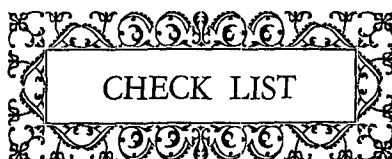


is, however, that men can never be robbed of the freedom to starve — not even by the Gestapo. What men need and must have is the freedom to live, and the opportunity to earn a living is the essential prerequisite of such freedom. The phrase “full employment” seems to rile Wriston, and he worries it till it yields the results he wants. Finally he gets down to the really childish objection that there are all kinds of groups “which on the ground of efficiency alone we do not wish to employ: the insane, the morons, and the hopelessly inefficient.” This is a fair sample of the construction this writer puts on the ideas of his opponents.

Above all Wriston could use a few lessons in realism. He might take one from Walter Lippmann, who, in enumerating the conditions that led to the failure of the peace after 1918, had this to say in a recent column:

The second cause of the failure was that we did not understand why in this century a condition of reasonably stable full employment must be a paramount purpose of national policy. . . . The involuntary unemployment of able-bodied workers has in the modern world become intolerable. It is intolerable because they have votes and political power and enough edification to use them. It is intolerable because, owing to the progress of economic science, involuntary unemployment has become a preventable disease.

If the author of *Challenge to Freedom* is actually as concerned with the survival of freedom as he claims, then he ought to keep in mind that Hitler's coming to power would have been prevented and World War II averted if, in the early 1930's, the Weimar Republic had been able to provide work for its millions of jobless citizens. But such primary facts seem beyond the comprehension of our Utopian conservatives.



(Continued from page 388)

THE CASE FOR MRS. SURRATT, by Helen Jones Campbell. \$3.00. *Putnam*. Apparently the first full-length study of the unhappy Mrs. Surratt, who was executed by a military commission in Washington on July 9, 1865 for complicity in the assassination of President Lincoln. The evidence leaves one with grave doubt as to her guilt. A sound contribution to the history of the times, and fascinating reading.

THE WORLD OF SHOLOM ALEICHEM, by Maurice Samuel. \$3.00. *Knopf*. Sholom Aleichem was the greatest Yiddish humorist. His stories and sketches mirrored the life of Russian Jews about fifty years ago. Here Maurice Samuel re-creates in English the towns, the people, the very accent of that distant life. He has written a beautiful book, at once amusing and touching.

TEARS, by Angelica Balabanoff. \$2.00. *E. Laub Publishing Co., New York*. Over and

above its emotional and poetic values, this book of poems has a curious interest as a unique literary performance. Dr. Balabanoff, a Russian revolutionary who has made the world her home and her fatherland, here presents her poems in Russian, German, Italian, French and English. In some instances they are the same poems adapted by the author into the five tongues; in others they appear in only one language. But they are not translations. Dr. Balabanoff has written them all. As the Italian poet and labor leader Arturo Giovannitti says in an introduction: "This book is not a stunt, nor a *tour de force* to show off the polyglot prowess of its author, but it is rather the flowering of a vary-hued plant of a remarkable intellect which is indigenous to all lands where men suffer, struggle and die." Dr. Balabanoff's themes are closely related to her life's work as a socialist leader, and their strongest virtue is an intense sincerity.

HISTORY OF BIGOTRY IN THE UNITED STATES, by Gustavus Myers. \$3.50. *Random House*. Mr. Myers worked on this book for seventeen years, finishing it only a month before his death on December 7, 1942. It is easily the most complete study of the subject that has yet appeared in print, beginning with the intolerance of the Puritans and taking in the Coughlinites of today, and future students will lean heavily on it. One hopes, however, that they will dig more deeply into causes than Mr. Myers did, and that they will point out, among other things, that the persecuted of one generation have sometimes been the persecutors of another. The index to the present volume is far too skimpy; it should be at least five times as long.

JOURNEY AMONG WARRIORS, by Eve Curie. \$3.50. *Doubleday, Doran*. In November, 1941, Miss Curie began a five months' tour of the war fronts. She traveled about 40,000 miles and visited nearly every battle area, often coming perilously close to the combat lines. Everywhere she talked to those who were in the thick of the struggle, women

auxiliaries and common soldiers as well as generals and admirals. Here she reports what she heard and saw, and while in detail she reveals little that is new she brings to her narrative a warmth and understanding of people and events that somehow lift her book to a level more enduring than journalism.

THE MAKING OF MODERN BRITAIN, by J. B. Brebner and Allan Nevins. \$2.50. *Norton*. A short but remarkably comprehensive history of Great Britain from earliest times down to the outbreak of World War II. The authors are probably as objective as is humanly possible. There are chronological tables of sovereigns and prime ministers and "suggestions for further reading."

AMERICA'S NAVY IN WORLD WAR II, by Gilbert Cant. \$3.75. *John Day*. A detailed account of American naval engagements in World War II from Pearl Harbor to the final victory at Guadalcanal in February, 1943. Mr. Cant takes no sides in the battle-ship-airpower controversy, giving credit to both when the facts call for it. There are many photographs, battle diagrams and valuable appendices.

THE OTHER AMERICANS, by Edward Tomlinson. \$3.00. *Scribner's*. A series of informal, chatty studies of the Central and South American Republics by a man who has known them intimately over many years. The writing and general approach are simple enough for the tabloid reader to understand. There are many illustrations.

SILENT ENEMIES, by Justina Hill. \$2.50. *Putnam*. A first-rate popular discussion of the diseases, especially infections, intensified by war — their origins, their rates of progress, the old methods of cure, the more recent ones, and the very latest therapeutic methods learned on the battlefields of World War II. Dr. Hill, who is associate in urology at the Medical School of Johns Hopkins University, writes with remarkable clarity and verve.

MOSCOW DATELINE, 1941-1943, by Henry C. Cassidy. \$3.00. *Houghton Mifflin*. A straightforward, unpretentious piece of reporting, well and at points entertainingly written, by the Associated Press correspondent in Russia during two crucial years. Cassidy's account of the major military actions is the clearest that has come out of Russia in English. It's not smothered in rhetoric or political debate.

Without pretending to prophecy, the author does venture the guess that Russia, when the victory is won, will remain "socialistic, atheistic, and autocratic" and that Stalin "will remain the autocrat of Russia" as long as he lives, with perhaps a dash of benevolence as he ripens in power.

The first chapter of *Moscow Dateline* offers valuable testimony on the question whether Stalin expected a German attack. According

to Cassidy the Russian leaders counted on the continued success of their appeasement efforts. Outside Russia, in the spring of 1941, Hitler's attack was expected, but "in the censor-tight cylinder of Moscow, no one knew, not the foreigners, not the Russian people, not the Soviet leaders." The press and radio continued to denounce "Anglo-French warmongers" of "the second imperialistic world war," and warnings from British and American sources were denounced as attempts to "provoke" a break between Stalin and Hitler. To overcome these provocations by Sir Stafford Cripps and others, Stalin found occasion publicly to exhibit his warm feelings for German and Japanese officers. The attack was so little expected by the Kremlin, Cassidy points out, that its launching found important military officials in far-off places on vacation.

E. L.



*"I always take my paycheck straight
home to the little man. . . ."*

THE OPEN FORUM

THE POSITION OF ITALIAN EXILES

SIR: Judging from Kingsbury Smith's article in THE MERCURY, "Our Government's Plan for a Defeated Italy," the State Department wants a "new leadership" in Italy. But "it wants to see it emerge from within the country." "We are not disposed to impose upon the Italian people some political movement that has flowered in exile," Mr. Smith reports.

If the State Department stopped at this point, no objection should be raised. Italy has been afflicted with infinite misfortunes during this terrible war. But she has at least been spared the curse of a "government-in-exile." Exiles have no right to impose upon their own people any movement or régime concocted abroad with the help of foreign powers. If the exiles returned to Italy as pro-Allied Quislings, they would commit moral suicide. The new leadership of Italy has to arise in Italy among those who are on the spot.

The State Department, however, does not stop with indicating that they will never set up any government-in-exile for Italy. While telling us that the new Italian leadership must emerge from within, they themselves designate the group, the Army Chiefs, from among whom the new leadership has to arise, and in addition, they know that such Army Chiefs "will be far more representative of the Italian people than some of the exiles who are scheming for personal political power, and hope to achieve it with the aid of Allied bayonets;" the American Government is not "disposed to help liberate Italy in order to make it safe for political exiles to return and stage a bloody revolution under the protection of the Allied armies of occupation;" "the lives of American and British boys are not being sacrificed to make Europe safe for

anarchy;" "we believe the Italian people will prefer to support leaders who have been through the ordeal at home with them, and who have had the courage to rise up within the country and help lead them out of slavery."

The truth is that a good many of the Italian anti-fascist political exiles are no more revolutionaries than Lord Halifax and Mr. Cordell Hull. And those who are revolutionaries, or think they are, never expected or needed any American protection. They can take care of themselves. What the Italian exiles expect and have the right to expect is that after so many resounding proclamations about the "four freedoms everywhere in the World," the commanders of the Allied Armies and the stuffed shirts of the Foreign Office and the State Department do not "freeze" the present Fascist leaders in authority, but as soon as possible re-establish in Italy freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and freedom of association, and while enforcing public peace, they give the Italians a chance freely to choose their own local and national leaders through regular elections, even if they throw out of the window, those army chiefs who have been chosen by the above-mentioned stuffed shirts to act as leaders emerging from within the country.

What the exiles are entitled to demand from the above-mentioned stuffed shirts is that they should not keep them "frozen" in America while the Fascists are "frozen" in authority in Italy. After being forced by Mussolini to go into exile, they should not be kept in exile by President Roosevelt acting as Mussolini's trustee. The exiles have no right to rule Italy from America. But they have the right to return to Italy as soon as they can, at their own risk and peril, as