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# GROSS

—ON—

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A.McE.

**MACKENZIE KING OF CANADA**, by H. Reginald Hardy. The Oxford University Press, London, Toronto, and New York. Illustrated. Indexed. Pp. XII and 390. \$3.50.

William Lyon Mackenzie King, He never says a gosh-darned thing! But what he reads of himself in the press Will make his face turn red, I guess!

A Washington correspondent wrote this doggerel a few years ago, probably in a

moment of frustration occasioned by an unsuccessful attempt to get information from the prime minister on one of his trips to Washington. But it may be that it crudely expresses the feelings of many Canadians. For it must be admitted that although he was Prime Minister for 22 years, and a public figure most of his life, Mr. King remains to many of his fellow-countrymen an obscure and perhaps somewhat mysterious figure.

As a member of the Parliamentary Press Gallery, H. Reginald Hardy had ample opportunity to watch Mr. King in action. He became obsessed by the idea that here was a truly great story waiting to be told. And—he has told it well.

First we see the protagonist as little "Billy" King, a mischievous boy in Berlin, Ont. The influence of his home life is readily apparent in this part of the story, and from it may be traced the man's sound moral character, as well as his clear-cut political leanings. During his years at university a propensity for hard work to the exclusion of almost all other interests soon manifested itself, and this too indicated his destiny. All through the book, the author