

McGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

(2)

(II) Here and there, throughout the book, are errors in fact, - (one tabulation reveals 26 patent mistakes within 7 pages), - also misleading statements, wrongly coloured qualifications of men and events, and other inaccuracies, - to say nothing of exhibitions of prejudice, - which make the work a lamentable example of a very inferior quality of scholarship.

(III) The book as a whole is pitched in a false key that leads to a mischievous travesty of history, It is written to bear out the author's opinion, - (held in common with the agrarian socialists of the State of Minnesota with whom he appears to have been associated, and tinged with the Marxian view of class war), - that history betrays one long and deliberate oppression of the poor and the working classes at the hands of the rich and powerful. Often this theme recurs, usually accompanied by expressions of contempt and depreciation of persons in authority. This intemperate advocacy and championing of all that is radical, popular and demagogic, in its total effect can lead to but one result, namely, the preparation of pupils' minds for further radical ideas that may take a dangerous trend. Personally I am not here challenging West's social theories and beliefs; but I do think that a book so obviously