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pass beyond a definite limit. The political feeling of independence is developed to a high degree in Canada, as its whole economic and political history shows. For the preservation of political independence power is necessary, and as Canada will not possess this for any period that we need consider, the centre of gravity of Canadian policy must always gravitate more to London than to Washington."

HENRY W. MACROSTY

Die Konzentration im Seeschiffahrtsgewerbe. By DR. PAUL LENZ. (Jena : Gustav Fischer. 1913. Pp. viii + 142. Price m. 4.)

It is more than ten years since the formation of the International Mercantile Marine Company under the auspices of the late Mr. J. P. Morgan. The absorption of the White Star Line in this American Trust caused a feeling almost of dismay in this country, and made everybody aware of the existence of combinations in the shipping industry. For several years little was heard about them, although the question of shipping rings and deferred rebates attracted some notice. During the last two or three years much public attention has again been drawn to the subject, partly owing to the numerous acquisitions of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, and partly owing to the rumours concerning the intentions of the P. and O. Company.

The reviewer took up Dr. Lenz's book in the anticipation of finding a critical account and explanation of the renewed movement in favour of combinations in the shipping industry, only to be disappointed. It contains merely a brief reference to the latest developments; all the essential material for the writing of the book existed in 1909, when the Report of the Royal Commission on Shipping Rings was published. Dr. Lenz has collected practically no new facts concerning shipping combinations. On the basis of published material, he investigates, from a theoretical rather than from a historical standpoint, the causes, extent and effects of combination in the shipping industry. The various forms which combination may take, *e.g.*, amalgamation, the purchase by one company of the majority of shares in another company, pools and conferences, are carefully described, but the book is a descriptive study only in a secondary degree; primarily it is an analysis of the organisation of the shipping industry.

In more than one case, Dr. Lenz's desire to be strictly scientific in his treatment of the subject has led to the introduc-

tion of matter, which appears to be somewhat superfluous in a short book; *e.g.*, the author might have stated his definition of a cartel, without devoting four pages to discussing the definitions of various authorities; again, he might have classified shipping combinations on his own system, without allotting two pages to criticising the systems of classification of other writers.

DOUGLAS KNOOP

Le Banche e il Mercato Monetario. By MARCO FANNO. (Rome : Athenæum. Pp. 394.)

MR. MARCO FANNO, after having written valuable articles in the *Revista Ligure* on the development of the issue banks (*L'evoluzione delle Banche d'Emissione*) has now published, in book form, his ideas and the result of his studies concerning this important question. Well aware how intimately the position of the issue banks and other banks is connected with the situation of the money market, he has, in the second part of his book, devoted special attention to this market, which, as he rightly explains, becomes more international and more important every day.

What Mr. Marco Fanno writes further concerning the development of banking and the services that are rendered by the banks in charge of the issue of bank notes is, of course, not unknown to those who have made a special study of these questions, but he deserves a word of praise for the clear and comprehensive way in which he treats the different arguments that plead in favour of one single issue bank or of many issue banks. However, whether there be in a country one or more issue banks entrusted with the issue of the fiduciary circulation, it is imperative that such banks, representing, so to say, the credit of the nation, should always apply the principles of sound finance and limit their transactions to such as are permissible to a bank of issue. Unfortunately, the financial history of several countries proves that their issue banks have not always confined themselves to their true mission, but have engaged themselves in transactions involving the loss of many millions, while others have had to suspend payment, showing that the fiduciary circulation of a country is a matter of the highest importance, and which cannot be disturbed with impunity. When issue banks are in danger the consequences and ensuing confusion in business are such that the intervention of the State has always been, and always will be, indispensable to alleviate the evils of a most dangerous situation.