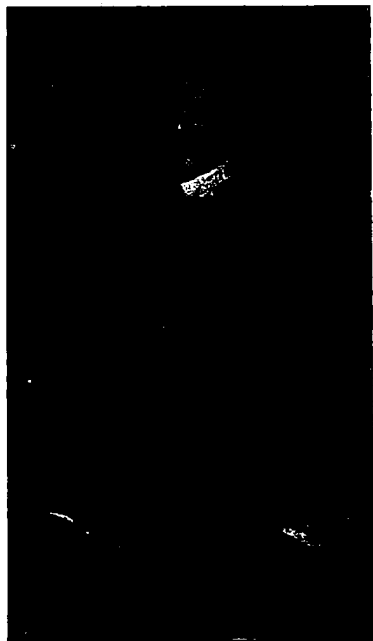


course, it is not in the same class with such comprehensive studies of Russia and Siberia as those of Wallace and Leroy-Beaulieu and Krause, it will be more useful for most readers. It is the sort of a book which ought to be put into the public libraries. For the very reason that it is so elementary in character and so naïve in its point of view it



ALBERT J. BEVERIDGE

will do much to remove the fogs of ignorance and prejudice which, from the continual emphasis laid upon certain features of Russian life and policy in novels and melodramas dealing with "Darkest Russia," pervade the mind of the average American. He will be as surprised as was Senator Beveridge to learn that the "Russian advance," like the expansion of the Anglo-Saxon race, is a natural and inevitable movement of the people, which statesmen can to a certain extent guide and control, but not altogether check; that the Russian officer does not always carry a knout in his hand, figuratively speaking, but treats his soldiers more as a father does his children; that Russian statesmen can and will talk politics and even have something to say in defense

The Russian Advance. By Albert J. Beveridge. New York: Harper & Bros., \$2.50 net.

This book is largely a republication of newspaper letters written by Senator Beveridge during his travels in the Far East—or, as we ought rather to say, the Near West—in 1901, and, while, of

of hereditary autocracy in comparison with our own system of boss autocracy; that the Russian people are sincerely devout and their church service is beautiful and impressive; that Irkutsk has a museum and an opera house (the town is only 133 years older than the one Senator Beveridge hails from). The observations of such a clear-sighted and impartial man as the author on the appearance and conduct of Japanese and Russian soldiers in the territory which they seem preparing to fight over are timely, and if more of our statesmen would follow his example our foreign policy would cease to be a matter of chance and guesswork, and Senators of the "Dodge Club" species would be less conspicuous. Such a book needs an index and better maps, which, by the way, should not be on Mercator's projection. In the case of the map of "Russia and the remainder of Europe and Asia," the "remainder" looks too small to put on the bargain counter, and one would certainly not realize that Siberia is only three times the size of India. It would be interesting to know just how much of the awe and terror inspired by Russia's extent of territory are due to the nautical expedient of the Flemish geographer of the sixteenth century.