#### The Outlook for



particular" in the opinion of the Democratic National Convention, "and had the added advantage of doing so in a most distinguished way." Whether or no Mr. Gilbert so intended, his essay gives the impression that he shares the opinion of the Convention. It is not a convincing study. If written with malicious intent, it is a masterplece; if not, it is a most unhappy performance.

The portraits of the other candidates are interesting, though not equal to the best in "The Mirrors of Washington" nor to the Coolidge portrait. Except for the Davis essay, the book may be recommended as on the whole enlightening and useful. It is eminently readable.

TRAVEL AND DESCRIPTION WITH STEFANSSON IN THE ARCTIC. By Harold Noice. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York. \$2.50.

In 1915 the explorer Stefansson had been given up by the world as lost in the Arctic. An expedition was sent out in an endeavor to find and rescue him, and chance gave a twenty-year-old lad the rare opportunity to join it. Stefansson was found, and luck brought the lad a berth with the new expedition which Stefansson organized. He remained with the noted explorer during two years.

This story is a full account of his experiences as a full-fledged Arctic explorer. With Stefansson he explored some of the islands of that immense group which lies north of Canada and west of Greenland. Stefansson abhorred adventures. An adventure was a sign of weakness or of omission to provide against contingencies. Nevertheless the author appears to have had his share of adventure. The whole account is well written, shows a sense of humor, and incidentally is full of information.

Noice, like his leader, found the "Arctic wastes" interesting in summer. At 77° north latitude "wild flowers, like tiny sweet peas, blue and pink and purple, bloom along the brook close by. . . . White and yellow butterflies pursue them. Beetles and ants tumble in and out of the crevices. Because the sun shines all of the twenty-four hours, the sod is spattered with flowers, although the highest temperature registered was eight degrees above freezing."

HISTORY AND POLITICAL ECONOMY FALL OF THE DUTCH REPUBLIC (THE). By Hendrik Willem Van Loon. New Edition. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. \$5.

It seems strange now that Mr. Van Loon was not "discovered" when, in 1912, he issued this first of his historical volumes. So much of what has made his later works popular is already present, making the story of the downfall of the Dutch Republic far more interesting to read than most works of fiction. The

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#### December 3, 1924

theme, of course, must have interfered with a fuller appreciation of the book, for in those pre-war days we had not yet discovered that a small and far-off corner of the globe might have any claim on our attention beyond that of curiosity. Now, however, we may be ready to realize the lesson which even a great nation like our own may read out of the sad and sordid story so well told by Mr. Van Loon.

#### FOREIGN POLICIES OF SOVIET RUSSIA (THE). By Alfred L. P. Dennis, E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. \$5.

During and after the war Professor Dennis has had unusual facilities for studying the international aspects of the Soviet régime in Russia, and he has used them excellently. His book is primarily a source and reference book, and as such it must be held invaluable to any disinterested student of to-day's Russia. But it is also a vivid and illuminating history of events in Russia since 1917, as viewed from without. Whether the Soviet prove a mere episode in the slow evolution of modern Russia or an enduring political form, the record of its struggles, victories, defeats, and intrigues during the last six years constitutes one of the most dramatic chapters in the history of the world, and one that inevitably invites to comparisons with the French Revolution. In his treatment of this chapter Professor Dennis has shown a rare gift both for the lucid co-ordination of great bodies of data and for unbiased presentation of facts and opinions with which he may or may not be in sympathy. Taking it all in all, the picture he gives us of the Soviet attitude toward the remainder of the habited globe must be proclaimed scrupulously fair-minded and, for that reason, irresistibly con-vincing. He says: "The progress of Russia is not dependent on recognition either de facto or de jure; it is dependent on the justice of the courts, on security for life and property, on honesty, and on trade. None of these can be provided by treaty nor guaranteed by diplomacy. They depend on Russia herself." This implied approval of our own policy toward the present régime in Russia may be supplemented by another quotation from his final chapter: "There are Bolsheviki who are mere political adventurers, others are fanatics, and still others are criminals; but of the sincere desire of the majority of the Bolsheviki to better Russia there can be no question."

#### TRAVEL AND DESCRIPTION

ROMANCE OF FORGOTTEN TOWNS (THE). By John T. Faris. Harper & Brothers, New York. \$6.

Here we have notices of over forty "forgotten" (most of them abandoned) towns of the United States; an average

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