

were so far "lost" that not even Mr. Holbrook can restore them.

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COX, JAMES M. *Journey Through My Years*. Pp. xi, 463. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1946. \$4.50.

James M. Cox's story of his life is a minor but welcome addition to the biographical literature in recent American history and politics. Although the historian will learn nothing of major importance that is new, he will gain interesting details and interpretations of men and events. The presentation is not exciting, but many of the subjects with which the book deals have deep intrinsic interest.

Cox's career has been noteworthy: he was a newspaper publisher at twenty-eight, served in Congress, and played a leading part in two major developments, the Progressive movement and the fight against isolationism in the 1920's. He was vice-chairman of the American delegation at the controversial London Economic Conference in 1933. Throughout his political career he retained his newspaper interests, and now owns papers in Dayton and Springfield, Ohio, Atlanta, Georgia, and Miami, Florida.

As a Progressive, Cox's chief contribution was made during his governorship of Ohio in 1913-15, when the legislature, under his leadership, enacted a sweeping program of economic and political reform. It marked the culmination of the movement in that state. Some of Cox's later views, however, would cause raised eyebrows among present-day progressives, on the basis of, for instance, his comments on labor legislation (p. 347 f.), his strictures on the proposal for a Fair Employment Practice Committee (p. 349 f.), and his attitude toward economic planning (p. 361).

Even more than for his progressivism, Cox will be remembered for his vigorous and forthright campaign on behalf of the League of Nations in 1920 against the doubletalk of President Harding and the Republicans. He is convinced that the majority of the people favored the League; he interprets its rejection by the Senate wholly in terms of partisan Republican con-

spiracy, and his own defeat as a result of "partisan politics and racial [German-American, Irish-American, Italian-American] prejudices" (p. 284). This, of course, underestimates the postwar reaction against Wilsonian idealism and the attraction which Harding's "normalcy" held for a people weary of wartime restrictions.

Cox had an inside view of the London Economic Conference and agrees that one of the main reasons for its failure was President Roosevelt's fear that stabilization would endanger the New Deal's attempt to raise prices. But he also believes that the Conference came too late in any event, after trade barriers and currency wars had gone so far that no agreement was possible. His severe criticism of Raymond Moley's role at the Conference is only one of many personal estimates, critical and otherwise, throughout the book.

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FEILING, KEITH. *The Life of Neville Chamberlain*. Pp. ix, 475. London: Macmillan & Co., 1946. \$6.00.

This is an official and authorized biography, based on the private letters and diaries of the late Prime Minister of Great Britain. Like most works of its type, it is strongly sympathetic toward its subject. The most discredited statesman of modern British history emerges from its pages as a Tory democrat, a social reformer, an excellent peacetime administrator, and an individual of strong loyalties and a high sense of duty. So much can easily be conceded by both friend and enemy. The real question as to Neville Chamberlain's place in history concerns his conduct of foreign affairs during his brief and disastrous premiership.

Mr. Feiling's case is that Chamberlain was not really misled by the dictators, still less in sympathy with them; he merely realized, more than others, the military weakness of Great Britain and France and strove for time until this deficiency was made good. In a revealing letter of 1938 Mr. Chamberlain said, "We are in no position to enter lightheartedly upon war with such a formidable power as Germany, much

less if Germany were aided by an Italian attack on our Mediterranean possessions and communications . . . in the absence of any powerful ally, and until our armaments are completed, we must adjust our foreign policy to our circumstances, and even bear with patience and good humor actions which we should like to treat in very different fashion" (pp. 323-24).

So far from being a Fascist, as his enemies charged, Chamberlain declared, "I have no bias in favour of Nazism, Fascism, or Bolshevism, because all of them seem to me inconsistent with what is all-important to me . . . individual liberty" (p. 322). He frequently referred to Hitler as a madman, and was greatly irked by Mussolini's bragging and Ribbentrop's oily insincerities. He was not as anti-Russian as some have thought, writing early in 1940, "I don't agree . . . that we should make peace with Germany in order to resist Russia. I still regard Germany as Public Enemy No. 1, and I cannot take Russia very seriously as an aggressive force, though no doubt formidable if attacked in her own country" (pp. 427-28). It is to his credit that Chamberlain consistently urged greater military preparedness. He remained impatiently proud of his diplomatic services, declaring after his fall from power, "Whatever the outcome, it is clear as daylight that if we had had to fight in 1938, the results would have been far worse" (p. 446).

Is the defense adequate? In some respects, Chamberlain himself had doubts. He admitted that he "was never meant to be a war minister" (p. 420). Mr. Feiling, for all his almost reverent admiration, has to concede Chamberlain's frequent blunders of judgment and his tactlessness in handling colleagues and subordinates. He was too optimistic in hoping that a wedge could be driven between Mussolini and Hitler by concessions to the former, and in thinking that Germany could not endure the economic strain of a long war. He was too pessimistic in discounting the value of Russian and American aid: "I must confess to the most profound distrust of Russia. I have no belief whatever in her ability to maintain an effective offensive, even if she wanted to" (p. 403), and "it is always best and safest to count on nothing from the

Americans but words" (p. 325). For his slighting reference to Czechoslovakia as a "far-away country" which did not concern the British, and his fatuous prediction of "peace in our time," no real defense can be made, and none is attempted. Moreover, the reader—though apparently not the author—is repelled by a certain callous tone in Chamberlain's most confidential letters and diaries, a seemingly cold indifference to the agonies of Spain, Ethiopia, China, Czechoslovakia, the German Jews, and other victims of the Axis aggressors; toward the dictators he seems to feel frequent irritation and alarm, but rarely genuine anger. His blaze of indignation when the Austrian dictator Dollfuss was assassinated (p. 253) is almost the sole exception.

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PATTERSON, ERNEST MINOR. *An Introduction to World Economics*. Pp. xv, 704. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1947. \$5.00.

In this volume Professor Patterson, whose former writings in the international field are well known, has succeeded in presenting a comprehensive survey of present-day world economic conditions and problems with a discussion of some of their complications and extensive ramifications. The book is a substantial volume, containing a large amount of valuable information assembled from a variety of sources and presented in a clear and readable manner.

The book is largely descriptive and covers a wide variety of subjects. It will be especially useful to students of international affairs who desire a factual background accompanied by interpretation and analysis. It is sufficiently elementary to be understood by the general reader.

The book begins with a discussion of population problems and the relation of people to resources. These sections, which account for a little over 200 pages or about one-third of the book apart from the appendices, contain a large amount of interesting material on the distribution of population, trends in birth and death rates, life expectancy in the different countries, migration, climatic and other natural factors