

MACINNIS, Grace, *J. S. Woodsworth: A Man to Remember*. Toronto, The Macmillan Company of Canada Limited, 1953. Pp. XVI, 336. \$4.50. (Foreword by M. J. Coldwell).

Ce que le *Canada* évite d'expliquer toutefois, ce qu'il devrait expliquer pourtant, c'est comment il se fait qu'il lui est arrivé déjà, à lui, de faire, à propos de feu J.S. Woodsworth, la réflexion suivante: *Le pauvre vieux en est resté au Sermon de la Montagne*; comme si c'eût été une navrante naïveté de la part de J.S. Woodsworth de s'inspirer de cette page sublime de l'Évangile qu'est le *Sermon des Béatitudes*.

These words appeared in *Le Devoir* (Montreal) shortly after the death of J.S. Woodsworth, member of parliament for Winnipeg North Centre, and Honorary President of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation. Even in French Canada he was a controversial figure. At the close of his career, his views on the questions which he considered most fundamental were shared by the disciples of Henri Bourassa more than by the majority of the members of his own party.

Mr. Woodsworth's thinking had developed steadily throughout a lifetime of experience. The final phase of his spiritual development was the clear recognition of "the limitations and dangers of physical force". This was "the last and to him the most crucial, of all his convictions" (p. 318). But he did not live long enough to convince even his admirers in the C.C.F. that a world where there would be brotherhood among mankind "could be created only by those who had rejected the instrument of force". Such a world was "the yearning that was nearest his heart" (p. 329).

Mrs. MacInnis is the daughter of J.S. Woodsworth. She is also the wife of a C.C.F. member of parliament from Vancouver. One gets the impression that she herself shares the official C.C.F. point of view, and that she is slightly apologetic about her father's "most crucial" convictions. Nevertheless, she states his position clearly and affectionately.

James Shaver Woodsworth was born at Islington, near Toronto, on July 29, 1874. He was elected to parliament in 1921 as a candidate of the Independent Labor Party of Manitoba, and held his seat without interruption until his death in Vancouver on March 21, 1942, at the age of sixty-seven.

Although his life was spent mostly in Ontario, Manitoba, and British Columbia, he had important contacts with French Canada. For Woodsworth was always on the side of those who were unjustly treated. Like Bourassa, he was profoundly influenced by the South African War. After studying at Wesley (now United) College in Winnipeg, and at Victoria College in Toronto, he had gone to Oxford in 1899. In England he was at the heart of military imperialism. He studied its roots, and what it did to people. Neither he nor Bourassa ever forgot the lessons about the nature of international politics which they learned at that time.