

tained in the *Report of the Isthmian Canal Commission, 1899-1901* contains the data for as full a discussion of that subject as any author might desire.

Throughout the work unlimited praise is bestowed upon Secretary Taft. Everybody will agree with the author that the able secretary of war is entitled to great praise. By giving such prominence to the services of the secretary of war, the highly important work of the distinguished engineers who located the canal, who worked out the plan for the construction of the great waterway, and who inaugurated the immense task of executing the project, has not received its merited measure of praise.

EMORY R. JOHNSON.

*La constitution juridique de l'empire colonial britannique.* Par H. SPEYER. (Paris: Arthur Rousseau. 1906. Pp. viii and 337.)

The study of the details of British colonial administration by continental writers is always instructive, not only because of their point of view but likewise by reason of their freedom from local bias. The present volume, which forms a valuable contribution to this discussion, is no exception to the rule. The author, who is a member of the law faculty of the University of Brussels, is as clear in statement as he is simple in diction; throughout, he adheres strictly to a preconceived plan in which every point is rigorously assigned to its proper place.

Prefaced by a brief bibliography, the work is divided into seven chapters; the first consists of a geographical introduction comprising a short historical and statistical review of the various groups of dependencies; two chapters are then devoted to an account of their political organization; attention is here directed to the methods of executive, legislative and financial control; the fourth chapter reviews the historical evolution of the three forms of government designated by the author as "the administrative," "the representative" and "the parliamentary." The story of the rise of colonial federation in Canada, Australia and South Africa is then briefly narrated. The sixth chapter, sketching the development of jurisprudence and private law in the several parts of the British Empire, while belonging perhaps more properly to the domain of law than to that of political economy, is especially interesting by reason of its comparative

novelty; the treatment of imperial federation in the final chapter is also not without value.

In the hands of the reader, familiar with British institutions, the work suffers because of the large portion of it given over to matters of fact. Almost every statement made in the first five chapters is well known and the extreme simplicity of style in itself is wearisome; the volume might make an excellent text-book, but for this purpose it would be lacking in sufficiency of data and citation of authorities. In his outline of civil, commercial and penal law, the author is more than usually happy in his methods; he concisely but clearly states the principles adopted by the crown and parliament in retaining or rejecting in the different dependencies the alien systems of jurisprudence, which may have existed prior to British occupation; he also shows quite skillfully, considering his brevity, how English law and custom have frequently been grafted on foreign stock or have supplanted it; numerous effects of the application and expansion of the doctrines of the common law are likewise cited.

Imperial federation forms an inspiring topic, to which considerable space is given; the fiscal policy of Mr. Chamberlain in relation to the dependencies is viewed with favor and its possible effects are considered at some length. Attention is also directed to the political and military aspects of the problem; the author is inclined to believe that fiscal and military difficulties must be solved before there can be any political union; that if necessary for the maintenance of the empire, England will renounce legislative and administrative control over the autonomous colonies, providing that they remain voluntarily under her nominal sovereignty and that, in addition to the more positive ties of a commercial and military character, there be maintained a certain moral unity, a sentiment of loyalty and the pride of race; on the other hand he doubts the results of a great war, should the mother country, struggling for existence, ever be obliged to appeal to her children for support. The conclusions reached by him are not, however, in any sense positive and it is extremely difficult to surmise how his opinions may already have been modified by the proceedings of the recent colonial conference on imperial federation. From the colonial point of view, Dr. Speyer sees in the constitution of the British Empire a genuine preservation of the best traditions of antiquity. Reviewing the experience of England as a promoter of colonial undertakings, he concludes that the success of such enterprises does not by any means depend exclusively upon mili-

tary force and economic activity, but that the promotion of liberty and a system of tolerance constitute not only a moral duty but also a skillful policy.

Throughout the book in weighing debatable questions a fair and judicial attitude is generally maintained. A chronological chart showing the constitutional development of the principal autonomous colonies is inserted at the end of the volume; a more extensive bibliography, more detailed reference to the authorities in certain sections and a few maps would add greatly to its usefulness; nevertheless, as a concise, yet comprehensive treatise of the subject, the book occupies a special place in the literature devoted to the discussion of colonial politics and administration.

HENRY C. MORRIS.

*American Consular Jurisdiction in the Orient.* By FRANK E. HINCKLEY, Clerk of the United States Court for China. (Washington, D. C.: W. H. Londermilk and Company. 1906. Pp. 283.)

This is a work covering with its main text 196 pages, with its Appendix and Index 87 more, making 283 in all.

The work is very intelligently and thoroughly done and the appointment of Dr. Hinckley, on the organization of the United States court for China, as its clerk opens for him a place of much usefulness and seems a fitting recognition of his scholarly preparation.

The headings of the chapters suggest the scope of the treatise and are as follows: Historic Forms of Extra-territoriality; the United States' Oriental Treaties; Acts of Congress Establishing the System of Consular Courts; Legal Rights under the Jurisdiction, including Domicil, Marriage, Inheritance, Persons Accused of Crime; Missionaries, Real Property, Taxation, Commercial Privileges, International Tribunals of Egypt, Mixed Cases in China; the Foreign Municipality of Shanghai and Grounds for Relinquishing Jurisdiction.

With our greatly increasing intercourse with China and the establishment of a United States court for that vast territory rapidly opening to exploitation, this careful and it is believed accurate work must be of great value. It is curious to trace in its pages the change in our relations to the Asiatic countries which is illustrated by the fact (p. 35) that in 1831 a Japanese junk having been blown to sea and reached Oregon, the survivors found on board were taken back to