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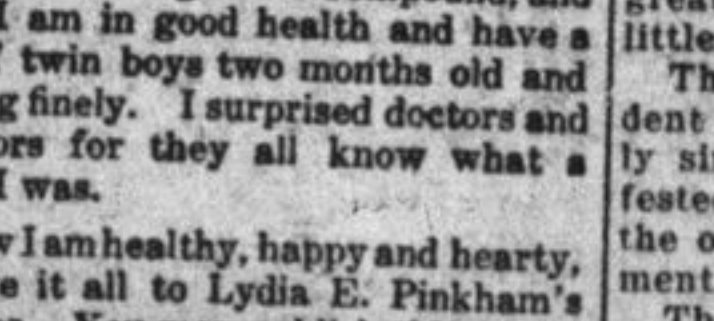
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LYDIA E. PINKHAM

IMPERIAL GERMANY

By Prince Bernard Von Bulow, pp. 290. Translated from the German by Marie A. Lewenza, M.A., (Cassell & Company, London, New York, Melbourne and Toronto), Kingston, R. Uglow & Company, \$4.00.)

The publication by Cassell & Co. of so sumptuous a Canadian edition of such a book as this of Prince Von Bulow is a gratifying indication of the increasing importance of the Canadian market, and of the increasing interest of Canadians in world politics. Its publication comes at an opportune moment, for no discussion of British imperial policy and problems can omit the question of the position of Germany, and all open-minded students of the subject should read a book which is so definitely a masterpiece.

Prince Von Bulow is a man of brilliant and versatile intellect, who, after many years in diplomatic and other high positions, was called upon to serve his country as imperial chancellor, the highest administrative position in the country below the emperor. His book was written as one part of a three-volume work on "Germany Under William II," published last year to celebrate the completion of the twenty-fifth year of the kaiser's rule. While it cannot compare in importance either with Bismarck's "Thoughts and Recollections" or with Prince von Hohenlohe's "Memoirs," it is nevertheless a clear and thoughtful sketch of the leading questions in German foreign and domestic policy. The translator has done the work admirably.

The book falls into three parts, of which the first deals with foreign policy, and the second with various questions of home politics; in the third Prince Von Bulow lays down the lines which in his opinion should govern German policy in the future. He starts with a skillful through the maze of Germany's relations with the United States of America, Japan, the Triple Alliance, and then discusses more fully her relations with France and Great Britain. In this section his main point is that there is now no danger either in the world politics; that in the old days, when it was possible to reach a strong army ensured a diplomatic place in the sun, a strong navy is now an essential. Among other interesting things he says:

"The irreconcilability of France is a factor that we must reckon with in our political calculations. Europe is not likely to entertain the hope of a real and sincere reconciliation with France, so long as we have not intended giving up Alsace-Lorraine. And there is no such intention in Germany." (p. 11.)

"England is certainly seriously disquieted by our rising power and by our competition which incommodes her at many points. But between such sentiments in England and the fundamental feeling in France there is a marked difference, which corresponds to the expression in politics. France would attack us if she thought she were strong enough to do so. She would do so if she thought she could not do otherwise. The mainpring of English policy toward us is national egoism; that of French policy is national interest; and he who follows his interest will usually remain true to it." (p. 31.)

"I desire amicable and even friendly relations with England, but we are not afraid of hostile ones." (p. 94.)

Turning to domestic policy he ascribes the creation and success of modern Germany to the combination of the Prussian power of government with the intellect of the other German states. It is interesting to compare his idea of his own position with that of a British or Canadian prime minister working through a party majority. Von Bulow is much more the personal servant of the Kaiser, and through him of Germany, and must thus be the mediator between parties who agree to the full platform of any one would be to be false to the others. "A minister, whatever party he may incline to personally, must try to find a compromise between all legitimate demands made by the various parties."

At the same time he sees fully the ill effects on the reputation of speech without responsibility. "As they never have to prove the practical value of their convictions urbi et orbi, they mostly content themselves with manifesting the immutability of their convictions. They show a great deal of conviction and very little feeling of responsibility."

This extract will recall to any student of Canadian history the precisely similar phenomenon which manifested itself in our own history in the old days of irresponsible government.

Though Prince Von Bulow has a diplomat's skill in expression, and a diplomat's shrewdness of apprehension, he has also some of the diplomat's liability to grasp the real underlying facts of a situation. In his treatment of the social democrats he is not merely unfair, he is almost stupid. His hatred makes him unintelligent. To him they are essentially un-German, contrary to the national spirit. They wish to negate the influence of the crown, and to Von Bulow any vigorous national policy must centre round the throne. Characteristic of the pupil of Bismarck is his absolute lack of dislike of bloodshed. He has no preference for force as a policy, but absolutely no hesitation. Should the social democrats, or any other minimisers of the power of the throne, become troublesome, he would shoot them down as mere vermin. The unintelligence of the attitude ranks with that of a certain type of grandmothers towards the suffragettes.

The resistance of the Poles to their absorption in Germany has would treat in the same way. He

gives a very strong defence of his own policy in attempting the Prussianisation of Poland, and though he does lay to the souls of the Poles the flattering unaction that his real motive is to enrich the German temperance by the absorption of Polish brilliancy, one feels that here the tongue of the old diplomat comes very near his cheek.

"The struggle for the land, which in its essentials is a struggle to permeate the eastern districts with a sufficient number of Germans, will always be Alpha and the Omega of our national German policy in the east. This must be supported by the struggle for German culture and education, and above all for the German language. We certainly do not wish to deprive the Pole of his mother tongue, but we must try to bring it to pass that, by means of the German language, he comes to understand the German spirit. In our policy regarding the Poles we are really fighting for Polish national German intellectual life. Here again we cannot proceed without severity as the Poles increase or diminish their opposition."

It is hardly recommend "Imperial Germany" to any one who wishes an interesting book.—W. L. GRANT.

GENERAL ECONOMIC HISTORY OF THE DOMINION, 1867-1912

By Oscar D. Skelton, Professor of Political Science in Queen's University, pp. 170. (Toronto, The Publisher's Association of Canada, Limited, 1913. For private circulation only.)

FRENCH CANADIAN LITERATURE

By the Abbe Camille Roy, pp. 55. (ditto.)

ENGLISH CANADIAN LITERATURE

By T. G. Marquis, pp. 90. (ditto.)

These are extracts from "Canada and Its Provinces," a history of the Dominion in 22 volumes, written by One Hundred Associates, under the general editorship of Prof. Adam Shortt and Dr. A. G. Doughty. The work is at present sold only in sets, and is, therefore, out of the reach of many purchasers. The publishers have, however, reprinted some of the more important contributions and are circulating them privately. It is to be hoped that after they have found for the main work as wide a circulation as possible, they will put on the open market such extracts as that by Prof. Skelton, which is in itself a book and a valuable one. It is pleasant to Kingstons to note that of the three articles so far found worth printing, two are by graduates of Queen's. The literary articles are satisfactory. While both Mr. Marquis and Mr. Roy are believers in Canada, and show that our literary beginnings are well worthy of study, they preserve a sane moderation, and by no means all their grace are swans, a metaphor which is frequently with Canadian critics. Both volumes are valuable additions to literary criticism, a branch of work in which, with the exception of Prof. Cappon's monograph on "Roberts and the Influences of His Time," Canada has hitherto been lamentably weak.

But the largest and on the whole the most interesting of the three offprints is Prof. Skelton's. This volume is divided into five chapters:

1. The economic outlook for the new Dominion.
2. Taking stock at confederation. 3. 1867-1878. Laying the foundations.
4. 1879-96. The days of trial.
5. 1896-1912. The coming of prosperity.

In addition he gives three charts, of which one shows commercial negotiations between Canada and the United States, and the various offers made on either side, the second is a "grouping chart" showing commercial failures, homestead entries, total foreign trade, wholesale prices, etc., and the third tabulates our exports and imports since federation.

In spite of this division the narrative is essentially continuous, and shows clearly the gradual expansion, differentiation, and increasing complexity of our economic life. Professor Skelton reaches a high level of interest and of impartiality. He is almost always interesting and almost never egotistical. On the tariff he naturally has much to say. His general point of view is that of a free-trader, who so thoroughly recognizes that in new country "nice customs" must "courtesy to great things," that he sometimes appears willing to postpone the attainment

of his ideal to the Greek Kalends. If the errors of the national policy are pointed out, and the lowering of our political life due to the corrupting influences of protection, on the other hand Professor Skelton is strongly of opinion that though in 1896-7 the liberals did, by the introduction of the British preference, and by the reduction of the tariff on a number of not important articles, do something to implement their promises when in opposition, no sharp lines can be drawn between the tariff policy of the two parties, however different their principles. Indeed, so impartial is he, so resolute to do justice to both sides, especially when he approaches recent events, that it may plausibly be maintained that in discussing the campaign of 1911, he does rather less than justice to the strong points of the liberal position.

Professor Skelton's book breathes a fine belief in Canada. He has fully grasped the great truth that with all her errors, there is no more idealistic nation than Canada, none which has always shown herself more nobly contemptuous of material things. We may not always be as well mannered as our English critics, or as oppressively high-minded as our American neighbors, but that the heart of Canada is sound and is attuned to the ideal is a necessary presupposition to any understanding of our country. Professor Skelton feels this deeply. He wishes us to be Canadians, not second-rate Englishmen, still less second-rate Americans. Of the United States his criticism is severe. Of the difficulty of concluding treaties with our neighbors, he is not afraid to say: "The organized anarchy of the check and balance system, carried to its logical extreme in a constitution which kept executive, senate and representatives normally at loggerheads, has made negotiation difficult and ratification a gamble." After a fine survey of our present position the book ends on a note as subdued though deep triumph, which in a man of Professor Skelton's temperament may almost be called a jubilate:

"After nearly fifty years of striving, the Dominion had no need to fear the linked in triple bands oceans had been waste places had been filled, and progress brought out of the New World the swarming emigrants from overseas alike. The farmer had fought a good battle against nature's caprice and market forces beyond his away, and the miner and the lumberman had made out of the high pitch of the fisherman, if not always keeping pace, had yet a notable haul to show. The manufacturing development, enterprise and energy in the efforts to give Canada an all round development. National unity had wonderfully grown. There had been failures, mistakes of policy, triumphs of selfish short-sightedness over a broad sense of the commonweal. There was still many a gap to be filled, many an acre to till, many a shaft to sink, many a problem of invention and too self-satisfied materialism to be grappled. But the present could look to the accomplishment of national confidence, trusting that the men of Canada's to-morrow could be no less courageous and no less self-sacrificing than the men who have helped to make Canada to-day the world's fairest land of promise."

Though he writes with restraint, Professor Skelton takes more than one sly crack at established dignitaries, as when he calls the Canadian Northern "a monument to the practical engineering capacity and the financial and legislative influence of its partner-owners, Messrs. Macenzie and Mann. There are of course occasional sentences at which a fault-finding critic might carp. To say that Sir Richard Cartwright in 1887-89 was more in sympathy with freer trade" than Blake or Laurier, is a curious way of saying that he came out flatly in favor of "commercial union; on p. 224 it would be well to explain that the J. A. Macdonald who bores up its identical with the unnamed "Canadian newspaper editor" of the previous page. On p. 178, 1870 is apparently a misprint for 1879. But these are spots on the sun. Professor Skelton has done a piece of work which reflects credit on his university and on his publishers, and which is worthy of the author of "Socialism, a Critical Analysis." He has been fortunate in his publishers, for in print, paper, and binding the book is a joy to read and to possess.

—W. L. GRANT.

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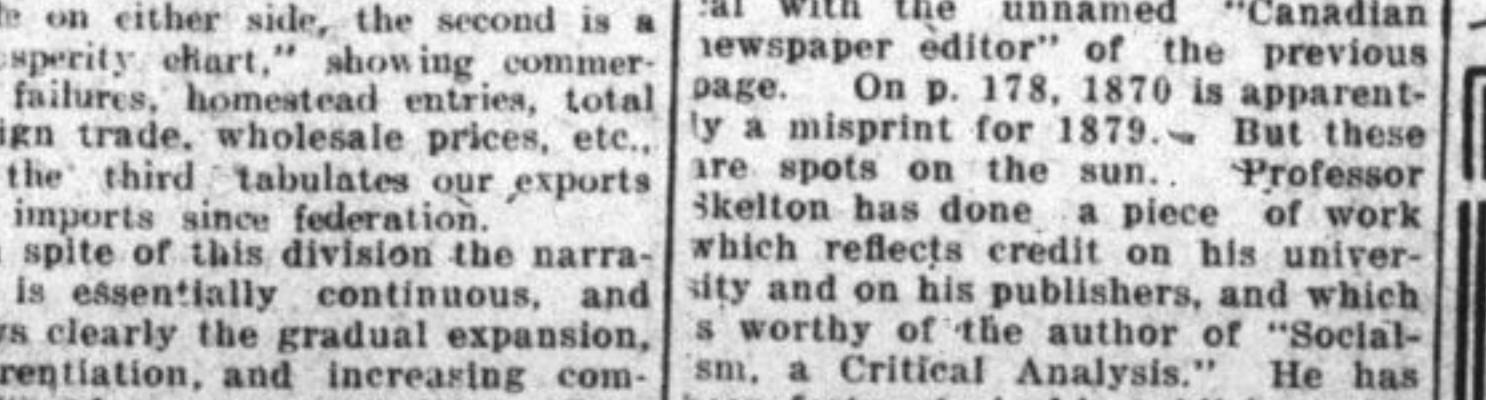
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The Standard Oil company of Indiana balance sheet reveals much smaller assets and surplus than had been commonly supposed, and a decline in value followed its publication. It showed \$19,190,083 assets and \$15,303,742 undivided profits.



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