

THE FIRST TO AWAKEN

By Granville Hicks

Modern Age Books, \$2.50

Granville Hicks has attempted to prophesy for us of 1940 as Bellamy did years ago with "Looking Backward." And though our author broke with the Communist Party shortly after the Hitler-Stalin pact his zeal for Socialism—of a decentralist kind—is as great as ever. He swings through a century pursuing the phantom of equality of condition through a labyrinth of State Control and Cooperation, of District and Regional Planning Boards and so on, with, unfortunately, very little of scientific economics.

It is regrettable that Hicks clings to his Marxism without any comprehension of the true nature of rent. He admits that cooperatives must be subsidized by the national government. He admits also that bureaucracy is bad; he insists only that private enterprise is worse.

Socialists have a tendency to dream of what their Utopia will be like. This book is a lovely dream of engineering gadgets. But it offers the reader nothing more substantial than a short lived emotional escape from reality.

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To Alexander War Mark Lane Proprietor