

LLOYD GEORGE: The Man and His Story. By Frank Dilnot. Harper; \$1.

Nothing makes and unmakes careers like war; and when the present conflagration is over it will be interesting to reckon up its tale of humble men exalted and mighty men abased. One thing that the conflict has already done is to lay hold of a vivacious and daring Welshman, who as early as 1908 had risen from obscurity to the control of a great national treasury, and make of him the dictator of the British Empire. How this came about—and, indeed, the whole fascinating record of the British Premier's career—is splendidly told in Mr. Dilnot's book. Mr. Dilnot has had first-hand acquaintance with British politics and political leaders for two or three decades, and he has written a substantial book on the dramatic contest over the Lloyd George budget of 1909. The present biography is a simple chronicle, highly laudatory, yet hardly more than the subject seems to demand. For it is difficult to exaggerate the achievement that is represented in Mr. Lloyd George's rise to his present position. Born of humble parents, left fatherless at the age of three, educated in the rough-and-ready way of the Welsh back-country, trained for the law, forcing his way from a penniless practitioner to a successful barrister, entering politics, going to Parliament, becoming a minister, ramming down the throats of the vested interests the most radical financial reform known to the history of the country, rapidly absorbing leadership under the stress of the world war, called to Buckingham palace and asked to form a ministry, rallying the forces of a disorganized nation against a still powerful and unbeaten enemy, and guiding the destinies of a great empire almost single-handed—Lloyd George has a career that at many points runs astonishingly parallel to that of our own Lincoln. There is little to criticize in Mr. Dilnot's book. No attempt has been made to write history in the large or with finality, and no one will quarrel with the few somewhat doubtful generalizations that appear. The story is told simply and directly, with much of the flavor of Welsh and English life.