

author reflects the conditions vividly, but as he wants to remember them.

Despite its brutality, "The Fall of a Titan" has overtones of sentimentality. Novikov's brother Nikolai, perhaps the most engaging personality in the book, is portrayed at times with sugared sympathy. The same holds true for Lida, the girl Novikov cynically jettisons in order to further his career, and whom Nikolai ultimately marries. Again the picture of Gorin's old boon companion and faithful servant is idealized, while his brutal slaying underlines the essential harshness of the story.

Although the book stands on its own literary merits, the coarseness, vulgarity, squalor, double-dealing, and constant intrigue that it portrays may seem alien and may even repel many readers. Since the Revolution however, a different standard of behavior and values has been created in the Soviet Union, and individuals, particularly members of that dominant minority, the Communist Party, wanting to rise in their world, govern themselves accordingly.

Lastly, the translation is notable for its easy and natural reading. While it is difficult to assess accurately any translation without reading the work in the original tongue, it is certain that basically poor writing rarely can be improved in translation. Conversely, any good writing can be drastically marred by an indifferent rendering. The quality of Mr. Black's rendition speaks for itself. Indeed, it would not be unfair to say that a good measure of Mr. Gouzenko's literary success can be attributed directly to his translator. W.R.

CANADA'S SOLDIERS, *The Military History of an Unmilitary People*, by G. F. G. Stanley and H. M. Jackson. The Macmillan Co. of Canada Ltd., Toronto, Canada. Bibliography. Indexed. Pp. 376. \$6.50.

Canada's early military history was essentially that of a colony; when we became embroiled in squabbles there was always the comforting presence of a Mother country to act as protector. "Canadians," says Professor Stanley bluntly, "... are not a military people."

In spite of this, there is still a lot of military history in Canada and Professor Stanley has performed a valuable service in producing "Canada's Soldiers"; "per-

haps," he says, "this book will point the way to further investigation of an interesting and profitable, though neglected field." The book takes us from the earliest days of French settlement in Canada with its Indian wars, the French-English period of strife, the Canadian-American fighting and on down to modern times and the participation of our troops in the great conflicts of this century. Peace-loving though Canada may be by choice, fighting has too often been our lot and deeds of valor are part of our heritage. The volume examines many of the problems which have beset the Canadian militia system, both before and since the passing of the Militia Act of 1855. We find for instance, that earlier in the 19th century "the annual musters (of militia) degenerated into drunken and disorderly gatherings and almost inevitably militia service came to be regarded with contempt rather than as an honorable duty." "Complacent" describes the Canadian attitude toward defence until the American Civil War and later the Fenian Raids. Spasmodic interest in matters military were in part also due to changes in government; large appropriations for defence were not voted by parliament until the turn of the 20th century and following such incidents as the North-West Rebellion, the raising of the Yukon Field Force and Canada's participation in the South African War.

There is much of interest in the book although the accounts of some military activities are necessarily reported in condensed fashion and there may be a few who will find some of the author's facts at minor variance with other accepted works. There may be some too who would differ with the author over the use of the word "military". Certainly Canadians are not a warlike race, but the Canadian fighting man has earned the respect of his enemies in two World Wars, as well as in the conflicts that marked the early history of this country. We find however, that Professor Stanley uses the term "military" in the larger sense—there is no "militarism" in Canada, no military caste or predominance of their ideals. In fact Canada has never been particularly defence-conscious, a fact which is apparent even in these troublous times when there is some difficulty in keeping our Armed Services up to a desirable strength.