

Esther Gould's Book Corner

Are You Interested in Books of Fiction, Biography, Travel, or History? For lists write to ESTHER GOULD, care of The Highland Park Press.

Gloomy, Indeed!

THE SHADOW OF THE GLOOMY EAST

By Ferdinand A. Ossendowski
E. P. Dutton & Co.

Ossendowski has not written another "Beasts, Men and God" in his latest book "The Shadow of the Gloomy East." His subject matter is not so startling, so spectacular, nor is the narrative so continuous. Instead of the story of a mad escape through countries almost unknown to us, this is vivid and indeed sufficient to startle sketches of experiences in at least partly known places—various provinces of Russia.

Dr. Ossendowski considers the East itself a "gloomy shadow." And so it looms in his book—like the cloud which rises up from a forest fire and in an instant seems to envelop the whole sky. And the elements of the forest fire are Bolshevism, Russian mysticism, strange distorted forms of witchcraft and a state of mind which leads to utter desperation and despair.

In speaking of this mental conflagration the author says: "The people are bending beneath its horrors. Brig-doping and self-immolation of the most insane kind are spreading. So they cut their throats, hang themselves in burns and forests, drown themselves in rivers and marshy lakes, pour boiling water over themselves, swallow poison, or fling themselves into flames."

While reading such statements one must, to keep one's sense of balance, remember Dr. Ossendowski's own definition of his works when he was confronted by scientists that he wrote not as a scientist but as an artist. One cannot help feeling that he has done what so many modern artists do, exaggerate for the sake of emphasis. Real and vivid as are the sketches one cannot believe that the conditions they portray are as general as he would have us believe.

But in any case Dr. Ossendowski has written a brilliant book. He recounts his experiences in Russian villages where witchcraft and heathen practices are paramount, where perverted sects like the "floggers" carry on their mad rites, where it is a common custom for young girls, bound in a lonely forest to "marry the Devil." Devil worship has its priestesses and its priests and "numbers a great many professors, and disposes of large and ever increasing funds."

Dr. Ossendowski then goes on to the state of mind of the so-called intelligentsia, of the Royal family and the nobility before the war, he leaves no part of the complex nation untouched. The impression of the book is like the lurid reflection that a great fire throws on the under side of its own smoke cloud.

A Good Story

"THIS MAD IDEAL"

By Floyd Dell. Alfred A. Knopf

Floyd Dell can certainly tell a story. He has an ease of motion which sweeps one along from the first page to the last. In "This Mad Ideal" the motion is not quite as sure and compelling as in Mr. Dell's first novel "Moon Calf." Perhaps having been a boy himself he is able to carry us along a little more surely with Felix Fay than with Judith Valentine.

The theme of the two books is the same. These who would fly high must fly alone. They must be free from the entangling alliances which enmesh ordinary people. They may pass in their fight for a day—an hour, but they must go on.

Judith Valentine knew that almost before she knew that she knew it, when her only sympathetic friend, the aloof by her own efforts as one would keep a bit of dandelion fluff in the air on a windless summer day. Then comes the moment of final decision. "She stood looking down at him, pitying him, pitying herself. They loved each other. If she married him, their striving would be over. They would stop trying to do impos-

doctor who had saved her from lifelong invalidism, told her that he was running away with the woman he loved. But "Perhaps I shan't even be a doctor any more. It's taken something out of me all this . . . And Judy—if you hear that I've become a jumb, selling patent medicines on the street for a living—just remember, if you can, how it all happened."

Judy's mother and father had realized that in marriage something was surrendered and they had rebelled. But in rebelling they both went down. Yet Judy persists in this "mad ideal."

She falls in love with Roy—a shy inarticulate artist whom she keeps sible things. They would be content with each other.

"They had ambitions. They had condemned themselves to be tossed about in loneliness for ever on a sea of vague unrest. Why? . . . Why not be happy, like other people?"

A word would awaken him and bring him to her but Judy cannot speak it. "She waited a moment longer and then turned and went softly out of the room."

READ

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BRIEF NEWS ITEMS FROM LAKE COUNTY

NEIGHBORHOOD JOTTINGS

Happenings Here and There in This Part of North Shore And One in Kenosha; County Seat

Supervisor Fred Kirchner of Barrington, who has been ill for some time at the county hospital was able to leave last week.

Aided by a high wind and a plentiful supply of hay, the Glen Anderson barn, located at 33rd street at the head of McAree road, Zion, burned to the ground last week.

The Salvation Army industrial store, at Waukegan, was broken into and robbed last week, according to a report made to the police.

A draft of three hundred recruits who have completed their course of training, left the naval station at Great Lakes last week and left Chicago and the Illinois Central railroad bound for San Francisco.

The budget for 1925 for the Waukegan and North Chicago Community Chest has been set at \$86,005, that amount being agreed upon by the cabinet.

George Bairstow at the town election in Waukegan last week decisively defeated Merrill Achen, the incumbent, and David T. Webb, for the office of supervisor.

Charles C. Morrill died at his home in Fox Lake, Thursday, April 9, after an illness of over a year. He was a Civil War veteran and a lifelong resident of Lake county. He is survived by three sons, Arthur and Guy of Fox Lake, and Ray of Round Lake.

Mids on seven miles of paving in Waukegan, to be completed this summer, at a previously estimated cost of \$516,860, were received at the meeting of the board of local improvements with the lowest bidder submitting figures of \$379,320.75 just \$137,040 below the engineer's estimate.

One of the oldest land marks in Lake county was destroyed by fire Sunday morning when the homestead on the old Kennedy farm, now owned by Samuel Insull, located three miles south of Libertyville at the southwest corner of the Town Line road and Milwaukee avenue burned to the ground.

After 48 hours and 20 minutes of deliberating and wrangling, the jury hearing the case of the Viking quartet, charged with the murder of Russell Dickey, express messenger, reported to Judge Claire C. Edwards of the Circuit court last week that it could not come to an agreement and was discharged.

PRESIDENT TO WORK DURING VACATION

Will Study Carefully Problems Facing Administration; What They Are

Announcement has already been made that President Coolidge will spend a considerable part of the summer in New England. It is not expected by his friends, however, that this will be entirely in the way of a vacation, as most people use the word. For it is known that the president intends to utilize this time away from Washington undisturbed by the statesmen and the politicians, in the studying of the big problems which will confront the administration during the next session of congress.

These problems will include, among others, further reduction of income taxes and the revision of the revenue laws, the world court and further reduction of world armament, and the railroad situation.

Nothing further, of course, can be done about the world court issue until some action is taken by the senate. The president, of course, could call a conference of world powers to discuss the further reduction of armaments, whenever he considered the time favorable. Just when this will be, no prophet, of course can tell. It is known, however, that the president is keeping in close touch with the European situation through the state department.

It now seems pretty certain, however, that there will be a big surplus of revenues next year, and that another cut in the income tax will be made. It is believed that the heaviest cut will be in the surtaxes, but that there will be a general reduction of taxes all along the line.

INDIRECT TAXES ARE WIDELY PAID

"Every time you ride on street car or train, send a telegram, use a telephone, take out insurance, purchase oil or gasoline, pay your electric light or gas bill or your rent," said Gov. A. V. Donahey of Ohio, in a recent article in the Country Gentleman, "you are paying taxes, though somebody else carries them to the treasurer for you."

A recent example of this came to light in Chicago when President Samuel Insull of the Commonwealth Edison company revealed that of every dollar taken in by that company in 1924, almost twelve cents had gone for the payment of taxes.

President Coolidge has not so far complained that he gets so few invitations to deliver addresses that he has no practice in public speaking.

HEAVY FUEL COST TO MANUFACTURERS

Spend 130 Millions in State in Last Year to Produce Their Output

Illinois manufacturers, whose products last year had a sale value exceeding six billions of dollars, spent one hundred and thirty millions of dollars for fuel in making their products, according to a report to the gas section of the joint convention of the Illinois Gas association, the Illinois State Electric association and the Illinois Electric Railways association.

The report was made by F. F. Cooley of The Peoples Gas, Light & Coke company, Chicago; J. H. Hirschfeld of the Illinois Power & Light Corporation, Chicago; and C. H. Kallstedt of the Public Service company of Northern Illinois.

The report drove home to the assembled representatives of Illinois gas companies the business possibilities in industrial heating processes and urged the companies to get their share of the enormous sum manufacturers of this state are spending for fuel.

The report points out that the 1924 fuel expenditures of Illinois manufacturers did not include that spent for the generation of light, power and transportation but only for the production of heat used in fashioning millions of different articles.

It shows the manufacturers used approximately 1 3/8 billion gallons of fuel oil; 24 million tons of coal; 200 million kilowatt hours of electricity; and 5 billion cubic feet of gas to generate heat in the factories.

The report also disclosed that there are 500 municipalities, towns or villages in Illinois having the benefits of manufactured gas.

The Spottless Backyard If every house in this city could maintain for the coming season, a well kept backyard, what an enormous difference in the appearance of the community it would make.

Even if people need some corner where rubbish can be kept, it is possible to put up some kind of inexpensive screen that would conceal such accumulations.

Families with children will remark that if they do clear up their grounds, the youngsters will soon get them in disorder again. But after children get a little older, it should be possible to teach them to take pride in nice looking home grounds, so they will clean up after themselves.

It is a good general rule that stores having the enterprise to advertise, will also have the enterprise to secure good bargains for their customers.

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