

Review of Newest Books

By H. S. ROSS

THE GREAT STEEL STRIKE And Its Lessons. By, William Z. Foster. Publisher, B. W. Huebsch, Inc., New York City. Price \$1.00.

The story of the steel workers' fight for organization and recognition; a book of the first importance in American labour history. Mr. Foster was the secretary and organizer of the steel workers and responsible for the management of the strike.

"It sets forth as no other book has, and as no other writer could," says John A. Fitch in the introduction; "the need of the workers in this great basic industry for organization and the extreme difficulty of achieving this essential right. It shows also in the sanity, good temper and straight forward speech of the author what sort of a leadership it is that the steel companies have decreed their workers shall not have."

The author says of the English trade-union movement that in his opinion the wonderful progress is due largely to the absence among the radicals of England of the idealistic, dualistic attitude towards the unions which exists so widely in the United States and which has produced the I.W.W. and its great body of sympathizers.

He adds: "The English radicals have a better conception than ours of the trade-unions; for, flesh and blood of the labor movement, they pit their policies and energies against the Conservatives and win. They are the ones who are writing the highly-praised programs and driving onward the great wage movements. They are practical and constructive. Unlike so many of our radicals they do not waste their time and strength in empty, pessimistic criticism of the trade-unions, and in vain, foolhardy attempts to tear the whole labor structure to pieces and to reconstruct it according to the dream of Daniel De Leon."

"In England the turning point came ten years ago when she felt that great wave of sentiment for revolutionary unionism then sweeping the world. The question was whether this movement should realize its aims through the old unions or by starting new ones. The existing unions were notoriously conservative. Several of our leading radicals had said they were even more hopeless than our own organizations and strongly urged the formation of an English I. W. W. But fortunately Tom Mann and his colleagues, with a deeper knowledge of trade-unionism, were able to direct the strong stream of progressive thought and energy into the old unions. The result was magical. Within two years the great and successful strikes of the transport workers, railroaders and miners had occurred, and the renaissance of the English labor movement was assured. British workmen will never realize the invaluable service which Tom Mann rendered them in saving England from the I. W. W. dual movement, with its tremendous waste of power and its weakening effect upon the trade-unions."

RED RUBBER, the Story of the Rubber Slave Trade On the Congo, by E. D. Morel, is published in the United States by B. W. Huebsch, Incorporated, New York City, at the price of \$1.25.

The first edition of this intensely interesting book appeared in 1906 and there were four impressions of the third edition which first appeared in 1907. This new and revised edition (With a Frontispiece) first appeared in 1919. Mr. Morel who for many years was in the British diplomatic service has made a close study of the affairs of South Africa and in particular of Morocco, the Congo, Nigeria, and wrote also: "Affairs of West Africa." He is also the

author of "Ten Years of Secret Diplomacy," and "The Truth About The War."

The catastrophe which fell upon Belgium, following so swiftly the prolonged effort—in which a number of Belgians played a prominent part—to free the Congo from the far more appalling visitations inflicted upon its people for twenty years, was a dramatic historical episode which struck the imagination and revived interest in the Congo tragedy.

The author here completes an unique story, the final incidents of which had still to be evolved when "Red Rubber" made its appearance. The late Sir Charles Dilke, than whom the aboriginal races have had no warmer or so competent an advocat among British statesmen since Burke, and the late H. R. Fox-Bourne the Secretary of the Aborigines Protection Society first called public attention to the crime of the Congo.

Some years after, accident put Mr. Morel in the way of discovering what the so-called "Congo Free State" really was. After laborious investigation and after a careful testing of the facts acquired the charges were made by Mr. Morel which in the course of the next twelve years were so fully corroborated. The author led an agitation which finally received the support of every section of Great Britain and the official indorsement of the Governments of Britain and the United States. The agitation was finally successful.

He is graphic, direct and simple in style and there are many passages of deep feeling. He is never hysterical, but with deadly detail, remorseless logic and flaming scorn he builds up a damning indictment of King Leopold and his subordinates.

A SHORT VIEW OF THE LAW OF BANKRUPTCY, by Edward Manson of the Middle Temple, Barrister-at-Law, Registrar In Bankruptcy and for some years before his death Registrar In Bankruptcy Of The High Court of Justice. Publishers, Sweet & Maxwell, Limited, London. Sole agents for Canada, The Carswell Company, Limited, 145 Adelaide Street, Toronto. Price, \$4.75.

This is a 1920 and third edition of a book which will no doubt have a large sale in Canada, particularly as our new Bankruptcy Act is in its principal features identical with the English Bankruptcy Act. This edition was being prepared when the author died. The task was completed by his son, A. Manson, of 4 Harcourt Buildings, London Eng. The book of 374 pages combines brevity with clearness.

There are many good text-books on bankruptcy, but they are nearly all, what Sir Edward Coke would call elephantini libri, and their comprehensiveness and completeness detract from their value for the layman and the student. There is danger of one not seeing the wood for the trees. This book gives the salient points of the system and proceeds in historical sequence as follows: Act of Bankruptcy, petition, Receiving Order, Adjudication, Collection and Distribution of Property, Discharge, etc., illustrating each step by forms and by some of the more important cases.

The law of bankruptcy is the largest of all the topics of English law, shipping not excepted, and to condense it into the compass of this small book required the genius which Mr. Manson evidently had.

ORGANIZED EFFORTS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION IN THE UNITED STATES. By Gustavus A. Weber. Publishers, D. Appleton and Company, New York. Price, \$3.00 net.

This is one of the publications of the Institute for Government Research written principally for readers of the United States government. This book will be found to be of service to Canadian students of government. During the past ten years there has come into existence a strong desire for the putting of the administrative branch of governments—national, provincial and local upon a more efficient and economical basis. This movement has found expression in a variety of private organizations and in the creation of a number of governmental agencies, the aim of which has been to examine critically and scientifically the administrative machinery and methods of governmental institutions and to point out the steps which must be taken for the improvement of conditions found defective.

In order to make available in one place the essential information these various agencies, this volume has been published. It contains a summary account, obtained by correspondence and of the agencies for the improvement of methods financed, and also gives a list of the publications of administration, whether publicly or privately of each of these agencies. (In the United States).

There is a lengthy and well thought out introduction "Modern Movement for Efficiency in The Administration of Public Affairs" by W. F. Willoughby.

THE RIDDLE OF NEARER ASIA. By Basil Mathews. The National Laymen's Missionary Movement. London, G.B.

This is a study of the lands and peoples of the Near and Middle East. The author thinks that the Near and Middle East will go far to determine the trend of the new world's life. The future of Mesopotamia, Palestine, Syria and Asia Minor are of vital moment to London and Washington; to Rome, Paris, Berlin and Petrograd to Delhi, Peking and Tokio. For those lands between the Aegean and the Nile on the one hand, and the Caucasus and mountain buttresses of Persia on the other, are strategically a pivot on which world-issues swing, while immeasurable possibilities lie undeveloped in their human and material resources, and, above all, in their spiritual capacities.

Some of the chapters are: The Dawn of a New Humanity. The Challenge of Islam. The People of the Camel. The Discipline of Israel. Nearer Asia and the World. There are some very interesting illustrations.

The author thinks that the question after all is not whether Christendom has failed either in the Near East or in the world at large, but whether Christianity has the power to succeed. He refers to the statement of G. K. Chesterton that "Christianity has not been tried and found wanting, but has been found difficult and not tried." He pleads for a world-fraternity of all races, a universal Kingdom based on the obedience to the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

Winnipeg, Manitoba.—Manitoba's wheat crop this year is worth approximately \$117,500,000 to the producers. This is the estimated value reached by computation based on the report of the provincial Department of Agriculture on crop conditions. This gives an average yield of 17.5 bushels to the acre, and the estimated acreage sown to wheat in the province is 2,687,000 acres, giving a total estimated crop of 47,022,500. Grain men report that the farmers will realize \$2.50 per bushel for the wheat this year.