would have seemed more exciting than they are. A summer, alas, was made before these latest swallows came—and Finch, it must be remembered, was one of the makers. He is already a poet of established reputation. At its best, his poetry is notable for clarity of line and symbol, for a sure if somewhat bloodless finish. This is not to suggest that his work has been lifeless, but rather that his characteristic poetic energy is thoroughly fine and dry.

In the 1946 volume, one was taken with Finch's control of the poetic unit, with his achievement of an inevitable "metaphysical" mesh of theme, structure and texture. In this respect the new volume is uneven and faltering. The "metaphysical" tension of surface and depth, which in the earlier volume rescued Finch's images from the trap of "imagism" and imparted to them the dimension of symbol, is here less constant. In the nature poems there is a tendency either towards pure sensation (pure surface image without height or depth), or towards commonplace analogy long drawn out, in which the image is reduced to mere poster-picture. Again, the wit of the lighter pieces is too often merely verbal, the technical trickery merely clever. It is almost as if the poet's faculties had gracefully taken leave of each other and gone their separate ways.

But I do not believe that the tendency I have just noted is decisive and that we can now begin to discuss the decline and fall of Finch. Poems like *Time's Bright Sand*, *The Lost Tribe*, *The Procession*, *The Visitor* are among the best he has yet written, and they point a positive direction for work to come. Indeed, despite unhappy lapses like *The Mountain* and *The Song*, in which the image serves as crutch to the platitude, Finch's specifically Christian poetry is of a very high order. In this poetry his arts are re-assembled and emotively fused.

Therefore, while the volume as a whole is disappointing, a capacity for significant growth is nonetheless evident.

*Deeper into the Forest* by Roy Daniels is a first volume of verse. It contains a number of well-wrought poems. But the Daniels debut has been badly compromised by the Birney jacket-blurb and by the notes that Daniels himself has seen fit to tack to his book. These aids and asides to the reader force an attractive enough little collection of sonnets, whimsies and literary exercises to a plane where serious psychological and philosophical analysis is invited. Birney tells us that "what is most important about these poems is the maturing experience they offer the reader." Daniels tells us that the subject matter of the book is religious and that the individual poems of the main sonnet sequence are "radial from a central theme." This theme, we are told, is a quest, often frustrated, but finally consummated "as a way is opened deeper into the enchanted forest of reality."

In these notes Daniells seems anxious that a positive reading be given his poems. He will not be taken for a decadent or an escapist. But to convey a sense of "maturing experience," or of the hopeful thrust towards fullness of being, it is scarcely enough to have Anthony, in the final sonnet of a loose and discontinuous sequence, cry "Look, the Bough of Gold!" This symbol is explained with painstaking care in the Notes. It is never *expressed* in the poetry.

Nor is "the enchanted forest of reality" (as a maturing triumph over retreat and negation) ever realized poetically. The Notes suggest that by this forest symbol there is an accomplishment in the poems of "the high dream," of the imaginative vision, that clears reality not by deserting it but by illuminating it. However, later on in the Notes "the high dream" is inconsistently lowered, and the "reality" symbol is given the limited connotation proper to its effect in the poetry itself. In interpreting his poem *Epithalamion* for us, Daniells says that in the concluding stanzas "a way is opened to the 'green shade' where, in another century, Marvell found a refuge from the distractions of civil strife." In the context of the poetry the forest-reality symbol conveys no more than this simple notion of refuge and flight. The Daniells Eden is a way out, not a way in. Rather than a "central theme" deepening through tentative failure and strenuous trial into that elder wisdom which finds the end in the beginning, in the green first Garden, we get in these poems opposite impulses that shrink away from each other.

The sonnet "Sick with the long displeasure of the chase" (*sic*) is characteristic of the negative impulse in Daniells. Here the fear of death is at once projected and controlled in the exotic figure of the "legendary bird," which, head in sand, knows a paradoxical moment of reflective peace before the huntsman strikes.

Let us regard this bird  
With compassion and with envy.

The sick fear of the hunted thing is made to seem, in the suspended sensual moment before extinction, both exquisite and enviable. Fear is not resolved in the poem but co-exists with a morbid enjoyment of fear.

The positive impulse in Daniells, if it may be so called, comes out most clearly in the sonnet "So they went deeper into the forest." The poem conjures up the fairy-tale world of the child. And as the angry queen passes and the old tale grows dim, the child moves onward.

. . . into the heart of the wood  
Unhindered, unresisted, unwitstood.

In the heart of this wood, and along the floating fairy-like way to it, no account is taken of the relentless Huntsman. This wood is never dark. Its denizens, one supposes, are attractively toothless. "Enchanted" it may be, but the wood is obviously an avoidance of the

darker reality of the death poems. The dragon who might have hindered and resisted is not to be found at the cave-door to this "reality". No need to slay him. The dream censor has scrupulously liquidated him.

The huntsman and the "green shade" symbolize for the poetry two utterly separate levels of experience. The dark fear level is possessed not by any process of growth and epiphany but by an almost Pre-Raphaelite prettification of image and, at times, by the perversion of fear into a faint and fearful pleasure. The psychological effect is one of concealment and repression rather than of revelation and expression. The aesthetic effect is often that of elegance, but this is the discreet and disingenuous elegance of the funeral parlor. At the other end, the retreat into the lost, loved and unloved world of childhood does not, as in a mature Christian poet like Eliot, add a speculative dimension to the surfaces raised by time. Rather, by an avoidance of time (and trial), the retreat dwindles into nothing more than neutral day-dream.

Perhaps the difficulty is that Daniells is seeking to force his sensibility into a mode which is inappropriate to it. The strain to establish a moral and climatic relationship between phases of experience which are in a moral and indefinable flux has led to self-deception. Talent and the fairy-tale myth are not enough to drill the multiple and disintegrative motivations that lurk beneath the bottoms of these poems into a ready and easy ethical dualism. The aesthetic consequence of this straining is, in the dark poems, varnish instead of finish, and in the light poems, skittishness and cuteness instead of release.

MALCOLM MACKENZIE ROSS

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DIPLOMATIC PRELUDE, 1938-1939. By L. B. Namier. London. (MacMillan) 1948.

THE END OF AN EPOCH: REFLECTIONS ON CONTEMPORARY HISTORY. By A. L. Rowse. London (Macmillan) 1947.

At first sight there might seem to be little in common between Professor Namier's sober history of the diplomacy of the European powers that preceded the Second World War and Mr. Rowse's spirited reflections on some of the crucial political events and conditions of his time. The first, however, with a fine gift for reconstruction and analysis, records the failure of European statesmanship that marked the deeper failure of European morality, exposed and castigated by the second. Drawing upon all relevant and available sources, Professor Namier traces in meticulous detail the diplomatic moves and encounters through which policy was shaped and articulated during the last two terrible years before the war began. Although his interpretations sometimes pass over into moral judgments of the attitudes and actions of persons and governments, few if any will find them

at variance with the data that he presents. Neither author is an admirer of Soviet communism, but that does not destroy Mr. Rowse's high regard for Marx as a seminal thinker, nor prevent Professor Namier from crediting the Soviet government with a genuine attempt to maintain the system of collective security until they became convinced that an alliance with the western powers was impossible to achieve on a basis of mutuality. He describes some of the difficulties involved in dealing with the Russians, but he is at the same time mindful of their reasons for mistrusting the Chamberlain and Daladier governments, whose haggling over terms while the world was going to pieces about their ears merely served to confirm them in their doubts of the sincerity of those governments. Professor Namier believes that Chamberlain was sincere in his efforts during those last days, but he is conscious of the contrast between the halting spirit in which Russia was approached and the generous and open-handed manner in which the negotiation with Poland had been conducted. An eleventh-hour alliance with Russia, as Lloyd George and Churchill kept urging, was the only measure that could forestall the Nazi madmen. The implication appears to be that the inept and misguided, and in some cases sinister, men of Munich were either too limited in vision, or too far gone in reaction, to achieve a true perspective of their countries' vital interests.

Mr. Rowse's miscellany ranges over themes that are sometimes only remotely related to each other, such as the debacle of Liberalism, the theory and practice of communism, the relations of church and state, the German problem, and the decadence of France. He takes the late Lord Keynes to task because of his failure to advocate the necessary political concomitants of his own economic theory. It is his contention that socialism alone could make the Keynesian system work, but in thus contending Mr. Rowse lays himself open to the charge of inconsistency, since, to judge from the prefatory note, he, himself, is the mildest of socialists. Likewise, in writing on democratic leadership he does not sufficiently explain how the masses, of whose wisdom and foresight he seems to have a very low opinion, can prevent the leaders from identifying the "general will" with their own will to power. It was precisely such an identification by the Tories that Mr. Rowse condemns in the vigorous polemical chapters that set the tone of the book. His allegation is that the industrial capitalists who were running the country through their mouthpieces, Baldwin and Chamberlain, consistently pursued their narrow and selfish class interests at the expense of those of the British people and of mankind. Hence their lack of sympathy with popular and democratic forces, and their appeasement of the dictators. Only when they were ousted from power by "a combination of aristocrats with the working-class movement" was there an end to a policy, the inglorious implementation of which it has been Professor Namier's melancholy task to record.



POLAND OLD AND NEW. By William John Rose. London: G. Bell & Sons, Ltd., 1948; Toronto: Clark Irwin & Co. Pp. 354.

In this masterly volume, the Professor of Polish Literature and History in the University of London recapitulates the long and tragic history of the Polish nation and presents an analysis of its present plight.

Dr. Rose is better qualified to write this volume than any other Canadian. A graduate of Manitoba and Oxford universities, he proceeded to his doctorate at the University of Cracow, where his thesis dealt with Stanislaw Konarski, an 18th century educational reformer in Poland. He has been for nearly fifteen years the professor of Polish in the University of London's School of Slavonic Studies and succeeded Sir Bernard Pares as its Director soon after the outbreak of the War. The present book is his sixth volume dealing with Poland.

Its structure is roughly threefold: the first 100 pages give a rapid and vivid summary of Polish history from A.D. 966 down to the close of World War I; the next 150 pages describe the free republic of 1919-1939 and analyse the development of Polish folk culture, religion, education, literature, art and science; while the last 100 pages present the murder of Polish freedom at the hands of the Germans and the Russians since September, 1939. Each of his ten chapters is supplemented by a useful list of books for further reading.

One of the most valuable parts of his volume is Chapter III, "The Years of Independence, 1919-39," in which he traces the heroic struggles of twenty years of reconstruction in perilous proximity to two strong and merciless neighbours. Dr. Rose is candid as to faults both on the part of the reckless and captious political parties that imperilled the very existence of the republic and on the part of the "post-Pilsudskists" who curbed those parties with dubious legality (but with infinitely less tyranny than their Communist critics); but he is most concerned with the strong sense of national loyalty and responsibility that had so consolidated by 1939 that Hitler was unable to find any Polish candidates for a Quisling regime in Poland and even the operating nucleus of the present Communist puppet regime is not Polish at all. He also credits whatever measure of recovery has been possible in Poland since 1945 not to the Russians and their non-Polish Quislings but to the courageous vitality of the Polish people and to five hundred million dollars worth of UNRRA supplies.

Dr. Rose's treatment of the period since 1939 is the most challenging, but it suffers from a time-lag behind swiftly moving events. In the light of January, 1949, the judgments of a book completed in September, 1946, are bound to be found occasionally inadequate. This defect is partly remedied by two postscripts, one entitled "Poland Revisited, March, 1947" and a second (of a page and a half) dated January 20, 1948. While most of the scandalous facts with regard to the betrayal and rape of Poland are frankly faced, the author, in the light of emerging facts, often appears unduly optimistic or given to understatement. He recognizes thus timidly, for example, the shameless betrayal of Poland at Yalta by Mr. Churchill and Mr. Roosevelt: "The fate of nations was decided, either directly or by

inference, without their being consulted . . . Those entering on these agreements completely ignored the legitimate Polish Government with whose leaders they had worked through five and a half years of bitter war—surely one of the crudest pieces of oversight in the history of international relations." As for the scandalous pro-Soviet mendacity of most British newspapers, the B.B.C. and the British Ministry of Information, he refers merely to "the one-sided attitude of most of the British press during the last two phases of the war, which maintained a virtual conspiracy of silence in respect to the claims of a gallant and never-flinching ally." He recognizes that "the security police . . . has become the most hated agency in the county," but is inclined to credit a promise that it will soon be dissolved. Most naive, or diffident, of all is his whitewashing (p. 326) of the elections of January, 1947, in which Communist violence, terror and fraud were so flagrant as to call forth stern protests from the British and American governments. There is also no mention of the wholesale rape and robbery inflicted in 1944-45 by the "liberating" Red Army, of the wholesale stripping of Polish industry (e.g. at Gdynia) of machinery to be shipped to Russia by these same "liberators," of the million Polish citizens dead or still dying in Siberian concentration camps, or of the fact that the destruction of Poland in 1939 was part of the infamous August agreement between the Nazi and Soviet dictatorships. He criticizes bitterly those Poles abroad who refuse to go back home to assist in reconstruction, and chooses to overlook the probability that they would return to their deaths since the officers of the heroic Home Army who emerged (on London's orders) to assist the advancing Soviet forces in 1944-45 were promptly arrested and liquidated by Stalin just as surely as were the eight thousand Polish officers whom he had murdered in 1941 in the Karyn Forest. If Professor Rose were rewriting his book to-day, he would probably consider the British public ready to face the naked truth in these matters. As it is, the force of an otherwise magnificent volume has been somewhat weakened by a concession to a hang-over of war-time pro-Soviet intoxication.

WATSON KIRKCONNELL

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INDUSTRY AND HUMANITY. By the Right Honourable W. L. Mackenzie King, M.P. The Macmillan Company of Canada, Toronto, Ont. Pp. xxxM270. \$4.00.

*Industry and Humanity* made its first appearance in 1918. A new edition was published in 1935, abbreviated by the omission of many passages relating to episodes and writings of the first World War that had lost most of their original pertinence in the passage of time. And it is this abridged edition that is now being issued again, enlarged by the addition of a preface by Mr. King, bearing the date of August, 1947.

This preface presumably offers us Mr. King's matured expression of his philosophy of statesmanship. Its tenour may be inferred from the two following quotations.

Once the principle of Investigation before there is resort to Force has become a guiding principle in the prevention of industrial strife, it should not be long before it equally becomes a guiding principle in the prevention of international strife. Had the nations in their relations with one another accepted the principle of investigation before there is resort to Force, there would have been no world war in 1914, nor again in 1939. What a responsibility is assumed by those who, at any time, in any place seek, in industrial or international relations, to prevent the application of this principle! (pp. xxvi-xxvii).

Humanity has rights superior to those of Industry and Nationality. For their ultimate solution, industrial and international problems alike await the inspiration of a universally accepted faith in human brotherhood. (p. xxix)

But unfortunately the preface does not tell us anything of how best we may deal with any one who is ready to assume the responsibility of preventing the application of this principle of "Investigation" or anything of what we are to do while we are still awaiting the inspiration of a universally accepted faith in human brotherhood.

The publisher's note preceding Mr. King's new preface and the blurb on the inside front flap of the jacket are brilliant expressions of guarded appreciation.

C. P. WRIGHT

CANADIAN STRENGTH. Biographical Sketches by Carolyn Cox, Majority of Portraits by Karsh, Foreword by the Right Honourable C. D. Howe. The Ryerson Press, 1946.

These sketches, which first appeared in the *Montreal Standard* or *Saturday Night*, of forty-four men and two women who served the Canadian Government during the war period are most excellent pieces of publicity. The reader could do nothing but remark how well the Canadian Government was served by the remarkably competent and efficient executives—unless he had suffered, as this reviewer had, from the incompetence and delays of some of these administrative marvels.

ESTHER CLARK WRIGHT

GROWING UP: ONE TO SIX. By S. R. Laycock. Ryerson Press. Pp. 44. 50c.

Canadian parents are truly fortunate in having Dr. Laycock for an adviser. This is another of his excellent pamphlets. Everywhere the evidence peeps out of his width of learning and the acuteness of his psychological insight. Yet he is able to give us advice with the greatest good humour and in words of one syllable. Parents could hardly ask for more.

A. S. MOWAT

LES NEUF SYMPHONIES DE BEETHOVEN. Rene Girard, S.J. Fides, Montreal, 1947. Pp. 174.

What could have been a highly technical subject, dealt with in a thorough but dull fashion, has become interesting and even lively as treated by Rene Girard in *Les Neuf Symphonies de Beethoven*. The book contains 190 illustrative themes. While most of them are simply indicated, others are scored for full orchestra so that the listener can follow the development of Beethoven's musical ideas with his eyes as well as with his ears. Each theme is discussed in clear, non-technical language. Father Girard's book is the outcome of his experience as a teacher of music appreciation, and should prove to be of great value for teachers engaged in like work. He approaches music as something to be enjoyed and believes that the enjoyment of music may be immeasurably increased by intelligent listening. After a symphony has been heard in its entirety, particular movements are studied in detail. (Here the thematic details and motifs are particularly useful since orchestral scores are so costly as to be impractical. They are also, for the amateur, difficult to analyze.) After close analytical study the symphony is to be replayed, without comment, to allow the music to speak for itself as a work of art . . . "se laisser penetrer par le charme."

*Les Neuf Symphonies de Beethoven* is highly recommended to those amateurs who wish not merely to listen to Beethoven, but to begin to understand him.

C. L. LAMBERTSON

ECONOMICS AND LIFE. By H. D. Chataway. Ryerson Press. 1948. Pp. 222. \$3.50.

The author fears the Western world may be heading into another major depression and that at best there may be a few years only in which to devise and institute measures to prevent its occurrence. In this volume she undertakes both to present and explain the problem and the underlying economic forces.

Beginning with the simplest human society of primitive tribal life, the volume traces man's social, political and cultural growth through succeeding stages to the complexities of modern economic life. The author notes two major influences in the structure of society once the stage of tribal life had been passed. The first was the development of money about the seventh century B.C.; and the second was the coming of the machine age barely two centuries ago. It is the impact of money on social and political affairs upon which the author lays main stress throughout her historical analysis. The machine age itself is viewed as tending to deepen the impact through placing more exacting demands upon the monetary system and of emphasizing the necessity of an adequate money supply as fundamental to the well-being of society.

With this background as an approach, the author sets forth concrete proposals for reform of the modern monetary system. These include the deliberate adjusting of the money supply by governments to the point where unemployment will not be allowed to rise beyond a certain agreed maximum, the end sought being combined industrial employment free of depression periods. The generally accepted view of the main body of monetary theorists has been that if any adjusting is to be done, it must be done subject to the value of the monetary unit being kept constant.

As to international trade, the author recognizes that a "managed" currency at home will mean, however, that the thought of fixed exchange rates must be abandoned. To minimize the resulting disadvantages, she suggests that sets of exchange rates could be established which would provide an automatic balancing of each nation's expenditures and receipts. However, the real drawback to fluctuating exchanges would still remain, of which the author makes mention, in the appreciable shifts in value that could develop over long periods and the consequent deterrent to the practice of risking private capital in foreign investments.

While all readers may not completely agree with the author's proposals for monetary reform, she gives us, nevertheless, a compact and useful study. For, within a comparatively brief space, it brings into focus the contributing influences in the history of man's economic development and offers a thoughtful analysis of our present economic structure with its faults and weaknesses.

R. S. CUMMING

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