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which makes Sam repulsive and infuriating. Thus the realist end is attained without violation of the literary means. And this quality characterizes, and distinguishes, the writing of this truly notable book.

ISIDOR SCHNEIDER.

The Hague Machine

THE BOSS: THE HAGUE MACHINE IN ACTION, by David Dayton McKean. Houghton Mifflin Co. \$3.

THER notable political machines have toppled; those of Long, Pendergast, and Vare, for example. But Boss Hague's has endured more than a score of years. Early in his career the Jersey Hitler realized the importance of controlling the armed forces and he proceeded to do so after smashing AFL unions of firemen and policemen. Hague built his machine locally and then in Hudson County, of which Jersey City is a part, but found that courts and the state government could yet upset him. So he reached out to control the courts and later the state government.

One of Jersey's two legislative houses has always been Republican and in those years when a willful GOP governor was elected, Hague had his difficulties. Nothing daunted, he had his henchmen vote in the local Republican primaries so that they could name either satisfactory Republican candidates or those so weak as to be defeated easily. Out of this later grew the notorious alliance between the Democrat Hague and the Republican Governor Hoffman. Thus Hague now operates through both parties and not only dominates his city, county, and party, but is in effect the political boss of the state. It is but another manifestation of the fundamental sameness of the two major parties. The alliance with Roosevelt has given Hague federal patronage in return for support of the President's policies by Hague stooges in Congress.

The secret of his survival lies in more thorough organization than that of other political machines. He has added his own touches, down to controlling organizations of veterans and of the bar, the church, newspapers, and that part of the labor movement he permitted to exist (before the CIO). Those he has been unable to bribe outright he has silenced in other ways, including use of force.

As a factual and clinical work, Dr. Mc-Kean's study has its value. But there are certain limitations. His introductory reference to Hagueism as a "sort of brown bolshevism," is indulgence in the cheap, catchpenny phrases of a political scientist like Pegler. But his failure to see Hagueism as an integral part of capitalism is the greatest weakness of this book. Dr. McKean writes: "The thesis . . . that the business men of Jersey City like the regime because of its anti-labor policies cannot be sustained. . . ." But many years ago Lincoln Steffens, in his study of political machines, found that for every bribe taker there was a bribe giver. Hague has made of Jersey City a haven of sweatshops, and many of the nation's largest corporations have branch plants in Jersey City. Dr. McKean writes that Hague used many of the methods of fascism before fascism, under that name, was recognized. But like many other recent writers on fascism, he does not see it as the instrument of big business that it is.

Hy KRAVIF.

The McKenneys Again

THE MCKENNEYS CARRY ON, by Ruth McKenney. Harcourt Brace. \$2.

R UTH McKenney, like Gaul, is divided into several autonomous parts. There is a serious McKenney in *Industrial Valley* and in the weekly New Masses feuilletons, an active trade unionist in the McKenney who helped organize the Newspaper Guild, and of course a funny McKenney for the New Yorker. The McKenneys Carry On is the latest collection of her magazine pieces about the young McKenney rips, Ruth and Eileen.

It is as funny as My Sister Eileen and that means that provincial newspaper reviewers will have a good day appreciating it, and a considerable public who never heard of this magazine, or for that matter, the New Yorker, will eat it up.

The characterizations of the McKenney girls are one of the triumphs of comic literature, even if every word is true. You have only to read the sketch about Ruth, the sweating young reporter, arranging a pony race for the glory of her newspaper, and finding her cozy kiddy outing turned into a desperate affair with gamblers and shady horses riding roughshod over the infants. The piece is as good as George Milburn's delicious story, Catalogue.

Miss McKenney's is humor of characterization. It does not depend on gags or plot devices, but on the trenchant development of character. That is rare enough in contemporary humor and the economy with which she recreates her characters is worthy of Ring Lardner. You can recall only a handful of living humorists who rival her in this department—maybe Fred Allen, Chaplin, Art Young, Arthur Kober, Bill Fields, and a few others.

The McKenneys Carry On is a nifty little book. Despite Ruth's misgivings about fiddling while Rome burns, I'm afraid the public will not let her quit writing about the McKenneys.

Јов Ѕмітн.

Southern Children

CHILDREN OF BONDAGE, by Allison Davis and John Dollard. American Council on Education. Washington, D. C. \$2.25.

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And let them read—and quake as they do of the spirit of resistance already rooted in these children, of the yearnings that never leave them and their determination that this is not the final way of life. Those who are possessed of the true "American dream," which is also humanity's dream, of brotherhood and peace, honorable labor and universal abundance, will find fresh courage in Children of Bondage. For the book proves again that the dignity and vitality of a people can resist all the humiliation and terror visited upon it by its exploiters.

HERBERT APTHEKER.

An X-Ray of Calamity

MEN ON THE MOVE, by Nels Anderson. The University of Chicago Press. \$3.

N ELS ANDERSON, who directs the labor re-lations section of the federal WPA, here surveys the human wastelands that result from technological improvements in American industry and agriculture. It is the story of how men and women find themselves torn from their formerly stable lives in the community and cast willy-nilly upon the casual labor market to hunt for bare subsistence.

Where can those people hope to find work or discover new territory in which to strike root? Anderson cannot answer this. Technological unemployment takes place on a nationwide scale today; even the states that once could be regarded as meccas for the job-seeking migrant now boast of new "efficiencies" which make men and women superfluous appendages of our body economic. Starvation is the lean shadow of heightened industrial productivity.

The migrant of today, Mr. Anderson finds, is no longer the road-lusty hobo brimming with song and defiance, challenging hardship with a robust flair for adventure. More often he is confused and despairing. He travels in a battered jaloppy, accompanied by wife and children, seeking in state after state for a chance to earn his living. These people crave neither adventure nor scenic exhilaration. What they want, what they must have, is



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