

## BOOK REVIEWS

*The Life of James J. Hill.* By JOSEPH GILPIN PYLE. In two volumes. (Garden City, N. Y.: Doubleday, Page & Company. 1917. Pp. 498, 459. \$5.00 net.)

"Land without people is a wilderness; people without land is a mob."

That is one of the wise sayings of James J. Hill, the great empire builder whose biography has now appeared in two well-made and boxed volumes. It has long been known that Mr. Pyle was engaged on literary work for and about Mr. Hill. He was well equipped for the work. Besides editorial writing on St. Paul papers for twenty years or more, he was editor of the Seattle *Post-Intelligencer* from 1899 to 1903. He certainly knows the West in which Mr. Hill wrought his wonderful career. He also knew and appreciated the man. On one of the first pages he prints:

"Make it plain and simple and true."

He says this was the instruction and the only one given by Mr. Hill to his biographer. The words will sound exactly natural to all who knew Mr. Hill and Mr. Pyle has been faithful to them. In twenty-eight chapters the rich materials are sifted and assembled in a straight-forward, gripping narrative. As must be expected in the record of a life devoted to multitudinous railroad problems, there are statistics, but never are these obtrusive. Any layman can find entertainment in these pages; any constructive genius can find inspiration there.

After the story is told to the end, there are added nine appendices giving statistical facts and forms of agreement, making a sort of source-book for the history of the Great Northern Railway.

There is not space here for even a brief analysis of these two large and overflowing volumes. However, the following quotation from Volume II., pages 289-291, will not only reveal the style of the author but will also be warmly welcomed in the State of Washington:

"Nowhere was he held in higher esteem than on the North Pacific Coast. He was, in a peculiar sense, the founder of the fortunes of the state of Washington. His railroad had transformed the plucky little town of Seattle into a metropolis. His hand had multiplied transcontinental connections in that fortunate land. With the magic wand of a low rate on lumber he had lifted from its low estate what became a lordly industry. On the trade that he opened with the

Orient, the Pacific Coast built great hopes. Popular admiration was universal and genuine. Even anti-railroad agitation could not embitter the kindness that his name evoked from Bellingham Bay to San Francisco. When the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition was opened at Seattle, he was selected as the orator of the day. He lifted the occasion to a higher level than the glorification of a country growing rich out of the profusion and possibilities within it. He drew a moral from the display of a world's industry, and stamped upon it and its accessories a high thought. He said: 'There are four great words that should be written upon the cornerstones of every public building in this country with the sacredness of a religious rite. These watch-words of the republic are Equality, Simplicity, Economy, and Justice.' From these he would have all men and communities begin anew. The people of Seattle desired a more permanent memorial of the great man of their affection and honour than the ceremony of a day. In February, 1909, Mr. Finn Frolich was commissioned to prepare a bust from which should be made a statue of Mr. Hill, to be cast in bronze. This was to be placed in the Exposition grounds, and afterward removed to the campus of the Washington State University. The bust was unveiled in August of the same year. It rests upon a granite base containing blocks from Japan, Canada, Minnesota, and Washington. These far four corners of the earth unite to form a pedestal of honor. Eminent men of many countries sent messages of congratulation. Long before this, Mr. Hill had become in the largest and finest sense, a citizen of the world. His fame was international. His services were cosmopolitan. This event was only part of the official confirmation of his title."

Mr. Hill died at his St. Paul home on May 29, 1916. There were many expressions of sorrow. One of the most eloquently simple tributes was in an editorial in the *New York Times*: "Greatness became him, and was a condition of his errand here. Whatever he had done, it had been greatly done. He trusted democracy perhaps more than it trusts itself. He believed in its economic destiny. Giving much, he received much. We salute the memory of a great American."

EDMOND S. MEANY.

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*Voyages on the Yukon and Its Tributaries.* By HUDSON STUCK. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1917. Pp. 397. \$4.50 net.)

This is a charming and valuable book of travel along the greatest river of northwest America, and it is the best and most complete story of that wonderful waterway ever written. It exhibits a knowledge of conditions prevailing in that land gained by many years of