

NEW BOOKS

THE COD FISHERIES: THE HISTORY OF AN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY. By Harold A. Innis. (THE RELATIONS OF CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES, a series of studies prepared under the direction of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Division of Economics and History; J. T. Shotwell, Director). Toronto: The Ryerson Press. 1940. Pp. xv, 520. (\$3.50).

This is by far the most important book on the Canadian economy that has appeared since the author's *The Fur Trade in Canada* was published in 1930. The basic and revolutionary conclusion from Professor Innis's study of the fur trade is summed up in the single sentence: "The present Dominion emerged not in spite of geography but because of it." This is a direct challenge to a belief that is widely held—more widely held in academic circles than elsewhere—; a belief that is watched over by the ghost of Goldwin Smith; a belief that Canada is a political monstrosity, established in defiance of all geographical and economic forces. Although the study of the cod fishery does not lead to any one fundamental conclusion such as that quoted above, it does nevertheless strengthen the conclusions reached in this earlier study, and it does carry the analysis of the Canadian economy another very important step forward.

When the old British Empire broke up, because a rapidly expanding and a rapidly changing economy could not be fitted into a rigid political structure, Nova Scotia remained British. The fishing industry was such that competing regions tended to draw apart rather than to draw together; and it was soon apparent that Nova Scotia and New England, though very near neighbours, were not to be the best of friends. The influence of English traders and English merchants in Nova Scotia was at least as great as was the influence of New England traders and New England merchants. The Jersey and Guernsey fishermen who had moved to Nova Scotia from Newfoundland retained their connection with the mother country and with European markets. European trade had a strong pull upon this fourteenth colony. The resident merchants had fewer conflicting interests with the mother country than with New England.

From 1783 onwards, Nova Scotia carried on a bitter struggle against New England. She struggled to keep New England out of the West Indian markets, to obtain shipping privileges equal or superior to those possessed by New England, to gain entrance to the American market, to keep New England fishermen out of her territorial waters, and to compete with New England shippers. In these struggles, because either of common interests or of similar interests in a common cause, she was supported by her sister colonies; and after the abrogation of the Reciprocity treaty, and after it became obvious that sufficient support was not forthcoming from the mother country, she

joined with New Brunswick and the Province of Canada to obtain the greater strength that comes from unity. At the same time the economy that had been built upon the fishing industry had begun to change with the rapidly moving revolution in transportation. Railways and rail connection with the interior became essential. As a by-product of this, there was arising the difficult problem of public finance. All problems seemed to be arguments in favor of Confederation.

Obviously this is a most inadequate, and therefore possibly a misleading, summary of what is to be found in the book on the question of Nova Scotia's remaining British at the time of the American Revolution, and on the question of the economic basis of Confederation. However, enough has been said to make it clear that this latest work from the pen of Professor Innis is indispensable to anyone, historian or economist, who is interested in the development of Canada.

Although this book is indispensable to those interested in the development of Canada, it may not be ignored by any economic historian. From its pages one learns that for over three centuries the cod fishery completely dominated the economy of the north-eastern coast of North America; that it was the cornerstone of all trade between this part of the continent and Europe, between this part of the continent and the West Indies, and between this part of the continent and Africa; that control of the cod fishery was coveted by Spain, Portugal, France, and England; that trade in cod was an important factor in the building of Britain's greatness, in the rise and fall of the first British Empire, in the rise and continuance of the second British Empire, and in the consummation of Confederation; and that trade in cod was an important contributory factor to the breakdown of mercantilism and to its replacement by commercialism in Great Britain. The economy of each region directly affected is analyzed; the interrelations of the industry with other industries and of each region with other regions are traced; and the influence of the trade upon the policies of governments and upon economic and political structures is indicated. This book is the key to much of the economic history not only of Canada but of North America. It is stimulating and thought-provoking, and it is the product of extensive, laborious, and painstaking research. It is scarcely necessary to say more.

Unfortunately, it must be admitted that the book has one serious defect: it is very tough reading. The difficulty seems to be three-fold: first, the author has an involved style, which gives rise to ambiguities; second, the subject is most intractable, and Professor Innis was satisfied with nothing less than a comprehensive survey of the entire field; third, the plan of treatment is to use original sources wherever possible and to make them carry the burden of the argument. This is a procedure that has much to commend it, but one that encounters exceptional difficulties when an extensive and intricate study, such as the present, with its numerous and far-reaching ramifications, must be treated within the covers of a single volume.

S. A. SAUNDERS.

EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS AND POLITICS. By F. A. Ogg. Pp. VI, 936. Macmillan, New York. 1937.

The American college text is probably the greatest invention in higher education since the rise of the Universities. It enables the student to find all there is worth knowing on a subject within the covers of a single book,—that is, if he bothers to open it. Boards of Governors can spend their funds on things other than books or working space in libraries. Professors can be careless about lectures, because it is all in the book.

Within the limits set by the college market, Professor Ogg's second edition of *European Governments and Politics* is perhaps the best text in the field on the subject. It is radically revised and brought up to date of publication. Its main advantage is that it gives information on the working of the dictatorships in brief compass and readable form. The book is clearly written, and one may depend upon Professor Ogg for scholarly accuracy. In about 400 pages it covers adequately the Government of England; in another 200 the Government of France; and in some 300 more the three dictatorships, Germany, Italy and the U.S.S.R. But a book of this type in a rapidly changing world is to some extent "dated". The swift march of events may already have destroyed democracy in France, and, whatever the outcome of the war, British democracy is bound to be profoundly altered. Even the dictatorships will change their faces under the hammer blows of war. Students should be compelled to read Thucydides along with Ogg.

R. A. MacKAY.

THE HABITANT-MERCHANT. By J. E. Rossignol. Macmillans in Canada. Pp. 258. \$3.00.

NAPOLEON TREMBLAY. By Angus Graham. The Ryerson Press. Pp. 336. \$2.50.

MINE INHERITANCE. By Frederick Niven. Collins. Pp. 432. 9/6.

POEMS. By Ralph Gustafson. Reprinted from *The Sewanee Review* (April, 1940).

Professor Rossignol has brought sixteen stories, published in various magazines, that are concerned with Jovite Laberge. Laberge was a habitant turned merchant in Quebec City. He had never shed his habitant outlook or manners, and so his store was a favorite with habitants from Jovite's old district and with Jovite's innumerable relatives. Jovite had a crusty exterior, but beneath it was a shrewd observer and excellent raconteur. It was a delicate moment when an old customer wanted a discount on the wedding ring for his next bride, because the silk dress that his former wife had bought from Jovite had not, so he averred, worn well. Jovite was, however, equal to the oc-

casian: after quiet enquiries in the district, he insisted on the return of the dress, so that he might refund the whole purchase price—for he had found out that the late lamented wife had been buried in the dress. From these quiet, humorous stories one gradually gains a pleasant, perhaps slightly idealized, picture of French Canadians, and a sense of the long history of these people in Canada; one realizes more clearly why French Canadians are Canadians and not semi-Europeans.

Mr. Graham gives us a decidedly different view of French Canada in *Napoleon Tremblay*. The hero is a simple, hard-working unreflective young man; both the village priest and the girl's father felt that he would be an excellent catch for Jeanne, who had experimented with maternity rather than matrimony. From the moment the happy couple leave for the bush, where Napoleon is watchman at a power dam, the husband's education truly begins. It would deprive the reader of pleasure to reveal in part the seamy side of life that Mr. Graham has sketched for us. In the first half of the story the author has a cool, detached ironic style; unfortunately this is lost in part in the latter half, where the hero's fortunes rise, though Mr. Graham can also handle farce well. We leave the hero happily married a second time, even though he regrets that he and Marie can never have a large family since they married too late: they have only eight!

In *Mine Inheritance* Mr. Niven has turned to the founding of the Red River Colony. In that event there were idealism, courage, faint-heartedness, and treachery. The story is told by David Baxter, a young lad from Renfrewshire. As the bibliography at the end shows, Mr. Niven has tried to remain true to history. Half-hostile Hudson's Bay Company employees, half-breeds under the evictions of the Scottish landlords, fill the pages. There are some good character sketches: Captain Miles Macdonell, Governor Semple, and Lord Selkirk stand out distinctly. Two love stories are woven into the tale, as well as an element of mystery, but it would be unfair to divulge these. The opening pages are a trifle tame, but once Mr. Niven strikes his pace, the story moves rapidly and convincingly. One great event in our settlement here receives fine treatment—who will be the novelist to tell the story of the Cape Breton Highlanders, a story that is well worth re-telling?

Readers will perhaps remember two volumes of poetry by Ralph Gustafson, a native of the Eastern Townships of Quebec and a graduate of Bishop's College. In those volumes Mr. Gustafson showed real poetic merit, but he was at times carried away by the sounds of words. This slim pamphlet, which consists of eight poems published in a recent issue of *The Sewanee Review*, marks a great development in his technique. There is still the same command of music, but there is an economy that was lacking in the earlier work. One feels that there is no unnecessary word in any of the poems; indeed, one or two require frequent reading in order that the reader may grasp the thought or mood. Again, one feels a deepening grip on life; Mr. Gustafson is aware of the "lacrimae rerum" without being sentimental. In a word, the poet is to be congratulated on the new notes in his work. Incidentally, we are envious of an American quarterly that can publish such

Canadian work. Let us hope that residence in the United States will not make Mr. Gustafson less Canadian, and that the day is not far distant when he will return to his native land. Here is one poem.

OLD METAPHOR

Whenever this proud flesh shall fail
 And other lovers mock my time,
 Oh then read back a little space,
 A little while turn back
 That interim.

And there will be, as I have learned
 Of other lovers who have gone,
 Old metaphor and rusty phrase
 And all that's outworn
 To look upon.

But you shall pause amid these things,
 And think a while of other love,
 And wonder quietly on that,
 And this, and much you are
 Forgetful of.

B. M.

POLITICAL THOUGHT: THE EUROPEAN TRADITION. By J. P. Mayer, in cooperation with R. H. S. Crossman, P. Keckskemeti, E. Kohn-Bramstedt and C. J. S. Sprigge. With an Introduction by R. H. Tawney. Pp. XXVII, 485. Dent, London, 1939.

This volume is not a history of political ideas, but an attempt to restate the essentials of the European tradition in terms of the present. The method is broadly historical. Mr. Mayer covers the period from the Greek city state to the seventeenth century, and the contributions of national groups—British, French, German, Italian, American and even Russian—are then discussed by himself and the other authors. The study ranges the fields of philosophy, economics, history, religion, literature and art, as well as political thought, for data. As they rightly point out, "Basic political ideas do not arise in *vacuo*."

The authors contend that the European tradition begins with the Greek discovery of the *polis* and Greek practice of applying reason to human affairs. From Alexander the Great dates the idea of a world empire, an idea revived by Rome, and surviving in medieval Europe in the unity of the Church, and in the Holy Roman Empire. Though Europe broke apart into states in the post-Renaissance era, European political thought has retained the essentials of its common origin and history. The tradition that remains is essentially rational and humanistic. The state is made for man;

reason is its instrument—"without reason the European would sink into barbarism"; thought and life are united in action, not divorced.

Any reading of the past in the light of the present is at best personal, and bound to change as the present changes. This book was concluded in 1938. It may well be asked whether the humanistic and rational elements of the European tradition would have received the same emphasis had the book been written in 1940, or whether the traditions of militarism—also a Greek tradition which we often overlook—of Caesarism, of unreason, of inquisitions, of Machiavellianism, might not have received more attention. Or should the subtitle have been "The Humanist Tradition of Europe"? As Mr. Tawney says in his brilliant introduction: "Man is condemned to live in twilight, but darkness is darkness, and light is light. What matters is the direction in which his face is set." If the authors have given little attention to the historical origins of National Socialism and Fascism, and have failed to appreciate their influence in setting the face of Europe towards the darkness, it is perhaps because two years ago they, like most of us, were living in a very dim twilight.

R. A. MACKAY.

THE JACKDAW'S NEST: A FIVEFOLD ANTHOLOGY. Made and Edited by Gerald Bullett. Macmillan & Co. Pp. 1008. \$3.50.

Mr. Bullett set himself a difficult task: to compile a bedside anthology that should contain no extracts made familiar by earlier anthologists. It must be said at once that he has succeeded admirably. The work is divided into five parts: Narrative Poem, Essays and Other Proses, Nocturnes and Pastorals, Miscellaneous Brevities, and Prose Tales. The range is ample in each section. Mr. Bullett has been daring enough to open his anthology with a tale from Chaucer and Henryson's "Testament of Cresseid." It is to be hoped that the reader not familiar with Middle English and Middle Scots will not shy away from either these poems or the anthology as a whole, for these poems are not too difficult for the person who is willing to exert himself slightly, and are too good to be left only to professional students of literature. In the prose sections, Mr. Bullett has included some excellent, self-contained passages from well-known novels. Well bound, and printed on thin but durable paper, this volume should find a place not merely by the civilian's bedside, but in the soldier's kit bag.

B. M.

CANADIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS, 1849-1874. By Lester Burrell Shippee. Yale University Press, The Ryerson Press, Oxford University Press, 1939. Pp. xi, 514, 3 maps.

In this volume, the first contributed by an American scholar to the historical section of the series of Canadian and American studies fostered by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Professor

Shippee of the University of Minnesota has covered a very stirring period in the history of Canadian American Relations, in fact the first period when it is possible to speak with accuracy of Canadian relations with the United States as distinct from those of Great Britain. Even between the dates 1849 and 1874, though all the British North American colonies had won responsible government before the negotiation of the Reciprocity Treaty, it was not until the completion of Confederation that the word "Canadian" could cover all the colonies from sea to sea. However, within those dates the relations of the various colonies with the United States, with Great Britain and with one another were being solved, and the historian who attempts to interpret the Annexation Manifesto of 1849, the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854, Canadian Confederation, and American attitudes towards those movements, has to go far afield from the Canadian scene to get the full story. Professor Shippee shows a remarkable intimacy not only with the secondary authorities on both sides of the boundary but also with public opinion as expressed in the newspapers of the period, and with the intricacies of diplomacy as recorded in official despatches and private diaries. Moreover, he maintains a commendable attitude of detachment from patriotic effusions of both Canadians and Americans, and succeeds in giving the reader a colourful, yet unbiassed, account of a very significant period in North American history, when for a second time two nations decided to go their different ways, while striving towards internal unity and international harmony.

D. C. H.

THE FAILURE OF A MISSION: BERLIN 1937-1939. By The Right Hon. Sir Nevile Henderson. London, Hodder and Stoughton.

This book is aptly named. It sets forth the effort of the British ambassador at Berlin, during the critical period just before the outbreak of the present war, to improve Anglo-German relationship. Sir Nevile Henderson, who had much experience of Embassy work in other countries, was summoned from his task at Buenos Aires, to attempt this by the method of "appeasement". The result is well known. This book is, very naturally, designed to show how, though he failed, the failure was not the writer's own fault. He had been assigned an inherently impossible job. The reader will at once acquit him at least of any deficiency in readiness to "appease".

It was less to be expected that he would escape reproach for a fundamental sympathy, rather than an attitude of diplomatic tact, towards the appalling regime with which he had to deal. Throughout his book Sir Nevile Henderson is more or less on the defensive: he is everywhere conscious of the need to distinguish his official role from his personal convictions, and the criticism of his story by reviewers—particularly by American reviewers—shows how difficult it has been to satisfy them that the contrast is genuine. An Englishman who writes, for example, of Field-Marshal Goering in those terms not merely of tolerance but of apparent respect which Sir Nevile Henderson (like Lord Londonderry) adopts must expect his other estimates to

be subjected by his countrymen to copious discount: it leaves one with the impression of such difference in moral valuation that there is little to be gained by further interchange about details. Herein lies, I think, the reason for the bitter contempt with which Miss Martha Dodd, daughter of the American ambassador of those same critical years to Berlin, has referred to Sir Nevile in her book *Through Embassy Eyes*. It is the reason, too, for the ridicule which so many reviewers of his book have poured upon this British diplomatist who would appear from his own account to have watched on the spot the tragic sequence with such "unseeing" eyes.

Yet these sweeping condemnations may be less than fair. It is obvious that if an ambassador from a free democratic country was to serve in Hitler's Germany at all, he must often refrain from speaking about what he saw in the language of democracy or freedom. On the other hand, since he must often speak, and could hardly avoid all reference to controversial matters, his talent for disguise of his own feeling would before long be overstrained, and he might be forgiven for lapse into general compliment which could so easily be misconstrued. So far, at least at such a time and in such a country, is a diplomatist's lot—as the opera says about a policeman's—from being "a happy one".

In a measure, indeed, that wretched burden of evasive expression seems still to have rested on Sir Nevile Henderson as he wrote about the career in which he had failed. This book aims to show his countrymen how, with a really searching eye for points of merit, which a conciliator could honestly commend, a British representative even in Hitler's Germany need not be without material for an after-dinner speech which the Nazis would applaud. His Nazi listeners might often indeed misinterpret this laborious courtesy, and in their disillusionment afterwards might have their rage intensified by memory of it. But did not Mr. Neville Chamberlain himself suffer in the same way? And is it not adding needlessly to a hard lot that readers of the Memoir should misunderstand Sir Nevile as the Germans did?

There is room for considerable controversy here, and it makes the book unusually interesting that the pros and cons of such a matter should be so much in the reader's mind. But apart from this, it is full of suggestive detail regarding the life of Berlin and the peculiarities of Nazi politics as seen at such close quarters during the time we need perhaps most of all to appreciate. Sir Nevile is a narrator who holds attention: he discloses a great deal that is of interest directly and deliberately, perhaps more that is of interest beyond what he intended and by implication rather than on the surface. This is a book by no means to be missed.

H. L. S.