

hearted and docile, inured to a life of exposure and hardship, he endured without complaint labors to which men of the Anglo-Saxon race would not submit. A good illustration of this fact is afforded by the experience of the St. Louis Missouri Fur Company which in 1809 led an expedition of several hundred men, half of them French *voyageurs* and the remainder Kentucky and Missouri frontiersmen, to the upper Missouri. En route, the American contingent staged a wholesale revolt against their employers, although their treatment seems to have differed in no way from that accorded the submissive *voyageurs*.

In the nine chapters which comprise Miss Nute's book she has assembled about all most readers need care to know about the class of men to which the book is devoted. There are chapters on the fur trade, on the *voyageur* himself and on his canoe, on voyaging, on fort life, and on *voyageur* songs. Three concluding chapters deal with the role of the *voyageur* as soldier, as settler, and as explorer.

It is well that Miss Nute's book has been made available to the current generation of readers. A thorough scholar, she knows how to write entertainingly and well. The men she celebrates followed a perilous calling. In Detroit, within recent years the reviewer has listened to the legend of *Le Canot du Nord* (The North Canoe) recited by a member of one of the city's old French families as he had learned it from his ancestors. In the days of the Old Regime in Canada the young men left their homes in large numbers to enter as *voyageurs* or *coureurs de bois* upon the life of the northwestern wilderness. They seldom returned in the flesh, but on every New Year's eve the ghostly spirits of those who had lost their lives among the wild beasts and still wilder men of the north country flew back over the tree-tops in a great canoe to rejoin for a brief spell the old folks at home and to kiss the girls on the annual feast of New Year's Day. Such was the legend of *Le Canot du Nord* which is still repeated in some of Detroit's French families.

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Diary of a Dying Empire. By Hans Peter Hanssen. Translated by Oscar O. Winther. Edited by Ralph H. Lutz, Mary Schofield, and O. O. Winther. Introduction by Ralph H. Lutz. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1955, pp. liii, 409. Maps, bibliographical notes, and index. \$6.75.)

Hans Peter Hanssen published his memoirs in Danish, *Fra Krigstiden*, in Copenhagen in 1924. Oscar O. Winther has now translated those parts of Hanssen's book which best supplement already available material on Germany and especially on the problems of the Danish minority in Schleswig during World War I. The editing is done with unusual care and fullness. Ralph H. Lutz contributes a 42-page introduction, which includes a sketch of Hanssen's life and an appreciation of his work. Biographical notes at the end of the volume include thumb-nail sketches of 265—nearly all—of the individuals mentioned in the text. There is a good index. Although without illustrations and with only an end-paper map, the book is neatly printed and almost letter-perfect. The only typographical error noted makes the life span of Frau Minna Cauer extend from 1482 to 1922 (p. 377). The plan of omitting materials easily available from other sources is doubtless justified, although it sometimes leaves gaps probably disconcerting to readers not familiar with the period.

Born on a farm in Danish Schleswig in 1862, two years before the area was taken from Denmark by Prussia, Hanssen thoroughly absorbed the Danish point of view and continually championed it in his newspaper and in lectures. He served in the Prussian Landtag from 1896 to 1908, and from 1906 on in the German Reichstag, where he was the recognized leader of the movement for the return of northern Schleswig to Denmark. He faithfully kept a diary, which fully reflects his primary interests in the Schleswig problem. However, his membership in the Reichstag and his sitting with its important Finance Committee gave him first hand knowledge of much that transpired in Germany during World War I, and this aspect of his diary has wider interest than the important, but more limited, Schleswig question.

To Hanssen there was nothing glorious in the war. With the German mobilization on August 1 in his home town, he saw "pale, serious men, duly resigned: women dissolved in tears; young couples who, without thought of those about them, tightly embraced each other; sobbing children—all feeling themselves caught by the inflexible and inevitable grip of fate" (p. 10). Arrested and imprisoned, along with other Danes, he was soon released to attend a special meeting of the Reichstag. Arriving in Berlin he found a "heavy, sad, and depressed atmosphere" (p. 14). By September 11 he found the public demanding "at least one victory a day . . . When that fails, general apathy is evident" (p. 64).

From mid-1916 on Hanssen mentions with increasing frequency and concern the food shortage felt by all classes. Fuel shortages also became acute. Black market activities flourished. Conditions in the prisoner of war camps became worst of all, with hunger, sickness, overwork, and barbarous punishments.

Hansen was highly critical of the press censorship. His own and all other Danish-language papers were suppressed for the first few weeks of the war and had to operate under many restrictions from then on. He was particularly concerned that members of the Reichstag knew less of what was happening than did the public in enemy and neutral countries, and therefore translated material from Copenhagen papers for their benefit. He was equally critical of the efforts of the Press Bureau of the Foreign Office to bribe the press in other countries, especially France, Italy, and Rumania. "In such a way," he remarked, "is this vulgar war managed. As the Chancellor has said, no means are beneath the Government if it is thought that they can further the interests of Germany" (p. 112).

The decision to resort to unlimited submarine warfare on February 1, 1917, came after long discussion, and after it appeared that there was no other way to defeat England. The Admiralty presented statistics to show that submarines would sink enough British shipping that "by fall the Island Kingdom will sprawl like a fish in the reeds and beg for peace" (p. 165). The chance that unlimited submarine warfare would bring the United States into the war was answered in three ways: that the United States would not be able to contribute anything in a military way; that the war in any case would be ended before the United States could make any contribution; and—a point of interest for Indiana readers—that isolationism in the Middle and Far West might keep the United States from entering at all.

Throughout the war period Hanssen worked in close touch with representatives of the other minority groups within Germany—the Poles and the Alsatians—and was able to gather support from various political leaders, especially Social Democrats and Progressives. The diary reaches its climax, so far as he was concerned, with the assurance he received after the Armistice from the new provisional government, that "the North Schleswig question should, in view of President Wilson's peace program, be solved on the basis of the right of the people to self-determination" (p. 367). Rejoicing with Hanssen in prospects for their own minorities

to be freed from Germany were the Polish leader Wojciech Korfanty, who exclaimed, "Now life is worth living," and the Alsatian priest who added "*Donnerwetter, ja!*" (p. 323). A Schleswig plebiscite in 1920 resulted in turning over to Denmark substantially the area that Hanssen had advocated.

Professor Winther, the Indiana University Press, and all concerned are to be thanked for bringing Hanssen's valuable and dramatic diary to English-speaking people.

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The following *Preliminary Inventories* have been received from the National Archives, Washington, D.C.: *Records of the Wage Adjustment Board* (No. 72, pp. 9, 1954); *Cartographic Records of the United States Marine Corps* (No. 73, pp. 15, 1954); *Records of the Joint Congressional Aviation Policy Board, 1947-48* (No. 74, pp. 26, 1954); *Records of the Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce: Subcommittee to Investigate Interstate Railroads, 1935-43* (No. 75, pp. 10, 1954); *Records of United States Participation in International Conferences, Commissions, and Expositions* (No. 76, pp. 161, 1955); *Records of the War Relocation Authority* (No. 77, pp. 45, 1955); *Records of the National War Labor Board (World War II)* (No. 78, pp. 188, 1955); *Records of the Commission of Fine Arts* (No. 79, pp. 38, 1955); *Records of the Military Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives Relating to an Investigation of the War Department, 1934-36* (No. 80, pp. 21, 1955); *Cartographic Records of the Office of the Secretary of the Interior* (No. 81, pp. 11, 1955); *Records of the Bureau of the Second Assistant Postmaster General, 1814-1946* (No. 82, pp. 40, 1955); *Records of the Extension Service* (No. 83, pp. 37, 1955); *Records of the Select Committee of the House of Representatives to Investigate Acts of Executive Agencies Beyond the Scope of Their Authority, 1943-46* (No. 84, pp. 64, 1955); *Cartographic Records of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations* (No. 85, pp. 17, 1955); *Records of the President's Commission on Migratory Labor* (No. 86, pp. 7, 1955); *Records of the Office of the Pardon Attorney* (No. 87, pp. 13, 1955); *Records of the American War Production Mission in China* (No. 88, pp. 10, 1955); *Records of the American Commission to Negotiate Peace* (No. 89, pp. 184, 1955); *Records of the United States Antarctic Service* (No. 90, pp. 59, 1955); *Cartographic Records of the Panama Canal* (No. 91, pp. 72, 1956); *Records of the Office for Emergency Management* (No. 92, pp. 20, 1956).