

# Book Reviews

By HOWARD S. ROSS

**THE FIGHTING MEN OF CANADA**, by Douglas Leader Durkin, is published by McClelland, Goodchild & Stewart, Limited, Publishers, of Toronto. The price in cloth is \$1.25.

There is freshness, vigor and virility to these verses—they have the sweep and swing and breeziness of the free, open spaces of the West in which they were created. While on the one hand they portray simple and elemental human moods, they reveal also a wonderfully sympathetic understanding of the secret emotions that have been profoundly stirred by the tragedies of the Great War.

**BUSINESS PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE**, Australia, (H. Y. Braddon), is published at Sydney by William Brooks & Company, 17 Castlereagh St.

The book is made up of lectures delivered at Sydney University in connection with the Department of "Economics and Commerce." They embrace a wide range in practical business affairs, and should prove useful to the student of business methods in Australia. Very interesting chapters deal with limited liability companies, co-operative societies, syndicates and trusts and banks.

There are also interesting chapters dealing with instruments of commerce, mechanism of commerce, insurance, sea carriage, customs and excise, railways, stocks and shares, C.I.F. transactions, advances and securities, reserves, depreciations and audits. There is also a lecture delivered by the author in 1904 on "Australia's Place in the Commerce of the World." Mr. Braddon is now representing Australia as commissioner in the United States at 61 Broadway, New York. The author was born in India in 1863, and was educated in France, Germany, England and Tasmania. His father was Sir Edward Braddon, one time Premier of Tasmania. He is the nephew of Miss Braddon, the well known novelist. He is looked upon as one of the leading commercial men of Australia. It is said of him that he gets at the crux of the problem, big or little, and gets there quickly. In his addresses or lectures you get at once light and leading, sense and inspiration. He is a thinker as well as a doer.

**JOAN AND PETER**, by H. G. Wells, is published by The Macmillan Company of Toronto. The price is \$1.75 net.

This new novel is called, "The Story of an Education": the education of two unusually interesting young people whose lives touch many of the most radical and artistic movements in English life during the last two decades. In this book the author has given us some of his finest work. It reminds one of *The New Machiavelli*, and does for the subject of education what *The New Machiavelli* did in the field of politics.

The author discusses in his brilliant style most of the current world problems. One is also reminded by this book of Shaw's *Unsocial Socialist*.

Mr. Wells in this new story is again a very secular moralist, a constructive humanitarian with the power of compelling an audience. Joan and Peter and uncle "Nobby" are Agnostics, but none the less interesting on that account. Towards the end Peter evolves a philosophy which has a faint theological tinge. He dreamed a dream about an "Old Man" or "Old Experimenter," living in a place, as unlike Sir O. Lodge's heaven as my coal-hole is unlike Buckingham Palace. "He's just a figure for what I feel is the reality." There is a blistering indictment of English "higher" education without definite proposals of an alternative. The book has all of the author's remarkable subtlety of impression and expression and should be, and no doubt will be, widely read.

**PRESIDENT WILSON'S FOREIGN POLICY**, Messages, Addresses, Papers, edited with an introduction and notes by James Brown Scott, author of "A Survey of International Relations between the United States and Germany," Editor of "Diplomatic Correspondence between the United States and Germany," has been published at New York by the Oxford University Press, London, Toronto, Melbourne, and Bombay.

President Wilson's views upon foreign policy were important during the neutrality of the United States, and it is even more important to understand them now in as much as they are the views of the United States while still at war, and indicate the attitude which the United States under President Wilson's guidance may be expected to assume in the negotia-

tions to bring about peace. The differences of opinion crystallizing into opposition and resulting evidently in war between the United States and Germany are stated clearly and finally in the diplomatic correspondence between the two governments since the outbreak of the war and up to the declaration of war by the United States. The diplomatic correspondence makes the case of the United States just as the diplomatic correspondence is the defense of Germany. The survey of international relations between the United States and Germany aims to give an authentic account of the United States during the period of its neutrality and the attitude of the German Government towards the United States. An extended introduction sets forth the views of monarchs, statesmen and publicists of that country, and showing their conception of the state international policy and international law, the narrative giving the views of both governments as based upon the documents contained in a volume of diplomatic correspondence between the United States and Germany.

## Conditions in the West

By E. CORA HIND.

Winnipeg, January 1, 1919.

With the holiday season business is quiet but the holiday trade was one of the largest in the history of the city. The class of buying was a surprise in view of the general high cost of living and the enormous sums subscribed for Victory bonds, Sailors' week and the various funds for providing entertainment for soldiers and soldiers' dependents. There was a feeling that the first peaceful Christmas for nearly five years should be fittingly celebrated and though the celebrations were mainly of the quiet family kind they were very general and the giving of gifts quite exceptional.

The weather up to Christmas was extremely mild but the end of the year there has been a sharp change and 1919 was ushered in with a temperature of 25 below zero. This, however, did not check the New Year celebrations, which, in spite of the absence of spirituous refreshments, except in the most limited quantities, lacked nothing of pre-war vigor.

The Winnipeg Grain Exchange, which before the war was wont to mark the close of the year's markets with burlesque and vaudeville stunts and during the war years with concerts in aid of patriotic objects, this year made their "Greeting to Peace" in the form of a tribute to the 700 members of the trade who volunteered and the 100 who made the supreme sacrifice. The big trading floor was given over to music and addresses from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on Tuesday, the 31st of December, and many hundreds of invited guests not only listened to the addresses but joined in the singing of the Recessional and "O Canada," while above them waved the flags of the Allies.

Sir James Aikins, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province, paid to the Winnipeg Grain Exchange the well deserved compliment that "no business organization in Canada had relatively contributed more in men and money to the war."

Owing to the delays everywhere occasioned by the influenza it is proving very difficult to secure end of the year figures and it will be nearly another week before the Free Press annual statistical number will be available. Indications are, however, that the figures will be very satisfactory when they do come.

### WATER DISTRICT BONDS.

A good deal of interest is being taken in the sale of the Greater Winnipeg Water district bonds, the new water supply will be laid on in another month unless something now quite unforeseen happens. The bonds are for five years and the interest at six per cent and the unique thing about them is that they are a first charge on the city of Winnipeg coming even ahead of city taxes. It would be difficult to imagine better security.

The district wished to sell a million dollars of bonds this fall and the Wood, Gundy Company made an offer of \$96.25 but were informed by the Bank of Montreal, the fiscal agents of the district, that this offer was too low and they later made an offer of \$97.48. Aemilius Jarvis and Company, of Toronto, apparently knew of the first offer of Wood, Gundy, but not of the second, as they offered \$97.39. The Wood, Gundy offer of \$97.48 has been accepted and it is understood that the bonds will be offered by them to the buying public during the present months. There is still one million dollars worth of water district bonds to be sold and for these tenders will be called. Had it not been for the Victory bond push these bonds would have had a heavy private sale because, in spite of their short term, they are, on account of the provisions mentioned above, a very attractive security.

### SALES OF WOOL.

The returns from the sales of wool by the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers, Limited, are now all in for the prairie provinces and indicate that the total clip thus disposed of was 3,256,000 pounds and the returns for same \$2,041,500.

The first annual meeting of this organization will be held in Toronto on February the sixth.

The months of January and February are crowded with meetings of breeders and organized farmers in some section of the West every week during the two months.

### GEORGE STEPHENS.

The West is regretting that promotion to being Chief Freight Traffic Officer of the Government Railways has necessitated the removal to Toronto of George Stephens, who was assistant freight traffic man of the C. N. R. for a number of years. He was an exceedingly popular official here and it is generally recognized that no better selection for the post could have been made, but Winnipeg is sorry to lose him as a citizen.

### T. EATON COMPANY.

The announcement of the T. Eaton Company that as a jubilee celebration all their factories and stores in Toronto and the West will have a Saturday half holiday for ten months of the year and a full Saturday holiday during July and August is the occasion of very much favorable comment editorial in western papers. Just how the other large departmental stores will regard it is not yet known. Manitoba now has a minimum wage for women of \$12 per week and the enforcement of this wage is making employers much more exacting in the quality of the help they employ and it is quite easy to see that paying the minimum wage to pay the T. Eaton Co. will be at an immense advantage in the selection of employees with the attraction of shorter working hours per week.