

Book Reviews

By HOWARD S. ROSS.

The Musson Book Co., Limited, Cor. East Dundas and Victoria Sts., Toronto, has just issued "The Offender" (\$2.00), by B. G. Lewis, Commissioner of Correction, City of New York.

This is a well written book on prison reform for the general reader as well as for the judge, the lawyer, the student and the prison manager and official, and the increasing number whose humanitarian and sociological interests include offenders. The book is primarily constructive and practical and helpful suggestions are made.

The chapter on "Fundamental Social Forces," is particularly interesting. The author says "The problem before society, then, is to prevent the development of offenders whose careers are antagonistic to progress and social order and to give reasonable encouragement to those who are clearly the prophets of a new order and of a new day."

"Co-operative Marketing," by W. W. Cumberland, Assistant Professor of Economics, of the University of Minnesota, has just been published by Princeton University Press, Princeton, N.J. (\$1.50.)

The purpose is to point the way toward a better system of food distribution. The history of the citrus industry of California shows the possibility of improvement (by co-operation) over the ordinary plan for getting farm products to market. Organization (highly developed) is the characteristic feature of the citrus industry.

The problems of the co-operative associations are reviewed and an accurate picture has been drawn of the operation of the series of organizations that form the distributing system as a whole.

Two methods obtain for the division of proceeds: (1) The selling department keeps the product of each co-operator separate and sells it on individual account. (2) Much more common is the method of pooling the products of the several members and pro-rating the proceeds. Each plan has advantages and disadvantages.

Another essential the author points out, is democratic control. Whether the "one man, one vote" plan should be unqualifiedly adopted is questionable, but there is little likelihood of success unless each member feels a personal, vital interest in the enterprise. To assure this interest it is essential that no individual or small group of individuals because of preponderating importance in organization should cause it to become a miniature despotism or oligarchy. If any member feels that his influence or power in the association is so insignificant that he is in no way able to affect its general policy he is quite likely to sever his connection with it. Conservation and "safety first" are principles ingrained in farmers and the average producer is not going to entrust his means of livelihood to an agency over which he has no control, even if it offers an apparent advantage in the disposition of his crops.

A non-profit basis is advised and it is urged that paying dividends on stock is a practice fraught with danger to a co-operative organization.

"Still more important, the history of co-operative enterprises declares in unmistakable terms that the principles of brotherhood do not constitute an adequate ground structure for persistent and effective industrial effort. In fact, at the present stage of social evolution idealistic aspirations for an economic organization based on unalloyed altruism must come under the hegemony of possibly more sordid but unquestionably more powerful self-interest. Co-operative marketing can be made to fulfil this condition, and in that fact lies its inherent strength."

Professor Cumberland thinks the two most vital issues at the present time are the increased cost of living and the flow of population toward the cities. He gives as the causes of rising prices (1) Enormous gold production accounting for the general upward tendency, and the failure of the production of food to keep pace with the growth of population.

He then deals with the important question of the land and writes: "Growing scarcity of free land and remorseless exploitation of virgin soil have brought it about that food can be produced in sufficient quantities to meet the ever-expanding needs of our population only at increasing costs. The higher prices which the farmer receives for his products have gradually been capitalized and reflected to the value of his land. When the farmer finds he can sell his

land at a high figure he decides to move to town. The other side of the picture is that the farmer's sons now find that buying land is out of the question, and they too move to town."

The author has done a useful piece of work and his book should find its place in the library of economists and social reformers and in all our public libraries.

The Atkinson Book Co., Limited, of Edmonton, Alberta, is publishing a useful series of legal booklets. Chattel Exemptions from Writs of Execution in all the provinces has just been issued the author being Walter Scott, LL.D. (Dub.), F.R.S.L., Barrister, Alberta, Member Lincoln's Inn, and London auditing's Inns. (\$2.50.)

The booklet is a faithful compilation of all Canadian authority on the subject, together with such U. S. A. authority as likely to be of use. The booklet will, no doubt, be found in most Canadian law offices.

The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Publishers of Indianapolis, have just issued "Legal Reasoning and Briefing," by Jessie Franklin, Brumbaugh, A.M., LL.B., (\$3.75.)

The volume is based upon an experience of several years in training students in the art of public speaking and argumentation and several years in teaching Logic, Brief-drawing and Common-Law Pleading. The author believes a more thorough understanding of the principles of logic and argumentation in relation to the practice of law is needed than can be gained from a cursory study of rhetoric and argumentation as taught in schools of higher learning.

Apparently this is the first book of its kind and should be well received by the legal profession. Appended is a detailed discussion of the principles of briefing covering not only the appeal brief, but the trial, court, and jury brief. Some long practiced but heretofore unsystematized principles and methods are here elaborately illustrated by specimen briefs of actual cases argued before the courts.

The 775 pages are filled with valuable practical suggestions.

Some of the chapters are: Deductive Reasoning; Induction And Other Forms; Estimating The Written Law; Estimation of Legal Literature; Estimating Witnesses; Argument Before The Jury and Estimation of Facts.

The Macmillan Company of Canada, Limited, at St. Martin's House, Toronto, has just issued (\$1.25) "The Canadian Railway Problem," by E. B. Biggar, formerly editor "Canadian Engineer," author of "Canada's Forestry Problem," and other books.

The author gives good advice when in the preface he says: "Do not infer from the historical portions of The Canadian Railway Problem that the owners of the private railways of this country are worse than other men. Give the ordinary individual the control of a function of the state for his private gain, and he will exercise all the authority committed to him and take all the gain allowed. The wrong is in the system, which permits a sovereign right to become the subject of usury."

Michael Clark, M.P., said recently that the railway interests of Canada in the past had practically owned the country by owning the politicians. He proposed that the people of Canada should own the country by owning the railways. The author gives instances where influence has been exercised (to their advantage) by railway interests.

As to efficiency, economy, and integrity of administration, the records of both systems, national and private ownership are given and useful information is given as to Great Britain's experience of national control of railways since the beginning of the war.

The objections of Canadian opponents about the financial burden of converting private lines to public ownership are dealt with by Mr. Biggar in a chapter, "The Lions In The Path."

Each of the Canadian railways are dealt with and the Canadian Government Railway does not suffer at any point by the comparison.

A strong case is made out for the national ownership of all railways.

THE WORLD'S FOOD.

In September last the American Academy of Political and Social Science, held a conference for two days at Philadelphia on the above subject, and the proceedings have been published in the November number of the Annals, in which a world's vital question is comprehensively and exhaustively discussed.

FOOD SUPPLY.

The percentage of production, of the following countries is given, to requirements, the figures being in millions of dollars.

Country.	Im-ports.	Ex-ports.	Production.	Requirements.
United Kingdom	1,239	200	1,162	53
Germany	698	282	2,922	88
France	232	109	1,777	93
United States	562	540	5,334	100
Russia	102	452	3,986	110
Canada	72	204	710	123
Argentina	17	169	469	148

WHEAT.

As to wheat it is estimated "that the 1917 wheat supply would fall at least 200,000,000 bushels short of the normal demand, and will probably be over 300,000,000 bushels."

EUROPE'S FOOD PRODUCTION.

"In 1913 65.4 per cent of the world's total production of wheat, oats, rye and barley were grown in Europe; 90.5 per cent of the world's potato crop; 43 per cent of the world's sugar; 18 per cent of the world's corn; 31.8 per cent of the world's cattle." (Professor G. B. Moorbach, University of Pennsylvania.)

THE FOOD PROBLEM OF GREAT BRITAIN — THE SHIPPING PROBLEM OF THE WORLD.

"Before the war we used to import 13,000,000 tons of food, a shade more than one-quarter of our total imports measured by weight. We grew at home about one-fifth of the wheat we required and about one-half the country's consumption of beef, mutton, bacon, etc. Within the first six months great exports have been made for an organized reduction in the consumption of food and an organized increase in the production. The results are unexpectedly satisfactory. Our consumption of present is reduced by 25 per cent on the average, and by more in some districts. The meat reduction is greater and we have more than doubled our production of cereals. We used to grow enough for ten weeks. This supply would now last us thirteen or fourteen weeks. We have nearly doubled the old supply which gives us six months wheat grown in the country." . . . "It looks, therefore, as if the food supply of Great Britain could be assured to the end of 1918, and that no anxiety on this score need be felt." . . . "The problem of food supply has been made grave by the submarine war, which not only concerns the present, in loss of food and shipping, but the shipping for the future." . . . "Make no mistake about it. Whether the war ends this year or next, or the year after, Europe is forced by a five year's shortage of food, which may well mean five year's famine." (Mr. Archie Pollen, London, Eng.)

TOO MUCH ARGUMENT.

(From Judge.)

On the Western plains the sheepman goes out with several thousand head and one human companion. The natural result is that the pair, forced on one another, when they least want it, form the habit of hating each other.

An ex-sheepman while in a narrative mood one evening was telling a party of friends of a fellow he once rode with. "Not a word had passed between us for more than a week, and that night when we rolled up in our blankets he suddenly asked:

"Hear that cow beller?"

"Sounds to me like a bull," I replied.

"No answer, but the following morning I noticed him packing up.

"Going to leave?" I questioned.

"Yes," he replied.

"What for?"

"Too much argument."