

It is, however, in the fifth chapter that both material and argument are most rewarding. Galbraith's account of the winning of the right to appoint a Canadian minister to Washington in 1920, and of the failure to do so until 1927, is, though obviously not the whole story, the most convincing yet published. George P. de T. Glazebrook in his *History of Canadian External Relations* (Toronto, 1950) is, on this theme, much less satisfactory.

Galbraith's work is to be commended for sound judgment and a high degree of accuracy. Errors noted are few and slight. One only deserves mention here; Clifford Sifton resigned from the Laurier cabinet in 1905 on the issue of the Autonomy Bills, not on reciprocity in 1911 (p. 63). And it may be worthwhile to note that the length of the Canadian-American frontier is 5,400 miles, not the conventional 3,000 (p. 59).

The sources cited for the study bring to mind one question; why do students of Canadian external policy abstain from using State Department sources? The present reviewer does not know, but surely Washington Archives have something to contribute to the story of the establishment of Canadian diplomatic status at Washington.

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Midwestern Progressive Politics: A Historical Study of Its Origins and Development, 1870-1950. By Russel B. Nye. (East Lansing: Michigan State College Press, 1951, pp. 422. Bibliography, illustrations, and index. \$4.50.)

In this survey of midwestern "radicalism" the author presents a synthesis of farmer protest movements from the days of the Grangers to the present. Nye's thesis is that Midwest Progressivism is a unique phenomenon that stretches unbroken "from 'Sockless Jerry' Simpson, Donnelly, Bryan, and 'old Bob' La Follette" and presumably to "young Bob" and Henry Wallace (p. 1). It is an "essentially common-sense, agrarian, frontier radicalism, a thoroughly indigenous compound of various elements in midwestern history." "There is nothing else quite like it in the world" (p. 2). This theme, though at times strained, is the central thread of the entire narrative.

The account contributes little new information and apparently is in no part based on original research or manuscript material. The bibliography and chapter references, however, list most of the standard monographs and texts dealing with the subject and include a wide variety of periodicals. Nye's style is forceful and pleasing and the story moves smoothly holding the interest of the reader. The first four chapters which deal with the period before 1900, in my opinion, are the best. There the author catches the spirit of what is a truly indigenous, agrarian movement of protest and reform which crusaded under various names and labels in the post-civil war decades. The more complex movements of the twentieth century are not so deftly handled.

Many readers will quarrel with both the author's general thesis and some of his specific facts. The combining of appeals to both agriculture and labor with intellectual leadership is the key to the success of the Progressives as opposed to the Populists but seemingly is only dimly seen by Nye. Much of the narrative in the chapter on "Progressivism at Flood Tide" revolves about Robert M. La Follette, Sr., but "fighting Bob's" history seems to be imperfectly understood. For example, the election of La Follette to the governorship in 1900 does not look like such a great victory over the bosses when the support of stalwart leaders such as McKinley-henchman Henry C. Payne, Congressman Joseph W. Babcock, manufacturer Emanuel Philipp, and multi-millionaire Isaac Stephenson is understood and evaluated (p. 214). In 1905, La Follette did not fill a vacancy in the United States Senate due to the death of Joseph V. Quarles, he simply defeated him for re-election. Quarles remained much alive until 1911 (p. 216). And it is inaccurate to say that "La Follette set up the State Board of Public Affairs" (p. 218). That Board represented one of the accomplishments of Francis E. McGovern.

In the chapter on "Betrayal and Survival, 1908-1920," Nye discusses both the "Bull-Moose-Progressive" effort of T. R. in 1912 and Woodrow Wilson's progressive "New Freedom" program but does not note that here is "Midwestern Progressivism" grown large. It had become national in scope. This same chapter ends on an unsatisfactory note as the author sloughs off the whole story of the decline and submergence of the Progressive movement during the first World War in less than one page. The last chapter is rather thin. It is a bit difficult to focus attention on the Midwest when the heritage of

Progressivism had passed to Hyde Park and the New Dealers.

For the general reader, *Midwestern Progressive Politics* will provide an interesting and readable account of a continuing fundamental reform drive in American history. The historian will regret that Nye did not "dig deeper and broader" into the problem.

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Robert S. Maxwell

Amerikanische Dichter und die deutsche Literatur. By J. Wesley Thomas. (Goslar: Volksbuecherei Verlag, 1950, pp. 176. Bibliography and index. \$1.80.)

Professor Thomas' book tells, in broad outlines, the story of the influence that German letters have exerted on American writers and thinkers during three and a half centuries. Discussing first the early New England contacts with German books and thought, Professor Thomas then devotes seven chapters to the nineteenth century—to New York writers such as Charles Brockden Brown, Irving, Cooper, and Bryant; to the precursors of Transcendentalism (among them, Everett, Ticknor, and Bancroft); to the Transcendentalists themselves and their relation to German Romanticism (Emerson, Margaret Fuller, etc.). Speaking of the Southern authors, Professor Thomas indicates that it was particularly Poe who went to German literature for some of the plots of his short stories. Among the writers in the "genteel tradition" who show contacts with German letters, Longfellow, Motley, and Melville are mentioned; Lessing's influence on Lowell as well as Goethe's and Jean Paul's importance to the American literary scene from 1835 to 1865 are discussed more fully. The next two chapters treat the three "experimental" poets (Whitman, Emily Dickinson, and Lanier) and the "gilded age," in which Bayard Taylor, Mark Twain, Howell, and Henry James—idealists and realists alike—occupy a significant place in the appreciation and transplanting of German culture. After a brief evaluation of the movement of the St. Louis Hegelians (William Torrey Harris *et al.*) and their influence on American thought, the book concludes with a chapter on the twentieth century.

The record of German letters in America is impressive, and yet Professor Thomas has been careful in not overstating