

NEW BOOKS

PROBLEMS OF MODERN GOVERNMENT. Edited by R. MacGregor Dawson. University of Toronto Press. Pp. 124. \$2.00.

In his foreword, President Cody of Toronto University explains that this book is the embodiment in permanent form of a series of lectures given in 1941 by a group of visiting professors at Toronto University. It was completed by two papers on political subjects prepared by members of the Toronto faculty. Here, then, is presented a selected assortment of political problems as seen by men trained to follow their intricacies and to recognize their implications. The problems with which they deal by no means exhaust the supply, but they are so urgent and the neglect of their solution so dangerous that the book resembles an inventory of the contents of Pandora's box. Each of the papers is a summary only of some large aspect of the political field, and each is easily capable of expansion into a large book, so that no adequate indication of contents may be given here.

Professor C. H. McIlwain, of Harvard, deals with the larger aim of the war, which to him is not merely the preservation of democracy but rather the preservation of the constitutional rights of the individual. It is liberty under the law for which we fight, that freedom, German in its remote origins, which English institutions have shaped and perfected and passed on to the English-speaking world.

Professors Clokie of Manitoba and MacKay of Dalhousie look at a post-war world, and see a landscape singularly bleak and unprepossessing to the liberal. Professor Clokie feels that the waging of a totalitarian war inevitably fastens the totalitarian structure on all parties to the conflict, and that wartime controls, planned economy and an over-stuffed bureaucracy are here to stay. Our problem is to devise new democratic organs if our present political institutions prove inadequate to control the Frankenstein they are creating. He has not had space enough to elaborate his ideas, and the reader is left with a distinct feeling that the Managerial Revolution is on the march.

Since Professor MacKay deals with Canada's place in the international sphere, his thesis is at once more tenuous and more controversial. Much has changed since it was written, but even yet the outlines of the world after the war are so vague that no adequate idea of their shape may be discerned. Of melancholy interest is the wry look he takes at those futile cavortings of Canadian statesmen during the period between wars, when votes at home were so much more to be desired than the stopping of dictators abroad, when Canada delighted in place without power and sovereignty without risk or responsibility. Those were the days when the principal preoccupation of some of our leaders seemed to be the fear that they might awake some morning to find that Mr. Baldwin, of all people, had established a protectorate over this country. Professor MacKay is aware of seemingly lost opportunities. "We were unwilling," he says, "to face the logic of our geo-

graphical position, and adopt a declared policy of neutrality in the event of another war, as Switzerland had done." Substitute "Belgium" for "Switzerland" in this quotation, and see what you have. As for the "logic of our geographical position," that faded in the smoke over Pearl Harbour. It had not been logic at all, but only illusion.

How Canadian institutions were re-shaped and extended for the conduct of the war is set forth by Professor Dawson. He explains the political machinery—the government corporation, the controllers of basic industry, the *ad hoc* offices and the cabinet organization. Not all this development meets with his approval, and some of his most incisive criticisms amount to prophecy in the light of what has happened since he wrote. He has confined his attention to organization rather than to policy, so that he did not feel called upon to comment on the peculiar circumstance that the government found itself so copiously endowed with the genius for waging war that it did not have to go outside party ranks to strengthen the cabinet.

The growing strain on the internal structure of federal states is treated in two articles. Professor MacMahon of Columbia describes the contortions of American democratic government within the creaking framework of an eighteenth century constitution, while Professor Corry of Queen's deals with the more or less parallel situation in Canada. The tensions created within federal states by centralization *versus* state autonomy are already familiar, but it is likely that they will become greater under the impact of war, and in Canada at least they call for the exercise of the most skilled statecraft if they are not to tear the nation apart. The book ends with Dr. Alexander Brady's survey of the fiscal policy of each of the four senior Dominions, and the part played in its development in each of them by pressure groups, such as organized labour or the agricultural interests. This is mainly of historic interest, and while problems remain for solution in this field, they are scarcely of the first rank.

The reader leaves this book with a sense of the magnitude of the task before us. Whether one agrees with the authors or not—and there is room for debate on every paragraph—one is obliged to recognize the need for the utmost in understanding on the part of the citizen. If the problems outlined in this book can be widely understood, their solution is halfway to accomplishment. One more problem seems to be how to create an intelligently informed electorate.

V. P. SEARY

DAVID AND OTHER POEMS. By Earle Birney. Ryerson Press.
Pp. 40. \$1.50.

Readers may remember "On Going to the Wars", which was published in this journal some issues ago. Now Professor Birney, of University College, Toronto, has produced his first volume of poems. "David" is perhaps the finest single poem yet written in Canada. It is magnificently Canadian in setting and spirit; the language is simple, natural,

and moving; the imagery seems to rise spontaneously in the poet's heart; the tragedy, the coming of which is skilfully suggested by the skeleton of the goat and by the robin with the broken wing, is admirably handled, the poet avoiding melodrama and sentimentality with sure touch. When one has read the last line, "That day, the last of my youth, on the last of our mountains", one feels that one has been looking very far into the heart of things. *On Going to the Wars* is almost as fine a poem; its greatest quality lies, perhaps, in the fluidity of the versification. *Lament* and *Monody on a Century* are delightfully natural lyrics; *Reverse on the Coast Range* is compelling because of the original theme and the vigour of the language. The remaining poems fall far below these in artistic achievement. Some of them smack a little of the academic; for instance, the conscious imitations of Anglo-Saxon poetry. Others lack spontaneity and originality; here Mr. Birnie is striving hard to be the T. S. Eliot and the naturalist of Canada. (In *Eagle Island* is there—horrible dictu—an indebtedness to Rupert Brooke's *Grantchester*?) A poem does not become Canadian because a poet substitutes the Vancouver ferry for the areas of London houses. In all these imitative and derivative poems one misses the spontaneity of those poems that are distinctively Canadian and peculiar to Mr. Birnie. Upper Canadian critics have of late decided that early Canadian writers were not genuine poets because they imitated 19th century English poetry—but surely that is no worse crime than imitating 20th century English and American poetry. If Mr. Birnie is a better poet than some of his predecessors, the reason is that, when he writes from himself, he has something more worth saying and has more skill in expressing that experience.

B. M.

A HISTORY OF THE CANADIAN PEOPLE. By Morden H. Long, M.A., with illustrations and maps by C. W. Jeffreys, R.C.A., LL.D. Vol. I, New France. The Ryerson Press, Toronto, 1942. Pp. xiv, 376.

In his foreword to this volume Professor Long disclaims any pretension to original research, and offers only an essay in the secondary field of interpretation,—an attempt to tell the story of the Canadian people in the light of our present knowledge. This is sufficient reason for publishing another Canadian history, provided some contribution is made towards a fuller interpretation. The reader has a right to expect that our present knowledge of all the constituent elements of the Canadian people will have been assimilated thoroughly, and an earnest attempt made to see the life of these people as a whole. A glance at the table of contents raises the hope that this has been done: for the chapter headings are topical, and lend themselves to amplification in such a way as to comprehend all parts of the country in true perspective. Unfortunately the hopes raised by these chapter headings are not sustained by the contents of the chapters themselves, and the

reader is left with the feeling that the history of the St. Lawrence River basin is still the history of New France and that Acadia was happy in having no history.

For example, in the fourth chapter, thirty-two pages are devoted to the growth of settlement, barely two pages of which deal with Acadia, and that rather vaguely. In the fifth chapter, twenty-one pages are devoted to the seigneurial system, and in that chapter Acadia is not even mentioned, although forty seigneuries all told were granted in that part of New France, many of them by the Governor and Intendant at Quebec. Even if the seigneurial system was not popular in Acadia, that fact should have been pointed out, and a distinction made between the land system in Quebec and the land system of Acadia. Again, in chapter six, forty-one pages are devoted to the church in New France, and yet the only mention of religious activity in Acadia is a two-line reference to the Jesuits between 1611 and 13. Surely the concern of the French officials and the Bishop of Quebec over the political and religious welfare of the Acadians between 1671 and 1755 deserved more notice than this, and should have come into the history of the clergy in New France, if written from the point of view of Quebec alone: for one of the most difficult problems of the Bishop of Quebec was to mediate between the political demands of the French officials and the spiritual functions of his clergy in Acadia.

In the political and economic chapters Acadia is similarly ignored, but these examples are sufficient to show that this new essay in interpretation has not succeeded in seeing New France as a whole. However, if taken as a history of Quebec alone, much can be said in its favour. It is written in a straightforward style. It depicts clearly the European background of French and British ventures and wars in America, and it gives due prominence to the geographic and economic factors which affected the course of North American history. The aboriginal inhabitants of the northern part of the continent are described sympathetically, and their contributions to Canadian civilization recognized fully. Although one may doubt Professor Long's suggestion that the Iroquois gave America the idea of federalism, it is true that their example furnished a metaphor for one of D'Arcy McGee's most eloquent pleas on behalf of the Quebec Resolutions. On the whole, and within the limits indicated, this is a very useful book; but it is to be hoped that the second volume will show more capacity for integration.

D. C. H.

NOTRE MILIEU: APERCU GENERAL SUR LA PROVINCE DE QUEBEC. Collection dirigée par Esdras Minville. Editions Fides. Montreal. Pp. 444.

One of the most significant developments in the field of the social sciences in Canada in recent years is the economic survey of the province of Quebec undertaken in cooperation with the Quebec Government by the Faculty of *l'Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales* of the University

of Montreal. This book is the first fruit of the survey; it is written by twelve members of the faculty, and edited by Dr. Minville, the Director of the School. Its authors make no pretence of a contribution to science; the volume is intended as a popular descriptive survey, based on known facts, of the physical background of the province, its economy, and its human "milieu". The book is clearly written and well-arranged; the fact material is well digested and carefully selected. Presumably the book is intended for citizens of Quebec, but it should be even more useful to English-speaking Canadians, most of whom know less about Quebec than they do of the United States or Britain. The book should be required reading in English-speaking colleges for courses on contemporary Canadian problems.

Dr. Minville and his colleagues are to be congratulated on their enterprize and vision in undertaking an intensive study of the province. This useful volume is a promise of important studies later.

R. A. MacKAY

THE ST. LAWRENCE. By Henry Beston. Rivers of America series. Farrar and Rhinehart \$3.00.

International from its origin until it flows into the province of Quebec on its thousand-mile journey to the sea, the St. Lawrence was fittingly chosen as the first Canadian river to be included in the Rivers of America series. The great river with its storied past, its active present, and its promise of becoming one of the great international waterways of the world, offers material in plenty to the pen. Of the latter two aspects however there is scarcely a hint, the writer being almost entirely absorbed in the French Canadian scene.

With light touch the author recalls the beginnings of New France, the Indian past, the days of the canoe and the *coureurs de bois*, the life of the *habitant*, his customs and legends, while lending only a passing glance to modern industrial development. Steeped in the quiet and peace of rural life, flowing on, like the river itself, undisturbed and apart from the fret and fever of the modern world, the writer enters with whole-hearted sympathy into his subject. With the eye of the poet he describes the great forests, the changing skies, the wild life, the myriad birds "flying as a nation in a night". It is in vivid descriptive passages he is at his best.

The book is written in clear, simple, attractive English. Its content is not new to the general reader with a knowledge of Canadian history. To the American it is calculated to arouse curiosity and awaken a greater interest in French Canada. Criticism, if criticism there be, lies chiefly in that the story devotes itself in the main to one part of the river alone, to French Canada, and of that part confines itself almost entirely to but one side, neglecting the impact of modern industrial life, which is already changing the picture.

G. FARQUHAR

BRITISH RULE IN EASTERN ASIA. By Lennox A. Mills, University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 1942. Pp. IX 579. \$5.00.

This is a "war-book" in a very real sense. While undertaken some years ago as a peace-time research, the manuscript was not completed until early in 1941, only to be lost on its way to England "owing to enemy action". Surviving this and other delays, it appeared on the eve of Pearl Harbour to find its importance much enhanced, both as a study of past colonial policy and as a guide to any future change.

The author is a professor of political science at the University of Minnesota who has done his work under the auspices of the Institute of Pacific Relations. It is based on extensive observation at first hand in Britain and her Far Eastern dependencies, interviews with colonial administrators, an intimate acquaintance with documents and state papers, and a thorough knowledge of American and Dutch colonial systems, which he uses with discrimination when comparing British practice in the two colonies under review. The result is a scholarly and objective survey of one of the big problems to be thrown on the breen table the next time world affairs are settled.

Dealing with British Malaya, Part One presents the complicated picture of a British protectorate which was regarded with only passing interest until the Japanese entered the war in December, 1941. The British public took Malaya for granted as a part of the Empire and few realized the vast changes which the development of tin mines and rubber plantations brought to the country that was sparsely populated by primitive Malays some forty years ago. The author makes it clear that British control grew largely because the natives were peculiarly lacking in self-assertiveness and interest in democratic processes. Within three decades they were hurled from feudalism to twentieth century life, and the complexity of Malayan government is largely due to this sudden impact of Western civilization upon a simple peasant society. The traditional British method of gradual adjustment and compromise has left a mosaic pattern of Federated and Unfederated States, of Crown Colony and Protectorate, and of control by Governor and Sultans.

Every phase of British influence, military, commercial, and governmental, is discussed—often too fully for the lay reader; indeed, many of the details are of interest only to the student of political science. But here may be found the background of many developments and problems which the crisis in the East has forced upon the interest of even the general reader: the Singapore base, Japanese expansion and commercial competition, Chinese immigration, the tin and rubber industries, Empire trade, and British colonial policy generally.

In dealing with several topics, American experience in the Philippines and Dutch in the East Indies have been drawn upon for comparisons and contrasts. For example, the author points out that, whereas the American policy in the Philippines was to stress education, the strong tendency in British colonial administration has been to emphasize public works. But social services in medicine, public health, and

education were being rapidly expanded in Malaya; and in rural hygiene, infant welfare, slum clearance, and nutrition, Dr. Mills states, "a very great deal has been done during the past fifteen or twenty years." An interesting point in the promotion of native schools is that the British colonial officials encouraged the use of the Malay vernacular, in contrast to the American policy of concentrating on English education in the Philippines.

As an antidote to criticism of British colonial policy in the East, we might quote from the author: "The vast majority (of the native Malays) feel that the Government has been impartial, honest, considerate of their interests, and reasonably efficient."

Like Malaya, Hong Kong rested on the two important elements of British imperial policy: commerce and sea power. But unlike Malaya which could prosper independently of trade with neighbouring Asiatic countries, because of its importance in world trade, Hong Kong lived primarily on Chinese commerce and was largely dependent on the uncertain conditions of China. As for its military value, events have borne out the fears of the author that "the very position of Hong Kong raises the doubt whether it may not be a liability rather than an asset."

Describing the government of Hong Kong, the author here gives a succinct statement of typical British colonial policy: "The British have evolved a *modus operandi* which might be defined as Anglo-Chinese co-operation based on mutual explanations and persuasion and on respect, wherever possible, for Chinese wishes and customs. Where compromise is impossible the population is required to obey. . ."

Students of political science and international affairs will welcome this study of Far Eastern questions, which are bound to loom large in post-war discussions of world reconstruction.

A. F. LAIDLAW

NEVER A DULL MOMENT. By Harry and Kathleen Strange. Macmillans in Canada. Pp. 373. \$3.00.

PACK MY BAG. By Henry Green. Macmillans in Canada (for the Hogarth Press) Pp. 246. \$2.50.

It would be difficult to think of two autobiographies more unlike than these. Both Mr. Strange and Mr. Green were born into well-to-do English families—and there the likeness ends. Mr. Strange was born presumably in the 1880's, and Mr. Green early in the present century. Mr. Strange had the good fortune to escape much modern psychology, whereas Mr. Green seems to be burdened with it. To the former, life is a thrilling experience, especially if lived vigorously on frontiers or on war fronts; Mr. Green assures us that he is by nature a coward and a misfit, and he is obsessed with the fear that he is going to be killed in the present turmoil. (His book was completed in 1939, so he began worrying early enough). Because of this impending fate, he has written his autobiography; beyond that, there seems little justification. We learn that English public schools are model dictatorships, that all boys

today to other boys above them, that Oxford after the last war was notoriously "hard-boiled"—but surely these are not startling revelations. When Mr. Green was a boy, his father's house was a convalescent hospital for officers—all of whom seemingly spent their time in fornication and fear of being returned to the front.

Mr. Strange served in the Boer War and the Great War—in the latter he was in particularly dangerous work—and he leaves one with an impression of the average soldier's commonsense, decency, and willingness, if necessity arose, to face death. Life in the Klondike as a prospector and miner; life in Honolulu as an engineer, with such friends as Jack London thrown in for good measure; the Great War; farming in Alberta; and lastly life in Winnipeg—these are the mere high spots of an entertaining book that is crammed with good stories and amusing anecdotes. Behind the stories and adventures we find and enjoy a man with a healthy, balanced view of life, a person with whom one would enjoy sitting before a log fire on a winter evening, a man on whom one could count in a tight corner.

B. M.

DEMOCRACY NEEDS SOCIALISM. By the Research Committee of the League for Social Reconstruction. Nelson, Toronto. pp. 153.

This volume is essentially a condensed and much more readable version of that entitled *Social Planning for Canada*, published some years ago by L. S. R. If social and economic reform are for the time being shelved because of the war and its consequent full employment, the issues are certain to arise in acute form with the return of peace. The arguments if not all the facts presented in this volume will be useful ammunition for post war internal struggles. The thesis that democracy needs socialism is familiar, but not for that reason outworn.

R. A. MacKAY

THE DIFFUSION OF ENGLISH CULTURE. By H. V. Routh. Macmillans in Canada. Pp. 134. \$1.10.

About seven years ago, Britain awoke to the fact that the diffusion of national culture by means of academies and institutes had been for years a part of German, French, and Italian propaganda in other countries; since then, Britain has attempted to enter the field. Mr. Routh's book, one of the Cambridge Current Problems series, is an examination of the success and the desirable methods of diffusion. Britain spent much money in Italy, and the Italians, though unwillingly, have become our enemies; Germany poured money into Greece for "educational and cultural" ends, and Greece has refused to enjoy blessings. Presumably the diffusion of culture does not always bring political results. Mr. Routh would see the British purpose, not as political and national, but rather as humanistic and international. One must read the book to follow all the turns of his argument and his

examination of difficulties in carrying out such a plan. Mr. Routh is a pungent writer, who does not hesitate to aim tinctured, if not envenomed, arrows at his victims. Of teachers going to foreign countries he asks: "Is it too much to ask young men to resign the insularity which nowadays is next door to insolence, and to disclaim the position of linguistic legislators in a ritual of which they alone, by right of birth, know the interpretation?" (The B.B.C. might take heed of the latter part.) His irony is delightful: "These nationalities are so misguided on the subject of British perfections that they do not wish to be anglicised." One omission impressed the reviewer: Mr. Routh never visualizes the co-operation between Britain and the United States that might be very useful in this field. A book worth reading and pondering.

B. M.

TYPES OF ENGLISH POETRY. Edited by Kirk and Kirk. Macmillans in Canada. Pp. 663. \$.65.

TYPES OF ENGLISH FICTION. Edited by Craig and Dodds. Macmillans. Pp. 745. \$.65.

TYPES OF ENGLISH DRAMA. Edited by J. W. Ashton. Macmillans. Pp. 750. \$1.65.

TYPES OF ENGLISH PROSE. Edited by V. B. Heltzel. Macmillans. (Forthcoming).

Of recent years there have been two pronounced and disquieting tendencies in the making of freshman anthologies: the volumes have been growing larger and larger, to the consequent inconvenience and bewilderment of the student; and editors have been gradually usurping the place of the instructor. If for no other reason, the present moderately priced volumes should be welcome as a reaction from the above tendencies. Each volume is complete in itself, but two or three together would make a well-balanced survey course in English literature. The material has been chosen well, and one finds a freshness in many selections. The editorial work has been kept so well within bounds that the instructor needs no longer feel himself a fifth wheel. The format is convenient and attractive. Not only should the volumes find welcome among college instructors, but the average layman should enjoy them, too. A commendable series, in short.

B. M.