

Rio Grande to Cape Horn. By CARLETON BEALS. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1943. Pp. vi, 377. \$3.50.)

Carleton Beals has been writing profusely on the subject of Latin America for so long and on the whole so ably, that his works naturally assume at times a pontifical tone. Concerning such a characteristic this reviewer, who frankly admits a long-standing liking for most of Mr. Beals' writings, has no complaint to make. But it is quite possible that the contradictory attitudes and opinions displayed by the author in this volume may puzzle and irritate some of his old-time admirers.

Rio Grande to Cape Horn ambitiously purports to be a general exposition of Latin America (the author devotes some space to doubts concerning the proper use of the terms *Hispanic*, *Latin* or *Indo-America*), with emphasis upon geographic, social, racial, and economic aspects of the twenty republics. That Mr. Beals is still something of a wandering reporter, however, may be seen in his apparently involuntary lapses, from time to time, into the intricacies of transitory politics. A notable case in point is the portion of the book (Part Two) devoted to Mexico. It comprises nearly one-fourth of the volume and displays much of the intimate knowledge which the author has collected regarding this, his first love among Latin-American lands. But more than half of this group of chapters deals with a somewhat dreary recital of Mexico's political ups and downs since 1910.

One question which inevitably occurs to a more than casual reader is whether Mr. Beals is correct in his frequent assumption that the latest phase of a Latin-American nation's political career is the most admirable. Can it be proved as yet, for example, that Lázaro Cárdenas' régime is so far superior to that of Calles in Mexico? Was Saturnino Cedillo really, as the author asserts, the last of Mexico's "bad men?" Is the Good Neighbor Policy or Lend-Lease the last word in ideal relationships between the United States and Hispanic America? Again, it seems to this reviewer, Mr. Beals' attitude on such matters suggests that of the well-paid war correspondent who finds the current condition of affairs always best.

In Parts Three to Seven the author covers the rest of Latin America. On the whole, his treatment is clear and vivid, although he seems to blow both hot and cold in estimating the effects and possibilities of Lend-Lease in Hispanic America. One has the impression that he seeks to be at least partly right in his judgments, whatever the event may turn out to be. His chapters on Cuba, Brazil, Peru,

Argentina and Chile are probably the best in descriptive matter, despite the fact that at times they read much like a tourist guide-book. Occasionally he hits hard at imperialistic United States policies, and, as might be expected, spends a good deal of time discussing Latin America's rôle in the Second World War. The concluding chapter, "What Does Latin America Expect from the War?" estimates the results of the author's investigation of Hispanic-American opinion on the war and the post-war world, an investigation seemingly conducted by the familiar "questionnaire" method.

It seems to this reviewer that the book is neither one of the best nor one of the worst of the more recent works on Latin America. Probably it ranks well above the average "pot-boiler" type of reporting on the Hispanic New World. But its comprehensiveness is scarcely in proportion to the somewhat "blue-stocking" attitude suggested by the author's style. The book is provided with an index and with conventionalized end-paper maps which are not quite up to date in boundary lines. There are almost no typographical errors and the format is as attractive as war-time conditions permit. The book is in general well worth reading and has occasional passages of real brilliancy.

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Our Good Neighbor Hurdle. By JOHN W. WHITE. (Milwaukee: The Bruce Publishing Company, 1943. Pp. xiii, 209. \$2.50.)

The stated purpose of this book is to convince "the millions of intelligent, thinking Protestants in the United States" that "the one most serious obstacle to closer friendship and understanding between the people of the United States and those to the South of us is the proselytizing activity of the army of North American Protestant missionaries who have been sent to the southern republics 'to bring Christianity to them.'" The arguments contained in it are elaborations of those already set forth by Mr. White in a series of articles in such magazines as the *Catholic Digest*, the *Inter-American Monthly*, *The Sign*, and the *St. Anthony Messenger*. The resultant tract treats a problem of historical as well as current importance. It is therefore highly proper that it should be examined in an historical review.

Mr. White maintains that the people to the South are for the most part loyal Catholic Christians and that the Protestant missionaries offend them and hinder the Good Neighbor Policy by trying to "convert" them; by using the word *Christian* as an antonym to *Catholic*; by classing them in reports along with the inhabitants of such heathen