

E. L. Godkin and American Foreign Policy, 1865-1900. By WILLIAM M. ARMSTRONG. New York, 1957. Bookman Associates. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 268. Cloth. \$5.00.

Historians of American foreign policy have long been concerned with the impact of editorial opinion on the shaping and development of diplomacy. However, Dr. Armstrong's study of E. L. Godkin, liberal critic and editor of the *Nation*, indicates that this approach has only limited value. Godkin was considered a trenchant and incisive commentator on American life in the late 19th century, but Armstrong's analysis of his views on foreign policy reveals a petty and inconsistent editor who delighted in attacking every major stand taken by American diplomats. Basing his views on a strong bias for England and a personal dislike for virtually all secretaries of state, and especially James Blaine, Godkin offered no constructive comment for the development of sound policy. On Latin American issues, Godkin opposed every aspect of American policy; Blaine's Pan-American Conference, the American attitude toward the War of the Pacific, the *Baltimore* affair—all elicited contempt from the editor of the *Nation*. While Dr. Armstrong has carefully examined Godkin's views on the major diplomatic incidents of these years, the significance of the study remains doubtful. The book exposes the shallowness of Godkin's criticism, but it adds little toward an understanding of American foreign policy in the late 19th century.

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Estatutos, reglamentos y constituciones argentinas (1811-1898). Introduction by RICARDO CAILLET-BOIS. Buenos Aires, 1956. Universidad de Buenos Aires. Departamento Editorial. Documentos para la Historia Argentina, 23. Pp. 240.

This volume is a compilation of Argentine constitutions, constitutional

decrees, and amendments for the period 1811-1898. These include the provisional statutes of 1811 and 1816, and the constitutions of 1819, 1826, and 1853, plus the amendments of the latter instrument to 1898.

Beyond the six-page introduction by Dr. Caillet-Bois, the volume contains little more than the verified original copies of the various documents. Issuance of this collection of constitutional documents is justified on two counts: (1) there is a need for a handy one volume compilation since the monumental work by Dr. Emilio Ravignani, *Asambleas constituyentes argentinas* (6 vols.) is too bulky for ready reference, and (2) the Ravignani work is out of print and difficult of access. The present work, which draws upon Ravignani's annotations, is intended for "the professor in his daily tasks, the student, and the informed individual who needs a useful and handy compilation."

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Estudios, biografías y ensayos. By EMETERIO S. SANTOVENIA. Havana, 1957. Impresores Úcar, García. Pp. 688. Paper.

A selection of Dr. Santovenia's essays over the years, plus a list of his publications and biographical notes. (L.H.)

Fisonomía histórica de Chile. 2nd ed. By JAIME EYZAGUIRRE. Santiago, Chile, 1958. Editorial del Pacífico. Colección Rostro de Chile. Biblioteca de Historia y Ciencias Afines. Bibliography. Pp. 175. Paper.

Perhaps the highest calling of the historian is the synthesizing of his study so that out of the many events of the past arises new, meaningful insights. The interpretation of history must necessarily bear the stamp of its author, for it is his personal understanding of the significance of events. However, synthesis is not easy; to achieve his purpose, the author's private