
Review

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gradually being sapped by their experience of the working, *e.g.*, of the railways in North China and of the P'ing Hsiang collieries. But the progress of any native industry is still greatly hampered, in spite of the good intentions of the 1914 Mining Law. On the general conditions Mr. Collins throws a flood of light, especially in the chapters on legislation and taxation, supplemented by several appendices (pp. 212-283).

The book is full of interesting side lights, historical and otherwise. For instance, in the eleventh century A.D. the rice officials were ordered to supply money for mining, and so came to control the mining itself as a sort of branch of agriculture—a delusion still influencing practical mining (p. 202). Coal was used for smelting iron as early as 1111 A.D. The story of the opening up of China reads most honourably for England. In the earlier days there was nothing and nobody to prevent our getting complete monopoly of all the trade; but throughout we stood firm for "the open door," and, as a matter of fact, wide encouragement of foreign capital from all sources is the best guarantee against territorial aggression or mailed-fist intimidation by any one Power.

The account of the Hanyang iron and steel enterprise, in connection with the Tagel iron-mines and the P'ing Hsiang collieries—with their cheap ore, fuel, lime, and labour, their exemption from tariff burdens, and their preferential markets—makes it clear that no other native enterprise of the kind is at all likely to succeed for years to come unless there is a drastic reform of all the conditions, political and economic. But in the meantime the prospect is least discouraging in two areas—the Hunan area, with its coal, lead, antimony, and iron, converging on the Tung-Ting Lake navigation; and the Liao-Tung area, with its gold, silver, iron, and wolfram, and coal flanking the coast almost continuously from Tientsin to Mukden. Of both areas Mr. Collins gives clear and useful maps, as also of Shantung, where, however, the mineral wealth has proved far less than the Germans anticipated.

L. W. L.

Cyprus under British Rule.— Captain C. W. J. Orr. London: Robert Scott. 1918. Pp. 192. *Map.* 6s. *net.*

Captain Orr, who has spent several years as Chief Secretary to H.M.'s Government in Cyprus, writes with intimate knowledge and singular restraint. That he might have written a picturesque and popular volume on the sights and scenes of Cyprus is shown by his eight-page "Introduction," where he sketches in a charming manner the physical features and the life of the inhabitants of the island. He has, however, devoted the whole of this small volume to a discussion of the political problems existing there. He writes lucidly and judiciously, but with honest criticism both of the British Government methods and of the Cypriote peoples. It is a timely volume, as the status of Cyprus has been entirely changed since its annexation to the British Empire on 5 November 1914, and the whole future of the island will necessarily have to be reconsidered at the conclusion of the present war.

The treaty with Turkey in 1878, which gave us the administration of the island (in exchange for conditions which, by the way, were never fulfilled), left Cyprus most unjustly saddled with a tribute to Turkey nominally—actually to the shareholders of the Ottoman loan—of over £92,000. With the increased cost of administration under Great Britain, it was soon proved that the revenues of the island could not meet such a drain, and consequently our Government had to make up an annual average deficit of £30,000, replaced since 1907 by an annual grant-in-aid of £50,000. It cannot be said, however, that this system of financial assistance from Great Britain has in any degree

contented the Cypriots or any of those who had the interests of the country at heart. Many urgent improvements have been held up through financial straits, and, as the author points out, this system of making a levy on the land for the benefit of foreign shareholders and not of the inhabitants themselves, directly or indirectly, is contrary to all our vaunted principles of fair government.

Captain Orr reviews in turn all the various branches of the administration. The judicial system, manifestly, badly needs revision. The methods of taxation and finance are most clearly and interestingly described. Education is still backward, and after the war a new settlement must be made. Up to the present the Greek (Christian) members of the Legislature have opposed any proposal to admit of teachers being Government servants, because they are as a class too valuable as agents of political propaganda among the young.

The most vital interests in Cyprus must ever be her agriculture and her forests. In both these departments progress has been slow—largely because of want of funds—but there has been considerable improvement of late. The novel laws recently made to reduce the enormous number of goats, the great enemies of the forests, have proved very useful. We have established in Cyprus a local government by a Legislative Council, which is unlike that in most Crown Colonies, and which has proved cumbersome and obstructive. There are eighteen members of the Council, of whom twelve are elected. Were it not that of these last three represent the Moslem (Turk) element, the Government nominees would be in a perpetual minority, as the Greek-speaking element seems to be in a state of chronic opposition. But it is a strange and perilous position that the British authorities have to depend upon the chronic feud between the Christians and Moslems to attain their ends. The secret of the Christian opposition tactics rests upon their chronic agitation for union with Greece. But, as the author reminds us, though "Cyprus has belonged in the past to Egypt, to Persia, to Assyria, to Rome, to Venice, to Genoa, to the Ottoman Empire, it has *never belonged to Greece*," "nor can it by the wildest stretch of imagination be said to form geographically one of the Greek islands." The Christian inhabitants, however, though of very mixed origin, are undoubtedly Greek in language and sympathy. The problem, however, of the 60,000 Turkish inhabitants who have been uniformly loyal to Britain and bitterly oppose any idea of union with Greece is one which cannot be lightly ignored. "Uncertainty as to the future of the island has been one of the most important of all the causes which have adversely affected Cyprus during the last forty years."

Captain Orr considers that our want of popularity in Cyprus is in no small degree due to our over-bureaucratic system of government and a want of wide human sympathy on the part of officials. Although modern Greek is the only language of the majority of the inhabitants, the British officials from various causes—not always their personal fault—do not speak it. But there is also a lamentable want of business initiative and co-operation among the leading Cypriots, who are more interested in "the Hellenic idea" than in advancing with single-eyed devotion the present good of their land. Finally, the author considers that "the most pressing necessity now is to bring the educated Cypriot into closer touch with the Government of the island."

Palestine and Jerusalem. (A Soldier's Handbook.)— **Rev. H. Sykes, M.A.**
London: Hodder & Stoughton. [1918.] Pp. 64. *Maps.* 10d. *net.*

This very compact little book is designed to lie comfortably in any soldier's pocket. It provides just the information which an intelligent soldier, moderately conversant with the Bible, is sure to need at the Palestine front.