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tention that the Radical Republicans and Abolitionists deliberately prolonged the war in order to whip up hatred against the South (read slavocracy). Yet it was precisely the Radical Republicans who advocated the only measures that could bring swift victory: emancipation and arming of the slaves. It is true that the conflict was unnecessarily prolonged; the responsibility for the needless years of slaughter must be laid, however, not to the Abolitionists, but to the forces marshaled by Wall Street—for more than half a century the consistent ally of slavery—to oppose the war's vigorous prosecution. Behind the lost battles of the tragic first years stood the aristocrats of northern commerce and finance, whose pockets were lined with the proceeds of southern trade, and whose consciences were padded with southern cotton. On the field, this group found its best representative in General McClellan, whom Marx, in a fiery letter to Engels, denounced as a "traitor in epaulets." It is hardly surprising that Eisenschiml makes a supreme effort to salvage McClellan's reputation.

Eisenschiml's work is, then, one more in that long succession of books—histories, biographies, and novels—dedicated to the embellishment of slavery, the absolution of the slave-owners, the slander of the Negro governments of the South; dedicated, in short, to wiping out a major portion of our revolutionary heritage.

ELIZABETH LAWSON.

**"Testament and Program"**

THE CONQUEST OF POWER, *by Albert Weisbord. Covici, Friede. 2 vols. \$7.50.*

ALBERT WEISBORD made the front pages in 1926 as leader of the Passaic textile strike, the first in this country to be directed by the Communist Party. Subsequently, the party expelled him for violations of discipline. He fell in and out of the Trotsky and Lovestone groups, and finally wound up as a one-man party of his own.

The two volumes under review are thus at once a personal testament and personal program. You are struck immediately by the author's enormous capacity for work and even more enormous ambition. He undertakes to settle all the major problems of our times; he expounds, analyzes, and disposes of liberalism, anarchism, syndicalism, socialism, fascism, and communism.

Despite the wide-open pages at his disposal, the author fails to be half as illuminating as Strachey on the same subjects in two smaller and wiser volumes. This failure lies in Weisbord's lack of consistent method. Convinced that he is the sole living Marxist, he is actually an eclectic and a solipsist.

It is impossible to follow him through the thick wood of words which obscure the trees of fact, but his approach to everything may be gleaned from his analysis of communism. It seems the "Stalinists" are wrong on every subject under the sun; alleged proof for this thesis is taken directly from Trotsky's arsenal

MARX LENIN

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of stock accusations. But Trotsky is also wrong. In fact, everybody is out of step but Albert Weisbord. The upshot of this ponderous flow of verbiage is a four-point program offered as a substitute for the Communist Party's program as well as for that of the Socialists, the Syndicalists, and the Fourth International:

"(1) To develop the direct action of the masses through raising the slogans *General Strike, Lynch the Lynchers of the Negroes and Poor Toilers, Open the Factories to the Unemployed and the Warehouses to the Hungry, Workers' Control over Production.* (2) To build up the revolutionary mass organizations of the proletariat, particularly their independent militant unions and mass defense groups. (3) To utilize every form possible by which to move the workers from the old liberal classless ideology to the Communist ideology of the class struggle. (4) To conduct a vigorous struggle against all the out-worn forms of European socialism and communism, the lack of initiative of the Germans, the lack of organization of the French, the idealization of the peasantry of the Russians, the parliamentarianism of the English and so forth."

These few lines are all that Weisbord contributes to the solution of the tremendous problems with which he has fumbled. This is the so-called program "which a truly American Communist movement will not hesitate to adopt when the American proletariat has come of age and is ready to take its rightful place in the world struggle for power"—under the leadership, presumably, of the author. What is sensible in this program stems, of course, from the Communist Party; what is silly is the author's own contribution. The whole of it is so meager, so poverty-stricken, so unrelated to the actual world, that it can only be dismissed as the pathetic fantasy of a political narcissist.

ROBERT EVANS.

### Recent Books on the Supreme Court

NINE OLD MEN AT THE CROSSROADS, by Drew Pearson and Robert S. Allen. Doubleday, Doran & Co. 25c.

Carries the story of the Nine Old Men up to the moment and shows that Washington is still going round merrily. Attempts to account for the opposition of certain former liberals, like Wheeler and Nye, to the President's Court proposal.

DEMOCRACY AND THE SUPREME COURT, by Robert K. Carr. University of Oklahoma Press. \$1.50.

This book reviews the Supreme Court issue, and is particularly valuable for its analysis of the decisions on New Deal legislation. Liberal in intent, indecisive in its conclusions.

SELECTED SUPREME COURT DECISIONS, edited and arranged by Myer Cohen. Harper & Bros. \$2.50.

Excerpts from historic decisions, arranged in order to illustrate the Supreme Court's attitudes, past and present, towards the constitutionality of legislation affecting labor, the New Deal, competition and monopoly, federal powers, etc.

THE ULTIMATE POWER, by Morris L. Ernst. Doubleday, Doran & Co. \$3.

A constitutional history of the United States in outline, by a prominent liberal lawyer. Excellent reading and generally sound. Conclusion: "Democracy in a complex society can persist only if the ultimate power of government flows without hind-

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