

a whole, less forcible, less picturesque, than the later ones. His description of Lord Montgomery, 'Austere, severe, accomplished, tireless', is a good example of his use of adjectives. His remark that the French 'have done what they like. Their difficulty is to like what they have done', is a good specimen of his happy use of inversion. For sheer effective rhetoric, his apostrophe to the German people in *The World Crisis*, stands out: 'In the sphere of force, human records contain no manifestation like the eruption of the German volcano. For four years Germany fought and defied the five continents of the world by land, sea and air. . . . Surely, Germans, for history it is enough'. Though Mr Churchill's place in history is secure, a final estimate of him as a statesman must wait for many years yet, but he has already established himself in his speeches and in his books as one of the great masters of English prose.

PAUL FOSTER, O.P.

THE LEAGUE HANDS OVER. (League of Nations Publications, Geneva; Allen and Unwin, London; 2s.)

PREPARATORY DOCUMENTS CONCERNING THE ADOPTION OF AN IDENTITY AND TRAVEL DOCUMENT FOR REFUGEES COMING WITHIN THE MANDATE OF THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE. (League of Nations Publications, Geneva; Allen and Unwin, London, 10s. 6d.)

The League of Nations had many faults, but at worst it was a reminder to the conscience of statesmen that international life had to be based on some kind of principles, that there was an ideal to be honoured even if it was not observed; at best, it is impossible to estimate the wars avoided through the mere fact of its existence, it did really succeed in much humanitarian and social work, not least stimulated by the driving force of Nansen—in its work for refugees. The first of these publications recalls some of these achievements, outlines the methods by which it is proposed to carry on the work and expresses—dare one say, a little hesitatingly—the hope that the old traditions will be fully maintained. The second gives an account of the deliberations of the inter-governmental committee on refugees, together with the comments of experts on the preparation of a suitable travel document.

As the refugee is, by definition, without the protection of his own government which should be guaranteed on his passport, as soon as he begins to move from the place in which he has first taken refuge, he needs a document to show that he is a person with some kind of right to protection at least from insecurity in matters of life and liberty. And if he is to move across frontiers this document must carry an international guarantee. Its form and the conditions under which it is issued are obviously to be decided only after careful consideration of all the legal issues involved, and therein lies the importance of this report of the inter-governmental committee. But the main problem is obviously political; there is no physical diffi-

culty about the countries of refuge coming to an agreement on the nature of a travel document recognisable by all as valid, and there is no need to seek the agreement of the country of origin since the refugee has left it for as long as the hostile government remains in power. But that government is not necessarily hostile to the refugee's hosts and cannot but feel slighted by this solemn drawing up of a guarantee of protection to one of its criminal subjects (for it is only when political opposition becomes a crime that flight is necessary). It is this factor which, if it does not nullify international action on behalf of refugees, renders all efforts pitifully inadequate to meet the need. Hence in order to rescue a few Jews from Goering we had to co-operate in financing the Nazi state—a crime for which some will probably have paid the capital penalty by the time these lines appear—and why now, more happily inspired, Mr Noel Baker has to remind Russia that Britain admitted Karl Marx and Switzerland Lenin without consulting the Czarist Government. The million or so displaced persons in Europe present a graver problem than that of individual emigrants in an age when the religion of humanity still meant something, however remote it might be from Christian charity. As we cannot hope to restore that common understanding for many a long year, perhaps for generations, we have to be content with these more limited contributions. But within their limits they are valuable, and we are grateful.

EDWARD QUINN

ECONOMIC REBIRTH. By R. G. Hawtrey. (Longmans, Green; 5s.)

Mr Hawtrey does not provide us with a short cut to prosperity in the world slowly and very unsurely emerging from war; he does not give us a method which, if long, will certainly prove effective. He is wisely content to state 'the dangers and difficulties' of the situation. He does so in a language and style notably well adapted to the ordinary reader's understanding. This in itself is a great achievement: economists often attempt to be simple, but rarely succeed, carrying the reader on to bewildering conclusions through their habit of giving a technical sense to familiar terms. Mr Hawtrey perhaps goes too far in the opposite direction: surely only the semi-illiterate require 'let-do' for 'laissez faire'. The main difficulty will be to remedy critical deficiencies, the main danger will arise from redundant money. These facts are well-known and it is agreed that some degree of State-direction and control will be necessary to apply the remedy and overcome the danger, but the elements of economics—the credit system, the organisation of industry, international trade, etc.—necessary for the proper appreciation of the facts have seldom been so clearly explained. The author's suggestion of a state monopoly of wholesale dealing merits a close examination and his combination of an obvious sympathy with the system of private enterprise with a readiness to face facts is admirable.

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