

A title-page addition calls this little volume "A commentary on the political framework within which the East India trade has been carried on from very early times, starting with Babylon and ending very near Babylon." To cover so large a subject in so small a space, dealing as it does with something of the political and commercial history of every important country for a period of three thousand years and more, it would more properly be designated, not "a commentary", but a **topical index** to the main features of a very extensive story. It is very suggestive as a reminder for one who wants to review the facts. It would prove very dry and barren reading to any one who was not already largely familiar with the history. It culminates—or rather breaks off—in a way to suggest that it is intended to show that this East India trade is at the bottom of the present war.

The Mexican Problem. By Clarence W. Barron; with Introduction by Talcott Williams, LL.D. Boston and New York, 1917, Houghton-Mifflin Co. xxx-|-136 pp. \$1.00 net.

One of America's foremost authorities in economics and investments went to study Mexico at first hand. He writes with great enthusiasm and compelling interest. The book professes to be "a business solution" and must be judged as such. On that basis it must be given high place. "Business" in Mr. Barron's view means for Mexico, chiefly the oil business, and therein we would seem to have a too limited view, a present rather than a permanent view. The "problem" of Mexico is found to lie in the need of "opportunity to labor, opportunity for the family, opportunity for food, clothing, better shelter and better social conditions." Mr. Barron rejects wholly the idea that the land question is a serious problem in Mexico, because he seems to hold the Mexican incapable of the initiative, the planning and the sustained self-control needful for independent activities. He thinks capital for developing Mexican resources—always oil is far in the lead—and this for giving high and continuous wages will prove the way of Mexican deliverance from chronic disorder. And always this capital must be foreign capital. One somehow feels all along that the book is a plea and a plan for benevolent exploitation of Mexico and Mexicans by European and United States investors. That may be, one dares think that is, the proximate need of Mexico, the next stage. But one cannot feel that any people's problems are solved by economic exploitation, however generous and however such exploitation may improve the physical conditions of the people. And just here is where the book, splendid as it is, fails to satisfy any idealist. Mexico needs culture and religion, needs education and ethics. Material welfare affords the means for spiritual development and so is a great factor in the problem; but material welfare does not guarantee personal realization and always this higher need ought to have a place in any

planning for a people's progress. The book lacks this feature. It is a distinct lack. In its chosen field it is fine, but it is too limited.

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Japan in World Politics. By K. K. Kawakami, Author of "American-Japanese Relations", "Asia at the Door", etc. New York, 1917, The Macmillan co. xxvii pp. \$1.50.

We must not yet take for final the information given out the other day by the Bolsheviki party in power (then) of a secret alliance between Japan and Russia to exploit China in defiance, armed and belligerent if need be, of the United States and Great Britain. Unfortunately the information is all too credible in the light of Japan's bold effort to hold China up for a humiliating treaty two years ago when that shrewd old mystery patriot, Yuan Shi Kai, risked the extreme hope of exposing before the world Japan's demands.

Certain it is that Japan is, next to Germany, the danger source to the peace of the world, and for the same reason that Germany is an intolerable foe, namely, a national ambition that cannot possibly be satisfied with the present political partition of the earth. We ought to try very hard to understand all the peoples of the world, not least those whose aims we have cause to fear. And Japan certainly has far more justification for mingling jealous resentment in her ambitious pride than has Germany. And we of America with domains and resources sufficient to free us from all covetousness deserve little credit for our cherishing no "land hunger" and no piratical designs upon the domain of other peoples. Japan, even more than Germany, is crowded. The menace of Germany to the world is that it is a deep desire of the people and the determination of the Prussian rulers that wherever Germans go Germany shall go. Likewise Japan desires that Japanese emigrants shall establish new Japanese territory where they may find new homes. But there is this very great difference. Anywhere in the world a German may find equality and citizenship in a new home if he will. Beyond the confines of Asia a Japanese must accept the standing of inferior and alien. Therein lie the bombs that threaten the future of such peoples as come into active relations with the Japanese and lie in the way of their advance.

Prof. Kawakami sees all this and sets it forth with a clearness that is inevitable and with a frankness that cuts deep into Western prejudices. While seeking to be a profound and true friend alike to his native land and to America, his home for twenty years, one is unable to escape the deeper Japanese loyalty and the thinly veiled threat repeatedly protruding its head through the friendly effort of the author.

It is a volume, the third of similar import by this author, that every good American ought to read with open mind. Kawakami is trying hard to be a world citizen, a true human, and is succeeding