

## Some Books Worth While

### MILITARISM, BY LIEBKNECHT

A very striking book is Dr. Karl Liebknecht's "Militarism" (\$1.10). The author is one of the foremost leaders of radical and socialistic movements in Germany. The son of a famous sire, who was prosecuted for treason in 1871, he has been famous for years for his bold attacks on the junkers and the military caste which have plunged the world into the war now raging. The Reichstag has been the scene of many wordy battles between him and the Kaiser's ministers. Almost alone he protested against the declaration of war, and asserted that the Austrian and German intrigues and ambitions had caused it. He now lies in prison, serving a four years' sentence for having declared, among other things, "We Germans in Prussia have three cardinal rights: the right to be soldiers, to pay taxes, to keep our tongues between our teeth." Nevertheless, so great is the affection of the working people for him, that he has recently been elected to the reichstag again, sitting for Potsdam, in which constituency is the Kaiser's residence.

The first part of the book is a recital of the familiar Marxian argument concerning war. It is the later portions, which form the bulk of the book, which are novel and instructive. In these he reviews the methods and effects of militarism as he has seen it develop in Germany. It is a story in keeping with what the whole world has recently learned regarding the astute, cold-blooded and diabolically efficient organization which controls the German Empire. It tells the cunning methods by which it has contrived to convert an army of the people into an army against the people. How the recruits are first broken into classes according to age, so as to break up the class associations formed by residence or labor; how they are taken away from home, confined in a barracks, supplied with stimulations to their ambition and vanity, lured by the swagger and finery of a military life and constantly drilled into new kinds of creatures, docile and mechanical, with mind and soul narcotized, is all told in detail. How the soldier is maltreated, "drugged, confused, flattered, bribed, oppressed, imprisoned, polished and beaten"; how he is held to docility after his two years in barracks are past; how those outside the army are cajoled and impressed into militaristic servility; how militarism makes alliances with the strong interests of finance, manufacturing and trading; and how it rules the political, educational and religious life of the Empire is all set forth in words of convincing boldness and sincerity. No wonder the book has been suppressed in Germany and attempts made by the government to prevent its being carried to the outside world.

### WHAT I SAW IN RUSSIA (45c.)

At the present time there is no country in the world that holds our interested gaze as does Russia. Everyone is expectantly wondering what will come out of all this turmoil. All this mystery makes this book about the Russians specially interesting. "What I saw in Russia" (45 cents), by the Hon. Maurice Baring, is written in very easy and graphic style and carries you forward without effort.

The first nine chapters or so describe the author's experiences as a British war correspondent in Manchuria, during the Russo-Japanese war. The narrative is invariably vivid and informing and gives the reader glimpses of Russian and Japanese and Chinese character. It is the later chapters that give the instructive glimpses of the real Russia. This is not the Russia of the bureaucracy and corruption but of the simple minded, honest, religious peasant. These people are in many ways to us a strange people,

and in the past we have been content to label them "backward" and pass on. But if we read a book like this we shall not be so sure of that. We shall likely have quite mixed feelings. What is, for instance, resignation to the Russian would be more like shiftlessness to the Canadian. "There is nothing to be done, it is God's business," is often on their lips. Then when the author tells us of the Little Russian (the southerner) that he is so lazy he says to his wife, "Little wife, say 'woe' to my horse, I've a pain in my tongue," that seems to us like doing a thing thoroughly while you are at it. Whilst such apparent listlessness does not commend itself to our judgment, there are many other qualities that will. Their simple-heartedness, their deep and genuine religious spirit, their yearning for better things, a yearning that now has found some satisfaction in the midst of terror—these characteristics will appeal to you. And the entertaining stories and fund of narrative and dialogue will make the book a pleasant and informing companion.

### A SON OF THE MIDDLE BORDER

Who is Hamlin Garland? He is an American writer—an American farm boy whose father played a part in the Civil War and afterwards became one of the early pioneers of the American Middle West. In his latest book, "A Son of the Middle Border," Garland tells the personal experiences through which he passed from boyhood pioneer days to final success as an author of typical Western books.

"A Son of the Middle Border" (\$1.60) therefore, is not a novel but an autobiography. It is not the sort of book to keep the reader awake all night in an attempt to gulp it whole; it is rather a book to read and absorb by easy stages—to come back to now and then for re-reading. Its interest lies in the fidelity of its pictures of pioneer farm life in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Dakota. Some of these pictures are uncolored by any glamour of romance—their realism revealing a plain, unvarnished story of hardships and futile dreams and narrow, grinding lives.

In sharp contrast with these scenes are the experiences of Garland himself, when, after deciding to leave farm life for ever, he goes to Boston and lays foundation for his literary life. He tells how he became a convert of Henry George, how he met Walt Whitman and other great lights of the time, how finally he found his opportunity as a writer of Western tales which dared to give the public the truth about conditions.

In the course of this book mention is made of the old Granger movement and the later "Farmers' Alliance."

There are many passages in the book which would bear quoting, but space limits prohibit this. For those who desire to obtain knowledge of the pioneering of the Middle West across the line, "A Son of the Middle Border" will be found a very attractive book.

### ON THE FRINGE OF THE GREAT FIGHT

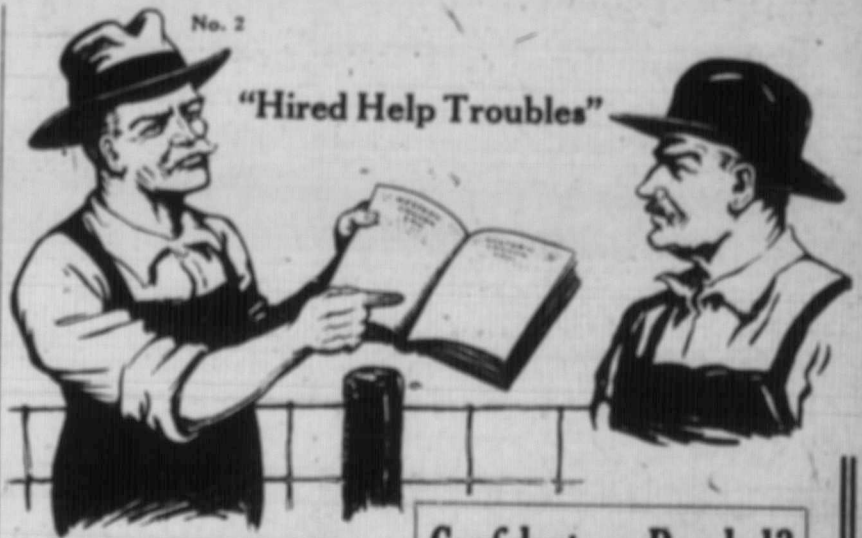
By Colonel George G. Nasmith, C.M.G. (\$1.60)

Colonel Nasmith, who is one of the Medical Health Staff of the city of Toronto, went to England with the first Canadian contingent as adviser in sanitation and an expert on water purification; later, in France, he had charge of the Canadian Mobile Laboratory. His work was carried on for 18 months, always just in touch with the firing line—"On the Fringe of the Great Fight"—and his book is packed with description and information of an unusual character. He was near St. Julien at the time of the first gas attack. He saw the now famous second battle of

Ypres and describes it in detail.

Reading between the lines we get some idea of the great importance of the work done by Colonel Nas-

NOTE.—The books reviewed above may be obtained from the Book Department of The Grain Growers' Guide upon receipt of the price mentioned in brackets after each title.



### Confident or Puzzled?

## Do You Know the Law?

Supposing your hired man demanded extra remuneration for services; something performed by him without request; something which was not in the contract; or in another case supposing, through temporary illness, he was not able to do the work expected of him would you be responsible? In the first place, no; in the second place, yes.—See *Western Canada Law*, page 267.

## When the Hired Man Quits

Is he entitled to wages earned when he leaves without due notice? How about paying him for the unexpired time of his contract if you dismiss him for a good cause. If you give your servant a share of the profits does this make him your partner? If your work doesn't last the

season do you have to get him another job? When do you have to give him notice of dismissal in writing? When not? Does he have to give his resignation in writing? When the servant breaks his contract what then?

For answers to these see pages 266, 267, 268, 269, 270 of *Western Canada Law*.

## The Aim

of the lawyers who have given their time and attention to the preparation of this book has been to answer in plain language those hundreds of every day questions that every citizen should know. It has not been with the idea of replacing the lawyer altogether but rather to enable you and I to deal with the lawyer intelligently if necessity demands a case in the courts. A great many legal entanglements are avoided and hard earned dollars oftentimes saved by knowing the law.

### WESTERN CANADA LAW

Compiled by one of the best law editors of Western Canada in plain untechnical language that can be understood by every—  
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