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summer reading, is yet clear and valuable, at least to those who have not made a special study of the subject.

The greatest value of the book appears to be in the second portion, which is a reference list of the various treaties and agreements of modern times relating to the international inland waterways of the world. An appendix gives a reference index to the regulations laid down by the peace conference regarding the German inland rivers. The references to collections where these treaties and agreements may be found are very complete and should enable the student who has access to a good library to study in detail the development of international regulation in this field. The list is restricted to purely inland waterways, and interthalassic waterways, such as the Bosphorus, the Suez canal, and the Panama canal, are excluded except as they are treated in the introduction. A similar treatment of the latter would form a valuable complement to Mr. Ogilvie's book.

The book is primarily a juristic study and this is most apparent in the list of books given for further study in the field of international control of commerce. One misses works like Gorianov, *Le Bosphore et les Dardanelles*, and the books of Woolf might have been added. But in a field as large as this some choice is necessary and each individual reader will add or subtract as his inclinations tend. The book is completed by a full and careful index.

The question of international control of commerce, especially as exemplified in the internationalized waterways and the internationalized railroads, is very much to the fore in these days. To the inland states — and we have added considerably to their number in the last two years — such questions may become matters of life and death. The international lawyer, the historian, and the general student of modern problems will each be grateful to Mr. Ogilvie for his helpful work.

MASON W. TYLER

Sir Wilfrid Laurier. By Peter McArthur. (Toronto and London: J. M. Dent and sons, limited, 1919. 183 p. \$1.00)

The author of this little book, a well-known Canadian journalist, disarms the critic by his genial confession in his dedication to "fellow-writers of the Canadian Press": "The merits of the book are due to their efforts, for I have helped myself lavishly to their best brains. I have long been of the opinion that a genius is a man who knows a good thing when he steals it, and this is the first time I have had a chance to steal on an ambitious scale. I have stolen much, and if I had had more time I would have stolen more." The book is not, as a matter of fact, in any proper sense a biography of Laurier. It is merely a compilation, very

hastily put together, of facts, opinions, and anecdotes relating to the life of the great Canadian statesman, with quotations from his public speeches, bound together by Mr. McArthur's comments. The latter are often so shrewd and penetrating that one could wish the author had taken time to mold his material into better form. He was probably aware, however, that serious biographies of Laurier were already planned or in the course of preparation, in French and English respectively, by Senator David and Professor Skelton, both thoroughly competent to handle the subject in a scholarly way and with a reasonable combination of sympathetic insight and critical detachment, and no doubt he designed his own book merely as something to satisfy the immediate public demand for a popular tribute to the dead leader. As such it is probably all that one could fairly expect.

What one finds most worth while in the book are the little side lights it affords on Laurier's character as both man and statesman, his political creed, his literary tastes, his personal peculiarities. Like his great political opponent, Sir John Macdonald, for whom he had a quite genuine admiration, Sir Wilfrid possessed to a remarkable degree the gift of personal magnetism and an almost uncanny memory for faces. The first brought him the devoted attachment of his English-speaking followers and the hero-worship of his French-Canadian fellow countrymen; and the latter not only increased his popularity but also helped him around many a tight corner. While he lacked the full measure of Macdonald's dominating personality, he possessed a greater gift of eloquence. He was preëminently an orator of the old school, with a fine presence, an attractive delivery, and a truly marvelous command of both languages. His wide reading and excellent memory left him never at a loss for an apt phrase or a telling retort. Although at all times a shrewd political leader with a perfectly natural desire to keep his own party in power, he remained always loyal to the high ideals with which he had started his political career, the welfare and advancement of his country, and particularly the harmonious coöperation of the two races. His views as to Canada's relations to the empire on the one hand and the United States on the other were never in doubt. He consistently advocated the closest and most friendly relations with the United States short of political union; and his ideas as to the relations of Canada to the empire were admirably summarized in the phrase: "The Canadian people are free and loyal; loyal because they are free."

L. B.