

Book Reviews

By HOWARD S. ROSS.

Our Government, by Mabel McLuhan Stevenson, has just been issued by George J. McLeod, Limited, Toronto, (60 cents, net.)

In simple language it answers such questions as: How are nominations and elections conducted? How, and for how long are members elected to the Provincial and Dominion Legislative bodies? How are our laws made and how enforced? How is our revenue raised? What are Canada's relations to foreign countries? What is our system of education?

A special chapter on How To Conduct a Meeting gives short and concise "Rules of Order."

This would be a suitable book for use in our public schools, and in any case should find its way into many Canadian homes.

No treaty of peace is worth of its name, if contained therein are the hidden germs of a future war. — Kant, Essay on Perpetual Peace.

"Pax Economica" Freedom of International Exchange (second edition) by Henri Lambert, manufacturer in Carlerod (Belgium) Member of the Societe d'Economie Politique, of Paris, has been issued by John C. Rankin.

Before and since the war the author urged that only an understanding proceeding from a high and broad principle of freedom and equity applied to the economic relations of the nations — which are their fundamental relations — can avert war. He claims that while it has become impossible for the belligerents to submit to the will and power of the enemy it is possible for both sides to surrender to a principle the principle being, "that freedom, equity, equality in the economic relations, rights and opportunities of the nations from the natural and necessary basis of international harmony, security and peace."

In a note the author refers to the fact that the famous French writer Georg Brandes in his book, "The World at War" (McMillan, New York), declares his unreserved agreement the ideas and thesis of "Pax Economica."

The author thinks Cobden's saying "Free trade is the best peacemaker" should read, "Free trade is the only peacemaker."

The taxation of land values is approved of as being necessary for the solution of our social problem but with this change must come international freedom of trade.

Imperial Germany and the Industrial Revolution by Thorstein Veblen, author of "The Theory of The Leisure Class," is published by The MacMillan Company, New York.

Its aim is a comparison and correlation between the German case and the English-speaking peoples and the ground of inquiry is into the economic, chiefly industrial, circumstances that have shaped the development in modern times of the two peoples.

It accounts for Germany's industrial advance and high efficiency by natural causes rather than manifest destiny, Providential repotism, national genius, and the like.

Much attention has been given to English-speaking countries the author's reason for this being "the need of a term of comparison has been allowed to decide, as well as the fact that, in the industrial respect, the current German situation is a derivative of the English and an outcome of the past development of the industrial arts as worked out in Great Britain." In the 366 pages much valuable information is found, but the author's style is altogether too involved and stilted.

The Country Weekly, by Phil C. Bing, has been issued by D. Appleton & Company, of New York and London, at \$2.00 net.

The author is Assistant Professor of Journalism in the University of Minnesota.

The successful publication of a country weekly is a problem separate and distinct, and to which the solution of newspaper problems in larger cities does not apply. The man at the head of a country paper must have the widest general knowledge, while the metropolitan newspapers require a specialist at the head of each department. This book furnishes the best possible information to those who would make the management of a country newspaper a profession. It covers the many problems peculiar to rural communities such as local news, provincialism in the country paper, leads, style and diction, news policy,

country correspondents, reporting, the personal touch, agriculture news, editorials, community betterment, publicity, circulation problems and mechanical equipment.

Many wise suggestions are given, among others the following:

"Put something of yourself into everything you write. Be human and kindly. It is more pleasant and it is good business. Be honest, individual, broad-minded, just, public-spirited. Constantly try to widen your range of information. Don't stop being a student. When activity ceases, dry rot sets in. Don't lose your temper in business deals. If you wish your editorial columns to have the maximum weight in the community, see that your news columns, your advertising, and your personal life are clean. Don't use the country weekly as the stepping-stone to the local post office or other little political plums. You are in one of the biggest jobs in the country right now. Don't step down. Cultivate a professional spirit. Be proud of your work. Attend editorial meetings and take some part; read your professional and trade journals."

A useful manual of style and it is noticeable that it follows the growing tendency among newspapers toward less capitalization.

The Law of Wills, by Professor George E. Gardner, of Boston University School of Law, second edition by Professor Walter T. Dunmore, of Western Reserve University Law School has been issued by West Publishing Co., of St. Paul. (\$3.75.)

The law of wills is expressed clearly and concisely and there is a general discussion of their probate. Many cases are cited and discussed and this well written book of 621 pages should be found of value to Canadian lawyers.

The Marvel Book of American Ships (\$2.50 net) has just been issued by Frederick A. Stokes Co., of New York. Illustrated.

The reader is taken to the great shipyards, where huge sea-going steamers and fighters are constructed. There are vivid accounts of sea battle, gun firing and signalling, deep-sea diving, and countless other subjects connected with the sea. There are 12 plates in colors, and over 400 illustrations from photographs. A chart shows the flags used in the signal code and a chart shows the types of funnels by which ships of the various steamship lines can be recognized.

Through Siberia The Land of the Future, by Fridtjof Nansen, Professor of Oceanography in the University of Christiania, translated by Arthur G. Chater, and illustrated, was issued by William Heinemann, London, during the early days of the war. The price in Great Britain and Ireland is fifteen shilling net.

Dr. Nansen's narrative gives the most recent account of the vast Asiatic resources of the new Republic, and of the attempt, by opening up the Kara Sea route, to make these resources available for the benefit of Western Europe.

The whole question of opening up the North of Russia and Siberia to European trade is of more than academic importance. The country traversed by the Yenisei River and its tributaries is a very fertile region, including wheat-lands far greater in extent than the combined territory of France and Germany. If these wheat-lands can be made to yield their produce to Europe they may prove a vital factor in the war.

Dr. Nansen's journey shows a possible way of getting the wheat to Europe. The railway route from Siberia westward to the Baltic and eastward to the Pacific is so long that it is practically prohibitive even if there was not a congested war time condition. The author praises the railway accommodation and rather surprises one untraveller when he writes, "It has been repeated to triteness that nowhere in the world does one travel so comfortably and well as on the Russian railways and this express in particular is known for its comfort and luxury. The Russian gauge being broader than that of other countries makes the carriage larger and broader, so that there is plenty of room in them. A smooth-running train is particularly important to one who constantly wants to write, and in this respect the traveller in Siberia is well off."

One impression was "that there is still room enough on the earth, and it will not be over-populated just yet; for here there are endless expanses, with great possibilities only waiting to be turned to account. And of these expanses we saw more, and ever more, the farther east we came."

The trip across country to Vladivostok "rule the East," is graphically told. One of the most interesting chapters is "Russia In The East—The Yellow Peril." Nansen is a close observer of political and economic conditions. He has great admiration for the industry and efficiency of the Chinese and Koreans and thinks the modernization of China involves far-reaching possibilities in foreign politics. "China has abandoned her former almost indifferent passiveness for a more active rule, which in the future will certainly pursue a more definite policy toward Europeans. Should this be the case, and should China seriously embark upon European methods of warfare in support of this policy, like Japan, and perhaps in concert with her—then no European Power, not even a Russia, will be able to resist the Celestial Empire, with its hundreds of millions of efficient inhabitants."

Nansen thinks Russia acquired a liability rather than an asset when she pushed into the far East. In passing he doubts the value of a colony to the mother country.

The problem of regularly navigating the Kara Sea is still unsolved, the ice conditions varying each year. He recommends the use of seaplanes and wireless to give weekly reports of ice conditions.

The book is much more than a traveller's account of an interesting journey, it is a valuable contribution to the study of Russia by a disinterested and intelligent observer. The nearly five hundred pages are filled with interesting material of permanent value and the large type appeals to those who do considerable reading. The illustrations are reproductions of carefully selected photographs taken by Dr. Nansen.

THE LAUGHTER OF THE ENGLISH.

(From the New York Sun.)

England, we know thee better now;
Unuttered all thy sorrow;
Thy humor wears the stern day out
And mocks the grim to-morrow.

For while the world said, "Let none smile;
There is no mirth hereafter!"
The "golden lads" of Shakespeare's land
Outfaced their doom with laughter.

We guess what inward throes must shake
The stout heart still unbroken,
What griefs lie in the silent deeps,
What agonies unspoken!

But all the world hears is the quip,
That flouts at panic's rumor.
Where toff and cockney carry on
In high intrepid humor.

Simple and subtle is thy mood—
Not honoring Fritz to hate him!
Leaving him puzzled at thy jests,
The scorn wherewith ye rate him.

England, we know thee better now!
Through all the years hereafter
Shall thy name, England, ring for us
A chime of valiant laughter.

WHEN Hugh Chalmers started on a career—which has become quite familiar in the realm of big business—rainbow chasing was farthest from his intention. When he quit school at the age of fourteen he went to work in the office of the National Cash Register Company in Dayton, Ohio. Between errands he dissected cash registers with the inquisitiveness and curiosity that has always been a characteristic of his. The following story is told of his early career by one closely associated with him at that time:

Salesman in his office:—"Boy, don't monkey with that machine!"

Boy—"All right, sir."

Salesman, an hour later—"If you don't let that machine alone I'll have you fired!"

Boy—"All right, sir."

Next Day: While salesman is ill at his home, the boy demonstrates, and sells two machines to a caller. Some Years Later:—Boy, grown to manhood, receives a salary approximately \$75,000 annually.