

## NEW BOOKS

ONE WHO SURVIVED. The Life Story of a Russian under the Soviets.  
By Alexander Barmine. With an Introduction by Max Eastman. G. P. Putnam's Sons. New York, 1945.

This is sombre writing, as the title will at once suggest. "When I work on my book," the author said, "I feel as though I were walking in a graveyard. All my friends and associates have been shot. It seems to be a kind of mistake that I am alive." But the book is intensely interesting; it is persuasive; it is rich in stimulants to further enquiry. Peter Quince's playbill, "Very tragical mirth", implied that the sombre can have its own appeal, and although mirth is remote indeed from the effect of Mr. Barmine's work, it has other effects just now much more valuable.

He is of Russian birth, old enough to recall the First World War only as an event of his childhood, and equipped for writing this book by the nineteen years experience he had as an official of the U. S. S. R. He held diplomatic positions, sometimes of high responsibility, in Persia, in Greece, in Italy, in Germany, in France. With a striking gift for narrative, he tells us of what he saw and did in each of these places: here is an arresting picture of development in the Soviet Union, first during the civil war period (when Mr. Barmine watched and shared the fierce fight in Ukraina), then during organization of military discipline for the future at such centres as "the War College of the Red Star". We follow the author into the U. S. S. R. diplomatic offices abroad, to "the feudal Orient", to Bokhara, to Teheran, to the Afghan frontier. Nothing could be more instructive, about matters on which we have obviously the utmost need to be informed, than this account of what a Soviet consular agent had to do, of the directions from home on which he must act, and of the difficulties he encountered during those momentous years. The personal sketches, too, are revealing. One will not readily forget the lineaments of Lenin, of Trotsky, of Stalin, and of many another as Mr. Barmine has drawn them.

But the tragic fascination of the book lies, above all, in its record of the author's reasons for severing himself, at great personal risk, from the service to which he had devoted his life. He was Soviet *chargé d'affaires* at Athens when the "purges" of 1937 reached their height, and in disgust, as he heard of so many victims among his personal friends, whose patriotism and integrity he could not for a moment suspect, he could no longer stifle those doubts of the leadership which had been so long surging within him. In this part of his book we pass from the record, that is full of instruction, to inferences and interpretations which will rouse sharp controversy. The fact that Mr. W. H. Chamberlin and Mr. Max Eastman commend those chapters with the utmost warmth will produce on some readers an initial doubt, just as commendation by the Dean of Canterbury would repel another type of readers. But those united in a wholesome conspiracy of inattention to critics who in any interest would prejudge a new book will let Mr. Barmine, at least in the first instance, speak to them for himself. They will follow his story of an incautious word of candor, spoken

to a colleague in the Legation Office at Athens, which brought manoeuvres by agents of Russia's secret police to get him across into Soviet territory—manoeuvres whose sinister significance he knew too well. This, he tells us, was but the first of a series of efforts to include him in the "purges". But he broke loose from the whole network, made his escape to the United States, and in this book, issued by an American publishing house, narrates as "one who survived" a perfectly dreadful story of despotism under which multitudes did not survive.

Is it a trustworthy picture? Of its absorbing, though melancholy, interest there can be no doubt. It is a challenge to criticism, to critics who are able to take the narrative of fact which Mr. Barmine has set forth and show how it is either inaccurate in content or capable of interpretation other than he has drawn from it. One hates to think of an ally that has served so great a purpose in the common cause as stained with such a record as is here set forth. But one cannot indefinitely silence the doubts which a long series of important observers on the spot—such men as Mr. Eugene Lyons, with many years of close study in Moscow under the Soviet regime—have awakened in one's mind. Rhetorical abuse, such as has been poured (in a supposedly patriotic interest) on these writers, of whom Mr. Barmine is but the last, will not dispel, it will rather deepen such misgiving. Mr. Churchill in this, as in so much else, has set a pattern. He refuses to unsay a single word he said in years past about the character of the Bolshevik revolution, and of those who led it. Perhaps, however, though nothing previously said is withdrawn, there is a supplement to be added.

I await the answer to Mr. Barmine's book, which must also be an answer to many others. If, with a temperateness of statement like his, it can show his account to be thoroughly wrong, this will indeed be a great service to the United Nations, because it will go so far to cement their union. But it must not be merely abusive.

H. L. S.

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STUDIES IN FEDERAL PLANNING. Edited by Patrick Ransome. London, Macmillan & Co., Ltd., 1943. Pp. XII, 363.

This is a volume of twelve essays by twelve experts on Federalism as a possible solution of the problem of international organization. All but one of them were written for the Federal Union Research Institute, and designed to stimulate discussion on the technique of international organization and to encourage greater precision in the use of political terminology. Four of the essays discuss the theory and practice of federal union; four others consider the problem of distribution of powers in various types of projected federal union; two state the general case for federalism, and the remaining two attempt to apply the principle to an Anglo-American union and a world organization respectively. As most of these essays were written in the spirit of research, their findings have more or less permanent, if academic, value; but those written in advocacy, or in application, of the federal

principle to specific peoples or regions have been heavily discounted by the march of military events and the political pronouncements of recent conferences.

D. C. H.

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SIR GEORGE SIMPSON. By Arthur S. Morton. J. M. Dent & Sons (Canada) Limited, Toronto and Vancouver, 1944. Pp. xii, 310.

This volume is the last and best work of the late Professor Morton, who had long been known as a student of the Hudson's Bay Company records and an authoritative writer on the history of Western Canada, but had not hitherto ventured into the field of biography. In this biography of Sir George Simpson, who was Overseas Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company for nearly forty years, ruler of a vast domain for most of the period and essentially a man of action, Professor Morton had at his disposal a formidable collection of administrative and business correspondence, but very little that made direct reference to the personal affairs or private life of his subject. Under those circumstances he might have yielded to the temptation to write another history of the Company; but instead he has managed to give a vivid pen picture of Sir George in both his public and private capacities; to depict a great administrator in action with definite shortcomings of character and method; and at the same time, while keeping him in the foreground, has been able to illuminate some dark passages in the story of the Hudson's Bay Company's administration of its original territory and the territory beyond the mountains. For those who have access to the records of the Hudson's Bay Company now being published by the Champlain Society, this volume will give a useful bird's eye view of the whole period; and, for those who have not time to read more widely, it will be invaluable.

D. C. H.

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SANDSTONE AND OTHER POEMS. By Anne Marriott. Ryerson Press. Pp. 42. \$1.50.

TALLAHASSEE. By Andrew Merkel. Imperial Publishing Company, Halifax. Pp. 103. \$2.00.

It is a pleasure to welcome a collection of Miss Marriott's poetry. She sprang into fame almost overnight with "The Wind Our Enemy", a very moving picture of the disintegration of a community and of individuals under the relentless attacks of drought and wind year after year. It was no small achievement for a person of Victoria to catch so authentically the tragedy of the prairie farmer. The gaunt, starved style was admirably suited to the subject. Unfortunately, Miss Marriott continued to use and to accentuate the mannerisms of the style in other poems; one began to feel that her own development

was in danger of being thwarted and starved. That is why we are glad to see this volume, for it contains poems in quite a different, more normal, and richer style. Miss Marriott has done good work in the past; anyone interested in the future of Canadian poetry should keep an eye on her, for she has great possibilities yet.

Tallahassee is Mr. Merkel's second long poem on Nova Scotian themes. Readers will remember with pleasure *The Order of Good Cheer*. This time the theme is really not the thrilling story of the "Tallahassee's" escape through the passage east of McNab's Island, but rather Halifax and Haligonians during the American Civil War. Just as England was divided in its sympathies on class lines, so was Halifax: the successful were ardent for the South, the common people for the North. Again Mr. Merkel makes the reader feel the daring of the sailors in the face of the enemy. To a Haligonian—or indeed to a Nova Scotian—the well known names of places and people have a pleasant ring; the reviewer never realized before how poetic many of our local names are.

B. M.

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TWO SOLITUDES. By Hugh MacLennan. Collins, 70 Bond Street, Toronto. \$3.00.

Mr. MacLennan's new book has enhanced the reputation he won by *Barometer Rising*. Its title, of less enigmatic (and so far unsolved) mystery than that of its predecessor, is explained to indicate the aloofness of the two races in French-Canada, and especially in the city of Montreal, from each other. The contrast, not to say antagonism, of French and British, which it has been the purpose of many speeches (more eloquent than truthful) to deny, is here emphasized and illustrated with descriptive vividness. One may exhaust one's talent for metaphor, telling the world about melting-pots and mosaics, insisting that union is all the firmer through the variety of its constituents, even declaring, in the climax of rapture once reached, that any attempt to sever the bond between Canada and Great Britain would be broken on French-Canadian resistance though every other element in the Dominion should have yielded! But on this matter Mr. MacLennan is rather in the mood described by Browning, for which "Fancy strikes fact and explodes in full". The dexterity which keeps political parties together is one thing; the art of the novelist holding a mirror up to nature is different. Think what would happen in parliament if nature there, instead of being adjusted by the devices of oratory, were confronted with a mirror!

There is much excellent character-drawing in this book. Mr. MacLennan is concerned equally to show the French priest and the English or Scottish man of business, as they contemplate the prospect of a further hold being rivetted upon the province of the *habitant* by the ingenuities of foreign capitalism. His talent is probably at its best as he draws the young French-Canadian excited to anger by historic memories, and suspicious still—even after so much has been conceded

for appeasement of Quebec—that some further exploitation of “the real Canadians”, by those for whose selfishness James Wolfe prepared the way, may yet be intended. The character of an *abbé* is less skillfully presented than that of a financial adventurer. Mr. MacLennan, like Anatole France, and Professor Laski, and many another whose analytic power is keen but limited in range, has contented himself in that field with a scrutiny less searching than he applies elsewhere. His women, too, often surprise even readers who thought themselves ready for anything in that province of subtle psychology, but have never chanced on such combination of habits as is here shown.

As in *Barometer Rising*, which I reviewed in these pages three years ago, a regrettable feature is the pornographic parenthesis that from time to time mars the artistic unity of *Two Solitudes*. Demands of circulation may be met at undue sacrifice of art. Perhaps for the sake of clearness, alike to those whom this sort of thing attracts and to those whom it repels, notice might be given when the parenthesis is about to recur. Very much as Mr. Gabriel Heatter interrupts, for an advertisement, the sequence of his discussion of international affairs with the words “And now, ladies and gentlemen, you will allow me a word for my sponsors”.

The book has such shining merit that one feels all the more the shock of a trick so familiar on lower literary levels.

H. L. S.

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THE DISCOVERY OF CANADA. By Lawrence J. Burpee. Drawn and papers by James Sim. The Macmillan Company of Canada, Limited, Toronto, 1944. Pp. vi, 280.

For many years Dr. Burpee has made a study of the discovery and exploration of Canada his main interest. In addition to his “Search for the Western Sea”, “Pathfinders of the Great Plains” and his editorial work on La Verendrye for The Champlain Society, he has written extensively on the various explorers who have revealed Canada to the world, for historical journals and for encyclopædias. In this volume he brings together the chief discoverers and explorers of the different geographical sections of the Dominion, so that the reader may see at one sitting the pageant unfold as time marches on and little by little the whole country is mapped out. The book is designed for both the student and the general reader and, wherever possible, the author makes the discoverer or explorer tell his own story in his own words. Thus the student knows that he is using original sources; and the general reader is enabled to escape from the turmoil of the present, through the vivid narratives of the adventurers who first paddled our streams, clambered over our rocks, or blazed a trail through the wilderness. To avoid offence to the general reader, who might be discouraged or distracted by footnotes and other technical devices of the historian, Dr. Burpee has dispensed with all these, and instead has provided a critical bibliography, biographical notes, and a good index which have been placed at the end of the volume. As a

result he has produced a very readable book, that should do much to dissipate the dullness of early Canadian history which had obsessed him as a boy at school.

D. C. H.

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A CENTURY OF HERO WORSHIP. By E. R. Bentley. Longmans, Green & Co. Pp. 307. \$4.50.

With *Heroes and Hero-Worship*, Carlyle began the cult which reached disastrous results in the German worship of Hitler. Dr. Bentley has set out to examine the chief advocates of hero-worship in modern European literature in the intervening century: Carlyle, Nietzsche, Wagner, Shaw, Spengler, Stefan George, D. H. Lawrence. Most of these men have been almost pathological cases: every one is characterized by "ambivalence". Carlyle resented having lost his faith and his natural and spiritual fathers. He talked much of God by way of over-compensation, but Dr. Bentley would say that he had no real faith in his last years. One could treat the others of the group similarly, and the results would be much the same. In the weakling, to the maladjusted there are the desire to lead and the desire to be led; there is scorn of the mob and talk of the great and necessary leader, but there is little knowledge of whither the leader is to lead his people. Dr. Bentley sees the cult as the product not merely of the characters of the writers, but of the mechanical age in which the writers lived: hero-worship is an escape from a spiritually desiccated environment.

The book is provocative of thought, and is informative in fields where many readers are ignorant. It retains, unfortunately, some of the marks of its origin: the Ph.D. thesis. At times the reader feels that explanations other than those offered by the author are possible. There is a tendency to push the theory into every nook and cranny; the perverse section on G. B. Shaw has really little reason for being in the book. There is the tendency to set up all previous writers like a row of ninepins in order to bowl them over. One wonders how a person of only twenty-seven years can have read closely all the books in the bibliography. Nevertheless, despite such defects, the book should be read closely by anyone interested in 19th century literature and recent history.

B. M.

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OUR PROPHETIC HERITAGE. By Ernest Marshall Howse, S.T.M., Ph.D. Westminster Church, Winnipeg. The Ryerson Press. 75c.

In this series of sermons, delivered to his Winnipeg congregation, Dr. Howse has been endeavoring to rearouse a religious interest that had long been lamentably dormant. We have often denounced the Germans for abandoning study of the Old Testament "on account of its Jewish origin." But I fear that this came less from concern for the

Old Testament than from hatred of the Germans. How far has any such study survived among ourselves? The Germans had at least a reason for their neglect, although a base one, but what reason have we—except one of sheer ignorance? I am reminded of Henry Grattan's remark about the French obliteration of titles of honor, that it was better to extinguish them altogether, as had been done in Paris, than to debase them by sale to the highest bidder, as British Government agents were doing in Dublin Castle!

Dr. Howse has undertaken in these seven sermons to show how deep is still the moral and religious value of "the preaching of the Old Testament" which prepared the way for the Christian revelation. The prophets whose work he thus introduces in this first series are Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Micah. He sets forth, with admirable clarity under the limits of time for a sermon, the historic circumstances and the essential character of the message brought by each. Analogies with the present, such as should stimulate listeners and readers to further enquiry, are employed not only with skill but with discretion, and with due regard to the differences by which such similarities over a great stretch of place and time are always accompanied. To an older generation, not yet liberated simultaneously from pious and from learned interests, it would not have been needful to assign such apologetic ground for examining the great antecedents of the Christian Faith in the land of its origin. But it is needful now, to a generation which—unlike that of the past, when "at least one great book" was eagerly read—reads little deserving the name of a book at all. Dr. Howse understands the situation, and—like Montaigne, speaking "conformably to the prevalent insipience"—contributes to meet it. I look forward with much hope to the continuation of an experiment so well begun in the Westminster Church, Winnipeg.

The moral and spiritual note is central, as it should be, in these sermons. But I can believe that even an occasional listener less religious than literary in interest may be attracted by such stimulating addresses on the great literature now so little known. Many years ago I heard Sir Henry Newbolt advise students to study the English Bible for the improvement of their own composition. "It is no longer read," he observed, "and people will think you have invented the style." This particular inducement can hardly this time be held out, in commendation of the prophecies Dr. Howse has here discussed, to those seeking a literary repute beyond their own merit. The style of Amos or Hosea, of Isaiah or Micah would not lend itself to such use for practical (i.e. lucrative) adaptation as is now so widely held to be the sole purpose of acquiring knowledge. But interest in the history of literature for its own sake will one day return. When the present tide of presumptuous ignorance has receded, as similar tides receded in the past, thanks will be due to those who like Dr. Howse kept the lamp trimmed here and there when the darkness was at its worst. In Matthew Arnold's memorable words about such effort, they "kept open communications with the future".

MEN UNDER STRESS. By Roy R. Grinker and John P. Spiegel. The Blakiston Co., Philadelphia and Toronto. 484 pp. \$6.50.

Drs. Grinker and Spiegel, two well-known American psychiatrists, were with the American Army Air Forces at the front, and are now in charge of a "convalescent" hospital in the United States. *Men Under Stress* is the first fruit of this experience with war neuroses. Though written primarily for the profession, the book has real value for the cultivated layman interested in the human mind and in the effects of air service on men. The book contains sixty-five case histories in detail, with the conclusions and general discussion arising therefrom. In spite of all tests, men of unstable dispositions succeed in entering the Air Force. The rate of disintegration varies considerably, but eventually a crisis arrives. A task of the psychiatrists is to prevent further disintegration and regression of personality. The authors have used the pentothal method of freeing the subconscious, with remarkable success. Improvement thereafter depends greatly on the insight that the patient has into his own case. Some total failures resulted, because the patients would not admit to their conscious selves what the unconscious had revealed. In a few cases regression was to an infantile state. Psychosomatic implications are well set forth, especially the effects of fear and anxiety on the lower visceral regions.

The authors are much concerned about the effects of war neuroses, even of a mild nature, on the post-war world. Their examination of the returned men in their relation to civilians and civilian life is of extreme value. The fear that restless men may easily become the tools of designing politicians or industrialists is in the authors' minds. There is a good bibliography of recent work on the subject. All told, this is a book to be read very carefully by large numbers of people.

B. M.

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REFLECTIONS IN A MIRROR. By Charles Morgan. Macmillan Co. of Canada. Pp. 225. \$2.75.

This is a book to be owned, to be re-read frequently, and to be marked with pencil for favourite passages and phrases, for it is the quintessence of a view admirably expressed. Mr. Charles Morgan, well known for "The Fountain and The Voyage," has been contributing a weekly essay, under the heading "Menander's Mirror", to the *Times Literary Supplement* for about three years. The present volume is Mr. Morgan's own selection from these essays.

If we must pigeonhole Mr. Morgan, we call him an intelligent conservative, but he does not like to pick sides, for in that process something of value is always lost. He dislikes equally Blimps, who say the world can never change because man's nature never changes, and ultra-radicals, who "are so dazzled by the changing spots that they forget the leopard". What gives significance to an age is the tension that arises between the constants and the variables in society and



thought. The business of criticism is to prod below the surface and study these tensions. Mr. Morgan is impatient of all talk about the common man, who does not exist; scratch beneath the surface, and you will find always the uncommon man, that is, the individual. The book is characterized by this mixture of philosophy and literary criticism. The reader is made to think of values in general, and he is also given insight into individual authors and works. I repeat my opening advice: buy the book, and mark your favourite passages for re-reading.

B. M.

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THREE MILE BEND. By Kerry Wood. Ryerson Press. Pp. 170.  
 A SAGA OF THE ST. LAWRENCE. By D. D. Calvin. Ryerson Press.  
 Pp. 175.

If you are weary of all the problems of the world and want to escape to sanity for a few hours, read *Three Mile Bend*. Mr. Wood decided long ago that the joy of living could best be found in the town of Red Deer, Alberta, mainly because there was a marvellous bend on the river just three miles from town. Here one can watch an amazing number of birds and animals, study various plants and trees, and talk by the hour with one's friends, especially Hobo Bill. There is a defence of hawks, all except the goshawk, and if you insist on figures to prove their case, Mr. Wood can give them. There is real beauty in the story of the pair of Canada geese that settled there one summer. You will learn much about the beaver, porcupine, and other animals. The beauty and pathos of the exquisite tale "The Blind Man and The Bird" will tug at your heartstrings. Then there are amusing ink sketches by Hugh Weatherby. Christmas is not so very far away, so you might do well by this slim volume for a boy or girl whom you wish to interest in wild life and the out of doors.

*A Saga of the St. Lawrence* is the sort of book of which there should be many more in Canada. Mr. Calvin's grandfather started a shipping business near Kingston, Ontario, early in the 19th century. That business lasted for just a hundred years, when changing economic conditions ended it. With access to the firm's documents and with first-hand knowledge of earlier members of the family, Mr. D. D. Calvin set himself the task of recording the rise and course of a distinctively Canadian business. The result is a thoroughly Canadian book, throwing light on Canadian business development and also on the sturdy independence of the founders of the Dominion. Let us hope that some Nova Scotian will be stirred to do the same for some of our local firms. Think of the great shipping firms, the ships' chandlers, fishing firms, etc. There is material in the Provincial Archives waiting for the right person.

B. M.

HISTOIRE DE LA PROVINCE DE QUEBEC. By Robert Rumilly. Editions Valiquette, Montreal. Vol. xiii, Henri Bourassa.

Nations that feel the need to preserve their own language and culture, amid alien influences, characteristically lay special stress on their traditions and history. French Canada, an enclave in a predominantly English continent, has produced more historians in proportion to its population than any other part of North America. Being a distinct entity, set off from its surroundings, simplifies their task. They have only to disentangle one bright thread in a skein of solid colour. The latest scholar to be fascinated by the history of Quebec is M. Robert Rumilly of Ottawa. The thirteenth volume of *Historie de la Province de Quebec* has recently been issued, bringing the narrative up to 1908 and Laurier's last electoral victory.

M. Rumilly first became involved in his life work when, as a young man, just out from France, he was teaching at McGill University. Looking in the Library for a life of Sir Wilfrid, he found none existed. So he proceeded to write one, which was published in Paris, in 1928. It still stands as the most sympathetic and comprehensive study of the man, catching amazingly that volatile spirit. After a sort of preliminary warming-up on biographies of Mercier, Papineau and others, M. Rumilly plunged into the biography of the province. Since then, all the leisure left him from his job in the translation bureau of the Dominion Government has been spent digging into old files of newspapers, yellowed letters, dusty papers in convent archives. Often he has come up with new light on doubtful incidents which concern not only Quebec, but Canada as a whole, and Empire policy. Not all the motives which he has laid bare have been highly creditable to the former worthies of whom he writes. Their descendants are not always pleased by their portraits, but at least they are shown as human beings—sometimes all too human.

The method which M. Rumilly has applied gives his work a real bearing on the politics of the present day. It is his idea to take a cross-section of the stream of history, in order to show the situation at a given time. Instead of following the course of one man during a few years, he picks out a certain crucial event, such as an election, and gives in detail a picture of the group concerned in it. As he sees it, the province or the nation has a life of its own, greater than the sum of the lives of the people within it. This "unamism" is the method of Jules Romains in his *Les Hommes de Bonne Volonté*, a survey of French society in novel form, which promised greatness in its initial stages, but has "bogged down" in multiplying incidents. The danger of such a project is that history may become merely a succession of anecdotes. To avoid a disjointed series, one phase must be linked with the next. M. Rumilly has carried out his transitions skilfully. Men bob up in the narrative, and disappear to return years later, when their influence on others has had its effect and they, themselves, have changed. Such a plan necessitates an exhaustive index, referring to the different volumes where one man appears.

The work has severe limitations; it is almost wholly a political history, the story of the men who ruled Quebec, not of the farmer and artisan, the common man and the forces which he brought to bear on his rulers. Colonization, for instance, is recounted through the activities of Father Labelle, as if his energy alone were responsible for the railway which opened up the north country. There is little analysis of the land tenure of Quebec, the seigneurial rents and restrictions on local industry, the inheritance customs which built up the population pressure for which colonization was an inadequate outlet.

But, within the limits he has imposed on himself, M. Rumilly gives a rich pageant, scene by scene. He starts out from Confederation, and George-Etienne Cartier. Cartier wrangling with Chapleau, Cartier proclaiming in England his devotion to the Empire, Cartier back home arguing with the crowd that came to heckle him. These politicians are no "stuffed shirts". Here, told with wry humor, is the long squabble over the burial of poor M. Guibord; the Jesuit land-claims enter into the narrative. Louis Riel overshadows these pages; later it becomes clear how some French-Canadians were in part responsible for his doom.

Taillon, Mercier, Marchand, Laurier, Tarte, are in turn centres of the political life of Quebec. When we reach 1907, and the Saint-Jacques campaign of the young Bourassa, interest is heightened. The grandson of Papineau, brilliant, eloquent, handsome, with his record of defiance to Laurier on participation in the Boer War, seemed likely to carry all before him. Yet, even in those days of his glory, his weaknesses were plain, his refusal to listen to friendly criticism, his susceptibility to the adulation that surrounded him. In one of the assemblages at which he spoke, the henchmen of Alexandre Taschereau pelted him with tomatoes. One wonders how many votes against conscription each of those tomatoes cost Mackenzie King thirty-five years later. For Quebec does not forget; Mr. Bourassa is still a power. It is impossible to understand the *Bloc Populaire* without a knowledge of things that happened years ago.

One exception to M. Rumilly's impartiality must be noted. Apparently he shares the nationalist theory that foreigners are to blame for any disturbance in the placid life of the province. He ascribes the May 1 riot of 1907 to *étrangers*, Jews, Russians, Syrians, Italians. But many French-Canadians at that time were discontented with their lot; there was a free-thinking socialist movement among them. Nor does he do justice to the contribution which these same foreigners have made, though perhaps that will come later.

It is unfortunate that the work as a whole will probably not be done into English, unless endowed by some foundation, since so detailed a history can hardly be commercially profitable. Those who are interested in the milestones on Canada's road to unity will read it in French, and the more eagerly as it approaches our own time.

ARGENTINE RIDDLE. By Felix Weil. Issued in co-operation with the Latin-American Economic Institute. Longmans, Green & Co., Toronto. \$4.50.

The puzzle which gave Dr. Weil a title for his book has been repeatedly suggested by events of the last few years, and has been intensified in the last few weeks. A sample of such discussion was provided by an article in *THE DALHOUSIE REVIEW* (January, 1942), "Nazi-Hunting in Argentina". The writer told of obstacles which the Argentinian government was putting in the way of a very urgent search for foreign agents and their native tools by whom the professed neutrality was turned into an imposture. It was indeed common knowledge that the South American headquarters for German espionage and intrigue was at Buenos Aires. There was room for dispute regarding the extent to which it was mere executive inefficiency and the extent to which it was deliberate bad faith that should be seen in such gross violation of the responsibilities of a neutral. In Moscow, at least, the darker suspicion was strong enough to inspire fierce Russian protest against admitting an Argentinian representative to the San Francisco Conference, even though Argentina had in the end declared war on Germany.

Dr. Weil's compact and interesting volume is thus an opportune aid to our knowledge of a country we need to know and most of us know very little. The author is an Argentinian, educated in Europe, where he took his doctor's degree at the University of Frankfurt-am-Main. He has had a varied career, in journalism, in university teaching, and in important administrative posts under the government of Argentina. The very sort of blend which should enable him to write with discernment on his country's international relations, because it so supplemented the training of the scholar with the experience of the man of affairs, and added the journalist's practice of clear exposition for the general public. These qualities are apparent in the book.

The most interesting of its special features is Dr. Weil's emphasis on the conflict in Argentina between a feudal aristocracy and an insurgent industrialism, so like the conflict Disraeli depicted a century ago in England between the landed nobility and the rising Middle Class. It is not surprising that the party of privilege, still in uneasy control, should have hoped for the triumph of the Axis Powers rather than of the western democracies, as a like party in South American countries a century before pinned its hopes to "the Holy Alliance". Dr. Weil sets this forth convincingly, and adds to such considerations much piquant reflection on the degree to which embargo or limits laid at Washington on import of Argentine meat weakened the appeal for Argentinian aid to the United States in any cause whatever. We are reminded of the comparison, current at Buenos Aires, of the "Pan-American" Conference to a conference of mice under chairmanship of the cat!

This is a book rich in both instruction and suggestion.

H. L. S.