

## REVIEWS

*The Interest of America in International Conditions.* By A. T. MAHAN. Boston, Little Brown and Company, 1910.—212 pp.

In this little book Admiral Mahan has not proposed to himself a detailed study of American interests abroad; he looks rather at matters from the opposite point of view and by studying the recent unfolding of international conditions discovers the extent to which our country is involved in the general development of world politics. The implied conclusion is that there is no important part of international politics, not even concerning European affairs, in which the United States is not interested. He traces the origin and character of present international groupings in Europe and especially the growth of the predominance of Germany. The position of the latter power is outlined in a spirit of justice, though not with sympathy; and although the author makes no alarming prognostications, he nevertheless recognizes the seriousness of the competition between Germany and Great Britain. In these European developments the United States is interested on account of the effect which shiftings of position and mutations of power in Europe may have upon the situation in South America and in the Far East where American diplomacy is especially active. Far from advising alliances, the author nevertheless is clearly of the view that the interests of the United States would draw us rather to the side of Great Britain than to that of her rival.

The Monroe doctrine and the policy of the open door in the Far East, parallel through the purpose of preventing one-sided national interference, are the foci of American foreign affairs. As international action bears upon these cardinal interests the aims and purposes of American diplomacy are affected. The times are therefore past when American statesmen and diplomats are justified in looking upon the intricacies of diplomatic action as alien to our national affairs and policy. This also applies to the public. Our position is indeed still a favored one, and yet, if our national policies are to succeed, the management of our affairs must be handled with that knowledge of complex diplomatic interests which characterizes the action of European powers; and this expert knowledge must be backed by an intelligent public opinion that has outgrown a native simplicity suitable only to

the enthusiastic atmosphere of a Fourth of July celebration. The reading of Admiral Mahan's book leaves a strong impression of the national responsibilities which we have assumed and of the difficulties which will confront our nation in carrying these policies to a successful issue. So judicial-minded is the author, so fair is his method of treatment, that his readers will rarely feel a desire of contradiction, although they might not be ready to follow his judgment upon every point of detail. Thus, when he states that should Russia attempt an exclusive policy in the Far East, or undue control, she would be face to face with all naval powers whose common interest in calling her to order would insure coöperation, we are led to query what combination of powers would have stopped Russia from making herself thoroughly at home in Manchuria, had she not been successfully resisted by Japan.

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*Wool-Growing and the Tariff.* A Study in the Economic History of the United States. By CHESTER WHITNEY WRIGHT. Harvard Economic Studies, Volume V. Boston and New York, Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1910.—viii, 362 pp.

Breadth of view is the distinguishing merit of this book. Dr. Wright has studied wool growing in all its relations, and the result is illuminating. The method of the work also is to be commended. In each of the eight periods that are distinguished the author painstakingly investigates all the conditions surrounding the industry, such as the growth of population, the development of manufactures both at home and abroad, the competition of cotton and other substitutes for wool, the influence of war, the changes in price of agricultural products and the consequently varying competition of general farming, and the rise of wool growing in other lands. After this broad survey of general conditions during the period studied, the author takes up the growth of the industry in each section of the United States, indicating the local conditions that favored or retarded its development.

Up to the War of 1812 sheep were kept only as a part of the old household economy, and commercial wool growing began only with the factory production of woollen goods. Centering at first in New England and the middle states, the industry was driven out by dairying and moved westward with the frontier across the Mississippi valley. In consequence of expanding markets and high prices for farm products, combined with lessening transportation rates, which favored grain as