

Europe, 1941

UNDER THE IRON HEEL. By Lars Moen. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. 1941. 350 pp. \$2.75.

Reviewed by W. L. WHITE

AS a war correspondent I have a keen professional interest in Europe and as a matter of routine read all the journalistic outpourings on the subject of Europe, from time to time chucking into the flood a few dippersfull of my own.

So I'd like to say that the best thing done this spring has been turned out by an American scientist who happened to be in Antwerp fiddling with a new color film process when the Germans came in, and spent six months watching the seamy underside of the German war machine. As an observer Lars Moen is magnificent. He tells me exactly what I want to know. You see the German army and the Belgian people day by day—you watch German morale begin—just a little—to disintegrate—you watch the Belgian nation catch its breath.

All Lars Moen has to offer you are the facts—tiny little human facts—except that when you add them up you get the year's most vivid picture of what a German-dominated Europe is like, and what is on the mind of the German army.

What you find out about the German army is first, that it is good; second that it is human. It contains some decent, civilized people and it contains a number of stupid fanatics. It entered Belgium completely cocksure that the war would be over in fifteen days. It paid a much higher price for the victory over France than it expected, and was completely flabber-



Lars Moen



—From "A Cartoon History of Our Times."
The Totalitarian Tide

gasted when England did not capitulate along with France last summer.

You learn that propaganda has created such a bitter hatred of England and of the English people that if the Nazis ever occupy the island they will treat the British with a ferocity unequalled since the Middle Ages. You learn that the Belgian people are 90 per cent bitterly anti-Nazi, and even more solidly behind their King in his capitulation. You learn that the German people have not much hatred but plenty of contempt for America, are convinced that we do all our thinking with our cash registers and consequently that our only important aid to England will be verbal, or that we stupidly will get into the war too late

to do any real good. You learn also that the Germans aren't allowed to know the extent of American aid.

You learn all this not from Mr. Moen, but from hundreds of conversations with German soldiers and officers which he faithfully records, leaving you to do the thinking and supply the adjectives while he reports only what he heard and saw.

I don't know how Mr. Moen's color process finally panned out, but I can testify that he has delivered a completely satisfactory and unhysterical reporting job. He writes, sees, and thinks clearly. His book is indispensable for anyone who wants to do any unemotional thinking about the continent of Europe.

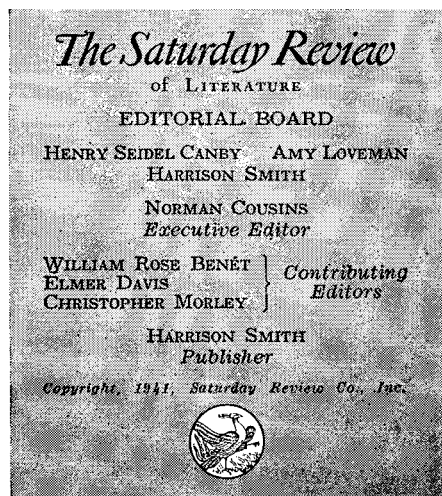
Your Literary I. Q.

By Howard Collins

LITERARY ATHLETES

The pages of literature are sprinkled with athletic feats of a varied nature. Some of them are briefly described below. Can you recall the names of the performers. Allowing 5 points for each character, and another 5 for the story in which he appears, a score of 50 is par, 60 is good, 70 or better is excellent. Answers are on page 17.

1. With the score 4 to 2, and two on and two out in the last of the ninth inning, this mighty slugger made history by striking out.
2. Clever maneuvering in the home stretch broke the wheel of his adversary's chariot and won the race for this daring driver.
3. His strong-man act brought down the house and rolled some 3,000 people in the aisles.
4. By his prowess in a wrestling match, this young nobleman won the love of a duke's daughter.
5. Though getting along in years, this old gentleman kept in shape by standing on his head, turning back-somersaults, and balancing an eel on the end of his nose.
6. When an irate caller twisted the fireplace poker in his rage, this celebrated detective laughingly picked it up and, with a sudden jerk, straightened it out again.
7. To prevent the bell from ringing the signal for the execution of her lover, she made a flying tackle of the clapper and held on long enough to prevent it.
8. This sprinter, by tossing down golden apples at judicious intervals, defeated his feminine opponent and won her as the prize.
9. After hearing a sermon on faith, this Yorkshireman found that he could float through the air with the greatest of ease.



THE ROBEY REPORT

THE editors have not read all six hundred textbooks examined by Mr. Ralph Robey for the National Association of Manufacturers and are therefore not in a position to discuss with any documentation the general conclusion that some or many of them are derogatory to the American form of government. How good these textbooks are, how judicial, how close to the facts of American life, we leave for expert inquiry. But the report has served to bring certain other considerations and factors into focus. Mr. Robey, after making his excerpts, stated that he found too much criticism of the spirit of free enterprise, which, we take it to mean, is the system of more or less controlled laissez-faire under which American finance and industry have operated in the last half-century. We should like to ask of what conceivable use in a democracy textbooks on economics or history might be if they found nothing in our past or present crying for criticism.

Is America above criticism? Are the depression, unemployment, the record of our industrial development, the activities of monopolies and the difficulty of controlling them to be concealed from school children until they find out for themselves that we have been living in a changing economy? Is the American system as it was in 1870 or 1890 or 1929 or even 1941 to be described as a status quo or as a growth or as a change? And if as a growth, why did it grow this way and not that? And if as a process of change, why did we have to change, and how can change and growth expect to meet our new internal problems and the threat of a vastly different and powerful external order threatening our own? Can all this be described, even in that constructive spirit which a textbook should exhibit, without criticism of "free" enterprise or any other enterprise? It is at least an open question whether this free enterprise, in

some very important particulars, has developed in complete harmony with the hopes or even the cruder desires of our early American ancestors.

There seems to be a presupposition in the Robey report that there is but one definition of the American way of life. Yet it is entirely possible that the democratic slogans advertised on billboards by the manufacturers' group may have a somewhat different motivation behind them than identical slogans over the insignias of other groups. It is a fair question to ask of any group coming forward as the champion of democracy, whether it is interested in democracy both as a means and as an end, or only as a means. What most of us expect from democracy are various protections we feel are indispensable to our well-being and progress. The protections called for by a manufacturers' association may be quite distinct from the protection called for by other citizens. Is it not likely that the reason democracy may mean one thing to the captain of industry and another

thing to the man on the assembly line is because each of them has a different and perhaps conflicting conception of the kind of protection to which he feels entitled under the American form of government?

As a not unimportant sidelight on the Robey report, it might be recalled that not so long ago the Federal Trade Commission, as the result of an investigation into publicity methods of the utilities, discovered that considerable pressure was brought to bear upon schools and educators to present the utilities' case against government interference. Without discussing the government report in detail, it appears that outright sums were appropriated by the central utilities' association for payment to coöperative school officials and educators, and that efforts were made, in many instances successfully, to introduce into schools textbooks written to order or revised and presenting the desired point of view.

H. S. C.
N. C.

Draft Names Drawn

By Oliver La Farge

THIS is the City of New York
On the island of Manhattan and the mainland
In New York State, an old state among the forty-eight,
A state and city far gone in sin, with their newspapers
Full of the names of people who have got into gaudy trouble
Or made large fortunes.
But here is a different set of names,
Let us read of the young men of New York who have drawn number 158.
Their names as names should be studied in many nations,
Just the list of them makes a statement which rolls around the world,
These are names of power.
The first one, Number One in District One
Is Yuen Chong Chan of Pell Street.
It is not the name we would have expected,
But he is an American
And no man in this republic will refuse to accept him as a soldier,
Now that Mr. Stimson's fingers have pulled him out of a goldfish bowl,
Out of anonymity in Pell Street.
It begins in Manhattan with the name of Yuen Chong Chan,
And then goes on, John Anthony Tierno, Charles Benny Farrugia,
The American names, the suggestion of a former Juan and Carlo,
And still it goes on through the island and all the city:
Silverberg, Weisblum, Axelrad, Karachinsky—
Some of them suggest wars already in process but not our wars;
These men are our own and they are ready only for our war, if it must come.
There are Romeo Maynard, Frank Siome-Re, and George Basil Tsatsaronis;
And then there are W. Winthrop Clement and Albert Miller
Which everyone is ready to recognize as American, but they do not predominate
Because this hard time is all America's time,
It belongs to an Indian of my acquaintance called White Cloud (he is not a
New Yorker),
And to Nicholas Michaelides, to Goldenson, Armstrong, MacDonald, and Diaz,
And to Messrs. O'Rourke, Kelly, and Mahoney.
This is a great list.
We have not paid attention to a list like this before
And we must not merely grow accustomed to it.
We should think a long time about the name of Yuen Chong Chan,
We need to feel the meaning of all these names taken together and in sequence.
It would be a good thing if they could be read across the world:
James Francis Adams, Herry Lefkowitz, Carl Ludwig Larson, Gonzalez,
How do you pronounce Mikolajczak?