

the aid of several well-meaning citizens transforms the juvenile element into a contented, well-behaved unit, with emphasis on sports and occupational training. In so doing, he consolidates his social position in the community, gaining the respect of adults and teen-agers alike. His fairness and tolerance in handling wrong-doers is a model for all to profit by. Human interest is kindled when he befriends a young Indian lad, and then displays a sincere interest in rehabilitating a white boy who through lack of parental guidance is in danger of becoming a social menace.

The main plot hinges around a stubborn, uncouth storekeeper who has been cheating the Indians for years and resents the intrusion of law and order as a possible curb to his activities. Finally in desperation he makes one last bid to recoup his fortunes and outwit the police, only to be foiled by the RCMP constable with the assistance of loyal citizens.

Although the author recommends this book primarily for boys between the ages of twelve and fourteen, it holds interest for all age groups. It is refreshing to note that the writer has taken pains to present a true picture of discipline and life in the Force without the impossible situations, blood and thunder action, so prevalent in most fiction novels on the RCMP. E.C.A.

THE RIVER WAR, by Winston S. Churchill. Eyre and Spottiswoode, England-Canada. Maps. Indexed. Pp. XI and 381. \$4.

Over 50 years have passed since this book was written, but the fact that it has been re-issued five times since then is proof of its interest, or the magic of its writer—or both. The recorded events are mere history now, and in the light of recent British policy in the East their reading perhaps anti-climatic. On the other hand, in these days of Britain's misfortune and uncertainty, it may be a good idea to read again of more halcyon times—of days of financial prosperity in a comparatively tranquil world—of an era when British military power was unquestioned and backed as ever by the might of the Royal Navy.

Apart from political controversies over British rights to interfere in affairs in Egypt, *The River War* is a good story. And it brings to mind once again two famous British military figures, the heroic General

Gordon who died in the futile defence of Khartoum and Lord Kitchener, his avenger whose brilliant military career was tragically ended by drowning in World War I.

In short the story deals largely with the Rebellion of the Mahdi, whose savage hordes of fanatical Arabs swept the Egyptian armies from the Nile valley. So definite was the British non-intervention policy that they withdrew all military assistance, sent Gordon to Khartoum to wind up British affairs and evacuate all government officials from the Sudan. But events backfired. Siege was laid to the city and when it fell, Gordon and all those he would not desert were massacred. The story then continues with the return of the British to the Sudan, and their final triumph over the Dervish armies at Omdurman.

During the past few years the world has been favored by much of Mr. Churchill's writing, most of it produced from the viewpoint of a politician. In this early work we have a different Churchill—the reporter, who was soon to write of the South African War and the Spanish-American War. But both possess the same touch of genius—the magic of words. To read this volume by the youthful ex-cavalry subaltern is to appreciate even more the eloquence of the man whose wartime messages were such an inspiration to his countrymen and to the world. H.E.B.

POLICE SYSTEMS IN THE UNITED STATES, by Bruce Smith. Harper & Brothers, New York, U.S.A. Pp. 351, including index. \$5.

The author of this book has been associated with police problems for over 30 years, having served as adviser to the police organizations in most of the large cities in the United States. His book provides an authoritative and comprehensive review of police systems in America, and is an excellent source of information regarding past and current administration.

He summarizes the police problem with respect to political influence, abuses of authority, and the various strictures laid upon police whenever they become the subject of critical discussion. He also deals with the regional distribution and fluctuation of crime, the elements of the traffic problem, and the gross returns of operations in these fields.