

The Immigration Question

HUMAN MIGRATION. *A study of International Movements.* By Donald R. Taft. New York: The Ronald Press. 1936. \$4.

Reviewed by HENRY PRATT FAIRCHILD

THIS book gets off to a bad start with the opening sentence: "It is a commonplace that mankind are not evenly distributed over the earth's surface." This is too bad, for while the quotation is to some extent representative of the style and approach of the volume as a whole, it is not a fair preparation for appreciation by the reader of the many excellent and valuable contributions that the author has to make.

It appears evident that Professor Taft has attempted to make his book a real addition to the voluminous literature of immigration, particularly in its American aspects, and to avoid a mere restatement of material that has already been adequately handled by other writers. Accordingly, he reduces his historical treatment of the general immigration movement to the United States to a brief eleven pages. But it is noteworthy that, although the sub-title characterizes the book as a "study of international movements," the "History, Statistics, and Current Trends of Migration" are condensed into a single chapter of twenty-three pages. What the book really becomes is a sociological analysis and critique of various aspects of migration. Thus there are many chapters on the Background of Modern Migration, The Effects of Migration, and the Regulation of Migration, national and international.

The author's approach to these themes is of the sort ordinarily described as "liberal." He is obviously anxious to avoid unfairness to any people, to be free from the accusation of prejudice, racial and other, and to recognize valuable social qualities wherever they may be found, in individuals or groups. This attitude is patently commendable and will perhaps be a salutary antidote to a great deal of American writing that reeks with hundred-percentism. Certainly Professor Taft presents a large amount of material, statistical and descriptive, along with his personal interpretations, which will be of great assistance to all students of the question, and which is not easily accessible in any other single volume. It must be confessed that this material is poorly organized and integrated, and that there is a peculiar distribution of emphasis. Thus, in the effort to be thorough, the author devotes a great deal of space to the fundamental questions of population and native intelligence, which are vast controversial subjects in themselves and can hardly be competently disposed of in a book on migration, while on the other hand some problems that are vitally germane to his major subject, such as the effect of immigration on the size and growth of population and on wages and the standard of living, are disposed of with scarcely more than a wave of the pen.

Henry Pratt Fairchild is professor of sociology at New York University.

WORLD IMMIGRATION. By Maurice R. Davie. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1936. \$3.75.

Reviewed by CONSTANTINE PANUNZIO

THIS book is significant for at least two reasons. First, it is the most complete usable presentation of the salient data relating to immigration that has appeared in any language, so far as this reviewer knows. Wilcox-Ferenczi's monumental two-volume "International Migration" (1929, 1931) does bring together a more comprehensive body of data, but while a credit to scholarship it is useful only as a source. Professor Davie draws his materials from a wide variety of sources, skilfully analyzes them, presents them in a readable manner, gives an abundance of statistical, graphic, and other illustrative material, and includes a bibliography of works in English and some in German more comprehensive than will be found in any book of a non-biographical character.

In specific content the book is well-organized, logically developed, and comprehensive. It first discusses the meaning of immigration as a world-wide phenomenon; then takes up immigration to the United States in the colonial period, immigration from northwestern Europe, from southeastern Europe, from other American countries such as Canada, Mexico, etc., and finally immigration from Asia; following this it discusses the characteristics of the immigrants and their effects upon American society, the development of the immigration policy in this country, the administration of the immigration laws, the problem of immigrant adjustment, the Americanization movement, naturalization, and the factors making for or against assimilation. It also has two chapters on immigration to the British Dominions and to the Latin American countries. In short, it leaves little to be desired in the way of both content and manner of presentation. It is a genuinely scholarly work, in the best sense of that term.

It is significant for an even more important reason. Virtually all the books on immigration written in the United States have taken a narrow nationalistic view of a phenomenon which is truly world-wide in its influence. They follow a conventional pattern of distinguishing the "old" from the "new" immigration; parrot fashion repeat the old saw that all the "old" immigration was good and all the "new" very bad, without really going into the facts; they restate and fortify the racial myths which pollute so many contemporary publications; they roundly damn all books that do not adopt the ultra-nationalistic viewpoint on immigration, by not so much as mentioning them; and they tell how immigration affects the United States. For the most part they fail to see or to point out that migration is an international phenomenon of the first order, affecting international trade, balances of trade, monetary policies, international relations and culture, as well as the life of this country.

Professor Davie is free from all this. He does show the effects on the United States—in fact that is his central theme—but he points out the larger aspects of the matter. He points out the larger influences on other peoples, on the immigrant himself, on international activities, etc. In this as in other respects he makes a real contribution. In fact, in this book one branch of sociology comes of age. Incidentally, it shows that the United States is producing scholars capable of viewing societal phenomena in their totality and that we are beginning to see that national adulthood brings with it the responsibility of mature consideration and action.

Professor Panunzio teaches sociology at the University of California at Los Angeles, and is author of several works on or related to immigration.

Hell on a Grain-Hauler

HEAVENLY HELL. *The Experiences of an Apprentice in a Four-Mast Barque.* By Richard Brinsley Sheridan. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1936. \$3.50.

Reviewed by ALEXANDER LAING

FOR all its melodramatic title, this is a well-wrought book. Despite its author's heritage it dangles no Irish pen-nants. There is nothing novel about the subject: a voyage from London to Australia in ballast, and home again with 4000 tons of wheat. The novelty lies in the author's attitude: it is the epic of the gentleman voluntarily seeking a life of filth and great hazard for his soul's sake. To find a clear parallel one must go back to Melville's "Redburn," passing over "Lord Jim." At that, Wellingborough Redburn had an easier prospect: his shipmates spoke his own language, and chipping hammers were yet to be invented.

Papa Erikson's crews are made up almost wholly of Finns earning time in sail for their officers' tickets, "strange mechanical supermen that felt neither pain, emotion, nor misery." The after-guard sized up the apprentice's background and saw to it that the most arduous and revolting jobs (such as cleaning the privies) all came his way. But at last came the fair rewards. When the officers acknowledged that the apprentice had come through with honor, and rewarded him with some of the best jobs in the ship, his fo'e's'le mates were murderously resentful throughout the long voyage home. But the true reward came in the surprising form of a deep and genuine love for the ship. It is a bit hard to think of anyone loving a modern steel grain-hauler, yet Sheridan's account leaves no doubt that the miracle occurred. The title, which at first seems unfortunate, takes on an exact meaning on both counts before the book ends.

One great merit of this book is the presentation of continual variety in the account of a life which necessarily has much of routine in it from day to day. The writing is always spirited and often humorous, even though an occasional passage might not be grammatically acceptable to the shade of another member of the author's family who bore the same name. But these are trifles to carp at in a rich and lusty book.

Preserved in Law

LOST PLAYS OF SHAKESPEARE'S AGE. By C. J. Sisson. New York: The Macmillan Co. 1936. \$3.75.

Reviewed by TUCKER BROOKE

IT might seem as reasonable to get gold out of sea-water as to recover missing plays of Shakespeare's time from the multitudinous ocean of litigatory documents amassed by the courts of Star Chamber and Chancery. This is just what Professor Sisson has done. After prolonged fishing in those troubled depths he has brought up admirably complete information about two new plays of first importance to students of realistic drama: one the work of George Chapman himself in his best period, the other the joint product of four luminaries, Dekker, Rowley, Ford, and Webster. One was acted by the Paul's Boys in 1603, the other at the Red Bull Playhouse in 1624.

Unfortunately, the administrative mol-lusk of the law failed in these cases to lay hold on the actual dramatic texts, but otherwise it gathered into itself pretty much all the data a modern student would wish to have—plots, sources, circumstances of performance, signed depositions of authors and actors, etc. And the very pother that the law made about these otherwise unrecorded plays, "The Old Joiner of Aldgate" and "Keep the Widow Waking," is warrant of their particular value as social documents. The gleanings that Dr. Sisson has skilfully collected from the mass of pleadings give us two comprehensive and unquestionable views of London life in the early seventeenth century and add some essential biographical facts about dramatists and producers of the time.

From the same repositories Professor Sisson has extracted the actual texts of certain smaller types of dramatic entertainment. Thus he is able to produce two practically perfect specimens of that rarest of all species, the stage "jig," along with an elaborate May Game from Wells in 1607—which was a first-class example of its kind and also a first-class scandal; and some interesting poetical libels, one dating from Stratford-on-Avon in 1619. More is yet to come, for the "wide ramifications" of the legal papers dealing with the troubles of a company of actors that toured Yorkshire in 1609 with a political play (and also with Shakespeare's "King Lear" and "Pericles") "forbid inclusion of an account of this play in the present volume."

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