

it does today. In America, occasional efforts to enter politics have met with hostility on the part of the public. Again, this same political position has brought public responsibility to the unions, something many unions in this country have successfully evaded. A third feature is the banding together of employers to present their side in discussions and agreements. There are American trade associations, but few of them cooperate on labor problems or contracts, being for the most part confined to trade practices.

Professor Galenson traces the growth of the labor movement in Norway during the past hundred years. Its rise seems to have been coincidental with the growth of American labor unions, but with a definite leaning toward socialism and even Marxism. Coupled with this tendency and the power achieved by its political complexion is the influence wielded by labor newspapers; to a great extent this means that workers read and are guided entire-

ly by the labor press, an effective means of promoting and unifying their aims.

The fact that the employers are also well organized makes a background for intelligent arbitration of disputes. At times this has been compulsory. With the attainment of a complete labor government, however, the ultimate goal of Norwegian labor has become closer to realization. That is state socialism, and is its own problem. Other features, such as the more definite appreciation and use of peaceful means of solving labor difficulties is in considerable contrast to labor in the United States.

Professor Galenson includes tables and data to support his conclusions, and for those who are interested in the internal operations of unions there are instructive details of how crucial situations are met. The fact that Norway has its own views on a socialist economy, unlike Russia's, and with respect for individual freedom despite strong unionism, lends a practical present day value to the book.

## BRIEFER COMMENT

### CURRENT HISTORY

The views of a British physicist on the military and political consequences of atomic energy, *Fear, War and the Bomb* by P. M. S. Blackett (Whittlesey House, \$3.50), is disturbing more in its political implications than on the scientific side. Professor Blackett sees a worldwide stalemate in relations unless Russia and the United States cease their race for armament and power. He bluntly makes the cold war between the two the great question of our time, and he discusses the claims of both nations in a fair if unpopular (to us) manner.

Maurice Hindus writes of the people of Persia, Egypt, Iraq, and Palestine in *In Search of a Future* (Doubleday, \$3.00), depicting for the most part an underprivileged and unhappy populace. In contrast with the old communities and their natives, he found Palestine an up and coming area. Hindus thinks no progress can be made in the Middle East without ameliorating the condition of the fellah, who is in much the same position as the poorest peasant anywhere.

The thoughts of Soetan Sjahrir, former premier of the Indonesian Republic, are given

in *Out of Exile* (John Day, \$3.00). Nearly all of the book was written while the author was imprisoned by the Dutch, between 1934 and 1938. The chapters are a mixture of politics, the economic problems of the Indonesians, and a warm philosophy of his own. A leader of his people, his views apparently are directed toward a gradual but sure rise of his country to a place in today's world.

George Creel comes to the defense of Chiang Kai-shek in *Russia's Race for Asia* (Bobbs-Merrill, \$2.75). He declares that Moscow controls the Chinese Communists, and that the Nationalist government under Chiang has not been as venal as we have been told. The danger of China's falling into communism is more convincing than the praise of her recent regime.

Canada as seen through the eyes of an author neither Canadian nor American can show facts overlooked by both. Andre Siegfried in *Canada, An International Power* (Duell, Sloan & Pearce, \$3.50), finds Canadians a race apart, loyal to the Empire but pursuing their own way. He reviews Canadian industries, problems, and political aspects. He also found that the United States is feared, rather than loved, by her northern neighbor.

*Poland Struggles Forward*, by William Cary (Greenberg, \$3.00), is the author's opinion based on personal investigation. Some of it repeats and enlarges upon the recent German atrocities. Some of it describes the real help Poland is receiving from Russia, while the Marshall Plan gives the needy tobacco, coffee, and wine instead of machinery. In fact, "the Poles are not enthusiastic about the Marshall Plan." That might well be worth an investigation also.

A plea for greater and closer cooperation between the United States and Latin America is the theme of *We of the Americas*, by Carlos Davila (Ziff-Davis, \$3.50). Davila intimates that is more important to our own security than European entanglements. He scores our blundering South American diplomacy to date and our commercial relations as well. Some of his criticisms are no doubt justified, but some of the opinions and conclusions seem far-fetched.

## BIOGRAPHY

*Irishfallen Fare Thee Well*, by Sean O'Casey (Macmillan, \$4.75), is the fourth volume of the autobiography of the outstanding Irish playwright. This covers the period of the greatest violence in the struggle for liberty, with sharp reflections of the Civil War, culminating in the Irish Free State, as seen through O'Casey's eyes. Told in the third person in narrative form, with some of the characters well known in literature or art, it carries his biography up to his disagreement with the Irish Theatre group and his farewell to Dublin to go to black and unholy England. It is one of the most delightful volumes of recent issue, intense and bright at the same time.

*Lincoln's Secretary*, by Helen Nicolay, (Longmans, Green, \$5.00), presents the biography of John G. Nicolay, private secretary to the Emancipator from his first campaign to his death. The author writes of her father and his biography of Lincoln with plenty of detail of official life in peace and war, and warm recollections of people of the time.

An interesting angle on American politics is given by *People and Politics*, by Lamont Buchanan (Stephen-Paul, \$2.75, distributed by Greenberg). It is a pictured history of our two-party system, from Washington to Tru-

man, told in photographs, cartoons, and posters.

*The Durable Monument*, by Admiral Sir W. M. James (Longmans, Green, \$4.00), is a biography of Horatio Nelson with emphasis on the naval engagements in which the British hero figured. Lady Hamilton's part is given second place by the author who, an admiral himself, is more interested in fighting. In fact, his opinion of Lady Hamilton is far from flattering.

## GENERAL INTEREST

*Days with Bernard Shaw*, by Stephen Winsten (Vanguard, \$3.75), are the reminiscences of a neighbor to whom the sage, philosopher, or egotist, as you prefer, revealed himself from time to time. It is Shaw frequently at his impromptu best, discussing himself, Wells or politics, and it offers a friendly picture of some of Shaw's personality that is generally concealed.

Russia in 1931 as E. E. Cummings saw it, is described in *EIMI* (Sloane, \$5.00). In diary form, as he wrote it on his journey through the country, it is done in the usual Cummings way, without orthodox punctuation, capitals. (How does it ever get proof read?) It seems to have much in it of everyday life in the Soviet.

*Milestones of American Painting in our Century*, by Frederick S. Wight (Chanticleer Press, \$5.00), gives 50 brief sketches of American painters of the past 50 years, with a reproduction of a work of each. The author also gives an outline of the coming of age of American art.

The position taken by the Protestant churches in the changing customs and standards of America between 1828 and 1895, is discussed in *Protestant Churches and Industrial America*, by Henry F. May (Harper, \$3.50). The study is confined to the Presbyterian, Congregationalist, Baptist, Methodist, and Episcopalian denominations and their part in the social problems occasioned by new outlooks on labor and the people who labored.

Friedrich Georg Juenger deplors the influence of the technological age upon mankind. *The Failure of Technology* (Regnery, \$2.75), translated from the German, shows wherein the machine age is defeating itself,