

THE BOOK PAGE

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Confederation and Its Leaders (McClelland, Goodchild and Stewart, Toronto, 333 pages, \$3.00) is a valuable book, by a reliable and vivid writer, Mr. M. O. Hammond, who writes from fulness of knowledge, and with the background, if one may so say, of daily present-day touch with Canadian politics and public affairs. As the name would indicate, the book is a blending of history and biography. The history is tolerably familiar. The biographical element, each of the great Confederation leaders being taken up one by one, is particularly fresh and interesting. The author's characterizations of the men is markedly individualistic. They were a notable group, and without sparing their faults and weaknesses, each man is shown for what he was at his best. Among the various volumes which the jubilee of Confederation has brought forth this of Mr. Hammond is worthy of a high place. It is especially timely now. The deadlock, out of which the Fathers of Confederation found a way for the country, to larger and better things, has its lessons for Canada in its present serious crisis in public opinion.

Anne's House of Dreams, by L. M. Montgomery (McClelland, Goodchild and Stewart, Toronto, 346 pages, \$1.50 net), a tale of "Anne's" early married life with Dr. Gilbert Blythe, adds some new and interesting characters to those of the author's former books. Outstanding amongst these are "Captain Jim" Boyd, the keeper of the lighthouse at Four Winds Harbor, a follower of the sea all his life and as true and gentle a soul as ever lived, the man-hating Miss Cornelia Bryant, whose sharp sayings add spice to the story, but whose heart is of the kindest, and the beautiful Leslie Moore, who, after many storms, comes at last to a safe and happy haven. The new "Anne" book completely measures up to, if, indeed, it does not surpass the high standard of its predecessors. It is a good, wholesome tale of the romance, pathos and humor of life in a sea coast community on the "Island," as our people down by the sea call the beautiful little province lying in the bosom of the Atlantic. **The Interlopers**, by Julie M. Lippman, author of *Martha-by-the-Day*, *The Governess*, etc. (same publishers, 325 pages, \$1.25 net), is an excellent story of a high-spirited, but generous-hearted school girl, who bitterly resents her mother's second marriage. Her rebelliousness leads to many adventures, some tragic and others ludicrous; but at last she comes into the happiest relations with her new father and sister.

Alan Sullivan, an engineer by profession, has come to be recognized as one of the fine band of present-day Canadian story writers. He writes in an unadorned, straightforward style, and reaches the heart of things. **The Inner Door** (S. B. Gundy, Toronto, 388 pages, \$1.35 net) deals with the labor question and factory conditions, and the high lights of the contrasts between employer and employees. A poignant love story is woven into the texture of the book. In the midst of a great strike, the hero of the story, of the employer class,

who had become a workman when his assets were suddenly wiped out, works out his own salvation and finds the woman he loves and needs.

Britain's Civilian Volunteers, by Thekla Bowser (McClelland, Goodchild and Stewart, 236 pages, \$1.50), in reality treats of but one phase of civilian volunteer work. This was first instituted a few years prior to the War in connection with the formation of the Territorial forces and like them, was intended originally for home defence. The V.A.D. (Voluntary Aid Detachment), which includes both men and women, consists of civilians who voluntarily give their time and means to train and make other preparations for attending sick and wounded. At first, like the Territorial forces, it received a great deal of ridicule, but since the beginning of War it has been found an invaluable means of meeting the problem of the wounded. Its members have been enabled to go into hospitals as subordinates to the trained medical supervisors of the army. Many of them have been given full standing in hospitals and in the field work of the Army Medical Corps. Besides, the organization has made possible many arrangements, such as the turning of homes and public buildings into hospitals and the providing of rest stations. The members of the V.A.D. work in conjunction with the St. John Ambulance Brigade and Association and the British Red Cross. The author reiterates with emphasis that there has been no friction between these various groups. We are taken by her on a round through hospitals in England, Ireland and France, and catch some glimpse of the amazing work that is being done in the restoration of wounded.

Carry On, by Lieutenant Coningsby Dawson (S. B. Gundy, Toronto, 133 pages, \$1.00), is a series of letters written from the Somme battle front to the home circle. They were never intended for print, but Lieutenant's Dawson's father wisely gathered them into a book because of their comfort and inspiration for all those who have dear ones at the front. Dawson, a brilliant graduate of Oxford University, the son of a Congregational minister, came with his family to United States some ten or twelve years ago, where he entered upon a literary career in which he was just beginning to win fame when the War broke out. He applied at Ottawa for a commission which he secured after a course at the Kingston Military College and at Petawawa. His two younger brothers, who were running a fruit farm in British Columbia, rented it to Chinamen and enlisted with the Motor Boat Patrol. In these intimate letters we meet with a quaint superstition, a profound faith, a gallant chivalry, a self-sacrificing endeavor, and a love for home and family that reveal to us the innermost thoughts and feelings of one of our finest officers. There is a rare literary grace about the style.

In **The Triflers**, by Frederick Orin Bartlett, author of *The Wall Street Girl* (Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston and New York, Thomas Allen, Toronto, 317 pages, 7 Illustrations, \$1.40 net), Monte Covington, a Harvard man, who, for ten years after his graduation, had succeeded in amusing himself by traveling from one scene of pleasure and sport to another, finds himself, at thirty-two in Paris, with a strange feeling of dissatisfaction and loneliness. In this state of mind he