

CHARLES RYLE FAY, 1884–1961

DR. C. R. FAY, who died in his seventy-eighth year in Northern Ireland on November 19, 1961, was closely associated with Canada for many years, and his passing will be regretted by Canadian friends from coast to coast. After undergraduate studies at King's College, he was made a Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge, in 1908; he was appointed Lecturer and Reader in Economic History, and he early made his name through his work on co-operation. He served with distinction in the War of 1914–1918 as a lieutenant (later acting-captain) in the Buffs, was seriously wounded, wrote, as he put it, an "unofficial and unlawful" memorandum to General Smuts on the military value of machine-guns, a task in which he was aided and abetted by the great Alfred Marshall. After this military interlude he returned to Cambridge, and then came to Canada, where from 1921 to 1930 he was Professor of Economic History at the University of Toronto. He then returned to Cambridge as Reader in Economic History, but he revisited Canada at frequent intervals throughout his life, and it has been well said that Canada, and in particular Toronto, continued to own a part of him.

His publications included *Co-operation at Home and Abroad* (Volume I, 1908; fourth edition 1936) written in his early days at Cambridge (Volume II appeared in 1939), *Co-partnership in Industry* (1913), *Life and Labour in the 19th Century* (1920), *Great Britain from Adam Smith to the Present Day* (1928), *Youth and Power* (1931), *The Corn Laws and Social England* (1932), *Imperial Economy* (1934), *English Economic History, mainly since 1700* (1940), *Huskisson and his Age* (1951), and *Palace of Industry 1851* (1951), a very interesting work on the Great Exhibition. In later years he spent two summers in Newfoundland and Labrador under the auspices of the Royal Society and the Canadian Department of Fisheries, wrote on the Newfoundland and Labrador potential in *Life and Labour in Newfoundland* (1956), produced notes on Gaspé and the Channel Islands, lectured at the University of British Columbia, the University of Toronto, Memorial University, and elsewhere, and unearthed quantities of historical material which have now been made available at the Canadian Archives for the use of other scholars.

The breadth of his interests is illustrated by his work on *Imperial Economy and its Place in the Formation of Economic Doctrine 1600–1932*, published in 1934, which includes material on South America and the West Indies, and in his contributions in the late thirties to the *Year Book on Agricultural Co-operation* in which, among other subjects, he touches on Newfoundland codfish, Jamaica bananas, Guiana bauxite, India sugar, Burma rice, Gold Coast cocoa, Kenya coffee, tea, coconuts and rubber. Ceylon also came under his survey. He travelled extensively in Western Canada and took a lively interest in its wheat and transportation problems and in its political development, and at the time of his death he had made plans for a new visit to the prairies. Through the late Professor James Mavor he came into sympathetic touch with members

of the Doukhorbor community, one of whom confided to him his conviction that the four outstanding figures in history were Socrates, Tolstoy, Jesus Christ, and James Mavor. (Tolstoy and Mavor had both been instrumental in promoting the migration of the Doukhorbors from Russia to Canada.) Above all things he loved to meet people and to extract and record their wisdom.

In recent years, Fay's well-established itinerary included Belfast, Cambridge, Newcastle, Portugal, the Channel Islands, and Canada as often as he could get here. One of the things that he liked about visiting Vancouver was that he was able to go there by way of the North Pole. He was interested in international trade and tariffs, the fisheries, wine, shipbuilding, communications, interprovincial relations, customs records and administration, taxation problems, and even devoted some of his time in the Channel Islands to Sir Isaac Brock (whose documents were unfortunately found to have been destroyed there during the German occupation). He was a scholar and devotee of Adam Smith, a favourite pupil of Alfred Marshall, a contemporary and friend of J. M. Keynes, and intimate with a whole generation of Canadian economists and historians. All who knew him were impressed by his buoyancy and youthfulness of spirit and his unquenchable intellectual interests even in his late seventies.

H. R. KEMP

EDITORIAL NOTE: The University of Toronto would welcome donations of letters and papers by C. R. Fay to add to its present collection. Individuals willing to make such donations should send them to Mr. R. H. Blackburn, Chief Librarian, University of Toronto.