

## Book Reviews

By H. S. ROSS.

The Clash: A Study in Nationalities, by William Henry Moore, is published by J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., London, Paris and Toronto, at \$1.75 net.

The author, like many well-known writers, is a son of the parsonage, his father having for years occupied the pulpits of Baptist churches throughout Ontario. He was admitted to the Bar but did not take up active practice in the law courts but as a director of some of the largest companies in Canada has had ample opportunity to make use of his legal training. His hobby in addition to his literary pursuits is his model farm near Toronto where he spends as much time as possible with his family.

His wide, varied and intimate acquaintance with all the leading men in Canada during the past twenty years gave him a splendid ground work for the writing of a book which has been so well received—the one before the reviewer being the seventh edition.

He makes a strong case for Canadians of French descent and pleads—we hope not in vain—for harmony and tolerance and gives his reasons for assuming the inalienable right of the French in Canada to "group personality" and to be treated as a separate nationality in the Dominion of Canada. "The state is the casting; the nationalities are the incasing."

He writes of their oneness of race and their descent from Nordic provinces of North France and holds them to be a striking example of purity of blood and continuity of racial heredity.

He deprecates the careless charge that their language is a patois and quotes eminent authority to the contrary and points out that a proper standard is kept up by the study at schools and colleges of the language, traditions, history and literature of France.

He gives many interesting facts on which he bases his claim against Anglo-Saxon superiority in trade, education or religion. He also makes it clear that one of the causes of conflict is a "land grievance." Ontario has in the north unoccupied land suitable for farming to the extent of at least

sixteen million acres. The farming population of Ontario is growing less and French Canadians are going in to take up the fertile soil of Ontario. Naturally enough they take with them their churches, schools, language and customs. English speaking Canadians are pressing the Ontario Government for stringent laws which will tend to discourage intending French Canadian settlers.

He says truly of race superiority: "The theory of inherent race superiority has been time and time again blown up, and yet as often revived by a race which seeks to dominate, which pursuing its own advantage at the expense of another, seeks to ease its conscience by the pleasing idea that it is the will of God that the fittest should dominate. To those who still persist in believing in race superiority, I commend this sentence from Mills' "Principles of Political Economy." "I cordially subscribe to the remark of one of the greatest thinkers of our time, who says of the supposed differences of race, 'of all vulgar modes of escaping from the consideration of the effect of social and moral influence on the human mind, the most vulgar is that of attributing the diversities of conduct and character to inherent natural differences.'"

The brilliant dialogue in the introduction between the author and his farm foreman is a fine piece of work and shows at once the authors sense of justice thrown into clear relief against the dark background of Bonnett's bigotry and intolerance—the real sources of which, we suspect, being unknown to Bonnett.

Mr. Moore's generous and skillful plea for even-handed justice for the Canadians of French descent would apply with equal force to our economic problems. Is there not a probability that if equal economic freedom—the author pleads convincingly for freedom—and equal economic opportunity could be brought about the root cause of racial, religious and commercial strife would be removed. While there is the economic incentive the bitter struggle for place and power will go on and we will hear false race cries and seekers for place and power will continue to use the methods we are all too familiar with. When will we learn to be fundamental and insist on getting at the cause and removing it. Such a book as "The Clash" assists us in the right direction.

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