

## NEW BOOKS

THE CANADIAN RAILWAY PROBLEM. By Leslie R. Thomson.  
Toronto. Macmillan Co. of Canada. Pp. XIII. 1080.  
(\$12.50).

Mr. Thomson is already known to students of Canadian transportation matters, his book on the St. Lawrence waterways having served as a pleasant introduction. This new volume on the Canadian railways will be very acceptable to students, but its very size may hinder it from reaching a wider public. In this sense, the book might be more effective if it were shorter: many of the good things in it are obscured. And this danger of slighting the good is not quite removed by the author's device of making his first two chapters serve as a summary of the whole study.

The book includes a short history of railway transport in Canada. This section is followed by a detailed investigation into the present position of the Canadian National and the Canadian Pacific Railways. The latter part of the book reviews the numerous solutions that have already been offered to what is now generally called our railway problem. The author concludes with the presentation of his own plan.

In these thousand pages there is a mass of information, most of it well digested. There are copious tables, charts, calculations and indexes, and, as an engineer, Mr. Thomson appears to have blue-printed the railway business as only his profession can. But the question refuses to allow itself to be formulated in these terms. The things that are measurable are not necessarily the things that are real. It is true that any study of the present position of the two companies requires a measure of their relative debts, their accounting positions, and the like, but these measures are merely symptoms of underlying economic issues. But the author emphasizes the symptoms to the neglect of the causes: he compares debts, but shirks a comparison of the efficiency of management in the two railways: he discusses the competition, but does not allow for the peculiarities of competition when two, and only two, are involved: he discusses the rate policy, but neglects the relationship between the rates and other national economic policies like tariffs. In the sections discussing the history of the railways, similar shortcomings are shown. The emphasis on the part played by persons and politics, and the comparative neglect of other causal factors, like the geographical conditions and the attempts of governments to vitalise the inanimate areas, indicate the limitations of this method of approach. What the author has called "the fever and madness" of Canadian railway building was perhaps inherent in the Canadian scene. The country needed a railway to open it: that railway required a monopoly in the beginning: the opening areas, anxious to remove anything which might stunt their growth, wanted to break that monopoly and to have more railways. Any history that fails to show how one thing led to another, becomes a mere chronicle of facts: it is a magic-lantern show of

separate incidents, rather than a moving record of the unfolding of those factors which have dominated the Canadian transport scene.

For a solution of our railway problem, Mr. Thomson elaborates twelve governing principles. Out of these, he devises new machinery. Common management of the two railways is advocated in order to reduce costs of operation. The debt situation seems to merit a Royal Commission on the Feasibility of Bankruptcy for parts of the C. N. R. A Dominion Transport Authority should be established for transport co-ordination. A decennial Royal Commission on Transport may be valuable. A review of the railway rate structure by the Board of Railway Commissioners is necessary. All of this makes the reviewer wonder whether the author is not suggesting the substitution of machinery for knowledge, especially knowledge of the underlying economic issues of Canadian geography and regionalism; whether the economic issues will not continue to raise their ugly heads, and whether such machinery can chop them off.

But if any such administrative machinery were established, we should hope that those whose business it was to mind the machines would be familiar with the contents of this heavy volume.

S. BATES.

THE JAPANESE CANADIANS. By Charles H. Young and Helen R. Y. Reid. With a second part on Oriental Standards of Living, by W. A. Carrothers. Edited by H. A. Innis. Toronto, University of Toronto Press, 1938. Published under the auspices of the Canadian National Committee for Social Hygiene and the Canadian Institute of International Affairs. Pp. xx, 295. \$2.25.

LIVE AND LEARN: Five Political Creeds, A Symposium. The Meaning of Fascism, Socialism, Communism, Conservatism, Liberalism. By L. E. Law, J. A. Corey, F. A. Knox, A. E. Prince, C. A. Curtis. Toronto, The Ryerson Press, 1938. The New Dominion Books, No. 4., Pp. 97. \$.75.

MOULDERS OF NATIONAL DESTINY. By F. H. Soward, Oxford University Press, Toronto, 1938. Pp. ix, 203. \$1.50.

ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF DEFENCE. By Harold MacMillan, M.P., Macmillan and Co., Ltd., London, 1939. Pp. 67. \$.35.

These books have as their single slight unifying thread the fact that they are all written to serve some current, urgent purpose. Some of them are political, others economic, others sociological. None of them is ambitious.

*The Japanese Canadians* is a distinctly useful work. Canada has even more ingredients in its melting pot than has the United States, and it has not nearly as high a temperature to melt them with.

In any genuinely literate country, this most absorbing human situation would have been the subject of endless enquiry and discussion. In Canada, however, the literature on immigration is small, and most of it slight. It is the fantastic nonsense of practical men that receives an audience, not the serious studies of informed individuals. Of books about new Canadians, Mr. Young has already contributed *The Ukrainian Canadians*, and now he adds his share in this study of *The Japanese Canadians*. Let us hope that within a few years others follow. All that can be said here in respect to the subject matter of this book is that it provides both a broad view of the field and also a good deal of specific information gathered from actual observations. Its general positions will be familiar to those who have read American immigration studies: its detail will be useful for additional corroboration. The subject is a most controversial one, and if an author attempts to be completely objective, he is certain to offend both pro- and anti-Orientalists. This study keeps close to the centre line. If there is departure from it, it seems to be towards the pro-Oriental side: it is perhaps difficult to study an immigrant group at close range without having one's sympathies engaged by it. Mr. Carrothers's section is almost completely statistical in approach, and could not be construed as having any distinct view at all. The volume itself is an example of an unfortunate trend in Canadian book-making and publishing. It consists of the two studies between the same cover and without further association. A common introduction does not make a common work of scholarship. The extreme difficulty with which books dealing with Canadian subjects get published is no doubt its explanation, but that does not remove the untidiness and clumsiness of the arrangement.

The other books do not deal with Canadian subjects, and are therefore more likely to find Canadian readers. Five professors of Queen's University, in a series of useful essays, expound five different political creeds. Prof. Law makes an application of Fascism to the Canadian scene, and shows how it would immediately mean the end of the provinces. There are two public men in Canada who have already suggested that they would be willing to take this step, so we are advancing. Prof. Corey also makes reference to the Canadian scene, and shows how the principles of *Social Planning for Canada* would lead to the abolition of our parliamentary institutions, whether or not they brought into existence *The Brave New World*. Prof. Prince's is a colonial tract, and Prof. Curtis's an able exposition of traditional liberalism.

Prof. Soward contributes pleasing and informative biographical sketches of various European and Asiatic statesmen, plus an introductory essay on Woodrow Wilson. As was to be expected, his work is both accurate and attractive. The sketches originated as broadcast talks and, reduced to permanent form, are one more evidence of the civilizing service that the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation is performing for this country. Prof. Soward would not himself claim any high degree of originality for them, but they are the sort of thing of which we ought to have a great deal more. If our people in general could have solid and "edible" information of this sort commonly placed before them, instead of mere sentimental gossip, the country

would be in a position to formulate its policy much more clearly than it at present can. Mr. MacMillan's little pamphlet studies some of the economic aspects of this pre-war world. He describes German economic preparation for peace and war, or at least for what we call peace nowadays, and then tries to formulate Great Britain's position and task. Great Britain's task is to get ready to fight Germany in the half-war of national economic struggle and in actual war. For this she must gird up her economic loins, and virtually resort to a planned economy. He seems to think that essential liberties can be preserved, so long as the objective is good. Above all, the democracies must prove their right to continuance by providing a better life for their citizens than do the dictatorships. In an appendix he examines the Czecho-Slovak crisis of September, 1938, and states once more what so many other people have pointed out, that the things that Mr. Chamberlain suddenly discovered about Hitler had long been no secret to the average man of average intelligence.

A. R. M. LOWER.

RECOGNITION AND ENFORCEMENT OF FOREIGN JUDGMENTS  
IN THE COMMON LAW UNITS OF THE BRITISH COMMON-  
WEALTH. By Horace Emerson Read. Cambridge:  
Harvard University Press. 1938, Pp. xiv, 371 (\$4.00).

This book, the author of which is a former member of the Faculty of Law at Dalhousie, is the second of the series *Harvard Studies in the Conflict of Laws*. It deals with the effect to be given in the legal units of the British Commonwealth to a judgment of a foreign court. In order to appreciate the importance of this topic, we must remember that legally, although not politically, each part of the Commonwealth which has its own system of law is a legal unit and is foreign to every other such part. So, for example, judgments of the courts of New Brunswick are as foreign to a Nova Scotia Court as those of a court of the State of New York. It is apparent, therefore, that with the continued growth of trade among residents of the different Canadian provinces and of the United States the question of recognition and enforcement of such judgments is one of increasing importance to the Canadian lawyer and business man.

Professor Read has not confined his treatment of the subject to Canada, but has included those other parts of the British Commonwealth in which the common law is in force, omitting civil law jurisdictions. The collection and examination of cases and other materials from the Dominions, as well as from England and Ireland, is a work that needed doing, and the author is to be congratulated not only upon the thoroughness of his work but also upon his analysis of the decided cases and his constructive criticism of those which tend to produce injustice or confusion. The book will be of great assistance to common law lawyers, wherever they may be practising.

G. S. COWAN.

RECOLLECTIONS: POLITICAL AND PERSONAL. By E. M. Macdonald, P.C., K.C. Toronto, The Ryerson Press, 1938. Pp. xvi, 584. Fourteen illustrations.

This volume of recollections is a welcome addition to the scant body of such literature that is beginning to appear all too slowly in Canada; and it makes us wish that Mr. Macdonald had written it earlier, and that other Canadian statesmen would not be so reluctant to record their impressions of passing events in which they took part, while those impressions are still vivid and before they have been toned down or revised by the mere passage of time.

Mr. Macdonald is a distinguished son of Pictou County and, in proving his title to the Liberal traditions of that county, he recalls the issues that divided the county, first on religious grounds as Liberal Anti-Burghers and Conservative Kirkers, and second on political grounds as Anti-Confederates or Confederates. For example, in an election of 1887, twenty years after Confederation, two old men came to the polls and one said, "I want to vote for the Antis", the other, "I vote for the Confederates." Again, in Mr. Macdonald's first election (1894), he lost some Liberal votes in the Anti-Burgher district of Green Hill because his uncle of the same name had finally followed Howe when he accepted "Better Terms" twenty-five years earlier.

Mr. Macdonald also recalls the fact that it was Hon. A. K. McLean, now President of the Exchequer Court of Canada, who in 1903 moved the resolution, seconded by himself, which led to the erection of the monument to Howe beside Province House. Throughout the book there are several similar sidelights on provincial or dominion political history not elsewhere recorded, particularly in regard to the problems of Union government and conscription; but so much of the *Recollections* is taken up with detailed accounts of the composition and work of the various parliaments which met between 1904 and 1926 that the purely personal memories have been given all too little space in a book of such dimensions. However, it seems clear that Mr. Macdonald's main concern is to vindicate the character and policy of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and with true Highland loyalty to his chief he loves to linger over his correspondence and association with that great French-speaking Canadian statesman.

The *Recollections* proper cover 479 pages, and the remainder of the book comprises eighteen short biographical sketches of British or Canadian public men whom Mr. Macdonald knew more or less intimately, as well as an outline of "Nova Scotia's Contribution to Canadian Public Life" and a concluding chapter on "United States Politics and Public Men". Mr. Macdonald evidently enjoyed writing his "Recollections" as much as he enjoyed the rough and tumble of party politics; and his references to both political friends and political foes seldom recall the bitterness of those "battles long ago."

MONTAIGNE. Presented by Andre Gide. Living Thoughts Library. Longmans, Green, & Co., Pp. 162. \$1.25.

THOREAU. Presented by Theodore Dreiser. Living Thoughts Library. Longmans, Green & Co. Pp. 162. \$1.25.

Everyone has felt the futility of trying to read all "the best that has been thought and known": There is too much of it. Messrs. Longmans, Green & Co., have had the happy thought of publishing a series of anthologies of the masters from Montaigne and Pascal to Darwin and Tolstoi. Twelve volumes have been published or are in course of publication; if the others are equal to the present volumes, the series should be very welcome. Each volume has an essay of about thirty pages; M. Gide's essay is good, but the palm goes to Mr. Dreiser, whose essay is brilliant and provocative. There would seem to be a misprint in the Thoreau volume: surely, *without*, the last word on p. 59, should be *with our*; otherwise, the passage is nonsense.

B. M.

I WAS THERE. By Edith Tyrrell. Ryerson Press. \$2.00.

MARIA CHAPDELAINÉ. By L. Hémon. Trans. by W. H. Blake. Macmillans in Canada. \$2.50.

The first volume is a delightful autobiography that wins the reader by its naturalness and unpretentiousness. Mrs. Tyrrell began life in a Baptist parsonage in Saint John; here was a cultivated, religious, happy home. England, Ontario, marriage, Dawson City, Ottawa, and finally Toronto followed. The reader will regret that some phases of Canadian life as depicted by Mrs. Tyrrell have passed away. What young girl is now taught Greek by her father?

This edition of *Maria Chapdelaine* will be welcomed, not primarily for the fine printing and binding, or the pleasant introduction by Mr. Hugh Eayrs, but for the exquisite black-and-white illustrations of Mr. Thoreau MacDonald. It would be difficult to imagine a happier agreement of text and illustrations than is shown in this edition. This is decidedly a book to own.

B. M.

PURITANISM AND LIBERTY. Being the Army Debates (1647-9), from the Clarke Manuscripts, with Supplementary Documents. Selected and edited with an Introduction by A. S. P. Woodhouse. Dent and Sons, 1938.

It is a familiar tribute to a new book that the author has met a long felt need, and the reviewer who says so is often suspected of being more complimentary than accurate: his account of "the enquiring public" rests, like the fame of the doctor's cures in *Gil Blas*, more on implicit faith than on scrupulous investigation. I shall not say that Professor Woodhouse's volume has met a long felt need; for interest in the Army Debates of 1647-1649 prevails over a very limited

circle. But he has done what is a great deal better; he has given us a book which ought to *create* interest on a great scale among those who wish to amend the sadly disproportionate perspective in which the social history of seventeenth century England is so often presented.

Here is a picture, drawn for the first time in such manner as to make it generally intelligible, of the working of ideas and purposes in the revolutionary groups by which, during the two years preceding the execution of Charles I, the future of England was being settled. We have had countless compact and confident summaries, such as that by Macaulay on one side, which some unkind critic had called "not history, but a Whig party pamphlet", and that by Carlyle on another side, which described the movement of the time as an unsuccessful attempt to render the Christian religion "executable" among the English people. But what the general reader needed was at least a representative selection of the speeches, writings, arguments of every sort that the various groups of revolutionaries (at least as different as those in recent revolutionary Spain) directed towards one another and towards the public. Professor Woodhouse has explored the voluminous reports, struggled with the manifold confusions and deficiencies and repetitions in the sort of text which editors of a Greek play would call "fearfully corrupt", and has reconstructed convincingly, in the main, what speakers or writers said. In an Introduction of admirable lucidity and force he has awakened his reader's interest in the importance of this period, and in the variety of its intellectual as well as its moral currents.

Those who follow him as guide will discover in the debates and controversies of that Puritan epoch a subtlety of thought for which very few, in the anti-Puritan reaction of a later time, have given credit to the men of Cromwell's circle. This book should serve a purpose like that served, in a very different field, by the Neo-Scholastic movement in philosophy: it should reveal, as that movement has revealed, links of connection long forgotten or misunderstood between periods before and after, neither of which can be appreciated without such help. We have discovered how keen in metaphysical thinking were some at least of the mediaeval theologians, despite the unfamiliar and now well-nigh obsolete form in which their problems were put. In like manner we had need of rescue work in the literary remains of Puritan England, particularly where these referred to government, to freedom of conscience, to morality, to the Church, to toleration; in short to the seminal ideas in British constitutional development. Those for whom a few glib formulae of characterization for the Puritans have hitherto been enough should turn to Professor Woodhouse's book for a wholesome intellectual surprise. On special interpretations it invites dissent and criticism. But where we criticize and dissent, not less than where we agree, we are thankful for such stimulus to thought.

H. L. S.