Progress in International Organization

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BOOK REVIEW


Some time ago Mr. Salmon O. Levinson of Chicago offered the University of Idaho the sum of fifty thousand dollars to endow the William Edgar Borah Outlawry of War Foundation. The purpose of the Foundation, according to Mr. Levinson, is to “establish in the University of Idaho a lectureship for the promotion of better understanding of international relations, of the age-old struggle with the baffling problem of war, and of the vital part played in its solution by William Edgar Borah.” Mr. Manley O. Hudson, Bemis Professor of International Law at Harvard University, was selected to give the first series of lectures under the grant and this volume contains these lectures.

To many readers it may be questionable how much Mr. Borah has done to make the probability of war more remote when his uncompromising opposition to the League of Nations and the World Court is recalled. It is quite proper, on the other hand, that Mr. Hudson should be selected to inaugurate the lectureship since he is a recognized authority on the League and the Court and is one of their most enthusiastic supporters in this country. Perhaps no one would question the sincerity of either Senator Borah or Professor Hudson in their desire to do away with war, but the means each would employ are diametrically opposed.

This book traces the development of international organization before the World War, the effect of the War upon such organization, and the creation of the League of Nations, the International Labour Office, and the World Court. There are also chapters on the growth of International Law since the War and the part played by the United States in international agencies of government. In the last chapter, Mr. Hudson attempts to measure the progress of international organization and concludes that, although much advancement has been made since 1918, the institutions are not perfect and will need alteration and reconstruction as circumstances demand.

Mr. Hudson writes refreshingly and his little book is to be recommended to the layman, but there is little or nothing in it not already known to students of international relations. The lectures are on matters the success of which is very dear to the
heart of Professor Hudson, and one is not so sure that he has treated them dispassionately. They are questions that, in this country at least, are still controversial. But, as an interpretation of efforts at international organization during this period, the book serves an excellent purpose whether one agrees with the author or not.

There are neither footnotes nor bibliography.

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State of West Virginia County of Monongalia

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Louise Farrell Hartley, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that she is the Managing Editor of the West Virginia Law Quarterly and The Bar and that the following is, to the best of her knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 411, Postal Laws and Regulations, to wit:

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