

- BOOK REVIEW -

LENIN

Christopher Hollis.

(Reviewed by C. McQuaid)

Christopher Hollis has added another masterpiece to his already imposing list of literary triumphs in the biography of Vladimir Ilyich Uliamov, otherwise known as Lenin, the Revolutionist.

In the clear and detailed sketch which flowed from the pen of Hollis, we follow the master revolutionary from the time when the first seed of terrorism was implanted in his brain, till, as master of a great empire, he died a madman. Lenin was a rebel by right of birth; his less fortunate brother paid with his life for having plotted the death of Alexander III. It was that execution which ultimately brought about the fall of the proud family Romanov. On that day, Lenin swore eternal revenge on the murderers of his brother, the Russian aristocracy.

From then on, Lenin devoted his life to anarchy and communism. He organized many papers, went to jail frequently, and spent some years in Siberian exile. He wrote, schemed and plotted to accomplish his end. From Karl Marx he drew the life blood of his revolution which was to develop into a world-wide battle against Religion and Capitalism.

The picture which Hollis gives us of the famous Bolshevik is personal and complete. From the many quotations of letters we can see the man, his habits, his likes and his dislikes. To his mother, he writes most affectionately and is ever solicitous of her well being. He advises his sister, in prison for conspiracy, how to spend her time most profitably, and gives her pointers he learned from experience on maintaining one's health during confinement. In those letters, we can see him lying awake at night from the excitement of a chess game, going duck hunting with his friends in exile, and quarreling with his fellow conspirators in Russia. He was always one to quarrel with those who did not hold to his opinions.

Apart from the story of the man, there is that of his reasoning. Hollis has probed beneath the surface to reveal the mind of the conspirator. How he interpreted

the Marxian philosophy, how he waited like a patient fox to strike when all was ready; to all the "how's" and the "why's" of the Red triumph, the author has the answers.

There is one question, however, that is left unanswered. Lenin believed in the justification of the end by the means, and mass murder. He was an atheistic, merciless, and unmoral rebel. He died an idiot of a brain disease. Was it merely the instrument which caused his death, or was it with him all through life, and he a mad man?

THE LORD HELPS THOSE . . .

By Bertram B. Fowler

(Reviewed by Lawrence W. Landrigan)

(Vanguard Press, New York)

During the past decade or so, much has been written about cooperative movements the world over. England, Sweden, Denmark, Germany and the Mid-Western States of the U. S., have each had their innings. That success has crowned the efforts of cooperation in all of these places has been frequently demonstrated by impressive statistics and the general standard of living. Cooperative success stories have, however, been popping in and out of the public eye so frequently during the past few years that one is not liable to become too highly enthused over the prospect of another, unless it is different. "The Lord Helps Those . . .", is more than just different; it is unique, and its uniqueness comes not so much from the mechanical features of the book as from the subject of the work itself, the "renaissance in Acadia."

Mr. Fowler gives us in the opening chapters of his book, a picture of the "American Dream" of the pioneers i.e., their hopes of a land where there were no lords or tenants, where one man was as good as his neighbour and where there was plenty for all and to spare. He goes on to show how, when this "Dream" was in earnest of becoming an actual fact, a greedy economic system pushed it slowly but surely into the background, took away that ownership and control of credit so necessary for a free man, and left behind a "tenancy-blight" worse than any the pioneers had ever known. Hardy men who worked with a will farming the sea, the land and the depths of the

earth and who, "once owners of substance . . . , were becoming owners of nothing but their poverty, freeholders of nothing but their misery."

Such was the state of affairs with the men of Nova Scotia until from among themselves there arose a prophet, Dr. J. J. Thompkins, one time professor of St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, N. S., and sometime pastor of Little Dover. It is the story of Dr. Thompkins and Little Dover which makes Mr. Fowler's book unique, but it is not the case history itself which does it so much as the methods used, the results obtained, and the outlook found.

The methods may be discovered by a perusal of the book itself; suffice it to say here that they have revolutionized the attitude of these Nova Scotians in such a way that they, who formerly dreaded the future, now look to it eagerly. They have, as Dr. Thompkins said, "become their own power plant," and when that happens, things happen!

The book in itself makes good reading. It flows as easily as a romance (which it nearly is). It will no doubt have far reaching effects on others who find themselves in a position similar to that of the people of Nova Scotia.

THE LONG TOMORROW

By Evelyn Voss Wise.

(Reviewed by Ronald MacDonald)

In her first novel Evelyn Voss Wise gives an interesting and clear account of the hardships and privations of a frontier people. The story centres around the life and work of one Father Pierre, a modest unassuming priest. Coming among the simple people of a Northern Minnesota community, the mild cleric is moved by the need for leadership among the people. He sees that much can be done for his poor parishioners in order that they may be better fitted for "the long tomorrow."

When Father Pierre arrived he was received with hostility by the poor, but proud inhabitants. The priest bore this hostility with great patience and charity. His personality, however, was not to be denied. Gradually the children came to love him, and the older folk to trust and rely on him.

With the cooperation of the people Father Pierre built a small church and house. The first school was begun under his capable direction and was highly successful. Included in his programme of community improvement was the erection of a cheese factory. The great difficulty was, however, that of procuring cattle to stock the vast prairies. Through the cooperative effort of the people and the timely aid of an anonymous benefactor, Father Pierre was finally able to overcome this difficulty. In the end his sympathetic understanding of and devotion to the people won for this great man their love and confidence.

The novel is so written that it may be read by both young and old with equal delight. The style is pleasing in its clearness and simplicity, and many touches of wholesome humour throughout add considerably to the narrative. In our moments of leisure we could do much worse than read "The Long Tomorrow."



Virtue knowing no base repulse, shines with untarnished honour; nor does she assume or resign her emblems of honour by the will of some popular breeze — *Horace*.

