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## Books of Special Interest

### Romantic History

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. By V. F. BOYSON. With notes on the Natural History by RUPERT VALLENTIN. New York: Oxford University Press. 1925. \$5.

Reviewed by ROCKWELL KENT  
Author of "Voyaging"

IN the surge of the South Atlantic, some 250 miles east of the nearest point of Patagonia—with which they are geologically connected by a submarine plateau—between 51° and 53° S. latitude and between 57° 40' and 61° 25' W. longitude, lie a group of islands numbering over one hundred, great and small. Storm-whipped, treeless, and forbidding, they saw the centuries go by, waiting until some fine venture of the spirit should bring them within human ken.

It starts magnificently—this book of the Falklands—starts like a saga, sounding at once a note of great adventure. It sustains that note over three centuries crammed with stirring episode—until, in 1855, with Chapter VII, "British Rule," the interest stops; and the narrative continues with the enthusiasm of a Congressional record. With discovery accomplished, the struggles for possession—struggles, by the way, that threatened more than once the peace of Europe and America—with these at an end, with the colony established and policed, the making and recording of the islands' history passed into the hands of politicians. And although, in the book under review, the islands' subsequent story is painstakingly told, one must question whether history based upon official reports has ever any real value as the truth.

Yet throughout the entire story, involving as it does the relation of innumerable quarrels, the author maintains an impressive fairness of judgment and a rare appreciation of the humor of events and characters. It is the reviewer's impression that the British claim to the Falklands is still disputed by the Argentine Republic; and certainly, as the history of it is presented in this book, British title to those islands rests upon the most unconscionable and deliberate theft. The proud American may profit by reading of the disastrous effect of his countrymen's official interference in the colony's affairs; and he will hold his sides in wholesome laughter at "spread-eagleism" *reducto ad absurdum*.

It is, however, as a book of reference on the Falkland Islands—their history, their resources, and industries, their natural features, and their flora and fauna—that the authors must expect to have it judged; and certainly, by scholarly achievement of that aim, it will find acceptance, and a permanent place on the shelves of history and science.

### Russian Annals

AN ECONOMIC HISTORY OF RUSSIA. By JAMES MAVOR. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. 1925.

RUSSIA. By N. MAKEEV and VALENTINE O'HARA. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1925. \$3.

Reviewed by PITIRIM SOROKIN

THIS new and slightly revised edition of Professor Mavor's work quite deserves the good reception which was accorded the first edition in England, the United States, and Russia. The book still remains the most complete, scholarly, and dispassionate survey of the economic history of Russia written by a foreigner. It covers Russian economic history from the earliest period to the Russia of 1917. The central topic of the first volume is the rise and fall of bondage right. While other periods and topics are outlined somewhat generally this subject is given detailed analysis. As many problems, connected with it have not yet been solved unanimously by Russian historians, some of the author's conclusions may be questioned. But to his credit it must be said that he himself stresses the hypothetical character of his conclusions and recounts opinions differing from his own. The second volume represents practically a history of the revolutionary movement in Russia from the eighteenth century to the Revolution of 1917. Here also the opinions set forth are typical of a part of the Russian intelligentsia before the Revolution, and yet questionable in their validity.

On the whole, the work represents a reliable history of not only the economic but the social development of Russia. Though the author seems not to have gone to unpublished archival sources, none the less he displays such a wide knowledge of what has been published and such deep insight into the situation, that his work still re-

mains unique among the writings of foreigners about Russia.

Except for its first introductory chapters, "Russia" by N. Makeev and V. O'Hara, might serve as a continuation of Professor Mavor's work. The book represents a well-rounded history of the last Russian Revolution. Like Professor Mavor, the authors, one a Russian, former president of the all-Russian Union of Zemstvos, the other an Englishman, a member of the Anglo-Russian Committee in Petrograd, know well that they are talking about. The book is one of the best among the few reliable works about the Russian Revolution. It presents a concise characterization of the economic, political, religious, educational, psychological, and social changes in Russia during the Revolution. It is one of the pioneer works dedicated to the general history of the Russian upheaval. Accurate description, proper quotation of sources, many representative figures and tables, in their totality, clearly and comprehensively depict the course of the Revolution. Without any hesitation I heartily recommend it to all who want to have an objective and well-rounded knowledge of the greatest event of contemporary times.

### A Standard Handbook

THE CLIMATES OF THE UNITED STATES. By R. DEC. WARD. New York: Ginn & Co. 1925. \$4.

Reviewed by CHARLES F. BROOKS  
Clark University

HERE is a scholarly, scientific treatise on the climatology of the United States, by one highly qualified through more than thirty years' study and teaching as Harvard's climatologist. While some of the publications of the Weather Bureau offering statistics and summaries of our climates may be of more value for detailed reference, Professor Ward's book alone provides a concise and convenient description and interpretation of United States climates and their significance to man.

Highly instructive are the clear and well illustrated discussions of the weather usually experienced in different regions, and of the nationwide distribution of temperatures, winds, moisture, and sunshine, in their various phases. Striking weather receives its share of attention: e.g., thunderstorms; tornadoes; cold waves, northers, and blizzards. Then follows a summary chapter on the essential characteristics of the climates by provinces. "Climate and Health," "Climate and Crops," and the "Climates of Alaska," conclude the book.

So great have been the pains taken by the author it is difficult to find points for adverse criticism. Only one need be mentioned here. In his discussion of ocean currents as a major control of the climates of adjacent land and in later applications to the particular conditions in the eastern United States, Professor Ward says that "an ocean current can have practically no influence on the climate of an adjacent land unless the wind is blowing onshore." Suppose the wind is offshore. It is going slantwise from a region where the pressure is higher to one where it is lower. The speed of this wind and its direction are controlled not alone by the pressure distribution over the continental mass but in large measure also by the pressures over the ocean. Warm water, favoring low pressure, makes pressure gradients and winds stronger when the wind is offshore. Therefore, the stronger the Gulf Stream, or the warmer its waters, the lower is the pressure at sea likely to be and the more persistent and stronger the offshore wind. Since the deflection in the northern hemisphere is to the right of the direction of the pressure gradient, such increased and more persistent offshore winds are the cold northerly and northwesterly winds. Substitute water of lower temperature for the Gulf Stream, and winters of the eastern United States would become warmer and more in accord with the latitude. The Gulf Stream has been underrated rather than overrated as a control in eastern climates, though the nature of the control is rather different from the popular conception of it.

This one point should in no wise detract from the general usefulness of the volume as a climatology of the United States. It is the standard work on our climatology, one that with its abundant references to literature will be virtually as valuable ten years hence as it is today. Professor Ward's new book will find its place on the reference shelves of people with all manner of varied interests, including teachers and students,

physicians, business men, general readers, and vacationists. While complete enough to be a handbook of the specialist, it is, nevertheless, readable and comprehensible to all.

### A Sturdy Nation

NORWAY. By G. GATHORNE HARDY. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1925. \$3.  
Reviewed by ANNA C. REQUE

THIS is a volume of The Modern World Series which aims to present "a balanced survey, with such historical illustrations as are necessary, of the tendencies and forces, political, economic, intellectual, which are moulding the lives of contemporary states," and to this task the author has brought a ripe scholarship, and a sympathetic understanding.

One of the moulding forces, natural not historical, is the country itself; the long, highly indented coastline inviting to maritime adventure, the bleak mountain ranges separating each valley from its neighbor, and of such barrenness that they were the making of a race of lowland dwellers rather than mountaineers. A nation that looked to the sea for an outlet, for to Sweden there were also national barriers. The isolation of each district gave it a sense of independence, slow to incline to national unity. The geography, too, accounts for a divergence in character; the seafarer and town dweller of the coast differed greatly from the inland farmer, who in sturdy self-reliance looked little to the outside world, and turned his versatile hand to every craft his household stood in need of.

Although the past is subordinated to the present in this series, there is a clear and concise presentation of the national development, the viking movement, and the forming of a united kingdom with large colonial possessions. Then following upon this age of unexampled prosperity came the long dark years of national decline, which had their beginning in the fourteenth century and continued four hundred years. Adversity had its uses, however, and pressure from without helped to unite a people not inclined to coalesce.

The chain of events of the early nineteenth century leading up to 1814, when Norway separated from Denmark, are fully dealt with, also the union with Sweden then formed and maintained with almost constant, although not violent, friction until its dissolution in 1905.

Following upon this political, historical survey, the literature, sharply divided into old and new, comes in for discussion, and the author contrives in two chapters of some fifty odd pages to give a comprehensive characterization of the literature as a formative influence and a revelation of national character. A literature impressive in its richness of production for a country of so small a population.

Although the majority of the population have since remote times been engaged in agriculture, yet the Norwegians are in one sense a race of sailors, fishermen, and seafarers, and it was as such they first entered the pages of history. But we are told that the Viking movement was not a national one, indeed was limited to a small number of aristocrats to whom a warlike career seemed the only way of livelihood and this could best be pursued abroad, so they sailed away with a trusty band and sought their fortunes in foreign lands. An interesting theory is presented in the argument that these early expeditions were not for plunder alone, but were directed against Christian strongholds and that there was a definitely religious side to these raids.

When seafaring began to be carried on for commerce there were many factors not in its favor; the Norse colonies in the Faroes, Iceland, and Greenland had little to either export or import, and this was true of Norway as well. The Norwegians are not a people of commercial aptitude and the highly organized Hanseatic League and later the Dutch controlled commerce met with little hindrance. Not until the British Navigation Act in 1849 did Norway take its high place in the merchant fleets of the world. "The history of Norwegian shipping during the Great War is a subject which deserves more space than can be accorded to it in a work of this kind." Great losses have followed upon wartime prosperity but the worst is probably over, and with settled conditions and industrial development a people that has weathered so many storms will undoubtedly master this.

In a final chapter on the war and after we get a summary of the commercial situation brought on by the war with its inflated prosperity and consequent reaction, the economic questions confronting the country, and increased participation in international affairs.





## Wages and the Family

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"This book of Professor Douglas contains matter of the greatest importance. It is a storehouse of facts which no one interested in sociology can afford to do without."—*The Survey*.

"Mr. Douglas has begun a discussion that will last for many years and run through many pages of print. No one who cares to be informed at the beginning can afford to miss this early setting out of the problem."—*The Saturday Review of Literature*.

"Readers will find the author's criticisms of the present wage system thought-provoking, and . . . cannot fail to appreciate the importance of the problem and the ability with which Professor Douglas develops his constructive proposals."—*International Labour Review*.

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## Books of Special Interest

### A Canadian Novel

SETTLERS OF THE MARSH. By FREDERICK PHILIP GROVE. New York: Doran.

Reviewed by WILLARD H. DURHAM  
Winnipeg, Canada

IN THE last twenty-five years to pass a moment of time, a novel suggesting to us has come out of Canada. "Settlers of the Marsh" is not merely a story on the surface, its merits are fundamental.

There are two tremendous scenes in the book and a multitude of intensely vivid little pictures of all sorts; there is detailed, subtle characterization and the presentation of many folk who appear physically alive to us and whom we might wish to know; there is presentation of a prairie settlement rising out of the gumbo and becoming articulated into Canadian life. Under all, upholding all, is the prairie landscape; over all, as a presence, is the prairie sky at night and by day. This vivid, compelling intensity of the book is blurred and offset from time to time by what appear to be tricks of style—the spendthrift use of dots suggesting that anything but the prolific linotype would have run out of periods by the end of the first chapter; a nervous haste destroying the reader's desire for leisure as he reads; the apparent lack of verisimilitude in the speech of certain characters; in one or two places an artistic amount of detail in handling the sex elements of the book; and a rather hurried ending.

The story of the writing of the book and some knowledge of Mr. Grove throws interpretive light on these merits and defects. Mr. Grove has lived in Manitoba for thirty-three years; he has been privately and ardently apprenticed to the pen for a longer period than that. Equally at home in French, German, and English, Latin and Greek, his literary self-criticism is severe. Apart from certain publications on the Continent a generation ago, he first ventured into print in 1922 and in 1923 with "Over Prairie Trails" and "The Turn of the Year." This last published book and first novel, "Settlers of the Marsh," was originally planned as a work of 900,000 words in three volumes. As actually written it contained about 400,000 words. It was cut to 85,000 words to meet the publisher's demand in connection with a first novel. Hence, the dots, which represent the loss to the reader of a rich quantity of supporting interpretive and descriptive material in the writing of which Mr. Grove's pen can be most satisfying. Hence, the nervousness of the book and the seemingly rather sudden ending.

The note of Grove's book is tragic. The central figure is Niels Lindstedt. Intimately associated with him are two women and a man and a boy. Surrounding these four is the prairie settlement and such coming and going of marginal people about their business of seeding, harvesting, hauling, cooking, child-bearing, and "choring" as suggests the continuity of life in spite of Niels's tragedy or the tragedy of any individual or group of individuals. The struggle within Niels himself, the struggles of the two women, Ellen and Mrs. Vogel, the battle of the whole community with the land—all of it involves the old pitiable disaster against which the heart and mind of man forever unavailingly rebel, the disaster of waste. But the book ends quietly and serenely. It is the quiet after the storm, the serenity which comes when folk are tired and wish to rest awhile. In the end the book becomes one more localization of the warfare of the human spirit. Thus it fuses with the universal and out of Manitoba landscape creates spiritual territory of the soul.

Mr. Grove's knowledge is so thorough, his style so economical and effective, that his literary product becomes one of those inescapable things carrying with it an undeniable challenge to our attention. One is tempted to the statement that no pen at work in Canada suggests the capacity, not primarily to tell a story, but to interpret the actuality of Western prairie life in the making, as does the pen of Frederick Philip Grove; no one is creating as Grove is creating it the kind of literature to which one goes in order to get the sense of life, of men and women alive body and soul, of landscape under foot and eye. With this book, "Settlers of the Marsh," Canada makes contribution to contemporary world fiction.

### Old England

LONDON LIFE IN THE XVIII CENTURY. By M. DOROTHY GEORGE. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 1925.

Reviewed by WILLARD H. DURHAM

THE title and illustrations of Mrs. George's carefully documented work will attract certain readers only to disappoint them. They will expect to find a reproduction of Hogarth's Gin Lane surrounded by information about bottles and bagnios; they will anticipate information about sword-knots and lap-dogs, the fashionable hour for dinner in 1740, and the gossip of the servants' hall in 1726; and they will be correspondingly uninterested in trade statistics and the neglected duties of parish officials. For Mrs. George has made no attempt to supplant Ashton or other compilers of not wholly authentic details concerning eighteenth century gowns and games. Although she is familiar with the periodicals and with the pamphlets of Ned Ward, Tom Brown, and Jonathan Swift (may he forgive me for mentioning him in such company!), she has made slight use of them and has drawn most of her material from such sources as the bills of mortality and the reports of committees of the House of Commons. Her interest is in sociology rather than in society, in problems of economics rather than in those of etiquette. The social backgrounds of eighteenth century literature have yet adequately to be described.

To our knowledge of the subjects in which she is interested, Mrs. George has, however, made a significant contribution. She has clearly demonstrated the falsity or inadequacy of certain commonly accepted generalizations about the eighteenth century. She has shown that working class prosperity did not, in London at least, decrease as that century grew older. She has made it apparent that much of what has been said about the deplorable effects of "the industrial revolution" is without foundation in fact. She has shown that the nineteenth century which has, during the past six years, ing as new evils those which were of ancient origin and which had flourished most sturdily long before they were supposed to have been born. She presents important facts about tradesmen and apprentices, and she has demonstrated certain evils of the traffic in gin which are not without interest for a country which has, during the past six years, made it vastly easier to procure bad gin than good beer.

Concerning the value of Mrs. George's material and the general validity of her conclusions no great difference of opinion is likely to arise. Some of us may be less certain than she seems to be about the ultimate value of society of the kind of progress which she records; we may even be unwise enough to regret the passing of certain rough and hardy customs which men supposed that they enjoyed until reformers told them they were wrong; but we cannot deny that these changes have come. Mrs. George has seen to that. Her facts come not as single spies, but in battalions; yet their manœuvres show lack of discipline.

It is just here that Mrs. George is most open to criticism. She has not always been able to direct the whirlwind and has sometimes yielded to the confusion of her notebooks. Much of her evidence is derived from early nineteenth century sources and refers to early nineteenth century conditions. She is not unaware of this, but the reader is likely to be. He must be constantly alert if he is to know that a given statement applies to the eighteenth century only by inference. And not even the alert reader is always able to discover precisely what portion of the century is under discussion. Mrs. George's mind would appear to be Teutonic, not Gallic; her chapters are bundles rather than organisms.

Nor has she any great mastery of style. She plods on indefatigably, letting the reader stumble doggedly behind her if he will. Hers is the determined seriousness of the graduate student who believes Bacon to have said that truth is best plain set. The value of her book lies wholly in its matter. This is the more regrettable because there is so much of real value there.

The publishing house of Bemporad in Florence is issuing a collected edition of the novels of Pirandello under the title, "Novelle per un anno." The collection when completed is to contain twenty-four volumes and well illustrates the versatility of the Italian dramatist's talent. His fiction is of varied character, at times satirical and humorous, at others concerned with psychological problems.

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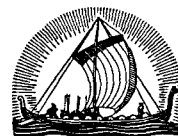
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