

The History and Problems of Organized Labor. By FRANK TRACY CARLTON. Boston, New York, and Chicago: D. C. Heath & Co., 1911. 8vo, pp. xi+483.

The chief criticism to be made of this book is that it is not what it claims to be either by title or in the preface. "Organized Labor," as the term is commonly used in this country, denotes trade unionism; and a book devoted to the "History and Problems of Organized Labor" ought reasonably to be expected to relate its subject-matter consistently to trade unionism as the central organic theme, to treat its problems as historical or immediate problems of trade unionism or as problems raised by trade union character and activity. This expectation is not realized in the present volume. The earlier chapters concern the history, government, policies, and methods of trade unions in America, but as the work progresses the point of view is shifted. The social viewpoint comes to occupy the center of the stage. Trade unionism is mentioned only incidentally, and the problems become the conventionalized ones of labor reform—profit sharing, co-operation, protective legislation, immigration, sweating, child and woman labor, prison labor, unemployment, and industrial education.

Moreover in the preface and in chap. i we are led to believe that the book is to be a causal study of organized labor. "It is the purport of the writer," we read, "to present to the student of industrial problems and to the general reader a straightforward study of the forces which have caused labor organizations to offer and to assume a variety of forms. The aim is not to justify or to condemn. . . . The study of the problem relating to labor and labor organizations should be primarily a study of causes. . . . Those problems and the tendencies in the near future cannot be intelligently studied, and the problems certainly cannot be solved until the underlying causative forces, new and old, physical and social, are laid bare." The purpose and method thus announced are however unfulfilled aspirations. As with the subject-matter, the viewpoint and method shift. The study of causation, never prominent, fades into historical narrative, descriptive detail, and argumentation, giving a result more adapted to the purposes of the debater than the earnest student of social causation.

As might be inferred from the foregoing statements the book is not well organized. Historical narrative precedes any adequate statement of the problems to be solved. The lack of a central theme consistently adhered to precludes an organic arrangement of topics. The latter

portion of the book especially presents a succession of topics artificially related only. There is no real tying of the threads at the end.

One or two glaring inaccuracies, indicative of second-hand and superficial acquaintance with the living subject-matter tend to shake the reader's confidence in the author's thoroughgoing reliability. On p. 79 the statement is made that in 1909 the American Federation of Labor "included 87 national and international trade unions, 23 state federations of labor, 63 city central labor unions, and 13 'trade and labor unions' unaffiliated with a national or international body and 6 'fraternal organizations.'" In opposition to this the List of Organizations Affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, issued by that organization and dated March 2, 1909, gives the following tabulation: national and international unions, 118; departments, 3; state branches, 38; city centrals, 593; local trade and federal labor unions, 564. This discrepancy may be accounted for by supposing that the author drew his information from the Convention statistics of the American Federation for 1909, accidentally overlooking the fact or failing to understand that ordinarily not all the constituent bodies of the federation actually send delegates to the annual Convention.

It is greatly to be regretted that Mr. Carlton's book is defective in the matters considered, for in many respects it is admirable. The style is clear and straightforward; though the attitude is distinctly pro-labor it is not offensively so; and one feels that considerations of truth and the highest social welfare govern throughout. The argumentation is good. The author is well up on reform literature and presents the advanced reform viewpoints and proposals. The conclusions are clearly and forcibly stated. With all its faults the book is a good brief, general guide to the study of labor conditions and reform. It meets a need and will serve a useful purpose.

ROBERT F. HOXIE

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Cuba and Her People of Today. By FORBES LINDSAY. Boston: L. C. Page & Co., 1911. 8vo, pp. xii+329. \$3.00.

A desire on the part of Americans for "information regarding the progress, prospects, and present-day conditions of Cuba" led to the publication of the present volume. After a short description of physical characteristics and an outline of the history of the island, the author goes on to characterize the people and to consider their present conditions and possible development. There is a great difference, he says, between the city-dweller of Habana, with