

Under the chapter headed "Folk Depletion and Rural Decline," the writer touches upon a subject of the greatest possible concern to all sorts and conditions of Americans.

By "Folk Depletion" Mr. Ross has at once very happily phrased and clearly defined a condition which it is not going too far, in my judgment, to declare to be more seriously threatening to change radically our national character, a change fraught with great danger. It is this folk depletion which for the first time in the country's history has resulted in swelling the urban population to 52 per cent as against the rural population of 48 per cent.

The causes of this rapid concentration of our population in the cities through the depletion of the rural districts are to be sought deeper down than the mere social surface. They lie at the very root of an economic system that already has gone so far astray that it can be corrected only by the greatest care and earnest work in co-operation on the part of our leaders of public thought and activity.

It is obvious that the centripetal forces which during the past decade have been drawing our population from the farms to the cities are to be considered as an abnormal operation. It is not the social urge or the hard instinct that is doing this. Plainly, it is to be accounted for only from the fact that the farm no longer pays. It is a fact so patent that it does not need to be argued that when any group of people is economically prosperous it is socially satisfied.

So informative and significant is "The Social Trend" that I hope that it will be freely read by the thoughtful and clear-headed men and women in America.

—B. F. YOAKUM.

---

#### RUSSIA AND THE EAST\*

**T**HESE two volumes contain the lectures delivered by Baron Korff, formerly Professor of Russian Law and History, University of Helsingfors, Finland, and Bulgarian Minister Panaretoff, at the Institute of Politics at Williams College last summer.

Baron Korff divides his main subject into eight lectures on the relations, since the Congress of Berlin, of Russia with France, England, China, Japan, Austria-Hungary, the Balkan States, Germany and Sweden. This treatment inevitably involves repetition which, however desirable in public lectures, is rather trying to a reader. Moreover, in his very successful attempt to make clear the intricacies of Russian diplomacy to an audience made up predominantly of laymen, the lecturer has reduced his narrative to an encyclopedic but clear recital of well-known facts with significant interpretations or conclusions. Often the text betrays signs of hasty

---

\*Russia's Foreign Relations During the Last Half Century," by S. A. Korff, and "Near Eastern Affairs and Conditions," by Stephen Panaretoff. The MacMillan Co.

preparation. Many of the merits of these lectures as spoken addresses stand out rather startlingly in the printed volume as irritating, if not serious, defects. Baron Korff's general treatment is not interesting enough to hold the general reader, nor profound enough to interest the student.

In his last chapter, that devoted to secret diplomacy, the lecturer makes a significant contribution. Foreign relations have, he points out, a double function. One of these "consists in acts that create a legal obligation for the state (or nation). All treaties, obligations, understandings and agreements would come under this head. The other function is constituted by the daily intercourse of states (or nations), the transactions which do not create any legal obligation; diplomacy in the technical meaning of the word, conversations between foreign secretaries and diplomatic representatives. The first function invariably binds the state in some way or other, the second one does not affect its legal obligations, but usually prepares the way for the acts of the first group." The first of these functions, he insists, should be guarded by the fullest possible publicity. "When this is well assured, secrecy can be admitted concerning the diplomatic negotiations in all the preparatory stages." Put thus unqualifiedly, this last conclusion is open to grave doubt.

Interesting and even stimulating as were the lectures by Baron Korff and Minister Panarettoff as lectures, and despite the pleasure which the reviewer had in listening to these two distinguished scholars, candor requires the statement that it is at least doubtful whether these addresses should have been published in their present form and whether "The Institute of Politics Publications" are not falling between two stools. The lectures contained in these two volumes are neither popular nor scholarly in the best sense. They are rather a little of both. —M. KINGSBURY PATTERSON.

### THE THREEFOLD COMMONWEALTH\*



WHAT the purpose of a book review is may be a matter for doubt. In the opinion of the present reviewer that purpose can only be to express, insofar as may be possible in a limited space, the purpose of the author and some conclusions as to whether he accomplishes that purpose.

It is quite impossible to do that in this instance within the space available here. Dr. Steiner is a well known writer and the Threefold Commonwealth is a well known proposal for the use of mankind as a guide to his better gregarious existence. In brief, it says: that portion of a man's thoughts which consider his right to live on equality with his species has no connection with that portion of his thoughts which has to do with his commercial relations; nor has either anything to do with that portion

\* *The Threefold Commonwealth*, by Rudolph Steiner, Ph.D. MacMillan Company.