

## NEW BOOKS

L'ÉVANGÉLINE DE LONGFELLOW ET LA SUITE MERVEILLEUSE D'UN POÈME. By Ernest Martin. Librairie Hachette, Paris, 1936. Pp. 376; map and illustrations.

LES EXILES EN FRANCE AU XVIII<sup>e</sup> SIÈCLE ET LEUR ÉTABLISSEMENT EN POITOU. By Ernest Martin. Librairie Hachette, Paris. 1936. Pp. 334; maps and illustrations.

Dr. Martin, the author of these studies, is himself of Acadian descent, was substitute professor for one year in Dalhousie university, and is now a professor in Poitiers.

The first volume is a study of Longfellow's *Evangeline*, its historical accuracy and influence; the second is a narrative of the attitude and experiences of the Acadians who were repatriated in France after the expulsion from Nova Scotia and reabsorbed there or sent to Louisiana. Both volumes have an historical introduction dealing with the history of the Acadians and the expulsion, which records the usual facts and discusses the differences between the French and the British writers on the subject. These introductions have much in common, are rather dogmatic, but throw no new light upon the tragic problem. Dr. Martin's discussion of the *Evangeline* tradition and its influence is particularly interesting, as it reveals how completely poetic license demoralizes and supplants strait-laced history; and his record of Acadian vicissitudes in the mother-country shows how disappointing 18th century France was to those who had been bred and born in America. Neither the dole nor state management brought contentment to the Acadians, and about half of those in France went to Louisiana in 1784. Of the two volumes the second is the much more valuable study, and a real contribution to the interpretation of the Acadians. Perhaps in another generation some historian will define and trace to its source the special Acadian form of neutrality which culminated in the expulsion of 1755, and resisting the haunting importunity of the expulsion itself, will reveal the more generous treatment the Acadians received in Nova Scotia once they lost hope of assistance from France and decided to become British subjects without qualification or reservation. When that happy day dawns, it will not be necessary to speak of either the French or the English point of view, as we shall see the whole tragedy in the light of universal truth.

D. C. H.

THE BIRTH OF WESTERN CANADA: A History of the Riel Rebellion.  
By George F. G. Stanley. London, New York, Toronto:  
Longmans, Green and Company, 1936. Pp. xiv, 475.  
Maps and illustrations.

At first glance the title of this work seems to be a misnomer, in that the volume is entirely devoted to an account of the two uprisings of the half-breeds and Indians against the introduction and establishment of Canadian authority in Western Canada; but Mr. Stanley's thesis is that after the suppression of the rebellion of 1885, "the history of the Canadian West was to be that of the white man, not that of the red man or the *bois brûlé*." In that sense, therefore, his title may be justified, though there will always be those who would wish a longer history than fifty years for Western Canada, and would wish to give credit to pioneer settlers like the Selkirk colonists and Canadians from Quebec and Ontario for its creation.

But Mr. Stanley has another thesis that runs counter to the views of local patriots. He contends that these two insurrections were but phases of the universal clash between primitive and civilized peoples, and that the same sort of thing happened in South Africa and New Zealand. In reply to those who have argued that the clash between Ontario and Quebec on the banks of the St. Lawrence had merely been transferred to the banks of the Assiniboine and Saskatchewan, he contends that the transference of those racial and religious feuds was merely incidental, and due to the fact that certain French Canadian priests espoused the cause of the half-breeds, whereas the fundamental clash was between Indian and Canadian. This thesis is interesting and worthy of consideration, although the entire story as he tells it does not carry complete conviction to the anxious reader. It is by no means clear from the narrative that this clash was inevitable, and would not have been avoided if wiser counsels had prevailed, or Canadians had had more practice in imperial administration. Nor is it clear that any Indians would have revolted without the leadership and incitement of the half-breeds, or that the half-breeds, despite their fear of Canadian aggressiveness, would have been content to revert entirely to the Indian mode of life. However, Mr. Stanley has done a distinct service in raising this story to the level of general history, and calling upon the reader to forget his prejudices and seek to interpret the facts with scientific detachment.

On the whole, this volume is the fullest and most competent account of the political history of that period in Western Canada that has yet appeared. The author has read widely in both primary and secondary sources, is gifted with both sense and sensibility, and has produced an intelligible readable book which no student of Canadian history can afford to ignore.

D. C. H.

## CANADIANA

- YEARBOOK OF THE ARTS IN CANADA. Edited by Bertram Brooker. Macmillans in Canada. Pp. xxviii+256. \$5.00.
- SELECTED POEMS. By Sir Charles G. D. Roberts. Ryerson Press. Pp. xii+188. \$2.00.
- LANDFALL: COLLECTED POEMS OF CECIL FRANCIS LLOYD. Ryerson Press. Pp. xi+47. \$1.50.
- QUEBEC. By Wilmot B. Lane. Macmillans in Canada. Pp. 40. \$1.50.
- T. B. R.: NEWSPAPER PIECES. By Thomas B. Robertson. Macmillans in Canada. Pp. xv+142. \$1.00.
- QUEBEC, WHERE ANCIENT FRANCE LINGERS. By Marius Barbeau. \$2.75.

Here is a very representative selection of Canada's output for 1936. Nor is it, taken in general, a display of which Canadians need be ashamed. The *Yearbook* was conceived in 1929, but financial conditions soon forbade its appearing annually. Now that it has renewed its youth, the editor says that it will not be an annual unless the supply of good material warrants such frequent publication. It contains only work that has already been brought before the public during the year. Every phase of Canadian culture is represented: painting, sculpture, architecture, photography, and literature—poetry, short stories and essays. The reproductions are very well done, though one or two suffer from being placed at the fold of the leaf. This is a book to be owned by anyone wanting to keep in touch with Canadian culture.

As most of Sir Charles Roberts's earlier volumes are out of print, it was time for a collected or selective edition; the dean of Canadian letters has preferred the latter. It is almost too late to say anything new about Sir Charles's poetry, and too early to attempt to assign him his permanent place in our letters. To a resident in the Maritime Provinces, pictures of these provinces have perhaps the greatest appeal. One wishes that the author had indicated the date of writing of the individual poems.

Mr. Lloyd's collected verse makes a very slim volume, but all the poems are readable, and some of them—for example, "Helen"—are memorable. Perhaps there is too frequent reference to the rose and to beauty—the business of the poet is to create beauty, not to talk about it—but the reader forgets to complain as he delights in Mr. Lloyd's imagery and command of rhythm.

Mr. Lane has been moved by the epic struggle for Canada to write a closet drama on the taking of Quebec. Unfortunately, as the following typical quotation will show, patriotism is not enough:

Captain:

Well, mobilise your feet. Do not blink  
 My orders, Chief, or your hapless greasy ham  
 Will feel my itching poniard through it jam  
 For outbound speed. 'Bout face and pace; now scam;  
 Ill-luck to you should this come to Montcalm.

The career of the late T. R. Robertson was of the kind that could come, one feels, only to a Scot and only in Canada. His last years were spent on the *Winnipeg Free Press*, on which he was given a free hand in writing a daily essay. The wisdom of the editor-in-chief was well justified: Robertson wrote shrewdly and winningly on many a subject. This selection from his writings may not rank as great literature, but it shows that in Canada we have had at least one journalist of fine quality.

If the Province of Quebec should ever find an Order for honouring worthy sons, Marius Barbeau, who is indefatigable in making the French province known to the rest of us, will surely be the first recipient. This is a thoroughly delightful book; the reviewer scarcely dropped it from his hand until he had finished it. Chapters tell of the introduction into New France, and the flourishing there, of such arts as lace making, weaving, wood carving and gold and silver work. The book is beautifully printed and lavishly illustrated. The Government of Quebec could do many worse things than subsidise the publishers to bring the book within the reach of everyone.

B. M.

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THE SCHOOL OF NIGHT: A STUDY IN THE LITERARY RELATIONSHIPS OF SIR WALTER RALEGH. By M. C. Bradbrook. Macmillans in Canada. Pp. 189. \$1.75.

In theory the Renaissance may have loved the intellect and have scorned the "ignorance and superstition" of the Middle Ages, but leaders in Church and State had no intention of encouraging too free and sceptical an attitude toward religion and authority. So when a rather indeterminate group of men like Harriot, Marlowe, Chapman gathered around Raleigh, suspicions of atheism and the occult were directed toward them. Miss Bradbrook, to whom Elizabethan students are already greatly indebted, has written a very illuminating study of this group and the influence of their ideas on literature. Naturally the greater share of the book has gone to Raleigh, but the student of Marlowe will find much of interest. Chapman does not come off so well at the hands of Miss Bradbrook as some of his admirers would doubtless like. The question of symbolism is always a thorny one, for once a scholar goes a-hunting he usually finds an abundance. Hence the reviewer is at times a little hesitant to accept all the symbolism found in Marlowe's plays by Miss Bradbrook—though he must admit that the author can quote chapter and verse for every assertion.

B. M.

individualism." The American economy must be modified, but with her practical genius, America will work out her own schemes of social salvation, in accordance with her own principles of development. These views are not advanced by the writer simply as an individual opinion, but he supports them with a lively examination of American life. He makes a detailed reply to the modern iconoclasts of American literature such as Mr. H. L. Mencken, whom he accuses of indulging in "the indoor sport of boob-baiting", Mr. Sinclair Lewis, who is "bored by ideas", and Mr. Dreiser, who "has reduced his artistic stature considerably below that of a depraved sensation journalist." If the reader has a taste for sustained polemic against a school of writers who have capitalised national self-contempt as a literary medium, he will be able to extract considerable enjoyment from *Mainland*. To these "realistic" writers, he opposes a more genuine American "realism", which recognises that figures like William James, Henry Ford, William Jennings Bryan and Irving Berlin are the significant characters in American life. The very features of the American scene that stir up such disgust in the minds of the intellectuals, the talkies, the radio, the comic-strips, jazz, the gospel of "get-on" (interpreted in terms of possessing an automobile) are the significant things that nobody who wants to understand America can afford to neglect.

JAMES S. THOMSON.

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THE KINGDOM OF SAGUENAY. By Marius Barbeau. The Macmillan Company of Canada, Toronto, 1936. Pp. 167, and illustrations.

This is a handsome volume, and as a specimen of the book-maker's art leaves little to be desired. It consists of nine chapters of prose, dealing with the geographical legends, literary and historical folklore, handicraft, superstition, religion and humour that have been associated with the Saguenay district, and of forty-three drawings illustrating these various themes. The composite maps that decorate the inside of the covers and the chapter heads are by Marjorie Borden, and the other illustrations are the work of such well-known Canadian artists as A. Y. Jackson, George Pepper, Kathleen Daly, Peter and B. Cogill Haworth, André Biéler, Arthur Lismer, Gordon Pfeiffer, Yvonne McKague, Rody Kenny Courtice and Albert Cloutier. The whole is an interesting bye-product of Dr. Barbeau's work in collecting French-Canadian art, handicraft, music and folklore for the National Museum of Canada, and of his association with the group of Canadian artists who have learned to find inspiration and adequate subject-matter in their own country.

D. C. H.

THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE. By A. B. Keith.  
Macmillan, London, 1935. XXVIII, 646. \$6.50.

This volume, one of the latest of Professor Keith's numerous contributions to the literature of the Imperial Constitution, is a definitive study as of 1935. In many ways it outdates most of Professor Keith's previous studies, though these will remain as essential works of reference. Like his first great study *Responsible Government in the Dominions*, it first surveys the framework of the Imperial Constitution and then governmental systems of the various Dominions largely in a comparative manner. It concludes also a survey of the government of the dependent Empire and an excellent chapter on the Indian Constitution, past and present. As is usual with Professor Keith's books, this volume is compact with fact material, and indulges in few glittering generalities, but it is by no means overburdened with facts, and is set out in a thoroughly clear and straightforward manner.

In a brief concluding chapter Professor Keith indulges in a few personal opinions on the drift of constitutional events. He sees in the last ten years "a determined and successful effort to destroy the existing fabric of the Empire in order to assert the autonomy of the Dominions." The three Dominions British in population—the Irish Free State, South Africa and Canada—have been mainly responsible for this drift. Nor does he see any effective cooperation developing to take the place of Imperial control to preserve the solidarity of British peoples. In the ideal of Dominion status for India he sees grave dangers. Even the British traditions of the sovereignty of the law and the necessity for order and progress seem to be going by the board in many parts of the Commonwealth through the readiness to resort to violence in labour disputes and for political purposes which seems to be developing. Yet Professor Keith is too sound a scholar to let his pessimism discolour his statement of facts and analysis of constitutional developments. The remainder of the book seems, on the whole, free from bias, and in this respect an improvement on some of his earlier studies.

We shall put this volume on our shelves alongside Anson, Dicey, Maitland and other indispensable texts in constitutional history and law. The volume promises to remain as perhaps the most useful of Professor Keith's contributions.

R. A. MACKAY.