

Reviews of the Newest Books

by H. S. ROSS.

SOCIALISM AND AMERICAN IDEALS.—William Star Myers, Ph.D. Professor of Politics, Princeton University Press, Princeton, N.Y. Price, \$1.

These essays originally appeared in the form of articles contributed to the daily New York Journal of Commerce and Commercial Bulletin.

The author, whilst intending this as an exhaustive study of the widespread movement to advance paternalism in Government, gives his reasons for thinking that Socialism is in theory and practice absolutely opposed and contrary to the principles of Americanism, of democracy, and even of the Christian—Jewish religion itself.

It is pointed out that the political and economic elements were just as strong as the religious one in the Protestant Reformation in Germany, but that fact did not lessen the value of the gains for intellectual and religious freedom won by Luther. Also bad economic conditions had as much to do with the French Revolution as did political and philosophical unrest. Also, taxation, trade and currency squabbles had more to do with causing an American Revolution than did the idealistic principles later enunciated in the Declaration of Independence. And the author holds that there was a broad economic basis for the differences in crops, transportation and organization of labor, which expressed themselves in a sectionalism which finally assured the political aspect which caused the Civil War.

At this point we are warned we must not, however, forget the spiritual element in our life—"who would overlook the fact that man is a human being and not a mere animal, will wander far astray into unreal by paths of crass materialism.

Dr. Myers expresses surprise that socialists are

busily occupied with pointing out what they consider to be the failure of government, as well as of "business and capitalism," yet they "do not realize that they are thus condemning their own system, for if the governments of the world have failed to do the work at present laid upon them how can they ever undertake the gigantic additional political and capitalistic burden that Socialism would impose."

The author pleads for equality of opportunity, but rather weakens his plea by failing at the same time to point out the impossibility of having a social order where all have equal freedom and equal opportunity without first abolishing all special privilege, so that no one may by Act of Parliament or otherwise receive a benefit from the activity and initiative of someone else, and often irrespective of the real deserts of the recipient—without giving an equivalent service in return. It is stressed—and properly so—that receiving services without giving services in return tends to stunt and weaken character, while giving service for service causes a growth in individual character.

THE WAR IN A NUTSHELL, OR THE SHORTEST HISTORY OF THE GREAT WAR.
By G. H. Hallam is published by the Macmillan Company of Canada, Limited, St. Martin's House, 70 Bond Street, Toronto. Price, ten cents.

This is a brief account of the whole war in a few tiny pages. The author's Notes on the War were intended at first for use in schools and were found acceptable to older readers. They won the approval of the late F. M. Lord Roberts, Sir H. Smith Dorrien and of more than one Cabinet Minister.

Bradstreet's Montreal Trade Report

Bradstreet's report on Montreal trade for last week as follows:—

There has been a temporary drawback to the wholesale trade during the past week. The new taxes on sales, and the uncertainty of what the budget would be, caused a certain amount of restlessness. The dry goods trade is quieter than it has been for some time, it being between seasons. Fall prices at present look as if they would be higher, due to the scarcity of merchandise in so many lines.

The new tax, while it does not apply to food stuffs generally, has hit some of the fancy lines carried by our wholesale grocers pretty heavy. It is predicted that refined sugars in this market will be selling retail at three pounds for a dollar before the summer is over. It this prediction comes true, it will hit some of our fruit growers pretty hard, as few people will be able to do their preserving.

Merchants and manufacturers of grocers' sundries are going slowly until business conditions are more clearly understood. Large quantities of condensed milk are being exported to Europe.

Crop prospects in the West look better. Estimates report wheat under 15,300,000 acres, as compared with 16,085,000 last year; the falling off in acreage being attributed to the late season. Soil conditions could not be better, it being reported that Canada will be able to export at least 150,000,000 bushels of wheat this year. The crops in Quebec look well, but we have had such fine warm weather that farmers are now praying for rain.

Bush fires in Quebec and the lower Provinces are numerous; it is reported that over two hun-

dred square miles of standing timber has been destroyed.

The market for Canadian wools is unsettled; dealers are offering 30 cents to 35 cents F.O.B. country points.

The City is full of visitors, which is helping out the retail trade. Collections are good.

Notable increases at Calgary are shown over the corresponding month last year in the returns for April for the Dominion Land Office, returns totalling \$67,065, an increase of \$30,703 over last year. Fees for petroleum and natural gas applications amounted this year to \$31,042 with 47 applications; 19 homesteads were granted, and 25 soldier grants.

Bonuses of \$15,000 and \$8,000 respectively to Nell Shipman and David Hartford, leading actress and actor in the Canadian-produced picture "Back to God's Country" were voted at the meeting of the Canadian Photoplays. The picture has been a huge success and is to be followed by the production of two of Ralph Connor's novels.

From November, 1918, to November, 1919, a total of 2,509,658,000 cubic feet of gas was consumed in Medicine Hat, Alta., of which 635,012,000 cubic feet was utilized industrially and 1,874,000 in domestic consumption.

A complete survey of all the natural resources of the province of Saskatchewan and the inauguration of an educational campaign to induce the people to patronize home industries is announced by the Provincial Treasurer. Basic materials will get first attention, starting in with clay.

A Regina black fox farm has established a record with 35 pups being born from 9 litters, one year-old fox having 8 pups, which is one above previous western record held by a black fox farm at Winnipeg. The manager of the farm claims that each pup is worth one thousand dollars.

The finding of a supply of female help adequate to the demand continues to be the problem of the government labor bureau in Saskatchewan, there being 3,000 unfilled vacancies at the end of the last week according to returns from various districts.

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