

Book Reviews

The table shows an estimated total value of the field crops of Canada for the year 1917 of \$1,088,687,000, as compared with \$886,495,000 in 1916 and \$825,371,000 in 1915. If this estimate should be confirmed by the official results issued after the close of the year, and based upon average values per unit collected from correspondents, Canadian agriculture will have established a new record by the production of crops exceeding in a single year the aggregate value of one billion dollars.

The items in Table IV, however, do not represent the total value of the annual agricultural production of Canada, for there have also to be reckoned the annual values of farm live stock and the values of wool, cheese, butter, whole milk, fruit, vegetables and poultry. Any attempt to arrive at an exact computation of the total annual value of agricultural production is exceedingly difficult if not altogether impossible, for the reason that it is impracticable to distinguish between net and gross values by deducting the values of products used in the manufacture of meat and milk or other costs of production. But the following figures (Table V.) will give some idea of the gross total value of agricultural production in Canada for the year 1915 and 1916:

V.—Gross Values of Agricultural Production, 1915 and 1916.

Items	1915.	1916.
Field crops	\$825,371,000	\$886,495,000
Farm animals:		
Horses exported	1,842,000	4,701,000
Beef cattle	30,500,000	41,300,000
Sheep	3,262,000	4,200,000
Swine	38,354,000	60,000,000
Wool	3,360,000	4,440,000
Cheese and butter	96,760,000	109,830,000
Whole milk	49,245,000	42,986,000
Fruit and vegetables	35,000,000	35,000,000
Poultry and eggs	35,000,000	35,000,000
Total	1,118,694,000	1,223,952,000

Thus, the gross value of the agricultural production of Canada is estimated to be \$1,223,952,000 in 1916, as compared with \$1,118,694,000 in 1915. The fact that the annual agricultural production of Canada exceeds one billion dollars without counting the value of other forms of production, such as forestry products, minerals, fisheries and manufactures, is surely a convincing proof of the soundness of the security which the Dominion has to offer for the investment of capital. It shows also with what comparative ease the burden of interest on the National Debt—although such interest now exceeds \$35,000,000 per annum—can be borne by the industry of a thrifty, energetic and increasing population when applied to the exploitation of magnificent natural resources.

WAR INSURANCE.

The greatest selling campaign in history will be undertaken soon by the government to induce every soldier and sailor to buy life insurance policies, provided at low rates under the recent act of congress.

Thousands of insurance agents and other public spirited citizens will be enlisted in the movement to preach the gospel of government life insurance among civilian populations, on the theory that pressure from home will be necessary to persuade many soldiers to subscribe, and that most of America's future soldiers still are civilians.

Secretary McAdoo on his return to Washington from a vacation, will decide whether the nation wide campaign can be directed legally by the treasury's war risk insurance bureau, which has charge of administration of the insurance. If he decides the bureau's function should be limited to operating the insurance machinery, the solicitation work probably will be turned over to a committee of leading citizens, with headquarters in Washington.

The war department will have exclusive charge of distributing necessary application blanks within camps, and arranging meetings of soldiers to hear expositions of the government insurance scheme. Moving pictures, posters and pamphlets already are being prepared by the war risk insurance bureau in anticipation of these intracamp campaigns.

About 20,000 applications for insurance have been received, mainly from the Rainbow division of national guardsmen. Officials believe this number will be doubled within a few weeks.

The Swedish Government has requisitioned all supplies of pit props and directed that they be sold to the Royal Swedish Fuel Commission.

Corporate Organization and Management. By Thomas Conyngton, of the New York Bar, has just been issued by The Ronald Press Company, New York (\$5.00).

In 1903 the author's work "Corporate Management" was published, followed in 1904 by its companion volume, "Corporate Organization." Both these volumes went through a number of editions.

It is a sign of the times that the work of revision was done (largely) by Miss Helen Potter of the New York Bar. The author has furnished a compact, practical, and conveniently arranged manual of corporation law and procedure—one which meets the needs of lawyers, accountants, corporation officials, and business men generally. The forms cover practically the entire range of ordinary corporate organization and procedure. As American company law is founded principally upon English law, as is our Canadian Company law, this useful book will likely be found upon the shelves of a considerable number of Canadian lawyers.

A Desk-Book of Twenty-Five Thousand Words Frequently Mispronounced, by Frank H. Vizetelly, Litt. D., LL.D. Funk & Wagnalls Co., New York and London 1, \$1.60.

Indicates the correct pronunciation of English words, foreign terms, Bible names, personal names, geographical names, and proper names of all kinds current in literature, science and the arts. The preferences of the principal dictionaries of the English language, from Bullokar's Dictionary issued in 1616 to Funk & Wagnalls Dictionary in 1916, are placed on record, and national peculiarities indicated and explained. The volume gives the recommendations of the leading lexicographers of three centuries, a task never before attempted by any orthoepist.

Health And the State, by William A. Brend, M.A., Camb.; M.D. (State Medicine), B.Sc., Lond., of the Inner Temple, Barrister-at-Law, and Lecturer on Forensic Medicine, Charing Cross Hospital, has just been issued by Constable & Company, Ltd., of London (10s 6d net.)

If we realized as fully as we should that a healthy population is the finest form of national wealth we would take more interest in and give more encouragement to our officials who look after our public health services. Dr. Brend advocates a Ministry of Health, the most important function of which shall be investigating the causes and distribution of disease. He examines the question of infection and claims the fear of it is unwarrantably exaggerated, and that segregation in fever hospitals is useless as a means of prevention. He claims there is little scientific foundation for the popular view that infant mortality is largely a result of adverse prenatal conditions or maternal ignorance and neglect, and gives reasons for believing it is mainly caused by post-natal factors over which the mother has little or no control. He urges that curative measures yield far less return to the State than those which remove conditions causing disease. The following striking statement is taken from the chapter on Infant Mortality:—

As a means of measuring the excess of such mortality in less favorably situated communities, a table is given of the deaths under one year per 1,000 births. In Cavan the rate is low as 46, in Leitrim it is 42, in Sutherlandshire 46, and in Argyllshire 50. The lowest rate in England is 54, in the rural districts of Berkshire—the same as in Ross and Cromarty. Dr. Brend thinks it probable that any rate over 30 should be regarded as preventable, but to measure the excess of deaths he takes provisionally 50 deaths under one year per 1,000 births. On this basis the annual loss of life due to preventable causes in the United Kingdom is 60,000.

Mortality is highest in industrial towns and mining districts. Ashton-under-Lyne has 184 per 1,000 births, Burnley 158, Middlesbrough 151, Stoke-on-Trent, Nottingham, and Dublin 145, Belfast 143, Dundee 135, Glasgow and Paisley 133. For all Ireland the rate is 87.3, and according to the latest year available it is 51 in New Zealand, 65 in Norway, 71 in Australia, 71 in Sweden, and 78 in France, but it has to be borne in mind that in France deaths before the third day are regarded as stillbirths. He concludes that infant mortality is essentially a result of urbanization.

Dr. Brend quotes Dr. Kerr-Love's observation that children of the poorest mothers in Glasgow weigh on

an average of 7 lbs. at birth, the average weight of a healthy infant being 7 lbs., and this is held to support the opinion that if the infants of the working classes had the same surroundings as those of the wealthier classes during early life, they would develop into equally well-grown and healthy children. "It would be interesting to know," he writes, "how much infant mortality in the West-End of London would rise, relatively high though it is, if infants and their mothers saw as little of the country throughout the year as most of the mothers of Bermondsey and Shoreditch."

In the chapter, Public Health, Land and Housing, the author writes: "The only object here is to reinforce the economic arguments by showing that the land question is intimately bound up with that on national health. It will be of little avail to instruct mothers, or build school clinics, or establish schemes of insurance unless we recognize this fact both in town and country; and when we have recognized it and have acted upon our knowledge, there will be little need for palliative measures."

Your Part in Poverty, by George Lansbury, Editor of The Herald (London), sometime Member of Parliament. New York, B. W. Huebsch, \$1.00 net.

In all the tangle of human affairs,—the spiritual and the sordid, labor and capital, ideals and selfishness, war international and domestic,—any straightforward examination of life as we live it, any sincere attempt to find a path out of the maze of mankind's struggles deserves an equally sincere consideration. When the examination is an unflinching facing of facts and a searching analysis of the prevalent evils of modern life and the causes of those evils, a foothold is afforded for each individual to take hold and do his bit in new light and with tools ready to his hand.

In "Your Part in Poverty," George Lansbury has done even more than provide such a book. Very simply, with downright common sense, he has written fearlessly, impartially, and with that profound sympathy which the poor weary devilled world so needs, of the ills which underlie our whole social structure and of the great need the world has for each of us to look himself in the face and ask and answer questions for himself—each of us—if we would not cowardly contribute to the world's wrongs. "Your Part in Poverty" is a little book which every thinking man and woman will find a confessional of conscience and at the same time thrillingly emotive in the cause of a new social consciousness. It is simply and inspiringly human—keen, just and kind.

In his chapter on workmen Mr. Lansbury analyzes the condition of the worker in the social world of to-day; his problems, his struggles, his obstacles, and the new angles from which the war has caused him to view and be viewed. In a section devoted to women and children he discusses the domestic, economic, social and even political phases of the life of the greater part of humanity, and the necessity of a changed outlook on the world's affairs which has been challenged into being by recent developments. In the third part of the work he takes up Business, comprehensively attacking the evils life suffers from the present conduct of affairs and pointing out conversely how business suffers from the present construction of the social order. Then he draws together the threads of his investigation, pointing out how the individual whatever his class, suffers under the present social order, and points out the part each of us may play in bringing about a reorganization of society mutually co-operative instead of mutually destructive. The book is the voice of a new public conscience evoked by the demand of thinking people to apprehend intelligently the life we live and so to order it toward large creative ends that the future will be forever free of the great errors of the past. It is a carefully weighed statement of the social facts which must be dealt with to-day and tomorrow, without prejudice, but without hesitation in the search for the causes of the miseries and evils of the workaday world. The sincerity and depth of the appeal may be indicated by the fact that despite his merciless examination of the failure of the church to play its part socially, Mr. Lansbury's book is vouched for in a preface by the Bishop of Winchester, as a most deserving statement and one of unquestioned integrity. As such it has been badly needed and should fill a very real need in clearing the ground of much social controversy.