

NEW BOOKS

THE VOICE OF DAFOE. A Selection of Editorials on Collective Security, 1931-1944, by John W. Dafoe. Edited by W. L. Morton. The Macmillan Co. of Canada, Ltd.

Publication of this book is an opportune service at the present time, and Professor W. L. Morton is to be thanked as well as congratulated by the reading public. He has made available in compact form so much advice by a great journalist of the past that now bears instructively on problems of the hour.

The selection from J. W. Dafoe's editorials, taking sixty-three (in whole or in part) from nearly a thousand, was made with a single principle in mind. It was the editor's design to show how, in the years 1931-1944, this tireless western editor worked with voice and pen to promote the international project called "collective security" as alternative to national rearming. Not by accident or caprice was the date 1931 chosen as the starting-point. It was Dafoe's conviction that the tragedy which culminated in the Second World War began with betrayal of their trust by members of the League of Nations when Japan attacked Manchuria. Their opportunity then was obvious, the method would have been simple, and the desired results (if the League members had acted together) could have been attained without the firing of a shot. But other, alas very different, interests prevailed over that of peaceful settlement. The spirit of appeasing rather than challenging aggression, stimulated by the thought of future indulgence for one's own selfish schemes in consideration of indulgences shown to an aggressive fellow-member of the League, led in melancholy sequence along the road whose later stages were marked by the names Abyssinia; Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland. Rape of China, in 1931, seemed to Dafoe its beginning. *Hinc illae lacrimae.*

With the wisdom that comes so easily after the event, many are now acclaiming such principles as in 1931 they failed to support, or even attacked and ridiculed, when the critical decision had to be made. For them this book should serve as penitential reading. The style of the editorials, in its trenchant vividness, its aptness of comparison and of historical reference, its cogent posing of dilemmas for those whose trust is in crafty evasion, exhibits Canadian journalism at its very best. Dafoe has been called "the last of the great editors." Without commitment to so invidious a discrimination, one may well pay tribute to an editor who not only thought so clearly and expounded so convincingly, but set a pattern of sincerity and courage. It was judged a fitting epitaph for John Knox "He never feared the face of man." What such quality means in journalism, how rare it is, but how precious, J. W. Dafoe made plain to a generation in danger of forgetting it. "This", he said of his project for effective safeguarding of world peace, "is the faith by which I live."

From time to time, as I read these articles, I was stirred to strong dissent. For instance by the re-arraignment of the unfortunate Four for injustice done in the *Treaty of Versailles*; by the charge that the victorious Powers provoked Germany to rearm by violating their own disarmament pledge; and by the denunciation of the proposal of Lord

Halifax, in his famous speech to the Toronto Board of Trade, that the nations of the British Commonwealth should consult and act together on a scheme of world resettlement. These and other matters one would have liked to argue again with Dafoe, and I am far from sure that he would not wish to amend his own argument in the light of many a development since he wrote. What a period it was that the editorials cover, with its changes and surprises, its constant satire on sanguine belief in mankind's progress, its hopes disappointed, its projects frustrated, its revelation by turns of new heights of human heroism and new depths of human degradation! The press is often disparaged for its futility, or upbraided for faults worse than mere futility, during this period. But here is exemplified a press very different. Dafoe's editorials often make me think how far was Carlyle from being just in his indiscriminating explosion against "the common editor of a daily newspaper:" his account of the editorial as rethrashing straw that has been thrashed a hundred times without wheat:

How a man with merely human faculty buckles himself nightly with new vigour and interest to this thrashed straw, nightly thrashes it anew, nightly gets up new thunder about it, and so goes on thrashing and thundering for a considerable series of years—this is a fact remaining still to be accounted for in human physiology. The vitality of man is great!

We know the editors, and the newspaper performances, that deserve this description. But there are others. It is said that "the younger generation" seldom read Carlyle now; what they read instead, it would probably not enhance their credit to disclose. But I can think of no better means to awaken the young reader at once to the satiric brilliance and to the critical blemishes of Carlyle than by confronting him with this passage as comment on *The Voice of Dafoe*.

H. L. S.

READING FOR PROFIT. By Montgomery Belgion. Penguin Books, Harmondsworth, England, and 245 Fifth Avenue, New York. 1945. 1/2

The content of this little book is extraordinary value for a shilling. While a prisoner of war in Germany, 1941-1944, Captain Belgion gave a series of lectures on English Literature to his brother officers; these he later shaped into the chapters of *Reading for Profit* and, with the co-operation of the military authorities, he prepared the manuscript and sent it home for publication. Incidentally, it must be noted that all this speaks well for the conditions in *Oflag*.

The "profit" of the title is not commercial but intellectual, or rather, vital. Captain Belgion explains its meaning in his first chapter. "Life itself," he says "is too vast, too varied, and too complex for any one individual—even if he is what we call a public man—to meet with more than an inadequately representative fragment of it at first hand in the course of his own life. It is through our reading that we are best able to learn of the experience of life of other people . . . A

further item in the profit which we may obtain from reading—I may say even the main profit—is that our own experience of life and our own intuition of the characteristics—the nature—of human existence, both in its solitude and in society, will be supplemented, broadened, and intensified. Thereby, our contacts and relations with our fellowmen are likely to be made in their turn smoother, our expectations are likely to be brought in their turn within the bounds of possible fulfilment . . . Reading can do still more. It can enlighten us regarding human ideals at large, and so can lend substance to our own vision and inspiration.”

The entire first chapter, aptly named *The Capital Investment*, elaborates this idea; then the author passes on to consider *Novels, Fiction v. Truth, Deep Books and Difficult Reading, Good and Better Writing, Plays as Literature, Poetic Drama, Poetry, and The “New” Poetry*. The plan of each chapter is like the plan of the book as a whole. Captain Belgion begins by setting forth his ideas and principles, and proceeds to illustrate and apply them. As examples of deep books and difficult reading he takes, among others, Plato's *Republic*, More's *Utopia*, Swift's *Travels of Mr. Lemuel Gulliver* (satire), and Frazer's *Golden Bough* (folk lore). He illustrates the “new” poetry almost completely from *The Waste Land* by T. S. Eliot.

As a work of literary criticism, *Reading for Profit* is discerning, original, fresh, stimulating, and eminently just-minded. It will make an ideal supplement to *The Concise Cambridge History of English Literature* in a comprehensive course in literature. For the general reader, it is a book that can be read with pleasure as well as with profit.

SISTER MAURA

PARADISE LOST IN OUR TIME: Some comments. By Douglas Bush.
Cornell University Press. Pp. 117. \$2.00.

For about a quarter of a century, the bright boys of literature, and some others who should know better, have been thumbing their noses ostentatiously at John Milton. Poor Milton's ideas of right and wrong, of the nature of man, his theory and practice of poetry are all wrong; if only he had written like Dante, Shakespeare, or Donne, or, better still, if he had never written at all! Unfortunately at times the bright boys have found allies in unexpected quarters, like certain remarks of Sir Herbert Grierson. Though Milton's defenders have not been so numerous or so vociferous, they have had on their side what the denigrators have lacked: a thorough knowledge of the background out of which his works sprang. Chief of the defenders have been E. M. Tillyard of Cambridge, C. S. Lewis of Oxford, and Professor Douglas Bush of Harvard. The present volume is a series of lectures given by Prof. Bush at Cornell, on the Messenger Foundation. The opening one is an examination of the statements of the anti-Miltonists; it reminds one of a professional player skirmishing in foot-ball with some of the village boys. Professor Bush has a delightful time exposing the false premises, the contradictions, and the ignorance of his opponents.

At bottom the struggle is between a naturalistic and a Christian-humanist interpretation of man. In the three subsequent lectures, Professor Bush discusses the ethical and intellectual background of the period, and the artistic merits of the poem. Milton is no narrow Puritan, but a Christian humanist with affiliations with all the great thinkers who have moulded Western European civilization from Homer down. His art, like his ethics, is not of the 20th century; that is neither Milton's fault nor his loss. Those who have read Professor Bush's Alexander lectures at the University of Toronto, *The Renaissance and English Humanism*, will know what to expect by way of scholarship, wit and style; those who read the present book will be well advised to discover the writer's earlier work, which is in some ways prologomena to the present volume. Both volumes will broaden the reader's horizons and show him beauties that he has missed in his own reading of Renaissance literature.

B.M.

NEWFOUNDLAND, Economic, Diplomatic, and Strategic Studies.
 Edited by R.A. MacKay, Ph.D., F.R.S.C. Toronto, Oxford
 University Press, 1946. \$7.50.

This important book has appeared at a time when Newfoundland is preparing to call a national convention to discuss questions relative to its future government, and to formulate certain directions which, in a later plebiscite, may enable its people to decide what the future political status of Britain's oldest colony is to be. Here is a circumstance which adds considerably to the value of this work; though, quite apart from its present relevance, the book would certainly have to be regarded as the most important work on Newfoundland that has appeared in many years.

In June, 1941, the Royal Institute of International Affairs appointed a Supervisory Committee on Newfoundland Studies to supervise a research study of the economy and external relations of the country. This book is the result of that committee's work. No official significance, however, attaches to its findings, the opinions expressed being purely individual.

The purpose of the book is well expressed by the editor, Dr. R. A. MacKay of Dalhousie University, when, in the opening chapter entitled "The Problem of Newfoundland," he explains that it "is intended to serve a dual purpose: to interpret Newfoundland to other than Newfoundland peoples, particularly those of Canada, the United States and Great Britain, and to throw light on the problems confronting Newfoundland in the early future." This purpose, one may say without fear of contradiction, has been well fulfilled. Certainly no one who reads this work carefully can fail to be better informed (a much to be desired end) about "this unique island," its people, its economic and social life, and, particularly to-day, its place of strategic importance in the matter of the defence of North America. And if "to know all" may not be, in this case, "to forgive all," one ventures to assert that nothing but sympathetic understanding can result from

a genuine perusal of these research papers. Newfoundland has passed through stormy times. These studies make clear that her troubles, and especially her basic economic problems, have not all been of her own making, but are due in no small measure to external relations over which she herself had very limited, sometimes no, control. So dependent has she been upon foreign trade that her economic life has always been "vulnerable to external shocks." Add to this "the low productivity" of her economy, with its consequent "low taxable capacity," and you have facts not always rightly assessed by those who would seek to interpret Newfoundland's internal affairs. The Royal Commission, for example, appointed to investigate the country's condition in 1933, "gave great weight to political and personal factors," but "failed to appreciate the strength of the economic factors, especially the breakdown in world trade, which had led to the collapse."

Part One of the book deals with the economy of the country, and is the work of Dr. R. A. MacKay and Dr. S. A. Saunders. Here one finds well informed discussion on all of the main departments of activity which constitute the Island's life and work—the Economy in Outline, its changes, the Primary Industries, Organized Business, Problems of Labour, Employment and Population, Foreign Trade, Municipal Government, Education, Public Health and Welfare, The Co-operative Movement, Public Finance, and Government by Commission. Within the compass of about two hundred pages, these writers present an almost completely objective study of the internal life of Newfoundland. Note is taken, of course, of the fact that the impact of the Second World War has increased immensely the national income to sums altogether out of proportion to what can be expected in normal times. This increased revenue has enabled the Government to make considerable advance, particularly in the fields of Education and Public Health and Welfare; but reasonable doubt is expressed as to whether in the future this advance can be maintained unless ways and means are found to stabilize annual revenues at about \$20,000,000, an amount exceeding by \$7,500,000 the highest pre-war national revenue. While revenues may not decline to the pre-war level, because of a growing reliance upon direct taxation, it is unlikely that the country will be able to exploit this field of taxation to the degree "which prevails in wealthier countries." Efforts are being made to encourage municipal organization throughout the country, which, if generally successful, would react favorably upon the total economy. It is pointed out, however, that in Newfoundland there is a certain "apathy, if not hostility," towards municipal institutions, which can be understood only "in the light of the Island's history and local conditions." Nevertheless, this wise word is added as to their relevance to the life of a progressive people: "Without municipal institutions as a training ground for citizenship, it is doubtful whether any country can maintain a democratic form of government in the face of severe economic and political shocks or prolonged adversity." No great optimism is expressed as to the future reaping of large revenues from the use of Newfoundland bases in air travel. "At best," it is maintained, "such developments are not likely to have a major influence on the economy of the Island." Moreover, very little advance in industrialization has been made since the Government by

Commission assumed office in 1934, or as a result of the war. Hence there is nothing to inspire the hope of a larger national income when the present abnormal tide of prosperity recedes. Attempts are being made to develop the fisheries "in the direction of greater concentration on the production of fresh-frozen fish," and a programme to this end was outlined by the Commissioner of Natural Resources in January, 1944. This, however, is, as yet, only in the preliminary stage.

The Second Part of the book is entitled "From Fishing Station to Atlantic Bastion." The Section is mainly historical and deals with Newfoundland in its external relations with Britain, France, Canada, and the United States. Here, indeed, is the irreducible minimum of history that anyone desiring a nodding acquaintance with Newfoundland must know. Indeed it is difficult, if not impossible, to form a well balanced judgment of the country's present condition, and its prospects for the future, without the knowledge which this Section imparts. It may be news to many outsiders, for example, to know that in many respects the slow development of Newfoundland was due to Britain's policy of regarding the Island as "more important for its fisheries, and for the usefulness of these as a training school for seamen, than as a strategic base in military or naval operations," and the story of how this policy was maintained is what has been called "a study of retarded colonization."

The struggle for political freedom, culminating in the achievement of Responsible Government in 1854-55, is also recalled. That long, and sometimes apparently interminable, struggle over "The French Shore" question is ably handled by Professor A.M. Fraser of the Memorial University College, St. John's, as also are the accounts of "Fishery Negotiations with the United States" and "Relations with Canada." The chapters dealing with the latter supply some of the most interesting reading of the book, for they tell in most vivid fashion the story of the issue of Confederation, which was indeed a live issue in the country between 1864 and 1870, and again during the last decade of the century, when it was revived during a time of financial crisis. A chapter on relations with Canada also deals with the long standing dispute over the Labrador boundary and the ultimate victory for Newfoundland when the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council handed down a judgment in her favour in March, 1927.

No book on Newfoundland now could do justice to its place and importance without reference to its rôle during the recent war years. The strategic situation of the Island was recognized when in 1940 military collapse in Western Europe left Britain in a most precarious position and greatly intensified the Battle of the Atlantic. Professor Lower of Winnipeg describes the rapidity with which both the United States and Canada arranged for and established bases in Newfoundland and Labrador, and the part that these bases played toward ultimate victory. It seems reasonably sure that the experience of the war years has secured for Newfoundland a vital place in any future defence plans that may be devised by Canada and the United States. "In the world of tomorrow," writes Dr. MacKay, "Newfoundland may play a rôle no less important than Gibraltar, Malta and Hawaii played in the pre-war world."

What of Newfoundland's future political status? It is clear that the writers of this book are not very sanguine as to the wisdom of Newfoundland's reverting to the position of an independent political community. The basic obstacle in the way of its ability to continue as such is economic. Reference is made, therefore, to certain suggested solutions, such as Union with Canada, with the United States, or with the United Kingdom. Failing this, remaining politically independent can be successful only if ways and means are found either to continue grants-in-aid from some outside source, or to arrange for Canada to assume certain functions such as research and survey work, and to co-operate with Newfoundland in the operation of certain public services. Some will disagree with such individual opinions, and will have alternative solutions doubtless to offer. All, however, will agree, after reading this book, that there is no self-evident and simple solution. Many who disagree with the writers on these major issues will find perhaps room for pleasurable agreement in their most favorable references to Newfoundland's climate and people; for, in respect of the former, the country is said to have been much "maligned," while the latter are described as a people "deeply religious and exceptionally law-abiding."

An appendix is added in which valuable statistical tables are given, as well as extracts from documents dealing with Bases leased by the United States, and the Goose Bay Air Base Agreement. Some useful maps also are scattered through the volume.

ELIAS ANDREWS.

THE LURE OF MONTREAL By W. P. Percival. The Ryerson Press, Toronto. \$3.50.

On an island where the muddy waters of the Ottawa River meet but mingle not with the sea-blue of the mighty St. Lawrence, a small band of thirty-four men and women landed on May 18th, 1642. Such was the beginning of Montreal—to-day Canada's largest and most cosmopolitan city, with a population of 903,007: a city filled with gay pleasure-loving crowds, enriched by the best of French and English culture, dominated by a scenic mountain, boasting many beautiful churches of Gothic and Roman architecture with picturesque shrines for the seeking pilgrim.

Lately come from France, with colonization papers clutched in their hands, these new settlers, whose first act was to build an altar and offer mass, sought a new life in a new world at a spot where Jacques Cartier had discovered the Indian village of Hochelaga approximately a century earlier. They suffered much to build that new world they dreamed of, and their faith and perseverance in the face of constant danger and privation was kept alive by such examples as Jeanne Mance's saintly virtue and Adam Dollard's intrepid courage.

Despite opposition from its competitor, Quebec, constant menace of Indian attack, and jealousy between the Jesuit and Sulpician Orders, Ville-Marie, as these first colonists called Montreal, grew rapidly: by 1680 the thirty-four inhabitants has grown to two thousand This

frontier town proved to be the "gateway to the West" for such great explorers as La Salle, Joliet, and La Verendrye; its strategic location as a fur-trading post stimulated commercial growth, and the Sulpicians worked tirelessly to lay a cultural foundation worthy of the growing town. Owing to the foresight of her English conquerors, Amherst, Murray and Carleton, in 1759, who insisted on maintaining French culture, law and institutions, Montreal made great strides and in 1832, with a population of about 40,000, was granted a charter creating the Corporation of the City of Montreal.

The legacy of these early settlers is historically recorded, architecturally described and "touristically" explored in *The Lure of Montreal* by W. P. Percival. Starting with Place Royale, Montreal's birthplace, the reader is conducted on a series of tours of the great city, given its early history, shown the buildings of these early days which still may be found, and introduced to the fine monuments sculptured by Philippe Hebert. The tourist is gradually led to the more modern section of Montreal, the vast department stores of Morgan's, Eaton's, Ogilvy's and Simpson's, the Mount Royal Hotel, McGill College and the Royal Victoria Hospital, out to St. Joseph's Oratory and the model housing developments.

This book as a guide to Montreal's tourist attractions is admirable, but the author neglects to paint in the rich colour, the charm that is Montreal's alone, and which cannot be captured anywhere else in Canada. The *insouciance* of the people, their innate consciousness of all that is *chic* in the world of fashion, and the old-world gallantry of the menfolk are not recorded. Mr. Percival fails to introduce any element of humour to enliven the historical background, or more vividly to describe the pageantry of passing centuries. Full descriptive justice is not done the scenic views: what attempts are made to describe the great panoramic views are stilted and colourless. It is feared that the reader who has never been personally introduced to that beauty of scenery and that *camaraderie* of the people will miss the real lure of Montreal.

J. SIM.

SMOULDERING FREEDOM. The Story of the Spanish Republicans in Exile. By Isabel de Palencia. Longmans, Green & Co., Toronto.

The writer of this book held, under Republican Spain, the office of ambassador to Finland and Sweden. She has since been busy as a journalist. During the years 1933-1936, when the Party of "the Right" was in power, she had her difficult task as Madrid correspondent of the London *Daily Herald*, and on the menace of Franco's dictatorship she made her escape across the Atlantic. She has since lived in the congenial atmosphere of Mexico, where so many other fugitives from the Spanish Terror may still be found. This book presents a picture of the exiles, and it naturally introduces them to the reader with an outline of the situation from which they fled.

Ten years ago, when the Spanish Civil War broke out, the same propagandist influences which had spread the legend of Mussolini as crusader for Christian civilization against Bolshevism in Italy were set to work at extolling Francisco Franco. Their success, which was indeed considerable, casts now in retrospect a disquieting light on the facility with which public opinion in democracies may be misled. Knowing Franco now, as the documents seized in Germany by the American forces of occupation and published by the American Government have made him known, we should recall with remorse that period of gullibility when he was acclaimed (on so little evidence) as the Christian knight *sans peur et sans reproche*.

Senora de Palencia has given us in this book a vivid account of the republicans. She has described their effort, during their brief span of power, to amend the ghastly injustices of land tenure in Spain, an enterprize a century and a half later than that of the French revolutionary leaders, but in a country no less afflicted by aristocratic monopolies than the one made so familiar to us by Arthur Young's *Travels in France*. She tells of a military system in monarchic days which showed the ridiculous proportion of one officer for every 7 soldiers and one general for every 660—"apart from a very large number of generals in reserve." Far less for national defence than for a privileged luxurious caste at enormous cost to the people! She speaks of the appalling and deliberately maintained statistics of illiteracy, with the practice so aptly epitomized in the Fascist motto "Death to Intelligence." One scarcely needs to have it explained that reformers of such a scandalous system would encounter furious resistance from a feudal aristocracy which had battered on it: such resistance as Mirabeau aroused a century and a half earlier in France. Nor is it surprising, however regrettable, that the Spanish reformers, under stress of attack, developed in their own ranks a method often too like that of Danton and Robespierre.

Senora de Palencia is particularly concerned to repel the reproach that only enemies of religion were supporters of the Republic. She shows that it was supported, for example, by the Basque clergy as a whole, and by many priests in other parts of Spain. We are not told in *Smouldering Freedom* that all the outrages were perpetrated on Franco's side: it is admitted that republicans too did shocking things. But the writer combats what she thinks the enormous exaggeration of figures which Franco's press has presented in the interest of the dictatorship, for example in including as "murdered in cold blood" great numbers of priests who fell in battle. And her report of outrages by the Falange has a blood-curdling quality like that of the news from a Nazi concentration camp at Dachau or Buchenwald. In view of the ecstatic admiration for Hitler which Franco's letters, now available in the pamphlet issued by the American Government, have set before us, the friends of the *Caudillo* can scarcely regard this comparison as insulting to him.

Smouldering Freedom is a book to be read with instructive interest now, since the policy of U. N. O. towards Spain is being reconsidered. Whether overthrow of the present dictatorship (on whose urgency the democracies are agreed) should be followed by recognition of the pre-

sent "Spanish Government-in-Exile" as representative of Spain, or whether there should be an intervening period of international (caretaker) administration, is open to much dispute. I feel a deep misgiving (not relieved but rather intensified by memories of the Russia of 1918) at the thought of a new regime under direction of returned exiles whose memories are justly bitter. But at least as a sketch of these exiles, of the scenes from which they fled, of their fortitude in banishment, and of their quenchless devotion to the country in which they have suffered so much, *Smouldering Freedom* is an invaluable addition to our sources of knowledge. It is clearly, vividly, convincingly a book not to be missed.

H. L. S.

PIERIAN SPRING. By B. C. Diltz. Clarke, Irwin & Co., Ltd. Toronto.

In these days, when the "Cult of Uncertainty" is so widespread, it is refreshing to read a book in which the author both has definite opinions to express and can express them with clarity and vigour. This is the great merit of *Pierian Spring—Reflections on Education and the Teaching of English*, by B. C. Diltz. As the sub-title suggests, the book may be divided into two parts. The bulk of it (Chapters 3-11) is concerned with the teaching of English to high-school pupils. Anyone who has attempted this difficult but most rewarding task will see here the product of ripe experience and good sense. For critical insight, imaginative treatment, and clear exposition, those chapters are warmly recommended not only to teachers but to all interested in English literature. A minor criticism concerns the frequent dialogues between teacher and pupil. This must be the perfect pupil, for he always gives the correct answer—and in a style remarkably like the teacher's! Perhaps Prof. Diltz would have been better advised to record actual lessons, as was done some years ago by Mr. David Anderson in his book *Practical Problems in Teaching Method*, or to drop the dialogue form altogether.

The remaining chapters of the book (Chapters 1, 2, 12 and the epilogue), which deal with general educational principles, are much less satisfactory, and exhibit both lack of comprehension and mere destructive abuse. Prof. Diltz dislikes anything that is "modern" or "progressive" in educational methods. All such methods he labels as "pragmatic," but it is clear that he does not really understand what pragmatism is. In one place he confuses it with scepticism; in others with socialism; in another, referring to the "new" education, he says "Teaching, which usually involves the pupil in intelligent participation in discussion, is replaced by telling, which at best seldom invites more than acceptance." This is exactly the accusation levelled by the "pragmatist" teacher of English against the "old-fashioned" teacher of English, whom Prof. Diltz imagines he is defending. A great merit of pragmatism is that it directs the teacher's attention to specific and practical details. Prof. Diltz might be surprised to find how many of the practical methods described in his chapters on the teaching