

BOOKS

PHILOSOPHY OF ROOSEVELT.

Progressive Principles. By Theodore Roosevelt. Selections from Addresses made during the Campaign of 1912. Edited by Elmer H. Youngman. Progressive National Service, 30 E. 42d St., N. Y. Price, \$1.00 net.

In these speeches and extracts many subjects of importance are discussed, including the initiative, the referendum, the recall, Presidential primaries, woman suffrage, trusts, the tariff, a living wage for men, a minimum wage for women and others. A sufficiently detailed consideration of these questions or of any one of them should not be expected within the limits of a campaign speech. It is enough if there is a statement of the principles by which the problems have been or may be solved, and of the solutions reached. The problems divide themselves into two classes; those which deal with the machinery of government and the increased control over it, which Col. Roosevelt urges the people to take; and those which deal with the use to be made of the machinery (including some proposed new machinery), in removing the evils incident to modern industry. To take a specific instance from the latter class, Col. Roosevelt proposes a tariff commission of non-partisan experts "to study scientifically all phases of tariff making and of tariff effects—to cover all the different and widely varying branches of American industry—to have ample powers to enable it to secure exact and reliable information."

"Wherever, nowadays, an industry is to be protected, it should be on the theory that such protection will serve to keep up the wages and the standard of living of the wage-worker in that industry, with full regard for the interest of the consumer. To accomplish this the tariff to be levied should, as nearly as is scientifically possible, approximate the differential between the cost of production at home and abroad."

The proposed industrial commission for the regulation of business in lines in which competitive conditions cannot be restored will have a similar task to the extent that it will have to determine, among other things, costs of production.

This suggests a line of investigation which the inquiring citizen will do well to follow. He will, perhaps, look at the tariff law and get an idea how many articles there are the costs of production of which will have to be ascertained. He may also look into one of the actual attempts to ascertain costs of production; say the Report of the Commissioner of Corporations (Roosevelt administration) on the costs of production of the Steel Corporation. He may conclude that the Commissioner after an earnest effort to find out what he

could, accomplished but a small portion of the task and left much to be done by future explorers. He may regret that there is not some simpler solution of the tariff question and may even be led to consider some that have been offered—say, for instance, the abolition of the tariff. But if this proposition attracts him he will do well to keep an open mind. Can we be sure that a reduction or even the abolition of the tariff on a given article will reduce the price to the consumer? We may suppose that it will if conditions are competitive. But this raises the question of monopoly, and Col. Roosevelt tells us that "we must not forget that monopoly is based on the control of natural resources and natural advantages." He bases on this a plea for conservation, but that is manifestly but a partial solution of that problem.

These speeches and extracts are suggestive, and they have not lost any of their importance. The Progressive movement of 1912 represented in the main a justifiable discontent with present conditions and whatever may be the fate of the Progressive party the movement, in one shape or another, will remain a force to be reckoned with until there is a radical improvement in conditions.

WM. E. MCKENNA.



EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT.

Principles of Prussian Administration. By Herman Gerlach James, J. D., Ph. D. Published by The Macmillan Co., New York. Price, \$1.50 net.

While this book may possibly be of much value to the student specializing in sociology, yet the average lay reader who has enjoyed the brilliant style of such modern philosophical writers as Prof. Wm. James will no doubt find the present work decidedly heavy. Nevertheless in this day of political dissatisfaction in America, when nearly every community is either voting on a new constitution or a revised charter, or is striving for that opportunity, it would be well if a knowledge of the principles of Prussian administrative methods were more clearly understood. Nowhere in the world has administrative efficiency been so highly developed, a situation which partially accounts for the contentment of a people essentially as democratic and certainly as cultured as are we, though possessed of but a fraction of the political independence existing in either this country or England. The owners of this, our land, might well profit by this example, and after close study of this book of Prof. James, they might decide, in interlocked directory assembled, that they could best stem the rising tide of popular discontent, by seeing to it that their bosses and office-holders henceforth afford the people the sort of satisfactory local governments with which the people of Prussia are blessed.

JOSEPH DANZIGER.